

# **Theodosian Harbour and the Greatest Byzantine-Era Fleet**

## **ABSTRACT**

Salvage excavations by Istanbul Archaeology Museums at Yenikapı district of the Istanbul's historic peninsula had revealed one of the biggest harbors situated on the Marmara Sea shore of the Byzantine Constantinople; the Theodosian Harbor. In addition to the thousands of artefacts uncovered during the excavations, 37 shipwrecks dated between 5th-11th centuries constitute the largest medieval collection of its kind and shed new light on the trade, economy and maritime practices of the capital. The ongoing study on the total of 27 shipwrecks including 4 galleys and 23 merchantmen, by Istanbul University's Division of Conservation of Marine Archaeological Objects provides important insights to the evolution of shipbuilding technology and to the transition from shell based to frame based construction techniques in Mediterranean.

## **AUTHOR**

Ufuk Kocabaş (b. 1968, Istanbul) currently directs the Department of Conservation and Restoration and also the Division of Conservation of Marine Archaeological Objects at Istanbul University. His research is focused on underwater archaeology, ancient shipbuilding technology and conservation of underwater cultural heritage. He is currently directing 'The Yenikapı Shipwrecks Project' on behalf of Istanbul University. A member of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO's Tangible Cultural Heritage Committee, he has authored the books *Conservation and Restoration of Marine Archaeological Objects* (1998) and *The Gate Open to Past: Yenikapı Shipwrecks* (2015), and edited *Yenikapı Shipwrecks, Volume 1: Old Shipwrecks of New Gate 1* (2008).