

The Ottomans | Exporting Luxury

'The products of the flourishing Ottoman crafts industries created demand worldwide.'

The beauty and craftsmanship of Islamic art has been appreciated in the West for centuries. In the Middle Ages, for example, textiles and decorative arts from the Middle East were prized additions to the treasuries of churches. With the rise of the Ottoman Empire and the development of the world economic system, the products of the flourishing Ottoman crafts industries created demand worldwide. As a result, much of the Ottoman art that has come down to us today was originally produced for export. The image of the Ottoman Empire as a land of wealth and luxury derives largely from such artworks obtained through a network of bazaars and hans.



Name:
Grand Bazaar

Dynasty:
The two bedestens were built during the reign of Mehmed II 'the Conqueror', (his second reign AH 855–86 / AD 1451—81), and the bazaar developed around them
Ottoman

Details:
Eminönü, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:
Thriving commerce required the construction of urban commercial centres like this Grand Bazaar of Istanbul.



Name:
Sokullu Mehmed Paşa Complex

Dynasty:
Hegira 982 / AD 1574 Classical Ottoman

Details:
Payas, Dört Yol, Hatay, Türkiye

Justification:
Hans were built along trade routes and also in cities to facilitate commerce. This complex on the trade and pilgrimage route from Anatolia to Syria contains a shopping mall (arasta) and a caravanserai.



Name:
Khan al-Harir

Dynasty:
Hegira 981 / AD 1573–4 Ottoman

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
Some hans specialised in only one type of commodity, such as this one that specialised in silk.



Name:
Koza Han

Dynasty:

Hegira 25 Dhu'l-Qa'da 896 / AD 29 September 1491 Ottoman

Details:

Bursa, Türkiye

Justification:

This han in the city of Bursa was, and still is, the centre of the silk-cocoon trade.

**Name:**

Wikala (caravanserai) of Bazar'a

Dynasty:

Hegira 11th century / AD 17th century Ottoman

Details:

Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

Bazaars (also called a khan, caravanserai or wikala) in the cities, were the heart of domestic and international commerce and such wikalas were used for accommodating merchants and travellers and securely storing their goods.
