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Effects of Turkish railway museums on cultural tourism

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine the effects of Turkish railway museums on cultural tourism. Cultural tourism constitutes an important part of tourism in relation to a country or region's culture, especially the history of those people, their art, other values and the lifestyle of the human in those geographical areas. Railway Museums remain one of the most important items in cultural tourism. Turkish railways are very important in terms of reflecting Republic values in Turkey. Railways deeply affected Turkish society's life. In the first years of Turkish Republic, there were not improved transportations systems, so railways were important. When it reached geographical areas, it changed the city landscape, the lifestyle of people, architecture and other elements. In time, all of them became part of the Turkish culture and some of them started displaying in museums. Today there are seven museums in relation to railways in Turkey. In this study, we will try to explain this form of museum's becoming generally more popular throughout the world and intend to reveal the tourism potential of railway museums in Turkey. Therefore, we will discuss how they will improve in the future and will be use in public economically and culturally, especially in terms of children's priority.

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1. Introduction

Culture tourism is to define as the travel doing to see different national cultures and cultural heritages [1, 2, 3]. At first, this concept was proposed in order to determine the cultural identity and cultural heritage of European Union in the early 1980s, and afterwards cultural tourism was created by people are curious to learn interesting cultures and to see different cultures, together with the communication and transportation developments [4]. Likewise, cultural tourism occupies an important part of tourism in relation to a country or region's culture, especially the history of people, their art, other values and the lifestyle of the human in those geographical areas. This tourism is different from other tourism types in terms of being various, but to be unique; to continue during whole season; learning the life of other people and theirs customs [5, 6]. Briefly, cultural tourism includes current and historical elements such as the archaeological sites, monuments, settlements, battlefields, historic monuments, museums, festivals, concerts, folklore, theatres, cinemas, traditions and customs, clothing, cuisine religion, language, arts and crafts [7]. Among these historical heritages is one of the most railways museums in Turkey. There are seven railway museums, which is located in the cities of Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir and Eskişehir depending on Culture and Tourism Ministry. It is very important to know why railway museums are a reflection of Turkish people's history.

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British company built the first railway in Turkey between Alexandria and Cairo in 1854. Afterwards this railway, it was built the Cernovoda-Kostence line. The first railways in Anatolia also built Izmir and Aydın in 1866. After opening this railway, it opened between Varna and Roustchouk in the same year. Furthermore Anatolia –Bagdad line was built by Germany company in 1893 and then. The Hejaz railway, whose principal object is to provide a means for faithful Moslems to perform their pilgrimage to the holy places of Mecca and Medina with a greater degree of comfort than former, has many remarkable features which distinguish it from other lines. This line was built by Ottoman States [8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]. After collapsing Ottoman State, Turkish railways are also most important in terms of reflecting Republic values in Turkey. Railways affected Turkish society's life deeply. In the first years of Turkish Republic, there were not improved transportation systems, so railways were important. When it reached in geographical area, it changed the city landscape, the lifestyle of people, architecture and other elements. In time, all of them became a part of the Turkish culture, so there are many items dealing with railways' reaching up today and some of them display railway museums, unfortunately many of them are also unprotected.

This study examines the effects of Turkish railway museums on cultural tourism. The material of the study is composed of Museums Statistical of Culture and Tourism Ministry and internet source reviews. The related statistical data has presented in a table. Furthermore, it determines the problems of Turkish Railways Museum.

1.1. Turkish State Railways Museums

The first of Turkish State Railway Museums is Atatürk's Residence and Railways Museums. The residence was previously called, as "Direction Building" and built in 1892 during the construction of Baghdad Railways, is located within the Republic of Turkey, State Railways Ankara Station Complex (Fig. 1). This building was allocated to Ataturk upon his arrival in Ankara on December 27th 1919 as a Supreme Military Command Headquarters for a long period and this building witnessed the most important national and international decisions taken between 1920 and 1922 [16]. The operational plans of the War of Independence were prepared here, the treaty that was signed with France on October 21st, 1921 was negotiated and its signing ceremony was held here, and finally the decisions for establishing the Turkish Parliament and for celebrating this day as National Sovereignty and Children's Day annually were taken in this building. In the memory of Ataturk, TCDD (Turkish State Railway) rehabilitated this building that has a significant place in the history of Republic of Turkey and inaugurated it as a museum on December 24 th, 1964. The upper floor of this double-storied building, there are Ataturk's workroom, meeting saloon, and bedroom. Ataturk's personal belongings and the furniture having the characteristics of those days are preserved in their original forms [17].

There are Ataturk Wagons used for local visits next to Ataturk's Residence and Railways Museums. Bought for being used by Ataturk for local visits from Germany in 1927, this wagon is the only original example of White Train which is used by Ataturk for local visits during 1935 and 1938 [18]. After Ataturk died, the wagon was kept Basmane Station in Izmir for a long time and brought to Ankara. White Train was also used by Inonu until 1950s, but afterwards this train's nine wagons got broken, was sold or lost. There remained only one of this wagon's pieces. It has exhibited since 1964 at Ankara Station. The Ministry of Culture registered it in 1991 named "the cultural value of Ataturk to be preserved" [17] (Fig. 2-3).





Fig. 1. (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) views from Ataturk's Residence and Railway Museums.



Fig. 2. Different views from Ataturk wagon.

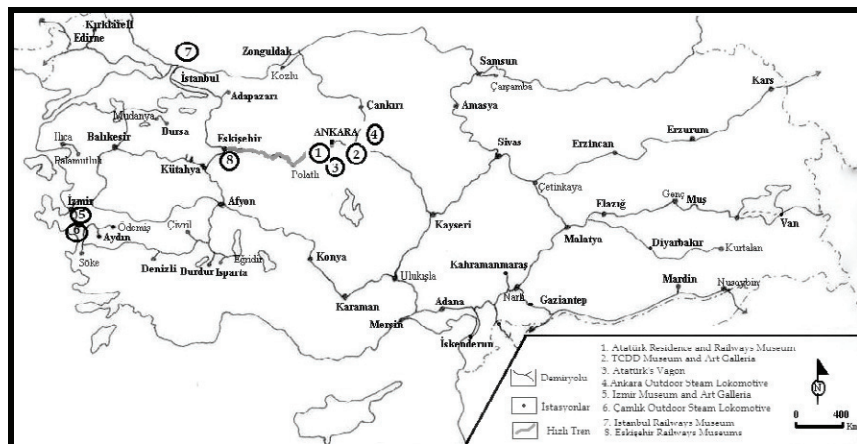


Fig. 3. Railways Museums in Turkey.

The second of Turkish State Railway Museums in Ankara is TCDD Museums and Art Galleria. The project of this building was prepared as “Ankara Hotel” in 1924, but it never served as a hotel. TCDD used this original building for managerial purposes like Management Building, Accounting Building, Higher

Education Students Hostel, Division Directorate, and Training and Education Department and finally in 1990 it was rehabilitated as “TCDD Museum and Art Galleria” by railways architects and put into service pursuant to the board resolution [16]. (Fig.4).The two-storied building has a half basement. The imposing monumental portal is located at the entrance in the middle. The wooden door having two big wings is massive and opened inwards. The arches and all of the facades are covered with Ankara stone. There are two balconies in the front and side. The high ceilings are the characteristic of its period. The project of the building, which is an early Republic period structure, was prepared as a hotel; so, all the doors of room in every floor opens to the big hall. You can access the second floor with a spiral wooden staircase. This floor has arranged as the Railway Museum. Railways is an establishment consisting of departments called/function as Road, Traction, Traffic, Trade, Health, Restaurant - Sleeping, Training - Education, etc. This organization chart is applied in the museum exhibition exactly as it is. Museum and Art Galleria is located at Talatpasa Bulvari Gar or Ankara and it can be visited without entrance fee, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. All of the works exhibited in the museum are remarkable as they had been used by the railway workers in the railways [17].



Fig. 4: Different views from TCDD Museums and Art Galleria.

The third of Turkish State Railways Museums is Ankara Outdoor Steam Locomotive Museum. This museum displays ten locomotive and its surrounding is 12 600 m². Most of them were done by Germany and their speeds change between 55-80 km/h [17] (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. A view of locomotives in Turkey

Izmir museums and art galeria is the fourth museum. The museum building was built as a merchandise warehouse in 1800's by the British merchants living in Alsancak as a colony. In other words, this building is older than Izmir-Aydn railways which were built in 1856. It has the same architectural characteristics with the British consulate, which is located approximately 200 m. on the south, its adjacent building is Anglican church, and the building that is currently used as the Dean's Office for 9 Eylül University, Teacher's College at Buca. Later the building used as the administrative office for the British companies and then it became the house of the Manager of "Izmir-Aydn Ottoman Railways Company" in 1860's. After the expropriation of railways, it was used as employees house for a long period together with the other 5 buildings located nearby and having the same architectural characteristics. The building that struggled against many earthquakes and fires rehabilitated as a museum in 1990. With the last rehabilitation in 2002-2003, its upper floor has arranged as Galleria and lower floor as a Museum [17]. Furthermore, there is also Çamlık Steam Locomotives Outdoor Museum in Selçuk, which depends on Izmir Museum and Art Galeria. This museum inaugurated in 1991. Museum is located in Çamlık village on the road between Aydın-Selçuk, moreover museum is a few minutes away from Ephesus which is the most famous historical site of Turkey (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. A view of Çamlık Steam Locomotives Open Air Museum [20].

Çamlık Steam Locomotives Open Air Museum has one of the largest steam engines collections in Europe. 25 locomotives and 4 historical wagons exhibited in natural surroundings in the 160 acres museum for visitors [19]. There are interesting locomotives in the museum. One of them is wood working locomotive which was made by the English. Furthermore there is also a three cylinder locomotive privately made by Hitler in the Second World War [20]. Besides locomotives, museum has a historical building. This museum has two holes and nine rooms, built in 1856-1858. The museum has also many railway items ranging from the engine shed, the turntable to cranes, fountain and tools and lamps. A room next to the shed displays a large collection of Atatürk's photographs. The official hour of museum is from 8am to 8pm everyday and entrance is not free.

Eskisehir TCDD museum, which has an area of 200 m² close total 400 m², was opened in 1998 (Fig 7). The museum exhibits 237 materials such as water wagon, telegraph machines, steam and diesel locomotive models, Atatürk and station Fig., telephones, typewriters [21].



Fig. 7. Different views of Eskisehir TCDD Museum



Fig.8. Different views of Istanbul TCDD Museum

The other important museum of Turkish State Railways Museums is Istanbul TCDD museum opened on 23th September 2005. Three hundred cultural objects exhibits in the museum and it is open every day except Sunday, Monday and national days. This museum in Sirkeci Main Station built in 1890, so the Sirkeci Station, which was the last stop of Orient Express, is historical building. Today along with the Haydarpasha Station it is one of the two main stations of the TCDD. On both sides of the middle entrance, there were turret clocks, three big restaurants, a large beer-garden and an outdoor restaurant behind the station [17]. In

with these museums, there is a new museum named Malıköy Train Station Museum and Kartaltepe. That Malıköy Train Station Museum is located between Ankara and Eskisehir. This museum opened by The Head of General Staff, Transportation Ministry and TCDD General Manager in 2008. Coming after the head center, this station, which met all the needs of the army in the Battle of Sakarya, and which was used as military base, airfield, logistic center during the war, was one of the most important stations. There are many materials in relation to Independent War [21]. Kartalkaya is a hill located in Sakarya Square War Panorama Museum. The building of museum is still under construction.

Looking at the statistics including total tourist numbers who visit the railways museums, these numbers are 121 382 people (Table 1). In 2008, total tourist numbers who visit museums in Turkey are 22 736 238 [23]. Tourist number in railways museum is 0.4% in proportion to the total tourist number.

Table 1. The numbers of tourists who visit the railways museums in Turkey

Museum's Name	Years						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Atatürk's Residence and Railways Museums	-	-	-	-	21 000	18 500	4 359
Ankara TCDD Museums and Art Galleria	-	-	-	-	15 000	13 600	250
Ankara Outdoor Steam Locomotive Museum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Izmir museums and Art Galeria	-	-	4 900	4 600	4 800	5 200	-
Çamlık Steam Locomotives Outdoor Museum	-	-	-	-	-	19 000	-
Eskisehir TCDD Museum	6 040	4 648	5 686	6 814	7 982	8 943	-
Istanbul TCDD Museum	-	5 406	52 774	58 273	50 350	56 139	-
Total	6 040	10 154	63 360	69 687	99 132	121 382	4 609

Resource: Ruhcan Celebi, Eskisehir TCCD Museum, Izmir Museum and Art Galeria and Ankara TCDD General Museums Manager.

When tourist numbers in railway museums are regarded the one with the highest tourist numbers is Istanbul TCDD museum with 56 139 people, moreover this museum is also only reached statistics in relation to the number of foreign tourists. Thus the number of foreign tourists who visit Istanbul TCDD museum is 31 498 people in 2009. Following Istanbul TCDD museum, the railway museums with the highest tourist numbers are Çamlık Steam Locomotives Open Air Museum with 19 000 people, Atatürk's Residence and Railways Museums with 18 500 people, Ankara TCDD Museums and Art Galleria with 13 600 people, Eskisehir TCDD Museum with 8 943 people and Izmir museums and Art Galeria with 5 200 people.

Indeed, there have many problems of railway museums in Turkey. First, safe and healthy statistics about tourist numbers of railway museums is not enough. Furthermore the problems of the railway museums is not only limited to statistics, they also have many problems such as lack of infrastructure, maintenance and repair needs, there is also society's indifference to the railways museum. For example, Ankara TCDD Museums and Art Galleria need restoration again. The ceilings of these building are leaking and there are many insects in the building.

1.2. Conclusions

Railways were affected both Ottoman and Turkish society's life deeply, it has many things and materials as heritage. Materials and things exhibited in railways museums are important in terms of being a part of our history today, so we should protect them for present and future generations and display railway museum, however these museums have some problems. The most important problem of railway museums in Turkey is not having enough financial resources, so first we should constitute income resources for the development of railway museums and open shopping centers including locomotive maquettes, keys, student's materials which have railway symbols on, like rubber, pen, pencil and tabulated, books for adult and story books for children, puzzles, toys, fridge decorating, conductor and local belongings. In addition to there must be restaurants or cafes next to railways museums.

Furthermore, it must attract local people's attention for improving railway museums. For example foreign tourist numbers visiting Istanbul TCDD museum are more than local tourist numbers visiting here. 31 498 foreign tourist and 24 641 local tourist have visited to Istanbul TCDD museum in 2009. However National Railways Museum in York in England visit 700 000- 900 000 people every year, moreover York city's

population is 280 000. This case shows that local people in Turkey are not interested in railway museums, so first museum culture should be improve in Turkey. Primary school students with their teachers should visit these museums, but it is not enough. Parents, together with their children, should also visit railway museums. At the same time, there are not safe and healthy statistics and they lack organization. We did not reach safe statistics including both foreign and local tourist numbers visiting railway museums according to years except for Istanbul TCDD Museums, so there must be a statistic bureau related to railways museums in Ankara, besides all railway museums must depend on Ankara. Among many problems of railway museums in Turkey, there are also infrastructure, maintenance and repair needs. For example, there are two open air museum in Camlık and Ankara. Locomotives in here affects negatively from air conditions. Locomotives in both museums should be converting into a closed place. Ankara TCDD Museums and Art Galleria building as “Ankara Hotel” in 1924, needs maintains and repair. However all railways museums have been gathered Ankara, Izmir, Eskisehir and Istanbul. We might open new railway museums in the east of Inner Anatolia, Mediterranean and East Anatolia. For example Sivas which laid the foundation of Republic, is an important railway city. Karakurt is the first steam locomotive of Turkey that it is located in here and stations building, hour tower and railway workshops of the city take attention. We might establish a railway museum in Sivas; moreover, we can organize nostalgia train tours for short or long distances. Finally, it should forget to constitute one of the most important chains of the bridge of culture between the past and the future of railway museums in Turkey.

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