



GAMIFICATION AND STORYTELLING FOR ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AWARENESS
ÇOK KATMANLI ŞEHİRLER: MİMARLIK TARİHİ VE KÜLTÜREL MİRAS FARKINDALIĞI İÇİN OYUNLAŞTIRMA VE HİKÂYE ANLATIÇILIĞI

Architectural Story of Alanya

As narrated by Dove *Barış*

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As narrated by Dove Barış

Hello, I'm Barış... Yes, that's me. As you can see, I'm a dove. I don't have an olive branch in my mouth and my colour is not white... But my name is Barış. The names of my ancestors from long, long ago have been handed down from generation to generation. Sometimes their names were Eirene, sometimes Peace, sometimes Pax... And not only their names but also the stories they told have been passed down to us from many centuries ago...

What is it? Did I sound unconvincing to you? Then, why do you say "the birds told me!" when they ask you who told you, and why it does not seem realistic to you that the birds listened to their grandfathers and grandmothers and told these stories to the next generations? If you have a language, we have a language too! Have a little more patience; when artificial intelligence deciphers the speech of animals, you will see that we also have feelings, thoughts and stories. Of course, these stories are among the ones we tell to our offspring. So that they do not forget the old generations, old lives, old homes...

The story I am going to tell you now is also a story I learnt from them; the story of Alanya... And especially the story of the buildings... My mother and father, my grandparents and those before them also had a special interest in the buildings, they always built their nests in the most beautiful and special places... With great pleasure, every day I tour these buildings, which remain in the city today and actually take us to the times when they were first built... And I think about what they told me... Now come, let me tell you this story too.

1. Dawn of the Korakesion

Take a look at this view... Take a close look at this beautiful peninsula... Isn't it marvellous? Now, erase in your mind all the structures and man-made things you see. A rocky cliff on the Mediterranean coast, adjacent to the sea. You imagine it, don't you? There is nothing



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else; you see this steep cliff stretching towards the sea and only the plants and trees on it, don't you?

The people who would be the first inhabitants of this steep cliff, approaching here with the ships sailing to the Mediterranean, looking for a new place to live, saw this steep cliff at the end of a long journey that seemed to never end. This beautiful peninsula stretching towards the sea with its long beaches on both sides...

They first thought of it as a harbour of refuge, anchored their ships in the bay on the east of the peninsula and spent a few weeks here. Then they got off the ships and climbed to the top of this steep cliff, they made paths between the rocks that seemed impassable at first and reached the top. They looked at the view from there, the open sea to the south and the mountains to the north... And then they decided not to leave this beauty; to live here from now on... And they named this new city Korakesion...

They decided to build the acropolis on the highest part of the Korakesion, on the summit where the peninsula was pushed deeper into the sea, and to build their houses on its slope. Now look at the same view again: You know that steep cliff that you have cleared of all buildings in your mind... Place the acropolis with its temple on its summit, that is, the upper city. On its slope, place the houses, shops and other buildings you can think of in a Greek city.

Can't you see it? No, you can't... Because it has disappeared without leaving any trace. Almost no trace... There may be nothing left of the houses and shops, other buildings may have been built in their place many times. But the attentive eye can see the ruins of the most laboured structures, the temples, built of marble, granite, the most durable stones and carefully decorated to stand for centuries, in a very special place. You are supposed to discover them in the first game.

But, who were they? They were the first inhabitants of this city thousands of years ago... They were among the peoples who were defeated and dispersed after the Trojan War and settled in the Pamphylia region - that is, Antalya and its surroundings. Pseudo-Scylax was the first to mention Korakesion, noting it as one of the cities of Pamphylia in 330 BC, but in fact they had been there since long before.



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Afterwards, the name, rulers and inhabitants of our city kept changing. Just as they migrated here from other lands, others also passed through our city. Seleucids, Pirates, Romans, Byzantines, Armenians, Seljuks, Karamanids, Ottomans... More or less; they all left a trace... To those who know how to see... To those who can understand the language of the buildings... To those who can listen to this architectural story while travelling through today's Alanya Castle...

2. Diototus Tryphon's Castle

The beauty of our city was unmistakable... This rocky peninsula stretching from the Taurus Mountains to the Mediterranean Sea and the fertile lands just beyond it had of course attracted the attention of others! Kings and emperors had always wanted to take it under their sovereignty. One of them was Seleucids, the empire that followed Alexander the Great...

The Seleucids were based in Syria, while their rivals the Ptolemies were in Egypt... And both had their eyes on the cities on the Mediterranean coast. But Korakesion was well defended against their attacks from the sea. It was impossible for them to cross the Taurus Mountains. Korakesion first resisted Antiochus III in 199 BC and did not join the Seleucids. Then Diototus Tryphon defied Antiochus VI in 141 BC and chose Korakesion as his base. But Tryphon's rebellion against the other Seleucid kings did not last long; when he died in 138 BC, the city was again annexed to the Seleucids.

It was during this contentious period that the famous walls of Korakesion were built. The Hellenistic walls and the three great gates on them, which will remain for centuries to come, to be strengthened and expanded again and again by later civilisations... It is your duty to discover them in the second game... Both ends of these walls, which cross the peninsula from north to south, were steep rocks, just like the west side of the city... Therefore, this line of walls would stop attacks from the east, from the harbour side. But it's been the lot of the unexpected to be protected behind these walls: Pirates!

3. Pirates' Shelter



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After Diototus Tryphon, these walls became a shelter for others who rebelled just like him, pirates travelling in the Mediterranean. The Seleucids and the Ptolemies continued their struggle in the eastern Mediterranean, and the pirates, taking advantage of the power vacuum here, piled up their booty in the fortresses in Cilicia and especially in Korakesion. This was how life was going on for them. However, the next pages of history would not be as they had hoped.

Because there was a growing Roman Republic in the west. It had taken Western Anatolia under its sovereignty in the 2nd century BC, but at first it did not interfere much in this region. Until the Roman commander Pompey targeted the pirates who challenged Roman sovereignty in the Mediterranean... In a naval battle off the coast of Korakesion in 65 BC, Pompey destroyed a pirate armada larger than his own. After this battle, the Roman Republic turned Korakesion into a base from which it would fight against pirates. And Roman rule began, not only in Korakesion, but also in the rest of Pamphylia and Cilicia.

The Roman Republic also built a new harbour and shipyard in Korakesion, the base from which it would fight against pirates. It was here that they would build the ships they would use in their sea battles. But over the centuries, the water level of the Mediterranean rose, and as it rose, this harbour and shipyard, just like its predecessors, ended up at the bottom of the sea...

But still, careful eyes can find it by flying like a bird over the sea and picking out those ruins... You want clues? You should look around today's shipyard and harbour. Discover them in the third game and then come back to me... We will return to the castle, to the top...

4. Byzantine City Kalonoros

Hop on my back, now we will fly back to the top, to the citadel, to the acropolis of the ancient city... Because a new chapter in the history of Korakesion is beginning. The Byzantine era begins! Like many other things, the name of the city changes during this period: Kalonoros, meaning "beautiful mountain", the inhabitants of the city began to call it...



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The people of the city are still the same and the Roman Empire continues to dominate this region; but a great change takes place, a change whose effects reach all the way here... Emperor Constantine moves the capital from Rome to Constantinople in the 4th century. Because a new religion had emerged: Christianity. This new religion, which had been spreading in Anatolia for a few centuries after the emperor became a Christian, influenced many ancient cities. New churches started to be built in many places, and the existing pagan temples were replaced by churches.

So it is here in Kalonoros, as well... Look, we are on the highest part of the city, on the acropolis, the upper city from the time of my great-great-grandparents. Churches are being built on the site of temples that no one even remembers existed, but that you discovered parts of in the first game. Sometimes using their materials, sometimes from scratch...

Look, there's one of them right on top of the hill. Built in the 6th century, in the golden age of Byzantium... A basilica with three naves... What is it, can't you see it? Look at the apse, it's still there! If you can't see it, come with me, take a tour of the building... No passing to the next era without completing the fourth game...

5. Kalonoros is part of Lesser Armenia

Don't be fooled by the rapid change of times; time did not pass as fast as I am telling you. The Byzantine era in Kalonoros lasted for quite a long time, until the end of the 12th century... But Byzantium, which was gradually weakening in Anatolia, abandoned some of its extremities to neighbouring kingdoms. And one of them was this place, Kalonoros, our home...

A bey named Kir Vart was a Cilician Armenian from Mersin, which was also called Little Armenia. He became the new ruler of Kalonoros. The Armenians he brought with him settled here, and Kir Vart's brother made the nearby Alara Castle his home. How do I know? Because I sometimes fly from Kalonoros to Alara, then from Alara back to Kalonoros, and sometimes to Kızılcaşehir Castle just for a change; because we talk to the birds there about what is going on and the life that is passing by...



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Now I'm flying over Kalonoros again, in the city of Kir Vart. I'm circling over the Inner Fortress, just like before. Do you see what I see? I told you about a Byzantine church built in the 6th century. Now look at the same place again; this time you see a different building, don't you? In place of the previous church that was destroyed, a smaller church was built in the same place. In the shape of a three-leaf clover...

But I can't be sure, who built it, the Byzantines or Kir Vart? What I have learnt from my great-great-grandparents and grandparents gets stuck somewhere, it is said to be the end of the 12th century... It is up to you to investigate the rest; maybe the images hidden inside the church will help you, maybe the other two chapels that look just like this church... In any case, you will not reach the big surprise until you complete the fifth and sixth games!

6. The Winter Capital of Alaeddin Keykubad

Are you ready for the biggest surprise? On this journey with me, I'm going to rewind time just a little bit further. This time I'm going to take you to a completely different era and many magnificent buildings. Because a brand-new page is opening in the history of our city.

The year is 1221... Alaeddin Keykubad, the Sultan of the Seljuks of Rum, takes Kalonoros from Kir Vart, not by war, but by a treaty. Alaeddin Keykubad gave him Akşehir, Kir Vart gave him this castle... And his daughter Huant Hatun... In other words, Kir Vart's daughter became Alaeddin Keykubad's wife. And the name of Kalonoros turned into Alaiye...

Do you know why Alaeddin wanted to take this place? Because he dreamed that his country would have another harbour opening to the Mediterranean. He was planning to increase the income of his state by sending ships full of timber to Cyprus and Egypt. Of course, he had another plan: To make Kalonoros his winter palace... To make this "beautiful mountain" with spring like winters the capital of the Anatolian Seljuk State...

For all these reasons, Alaeddin Keykubad started a feverish work in Alanya Castle... He decided to rebuild Kalonoros, which had not been built for a long time, almost from



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scratch. And then he decided to name it after himself... Here, many structures of the city you see today are from that time. If you are ready, let's spread our wings and start travelling around...

He first built a palace at the top, in the citadel, surrounded it with walls and added a gate. Then he repaired the Hellenistic walls and had new walls and bastions added on top of them. And he had another great row of walls built from scratch; a great wall to enclose the eastern slope of the peninsula, many bastions on it, and a tower made of red coloured stones and bricks by the harbour! Workers and craftsmen from every nation in the city were mobilised and worked for years in these construction activities.

As I told you, one of Alaeddin's plans was to load the timber cut from the Taurus Mountains onto ships and send them to distant countries. Of course, he also wanted to ensure the security of the Mediterranean coast... For this purpose, he had a shipyard built right near the Red Tower, and an artillery adjacent to it. Of course, this is not all the buildings of Alaeddin's era, come with me to Orta Hisar and I will show you the others. But first, solve the seventh puzzle at the shipyard so that you can take wings and come to me!

7. Seljuk Traces in Orta Hisar

Yes, we have finally come to the very centre of Alanya Castle. We have moved the wheel of time forward a little bit... But not too much... Alaeddin Keykubad, after building the walls, towers, artillery and shipyard of his winter capital Alaiye; in other words, after first ensuring the security of the city, he embarked on other construction activities. In 1231, he built the mosque that would be called by his name, the Sultan Alaeddin Mosque. In the same year, Akşebe, the chief of Alanya Castle, had a mosque built together with his tomb next to it...

Shall we now move two wingbeats away and look at the other buildings in the immediate vicinity of these structures? There is a bedesten over there and an arasta just in front of it. In the bedesten there were shops of those who bought and sold textile, and in the arasta there were shops of other tradesmen... It was not only used in the Seljuk period, but also in the Ottoman period. However, it could not withstand the passing centuries. Bedesten is standing again now, because it was recently restored. But the arasta has turned into a ruin.



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There are excavations in the arasta now, do you see? Archaeologists are examining layer by layer what is left from the Seljuks and Ottomans; then they will decide how to protect the building... Maybe it will rise again one day like the bedesten, maybe it will find a new function; maybe it will be preserved as we see it now. Of course, archaeologists and restorers will decide this. But I'm curious, what do you think about this? Play the eighth game and let us know your opinion, then come back here and let's move on to the Ottoman period...

8. Alaiye from Seljuks to Ottomans

Alaeddin Keykubad could not live for a long time in Alaiye, the winter capital he had built, because he died in 1237. But the real disaster for the Seljuks occurred during the reign of his son Giyaseddin Keyhüsrev. Because the Anatolian Seljuk State, which was defeated by the Mongols in the Köseadağ Battle in 1243, lost its sovereignty in Anatolia to a great extent.

The following years were even more complicated for Alaiye. In 1293, the city, which was taken over by Mecdüddin Mahmud Bey, came under the rule of Karamanoğlu and remained under the Karamanoğlu Principality as "Alaiye Principality" until the Ottomans. However, it was also subjected to other states in the meantime. For example, in 1361, it came under the rule of King Pierre of Cyprus for a short time... Then, in 1427, it was connected to the Mamluks in Egypt. Finally, in 1461, it was taken over by Gedik Ahmed Pasha, who was sent by order of Mehmet the Conqueror.

The Seljuk buildings in Alaiye, which became part of the Ottoman Empire, continued to be used throughout the Ottoman period. But there is one of them that could not withstand an earthquake and was replaced by another building that we see today; it was named after the one who built it, the famous Ottoman sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. Yes, we have come to the same place again. Look, now I am flying over it and I invite you to the ninth game. And I ask you, who knows what was in its place?



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9. From Alaiye to Alanya: The Last Century of the Ottoman Empire and the Early Years of the Republic

In this long journey through time, starting from Korakesion, passing through Kalonoros and reaching Alaiye, we are now approaching the present day. We are coming to the last century of the Ottoman Empire, the 19th century. The Ottomans embraced all nations and religions in Alaiye for centuries. We have seen how many times our city changed hands, who came and went... They have always lived together within these walls.

One of them was the Greeks, the oldest inhabitants of the city. While Turks lived in Hisariçi Quarter, Greeks settled in Tophane Quarter on the eastern slope of the castle. They built their houses on this steep slope and also built many cisterns. How else could they cope with the thirst of the dry summer months in this hot country?

However, when the Ottoman Empire was replaced by the Republic of Turkey in 1923, two important changes took place. The name of the city changed once again, from Alaiye to Alanya. The second change was as follows: In 1924, a Population Exchange Agreement was signed between the two countries, which would determine the fate of the Greek minorities in Turkey and the Turkish minorities in Greece. The Greeks living in Alanya, in this neighbourhood, had to leave their homes and hometowns behind and migrate to Greece. They settled in Nea Ionia in Athens and left the buildings they left behind to their fate.

Now we are gliding down from Orta Hisar towards Tophane neighbourhood. There is a ghost town here, can you see it? Destroyed, abandoned houses, buildings with collapsed roofs and four walls... These are the remains of the Greeks who left Alanya. If you look carefully, you will see that the roofs of some of them are still standing, and two of them even have frescoes inside... Yes, these are the churches and chapels built by the Greeks in Alaiye in the 19th century... Discover these lost treasures in the tenth game and then come back to me; because it is time to say goodbye...

10. From orange groves to apartment blocks



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Finally, our journey through time comes to an end. And this time we are not looking towards Alanya Castle, but towards the north and the new city of Alanya... Towards the direction where orange groves and a few two-storey houses were once seen... Towards the fragrant gardens that we see in old photographs, but which are now gone... Towards the examples of local residential architecture, most of which have disappeared, but some of which have survived by turning into museums or being taken under protection...

In fact, many more changes took place during the Republican period, more buildings were constructed in the city than ever before in the 20th century. And the old country houses in gardens, each of which was actually a treasure, are now almost completely replaced by apartment buildings. Both the size and the population of the city have increased and continue to do so. Not only people from Turkey but also people from foreign countries come to Alanya and live in these apartments.

Now we have finished our journey among the structures of the city. When we look back at this beautiful landscape, you better realise the traces of the layers we visited one by one, don't you? This story, which has been passed down through generations and reached me, tells us that we can also read history through buildings. I hope you will not forget this story that you have listened to from me, this bird named Barış, and that you will now look at the historical buildings you see in Alanya with a different perspective.



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Games (that will accompany The Architectural Story of Alanya)

(Red Tower)

Game 1: Hunting for spolia in the Red Tower

When Alaeddin Keykubad built the Red Tower, the Syrian architect of the building did not only have red coloured stones as materials. He also had materials from the old buildings of the newly acquired city of Alaiye.

The architectural remains of the buildings mentioned in the first and the following chapters of the story, which were either completely destroyed or partially standing before 1221, were used as spolia in newly constructed buildings. The Red Tower was one of them.

Find these spolia used as building materials inside and outside the Red Tower, used for decorative purposes, especially on the facades and in conspicuous places.

Game 2: Find traces of Hellenistic Period on the city walls

The first, albeit partially standing city walls of Alanya and three of the gates on them date from the Hellenistic period. Discover and photograph those parts of the city walls starting from Ehmedek and continuing towards Arap Evliyası, which were built with very large stone blocks without mortar. Also find the three Hellenistic gates on this route.

Game 3: Photograph the traces of the Roman harbour and shipyard.

Among the buildings and ruins in the city, it is not possible to recognise the Roman ones. But a recent discovery has revealed a trace at the bottom of the water that can only be seen from a bird's point of view. You have to go to the harbour, Soğukkapi Beach to see it. Or go up to the top of Red Tower... Photograph the traces of the Roman harbour and shipyard from such a convenient vantage point.



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(Church in the Inner Castle)

Game 4: Find the Previous Layer in the Inner Castle Church

Take a closer look at the church in the Inner Castle... Look at its plan more carefully. Archaeologists have discovered that there was a church in the same place before, but it was a building from a different period and with a different plan type. What do you think the plan of that building might have been? The peculiarity of the apse of the existing church and the additional section to the south may be a clue for you. And the information board introducing the building...

(Church in the Inner Castle)

Game 5: Can you see the hidden faces?

In the previous game, when you were closely examining the church in the Inner Castle, you must have noticed that, unlike the previous layer, the current building is on a three-leaf clover plan... But did you notice anything else here? Now look carefully again... Can you see the hidden faces? How many faces can you count?

Game 6: Other chapels in the castle

There are two other chapels in Alanya Castle, very similar to the church in the Inner Castle. One of them is very difficult to reach, and the other one you may not even recognise when you pass by, because it is almost hidden inside another structure.

Keep your eyes wide open throughout the tour and fulfil these three tasks: 1. Photograph this chapel, which you can only see from a distance or from the inner castle. 2. Find out what the other chapel, which you might miss even when you walk past it, might have been used as before and after. 3. This chapel has a secret room, even if you cannot enter it, discover where it is and photograph it.

(Shipyards)



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Game 7: I wonder how many arches there are?

We enter the five-bay shipyard built by Alaeddin Keykubad through a door with a flat lintel. Inside, we are greeted by five long bays and many arches... Visit these bays one by one, draw a plan of the building and count how many arches are inside.

(Bedesten and Arasta)

Game 8: Does it comply with the Venice Charter?

The Venice Charter is an agreement adopted in May 1964 that sets an international framework for the restoration and conservation of historic buildings. The Venice Charter has been followed by other charters, but it is still recognised as the basic text on restoration.

The Venice Charter states that "Conservation may be facilitated by the utilisation of the building for any useful social purpose. What kind of a function do you think Arasta could serve as a social purpose after it is restored? Think, imagine, design and propose.

The Venice Charter states that "When the missing parts are completed, they should be harmoniously integrated into the whole, but at the same time they should be done in such a way that they can be distinguished from the original, so that they do not falsely reflect the artistic and historical testimony." Find and photograph the points where the restoration in Bedesten can be distinguished from the original. To what extent do you think the restoration complies with this principle?

(Süleymaniye Mosque)

Game 9: I wonder what was in its place?

Throughout history and in many different civilisations, places of worship were always built in the most prominent places in the city. As cities changed hands and civilisations were replaced by other civilisations, the buildings of one religion were replaced by those of another. Another one was built using its foundations and materials, sometimes even in the exactly same place and in place of the previous religious building.



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Some of the buildings we see today in different parts of Alanya Castle must have been replaced by other buildings in the past. For example, we know that today's Süleymaniye Mosque was built by the Ottoman Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent in the 16th century. In fact, it replaced another mosque built by the Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubad in the same place, but it was destroyed in an earthquake in the early 16th century.

- But which building or buildings were there before the Seljuks? Can you see any traces of these buildings?

- Now look at the minaret of the Süleymaniye Mosque... Do you think this minaret was always like this? Compare it with old photographs, exhibited near the mosque. What could have happened?

(Old Greek houses in Tophane Neighbourhood)

Game 10: Discover the Greek Heritage in Alanya Castle

When you look down from Orta Hisar towards Tophane Quarter, there are some buildings hidden in that ghost town. Now, one of them, the Church of Michael Archangelos, is within the existing residential area and is visible. But the Hagios Konstantinos Church and two chapels on the slope of Alanya Castle are inside this ghost town and among the other ruins... Now try to find their locations using the map on your phone and go to them and take a selfie. See if you can discover these three hidden treasures.

THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE TRIP

Take such photographs of the places you pass during your field trip so that three buildings from at least three different periods appear in the same frame.