

# Exhibitions of Piri Reis, The Cartographer of Suleiman the Magnificent Croatia

Rijeka ( July 5 – August 30, 2013)

Porec ( September 5 - 30, 2013 )

Zagreb ( October 3 – November 10, 2013 )



The 500th anniversary of the Piri Reis World Map (1513) has been included in the Celebration of Anniversaries in 2013 during UNESCO's 36th General Conference that was held in Paris between October 25 and November 10, 2011 and attended by Prof. Dr. Ömer Dinçer, the Minister of National Education on behalf of Turkey.

Based on this, several national and international activities have been planned for 2013 under the coordination of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

One of these activities includes the Piri Reis Exhibition, which will be sponsored by TINA (The Turkish Foundation for Underwater Archaeology). The exhibition will take place in Rijeka, Porec and Zagreb.

The rationale behind choosing Croatia for the exhibition is that *Kitab-ı Bahriye* (the Book of Navigation) is a very important work of Piri Reis that contains many portolan charts (harbour maps) of coastal cities and islands of Croatia, and at present the Croats are fond of Turkish TV series, particularly "the Magnificent Century" depicting the era of the Ottoman Empire and Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, which is a very popular topic. Therefore, the name of the exhibition is "Piri Reis, the Cartographer of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent".

The exhibition will include a large 1513 map on a tile panel and two Croatian portolan charts as well as several 16th century navigational instruments used to determine the direction and present position, the replicas of the *Kitab-ı Bahriye*, engravements of Croatian coasts and large posters of portolan charts, portraits of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, Barbarossa Hayreddin Pasha and Piri Reis, maps from the 16th century Ottoman Empire, information about the Ottoman Armada, a Topkapi Palace painting and other works of art.

The exhibitions in Rijeka and Zagreb will make its debut with the participation of the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey.





### **What is the significance of Piri Reis' works and why are they unique?**

1. He drew two types of maps that were of utmost significance for that era.
  - a. The World Maps of 1513 and 1528 (containing map scales for measurement of distances)
  - b. The coastal map in hundreds of details from *Kitab-ı Bahriye* with the sign on the book pointing to the north and other information
2. He combined the European and Islamic World maps that was never attempted by any cartographer during and before his era.
3. Globally it is still the only map that was drawn using the map of Christopher Columbus.
4. The maps represent the first drawings depicting the Ottoman cities and harbors.
5. He wrote the pilot book with the most comprehensive data on the 16th century Mediterranean and Aegean Sea.
6. He is the first cartographer who integrated the maps and detailed information in a book. There never came another person even decades later who could make anything similar to or more advanced than what Piri Reis achieved.
7. There are 5.704 portolan charts in the copies of *Kitab-ı Bahriye*, which is substantially higher than the total amount of portolan charts drawn by all cartographers up until now.
8. The accuracy in his drawings, particularly in the coastline of South America in the 1513 map is appreciated and still a matter of debate among scientists.



# PORTOLAN CHARTS DEPICTING CROATIAN COASTS FROM KITAB-I BAHRIYE

