

Pilgrimage | The Haram at Mecca and the Ka'ba

'Successive Muslim caliphs and Mamluk sultans were the prime protectors of the Holy Cities of the Hijaz.'

Successive Muslim caliphs, and later the Mamluk sultans, were the prime protectors of the Holy cities of the Hijaz. As a result, they were responsible for all refurbishments and maintenance of the Haram in Mecca as well as the mosque and tomb of the Prophet in Medina. In order to finance these ongoing commitments, the Mamluk Sultan Qaytbay (r. 872–901 / 1468–96) established a wikala in Cairo, the income from which was dedicated to the provision of grain and other charitable donations to the needy living in the vicinity of the Holy Sites of Mecca and Medina.



Name:
Wikala (caravanserai) of Qaytbay

Dynasty:
Hegira 885 / AD 1480 Mamluk

Details:
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
Sultan Qaytbay founded this wikala to provide for the poor of Mecca and Medina.



Name:
Topkapı Palace

Dynasty:
Construction began in hegira 9th century / AD 15th century, during the reign of Sultan Mehmed II (his second reign: AH 855–86 / AD 1451–81); the last addition was made under Sultan Abdülmecid ['Abd al-Majid] (r. AH 1255–77 / AD 1839–61) in hegira 13th century / AD 19th century Ottoman

Details:
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:
When the Ottomans conquered Egypt, which led to the fall of the Mamluk Dynasty, all the Holy relics were brought to the Topkapı Palace in Istanbul, and to this day verses from the Qur'an are chanted where these relics are kept in the Pavilion of the Holy Mantle.
