

Şanlıurfa

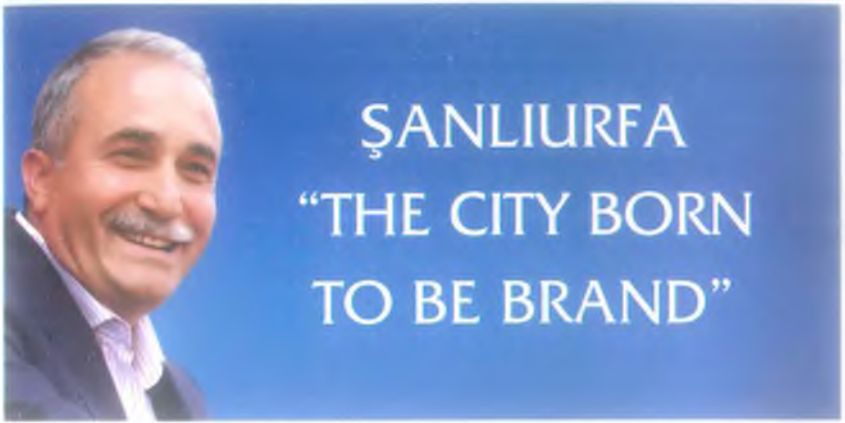
"Natural Born Brand City"

K-Q
TSE-ISO-EN
9000





Şanlıurfa
Natural Born Brand City



Dear Guest,

We are extremely pleased to welcome you in Şanlıurfa "city born to be brand", which hosts the Chamber of Abraham known as the "ancestor of prophets of the three divine religions", and carrying the heritage of various civilizations for more than 11,500 years in a form of an open air museum.

With this booklet we have tried to give clues on this mysterious city.

While visiting the historical sites you will be able to travel to the depths of the history; have a chance to relax your soul in the mystical atmosphere of the Balıklıgöl (the Fish Lake); experience the traditional hospitality and the culture peculiar to this region while touring the "historical Urfa streets and houses"; and taste the tremendous dishes of the Urfa cuisine.

Seeing, knowing and living Şanlıurfa is a privilege.

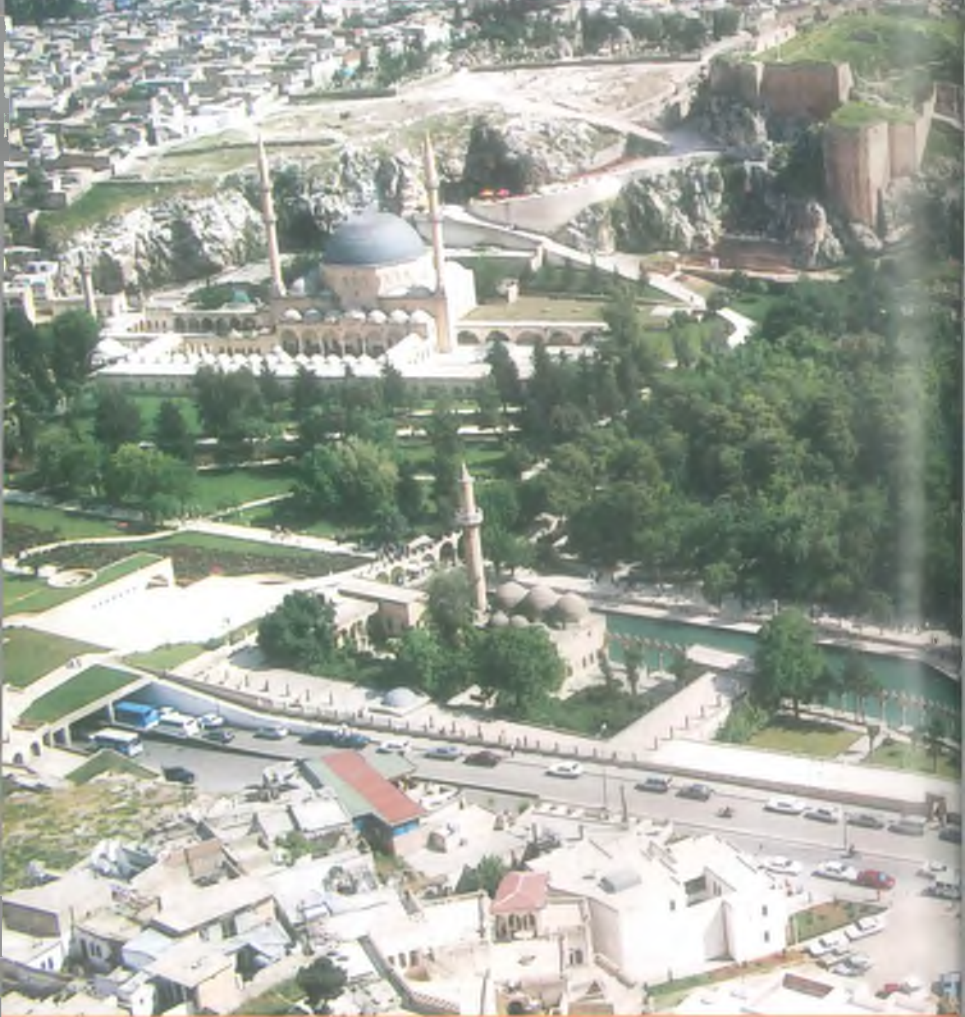
We hope that you share this privilege with your friends.

Med. D. Ahmet Eşref FAKIBABA

Mayor of Şanlıurfa



WELCOME TO



Şanlıurfa exists over the lands referred to as the "Fertile Crescent" in the archaeological texts, which is known as the area from which culture and civilization has spread out to the whole world.

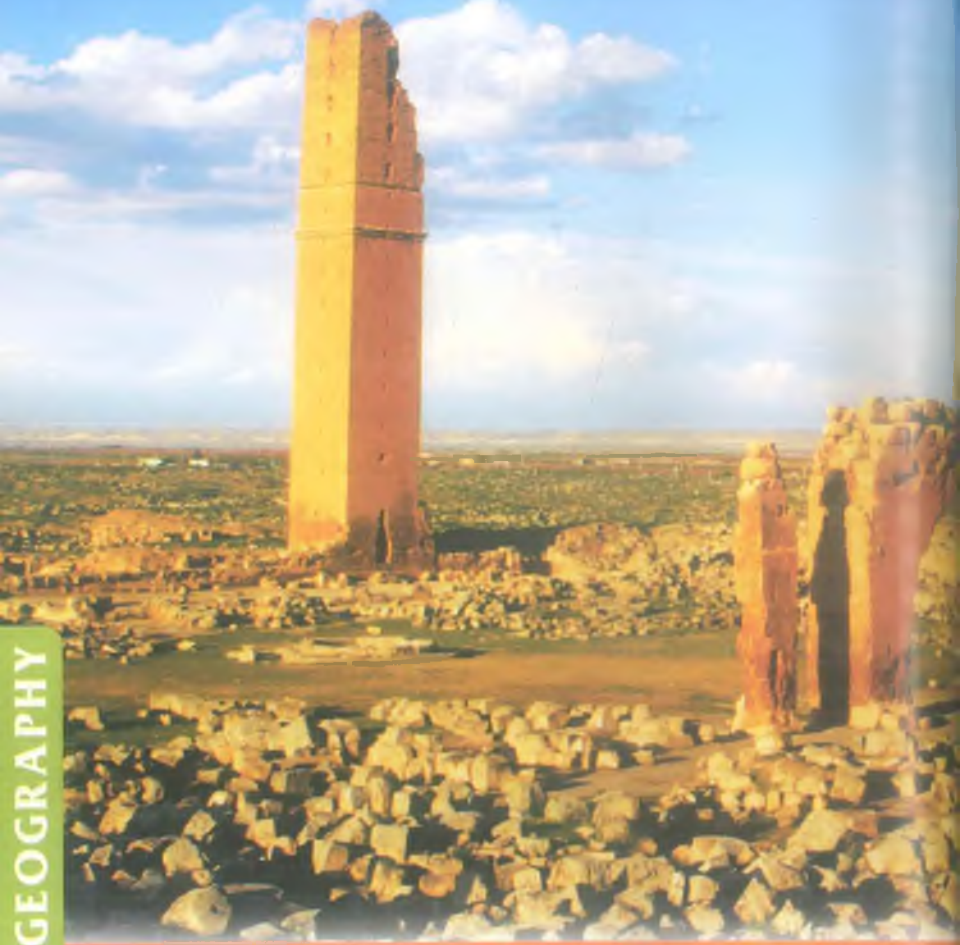


ŞANLIURFA



Being the oldest city known in the world with a history of more than 11,500 years, Şanlıurfa is the birthplace of Prophet Abraham, who is known as the ancestor of the monotheistic religions. In this way the city is the fourth holy place of the Islamic world after Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem.





Being in the Southeastern Anatolia region, Şanlıurfa is surrounded by Mardin to the east, Gaziantep to the west, Adıyaman to the northwest and Diyarbakır to the northeast. To the south of the province lies 789 km-long Syrian border. The area of the province is 18,584 km² and the altitude of the city center from sea level is 518 m.



MOUNTAINS

Geographically, Şanlıurfa exists between the northern sections of the Arab Platform and the southern skirts of the central section of the Southwestern Toros Mountains. The altitude of the mountains on the northern part is rather low. Vast plains exist between mountains. Major mountains in the province are Karacadağ (1938 m), Tektek (449 m), Susuz (801 m), Takur Tukur, Germuş (771 m), Nemrut (800 m), Şebeke (750 m) and Arat (840 m).





The most famous river is the Euphrates. There are some other streams among which are Cüllab, Çeltik, Pınar, Pamuk, Zengeçur, Aslanlı, Karabağ, Bahçecik, Hamdun, Necarik, Titriş, Zadelı, Giresov, Halfeti, Pınarbaşı, Süleyman, Mizar, Bamyasuyu, Kehrız, Germuş, Açıksu, Halil-ur Rahman, Direkli and Mercihan.

LAKES

The city center of Şanlıurfa hosts two lakes namely Halil-ur Rahman and Aynzeliha. These two lakes were believed to be formed later where Abraham was thrown into fire. The legend tells that Zeliha, King Nimrod's daughter, seeing that Abraham was thrown into fire had jumped into fire after him for her love to Abraham; however the spot of the fire where she jumped turned into the present lake. The fish inside the lakes are considered as holy so they are not hunted. The lakes are among the main tourist attraction points from all around the world. In addition, Atatürk Dam Lake, which is established under the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP), is the largest artificial lake in Turkey.





PLAINS

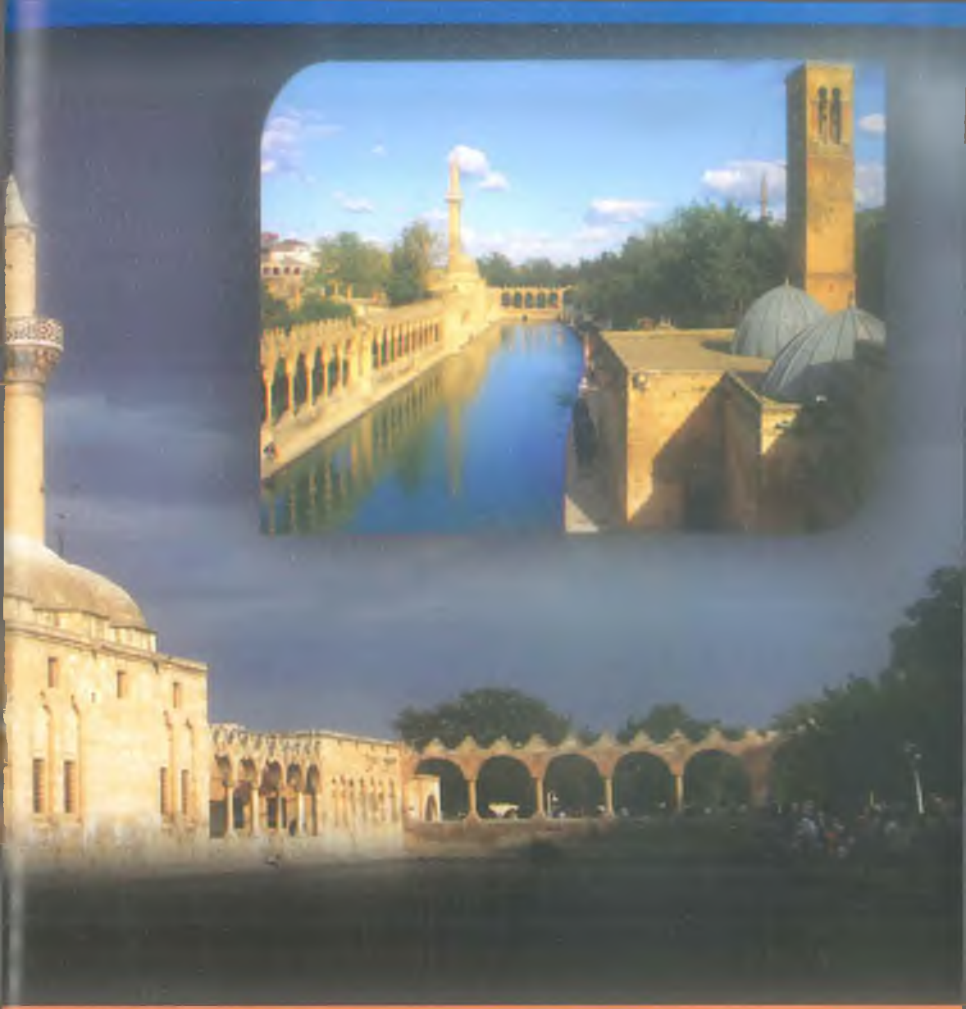
Şanlıurfa in general is in the form of a plateau and the main plains of the area are Harran, Suruç, Viranşehir, Ceylanpınar, Bozova and Siverek plains.





Urfa, which is known as being the oldest settlement point of the Mesopotamia, has been a very strategic point throughout history due to its proximity to water resources and being on the trade routes. The history of the city center is dated back to around 9th millennium B.C, after the excavations made in this area. Excavations made in Göbeklitepe, only 15 km from the city center, have revealed the ruins of the oldest temple in the world dating back to more than 11,500 years ago.





Throughout the history, Urfa has lived under the dominations of the Eblaians, Acadians, Sumerians, Babylonians, Hittites, Hurri-Mitannis, Aramaeans, Assyrians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans and Byzantines. The city has been conquered by the Seljuk Turks in 1094 A.D. In 1098 A.D. Urfa was captured by the Crusaders and the Crusader County of Urfa was established. The city was later recaptured by the Islamic armies and undergone the Islamic dynasties of

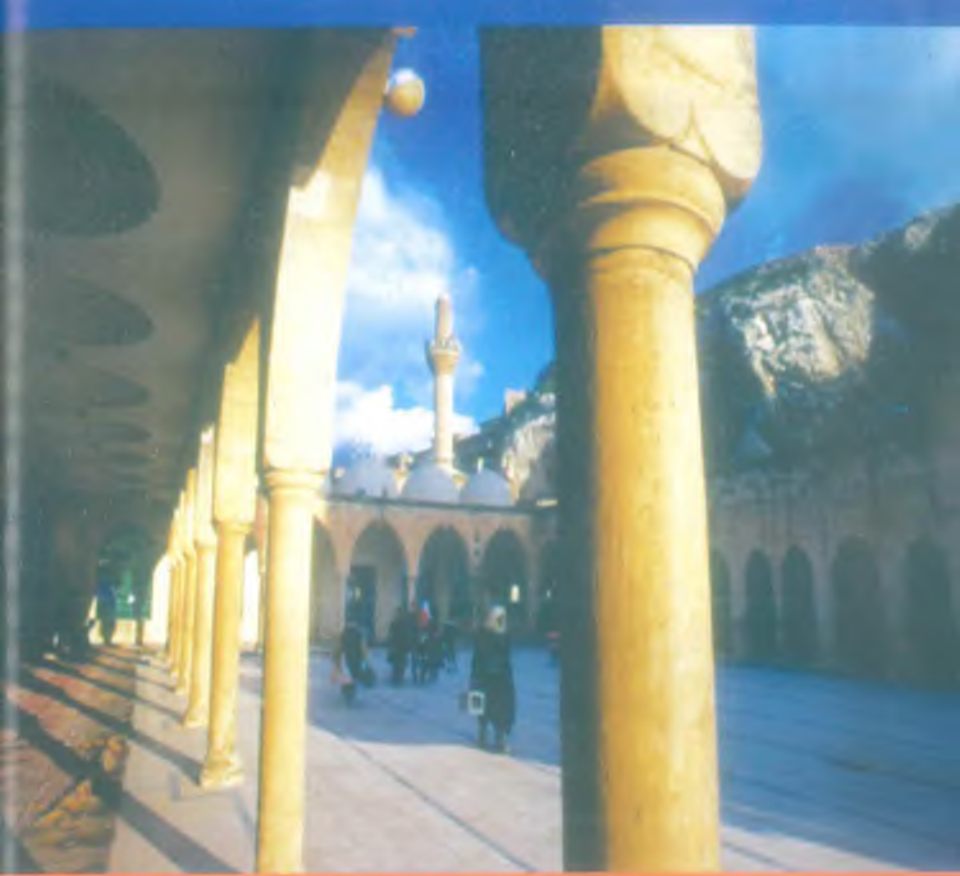




Ayyubids, Memluks, Turcoman tribes, Empire of Tamerlane, Akkoyun Dynasty, Dulkadir Dynasty, Safawids and finally the Ottomans.

The oldest name of Urfa known is Urhay. Alexander the Great of Macedonia, due to abundance of water, has resembled Urfa to Edessa in Macedonia (currently Voden) and named the city as Edessa. It is believed that the word Urfa is derived from the Syriac word of "Urhai", and that Urhai





is originated from the Arabic word of "ar-Ruha" meaning "abundance of water".

Later the word Urhai was pronounced in different ways as Orhe, Orhai, which finally led to the word Urfa. According to the Syriac History Record the word derivates from Urhai, son of Hawya.

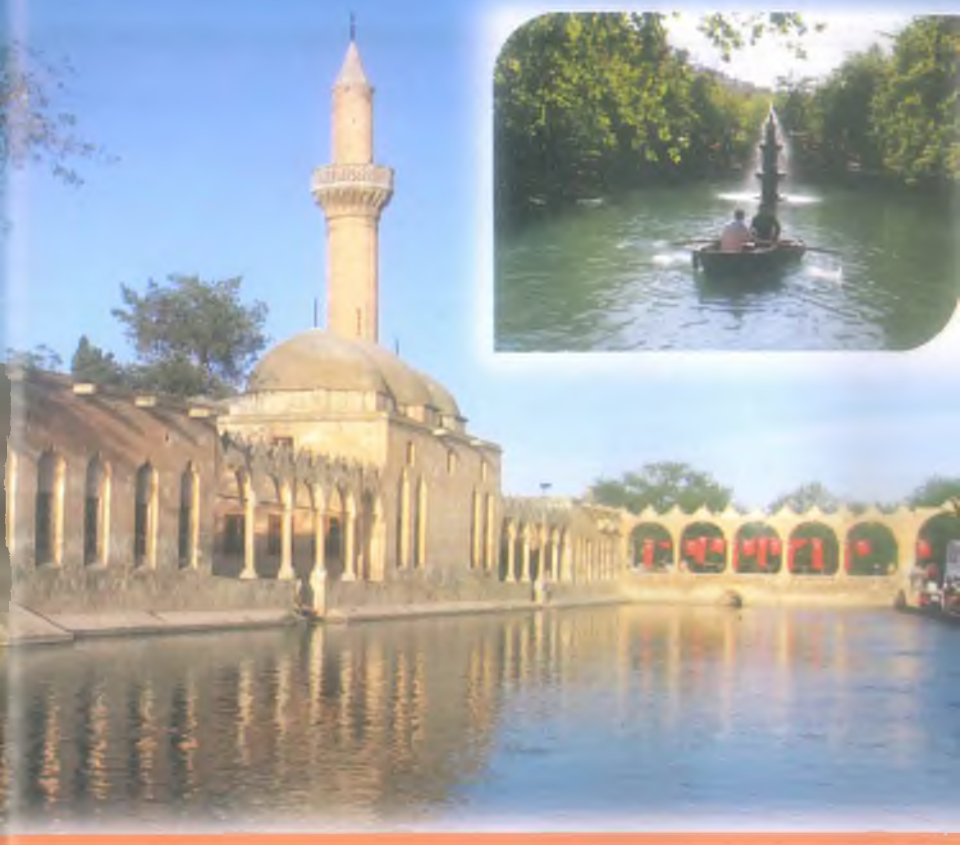
After the World War I, Urfa was first occupied by the British and then the French. The local resistance troops expelled the last French troops out of the city on April 11, 1920. In 1984, the Turkish parliament decided to add the prefix "Şanlı" (dignified) to the name of the city in memory of the heroic resistance against the occupiers.





Being the oldest spot of the primitive religions in the world, Urfa is also a major center of the polytheist and monotheist religions. Harran and Sumatar, two of the main centers of the Paganism, which is based on the polytheist beliefs of the ancient Assyrian and Babylonian cultures, are within the boundaries of Urfa. Prophet Abraham, who is believed to be the ancestor of the Judaism, Christianity and Islamic prophets, was born in Urfa, and here he was thrown into fire by King Nimrod for his struggle against the idols which they worshipped.





Prophet Lot has seen his uncle Abraham being thrown into fire and left Urfa to travel to Sodom. Abraham's grandson and the ancestor of the Israel has married to Rebecca in Harran; Prophet Job (Ayyub) has suffered in a cave and then died in Urfa. The city is also known as "The City of Prophets" or "Land of Faiths". Prophet Elisha (Alyasa') has traveled to Eyyüpebi village where Job lived, but died before seeing him.





Prophet Jethro (Sho'aib) has lived in the city of Şuayb, which is 37 km from Harran. Prophet Moses has met Jethro in Sumatar and received his legendary rod from him.

Jesus Christ has blessed the city and sent his towel to King Ukkama of Urfa with his apostle St. Addai. Christianity was accepted as a state religion in the world for the first time in Urfa by this king.





Being among the 12 holy cities of the three divine religions, which are Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem, Vatican, Antakya, Ephesus (Efes), İznik, Istanbul, Demre, Cappadocia and Tarsus, Urfa has a unique position. Among the 8 cities which are currently within the borders of Turkey, Urfa can easily be positioned in the first place.



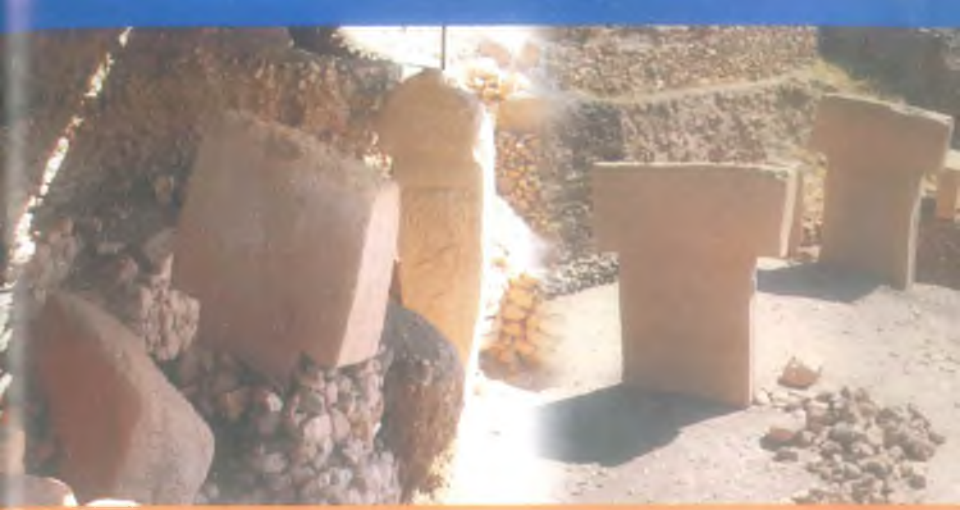


18 km from the center of Şanlıurfa and within the territory of Örencik village, Göbeklitepe was first discovered in a joint project of the Universities of Istanbul and Chicago. The first excavations started in 1995 under the leadership of Şanlıurfa Archaeology Museum and advisory of H. Hauptmann. The excavations are now conducted under supervision of Klaus Schmidt. Göbeklitepe is a temple on a mountain top which has dominance to Harran plain to the south, Balık River Valley to the east and the hill around Urfa to the west and north. The hill can be easily recognized from the Mardin road, even from 20 km distance.

The site was erected by hunter-gatherers in the 10th millennium BC (c. 11,500 years ago), before the advent of sedentism. It has revolutionized understanding of the Eurasian Neolithic.

Göbeklitepe is the oldest human-made place of worship yet discovered. Until excavations began, a complex on this scale was not thought possible for a community so ancient. The massive sequence of stratification layers suggests several millennia of activity, perhaps reaching back to the Mesolithic. The oldest occupation layer (stratum III) contains monolithic





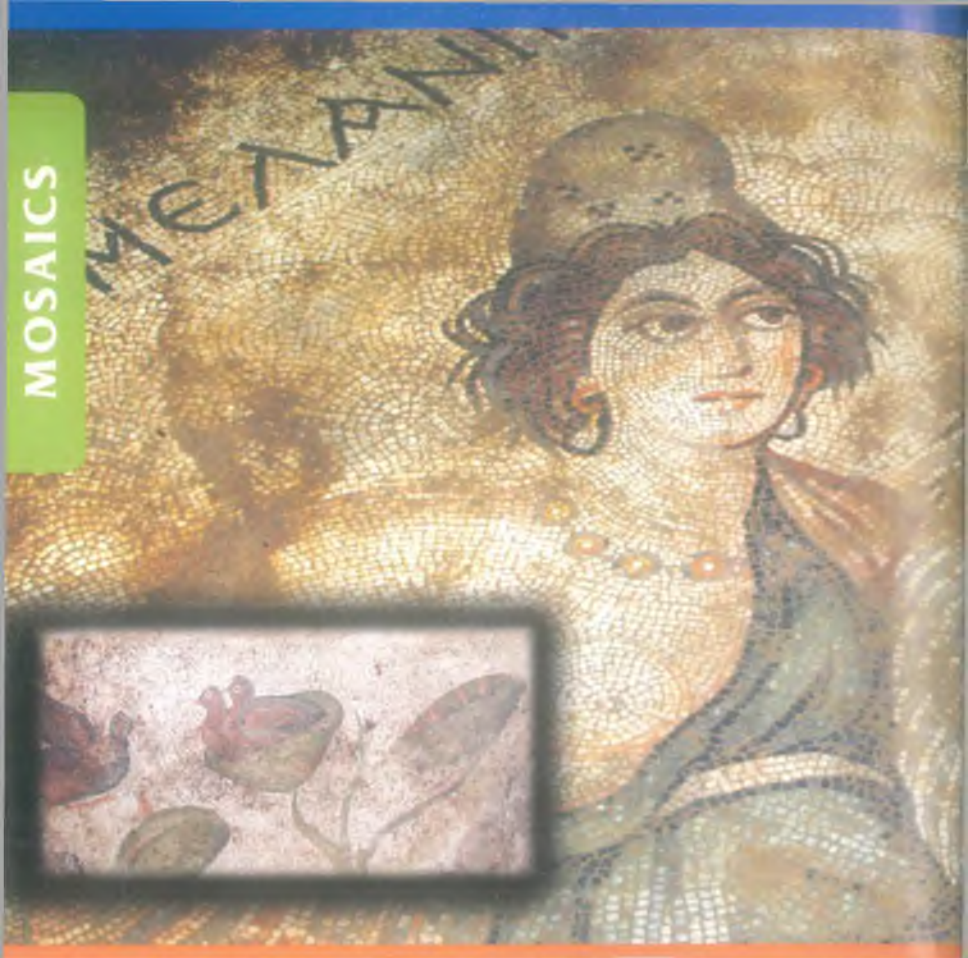
pillars linked by coarsely built walls to form circular or oval structures. So far, four such buildings, with diameters between 10 and 30m have been uncovered. Geophysical surveys indicate the existence of 16 additional structures.

Stratum II, dated to Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB) (7500–6000 BC), has revealed several adjacent rectangular rooms with floors of polished lime, reminiscent of Roman terrazzo floors. The most recent layer consists of sediment deposited as the result of agricultural activity.

The monoliths are decorated with carved reliefs of animals and of abstract pictograms. The pictograms may represent commonly understood sacred symbols, as known from Neolithic cave paintings elsewhere. The carefully carved figurative reliefs depict lions, bulls, boars, foxes, gazelles, mules, snakes and other reptiles, insects, arachnids, and birds, particularly vultures and water fowl. At the time the shrine was constructed the surrounding country was much lush and capable of sustaining this variety of wildlife.

The findings in Göbeklitepe has taken the known history further back and made the history being rewritten.





Nearby the Halil-ur-Rahman Lake at the city center, in the antique city of Edessa, which is now under the slums and are being demolished to reveal this site, are the cave graves, and carved into these graves are inscriptions in Syriac and Greek, reliefs and mosaics. The most important cultural remnants of this period are the mosaics made in a colorful and a local style. During the excavation conducted in 2007 in Haleplibahçe, where these mosaics exist, a mosaic of the warrior women during a hunting dating back to 3000 years ago was revealed.



The Warrior Amazons are being narrated as a legend in the mythology, history and literature of the states and nations of this basin. The mosaics of Haleplibahçe, which are believed to be built in the 3rd century B.C, show the first examples of the warrior Amazon queens being depicted in a mosaic. Experts identify these mosaics as being the most valuable mosaics in the world due to their techniques, arts and the rocks from the Euphrates sizing 4 mm² and other unique features.





The name of the town, which is 44 km southeast of Şanlıurfa, is derived from the word "Haran-u" in Sumerian and Acadian meaning "the junction-crossroads". It is believed that the Biblical village of Haran mentioned in the Old Testament is this town. Islamic historians believed that the city was established by "Caynan" son of Noah or "Aran" (Haran) the brother of Abraham. The town is also known as "the city of Abraham" since Prophet Abraham, before migrating to the land of Canaan in Palestine resided in Harran.

Harran was the center of the Pagans who worshipped the moon, stars and the sun during the Assyrian and Babylonian empires. There are evidences at Kültepe and Mari tablets dating back to 2000 B.C, showing that a treaty has been signed at the



Temple of Sin (Moon God) in Harran. The Hittite tablets dating back to second millennium B.C. indicate that the Moon God Sin and the Sun God Shamash has been witnessed to another treaty.

The Umayyad ruler Marwan II has made Harran the capital city of his empire in 744 A.D. The Jazeera branch of Umayyad Empire ended after defeat of the Umayyad State by the Abbasid dynasty in 750 A.D.

Harran later saw the domination of the Fatimid dynasty, Zengui dynasty, Ayyubids and Seljuk Empire. The city was invaded and occupied by the Mongolian army in 1272 A.D. Seeing that they will not be able to keep the city at their hands, Mongolians burned down Harran and destroyed all the precious historical heritage here.

With its typical "beehive" houses, tumulus, city walls, historical remnants and a history of more than 7000 years, Harran is a main tourist attraction point.





CITY WALLS

Shaped like an ellipse, the city of Harran was originally surrounded by city walls made of cut stones with 6 gates and 187 towers. It is known that the trenches around the walls were originally filled with water. The walls, which are interrupted on the southeastern part of the city, were completed with an inner castle. Although destroyed nowadays at certain points, the walls of Harran can be seen around the city.

In the city plan developed by Seton Lloyd and W.C. Brice in 1951; 6 gates of the city walls were marked, namely Baghdad Gate, Mosul Gate and the Aslanlı Gate to the east; Aleppo Gate to the west; Anatolia (Greek) Gate to the north and Raqqa Gate to the south. Currently only the Aleppo Gate is standing.

CASTLE

The Inner Castle, which is on the southeast of the city, forms the part of the city walls at that certain location. It is argued that the palace built by the Umayyad ruler Marwan II, spending 10 million dirham at that time, formed the main structure of the castle.





GRAND MOSQUE OF HARRAN

Existing on the northeast skirts of the Harran tumulus, the Grand Mosque is the first monumental mosque in Anatolia having a courtyard with porticos, a pool with fountains and richly decorated stones.

The famous Arab historian Ibn Shaddad narrates that the structure was originally the Temple of Sin built by the Sabeans; later in 640 A.D, when the area was conquered by the Arab armies during the reign of Caliph Omar, the structure was transformed to a mosque, and the Sabeans were given another location to build their temple. The mosque was later built at this location between years 744 and 750 A.D. during the Umayyad reign.

THE TOMB AND THE MOSQUE OF SHEIKH HAYAT AL HARRANI (HAYAT IBN QAYS)

Sheikh Hayat al-Harrani is a known Islamic scholar who lived in Harran during the 12th century and died in 1185 A.D. The entrance to the mosque bearing his name is through the crown gate on the eastern side. The inscription above the gate reads that the tomb was built upon the order of Hayat ibn Qays' son Omar and by his nephew in 592 A.H. (1195 A.D.)





TRADITIONAL HARRAN HOUSES

Currently, the most charming feature of Harran is its "houses with conical domes" or also known as "beehive like houses". The history of these houses goes back to 150-200 years ago. Appropriate to the climate of the region and cool in summers and warm in winters; some of these houses have been renovated by owners and being used for tourist attraction.

HISTORICAL SITES MEETING AT HARRAN

There are various historical and touristic sites around Harran also known as "the golden city of history", the routes to all of which meet at Harran.

THE MOSQUE AND TOMB OF JABER AL ANSAR

About 20 km to the north of Harran in Jaber al-Ansar (Yardimci) village, exists the tomb and mosque attributed to the known Islamic character of Jaber ibn Abdullah (Jaber al-Ansar).



ÇOBAN (SHEPHERD) CAVES

On the 14th km of the road to Han el-Ba'rur (Ba'rur Inn), on the right side of the road, there are 10 caves with the entrances facing north. It is believed that the caves, which are 3x3 m wide, were used by shepherds during the antique ages.

BAZDA CAVES

On the 15th and 16th km of the Harran-Sumatar road, on the mountains to the left and right sides of the road exist the quarry caves from the 13th century. Among these, the two quarry caves known as "Bazda Caves" in the village to the right side of the road are worth seeing.

THE RUINS OF THE JETHRO (SHUAIB) CITY (ÖZKENT VILLAGE)

It is possible to reach the ruins of the historical Jethro (Shuaib) City following the 10 km tarmac road from Koyunluca Village, which is 1 km west of the Han el-Barur Inn. It is believed that Prophet Jethro (Shuaib) had lived in this town, and thus the city had been named after him. A cave among these ruins is being visited as the "chamber of Jethro".





SUMATAR RUINS (YAĞMURLU VILLAGE)

The tarmac road running northwards from the Jethro City reaches to the historical Sumatar City after 16 km.

It is believed that Moses, escaping from the Pharaoh, had come to Sumatar and received the miraculous rod from Prophet Jethro at this location. However Sumatar has earned its fame in history by being the center of the Paganism deriving from the polytheist beliefs of the ancient Assyrian and Babylonian cultures, and also hosting "Mar Alahe" the chief god of this religion. The hills to the west of the "Sacred Hill", host the ruins of the seven temples symbolizing the temples built for planets of Saturn, Shamash (Sun), Jupiter, Sin (Moon), Venus, Mercury and Mars.





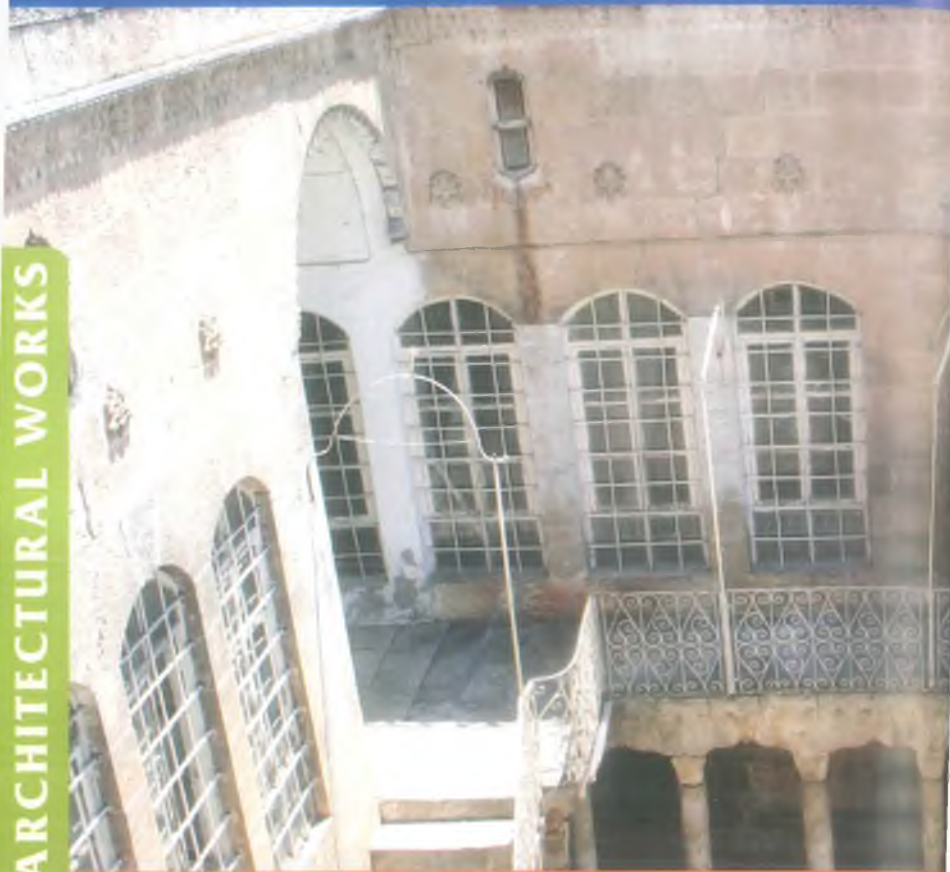
SUMATAR POGNON CAVE

The cave, which is about 250 m northwest of the castle, was discovered by Pognon, the counselor of France to Baghdad at the beginning of the 20th century. Southern, northern and western walls of the cave, the entrance of which is facing east, are decorated with man sized reliefs symbolizing gods, and inscriptions in Syriac. The crescent shaped designs symbolizing the Moon God Sin above the heads of two of these reliefs are quite interesting. Sumatar, which has a distinct position in the history of religions, but is not well known, hosts many other rock tombs and tombstones. Some of these stones have been moved to the Museum of Şanlıurfa recently.

SENE CAVE (SENEM/SANEM CAVE)

The existing architectural remnants and rock carved structures found in Büyük Sene Mağara Village, 11 km north of Sumatar have indicated that this place was an important center for early Christianity.





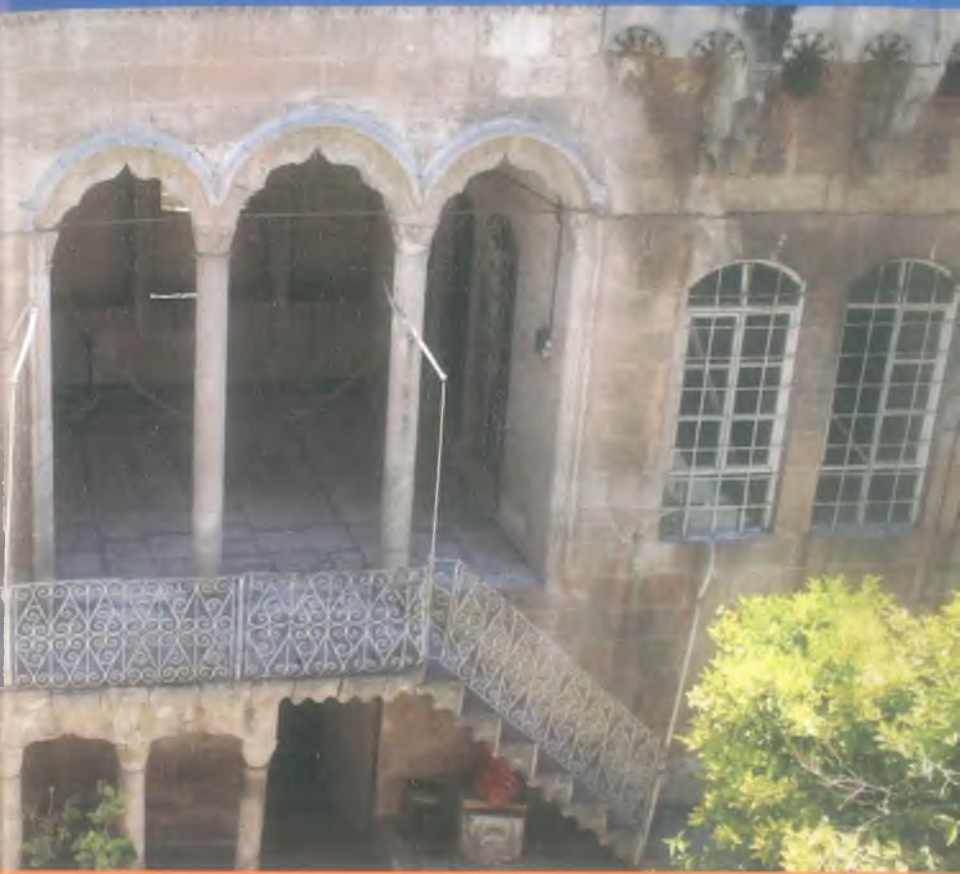
MOSQUES

The city center of Şanlıurfa hosts 36 mosques and masjids, which have a historical value. The historic and architectural features of some have been explained below.

RIZVANIYE MOSQUE

This mosque exists on the northern end of the Khalil al Rahman Mosque. The inscription on the gate indicates that the mosque was built during the Ottoman period by Rıdvan Ahmed Pasha, the governor of Raqqa in 1716. Three parts of the courtyard is surrounded with madrasa (Islamic school) chambers.





The mosque is in the form of a religious complex containing a mosque, madrasa, graveyard and the location where Abraham fell when he was thrown into fire.

YUSUF PASHA MOSQUE

The famous Diwan (Ottoman period of 17th century) poet of Urfa, Nabi in his lyric about Yusuf Pasha Mosque, narrates that the mosque has been built by Yusuf Pasha. The date of 1121 A.H. (1709 A.D.) on the last line of the poem coincides with date written on the "minbar" (pulpit) of the mosque, showing the date of the construction of the mosque.





HASAN PASHA MOSQUE

Mentioned as "Sultan Hasan Mosque" in Evliya Çelebi's Travel Chronicles, the oldest inscription in the mosque dates back to 1574. However it is known that the mosque was built by the Akkoyun ruler Uzun (Tall) Hasan in 15th century.







ST. STEPHEN CHURCH (GRAND MOSQUE)

The building exists in Yıldız Square and is believed that it was turned into a church from a synagogue by Bishop Rabula in 435-436 A.D. Due to red marbles, it is also known as the Red Church. The church was converted into a mosque during the Zengui dynasty in 1170-1175. The bell tower was also used as a minaret from then.

FIRFIRLI CHURCH — THE CHURCH OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES (FIRFIRLI MOSQUE)

The building which is located on Vali Fuat Bey Street and is known as the "Firfırlı Church" is originally named as the "Church of Twelve Apostles". The exact date of construction is not known since there are no inscriptions found. The inscription on the pulpit indicates that the church was converted to a mosque in 1956.

ST. PAUL - ST. PETRUS CHURCH

It is located in Ellisekiz Square in Nimetullah neighborhood. According to the inscription, the church was built in 1861 by Jacobean Syrians during the period of Patriarch Jacob II and Metropolitan Bishop St. Gregorius. In 2002, the building was renovated by the Governorship of Şanlıurfa and since then is being used as "Vali Kemalettin Gazezoğlu Cultural Center".





GRAND CHURCH (THE MOSQUE OF SALAHADDIN)

It exists on Vali Fuat Avenue. It was built in 457 by Bishop Nona, and used as a court at the same time. The building was renovated and converted to a mosque in 1994.



THE CHURCH OF THE NUNS

The church, which exists in the dead end street to the east of Sheikh Saffet Lodge in the Ellisekiz Square, resembles a traditional Urfa house with courtyard. It was built both as a residence and church for the Franciscan nuns (travelling missionary nuns) in 1883.

GERMUŞ CHURCH

The exact date of construction of this church, which is in Germuş village 10 km from Urfa, is unknown since any inscription does not exist.





MADRASAS (ISLAMIC SCHOOLS)

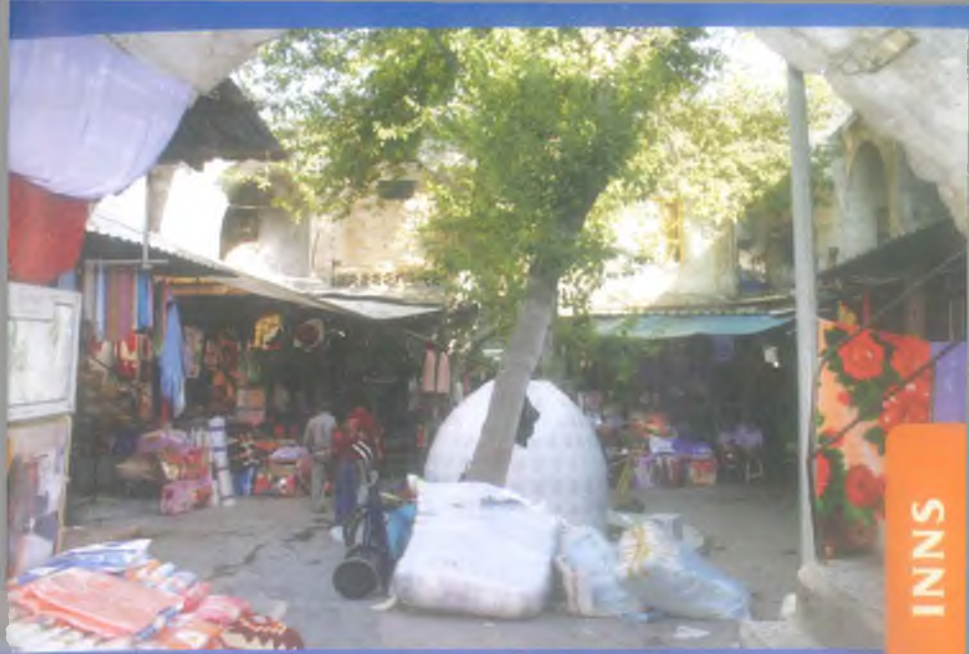
Urfa hosts 8 madrasas from the Ottoman period namely Abbas Ağa, Eyyubi, Halil al-Rahman, İbrahimiye, Nakibzade, Rızvaniye, Şehbenderiye, and Yusuf Pasha. The walls and gate inscription of the Eyyubi madrasa, which is originally from the period of the Ayyubid dynasty, has survived to the present day.

FOUNTAINS, BRIDGES, AQUEDUCTS, WATER RESERVOIRS

There are 12 fountains from the Ottoman period in Urfa, namely Firuz Bey, Hafız Süleyman Bozan Efendi, Haydar Ağa, Hekim Dede, Hüseyin Feriduddin, Hüseyiniye, Mençekzade, Sütçü Abdurrahman Efendi, Şehbenderiye, Şeyh Saffet, Yıkık Sokak and Yıldız Square.

There are 4 bridges, namely Samsat Bridge from the Byzantine period, Hızmalı Bridge from the Karakoyun dynasty, Millet and Hacı Kamil Bridges from the Ottoman period over the Karakoyun Stream flowing within the city center. There is also the Justinian Aqueduct and Justinian Water Reservoir from the Byzantine period over the Karakoyun Stream.





Şanlıurfa is among the major cities in terms of the inns built during the Ottoman period surviving today. If some small inns with no specific architectural features are not considered, there 11 large inns in Urfa from the Ottoman period, namely Gümrük, Hacı Kamil, Barutçu, Mencek, Şaban, Kumluhayat, Fesadı, Samsat Kapısı, Millet, Bican Ağa and Topçu Inns.

Most of them existing around the trade center of the Ottoman period around the Gümrük Inn, features of some these inns are given below.

Çifte, Aslanlı, Boyahane, Ali Bargut, Zencirli (Küsto), Cesur, Hacı Ali Ağa Inns, which existed until 30 years ago do not exist nowadays.



GÜMRÜK (CUSTOMS) INN

The inn is near Haşimiye Square. One of the best samples of the Ottoman architecture, it has been built by Behram Pasha in 1562 during the reign of the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. The courtyard of this inn, which is at the center of historical bazaars, is authentic recreation point to have some refreshments and play domino and backgammon.

MENÇEK INN

The exact date of construction of the inn, which is to the east of the Pamukçu (Cotton) bazaar, is uncertain since an inscription does not exist. However, being mentioned in a foundation deed from 1128 A.H. (1716 A.D.), gives the idea that it existed during the 15th century.

BARUTÇU INN

The inn is in Demirci (ironsmith) Bazaar. It is built of straight cut stones. It does not have an inscription. It is one of the best examples of inns in Urfa after the Gümrük Inn.

MİLLET INN

It is outside the Samsat Gate of the city walls. It has been built for accommodation of caravans before entering the city. The exact date of construction is unknown. It is the largest inn in Turkey in terms of area. It has been taken into renovation program in 2002; project is still ongoing.





Being on the main trade routes since early ages, Urfa hosts four major caravanserais namely Han el-Ba'rur, Ilgar (Mirbi), Çar Melik and Titrîş. Han el-Ba'rur was built during the Ayyubid dynasty whereas the other three are from the Ottoman period.

HAN EL-BA'RUR CARAVANSERAI

It is in Göктаş village about 20 km east of Harran, and is from the Ayyubid dynasty era. The inscription on the northern front reads that it was built in 1128-1219 by El Hajj Husameddin Ali Bey Imad ibn Isa. It has a classical plan of the Seljuk era caravanserais.

ÇAR MELİK CARAVANSERAI

The exact date of construction is unknown. The travel chronicles of Evliya Çelebi states that setting from Suruç westwards; he has arrived at the caravanserai in two hours. He also states that it was built by four ruler brothers; therefore it has been named as such (Çar Melik meaning Four Kings).

TİTRİŞ CARAVANSERAI

Located in Titrîş village in Bozova district, the structure resembles Ottoman style of architecture. The building does not have an inscription.



ARCHEOLOGIC EXCAVATIONS CONDUCTED IN ŞANLIURFA



The tumulus and other archeological sites in Şanlıurfa have always attracted attention of domestic and foreign archeologists. Starting from 1964, the number of excavations conducted in Şanlıurfa is 34. In this way, Şanlıurfa has become the first province in terms of number of excavations made.

In archaeological excavations conducted in sites namely Akarçay Tumulus, Akarçay Hill, Apemeia Antique City, Bent Garden, Biris Graveyard, Çamlık Park Necropolis, Çavi Field, Fıstıklı Tumulus, Göbeklitepe, Gre Virike, Gürcütepe, Hacı Nebi, Harabebezikan Tumulus, Lidar Tumulus, Hassek Tumulus, Mezrea-Teleilat Tumulus, Nevalı Çori, Söğüt Field, Sultantepe, Aşağı Yarımca, Şaşkan (Kumartepe), Şavi Tumulus, Tilbei Tumulus, Tilmusa, Tilobur, Tilvez, Titrış, Urfa Grand Mosque, Urfa Castle, Yukarı Göklü Necropolis and Zeytinlibahçe Tumulus findings starting from Paleolithic age to the Ottoman period have been revealed.





MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY (ŞANLIURFA MUSEUM)

Located in Sehitlik area, Sanliurfa Museum hosts 20048 archeological pieces, 2645 ethnographic pieces, 48203 coins, 1283 seals, 10 tablets, 9 handwritten books and 1 archive document; total of 72199 pieces.

STATE MUSEUM OF ART AND SCULPTURE

Şanlıurfa State Museum of Art and Sculpture, which includes the State Gallery of Fine Arts, periodically hosts exhibitions where the plastic collections are exhibited.

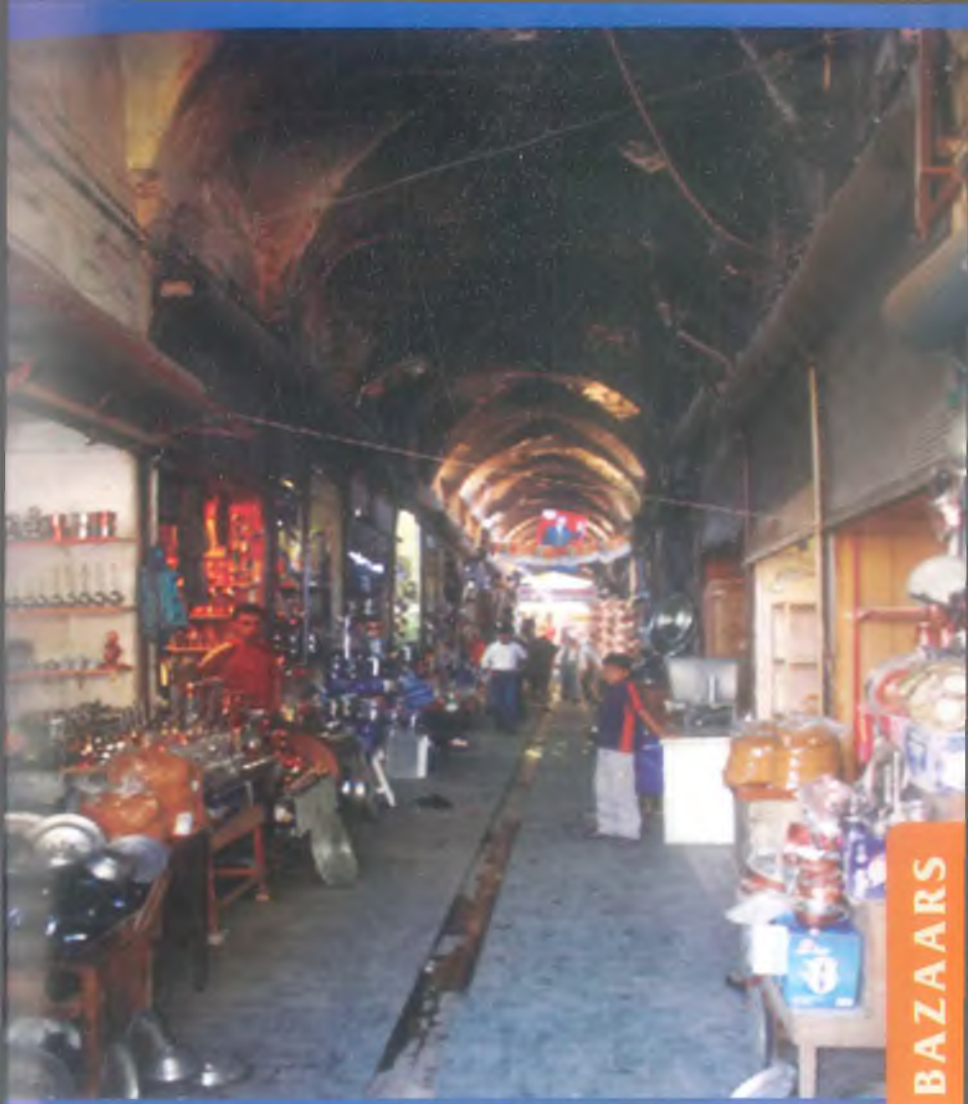




“Aba” (a coarse cloth) work, wood carving, coppersmith, cloth weaving, saddle making, treatment of animal skins, silk weaving, felting, furriery, comb making, and stone decoration are among the traditional handicrafts being maintained in Şanlıurfa. The above mentioned works are being conducted in Gümrük Inn and the surrounding inns presently.

Some of these handicrafts are still active today. Some of them, however, are being abandoned due to the shift to fabricated manufacturing.





The names of the Tüccar (Merchant) Bazaar, Uncu (Flour) Bazaar, Bit Pazarı, İplikçi (Yarn) Bazaar, Tarakçı (Combers) Bazaar, Terziler (Tailors) Bazaar built by Sakıp Efendi, Kasaplar (Butchers) Bazaar are mentioned in various foundation records in Şanlıurfa although they are not existing today. The old commercial center of Şanlıurfa consisting of business oriented inns and bazaars are concentrated around the Gümrük Inn.





Kazaz (Bedesten), Sipahi, Koltukçu, Pamukçu, Oturakçı, Kınacı, Bıçakçı, Kazancı, Neccar, İsoçtu, Demirci, Çulcu, Çadırcı, Saraç, Attar, Tenekeci, Kürkçü, Eskici, Keçeci, Kokacı (Kovacı), Kasap, Eski Kuyumcu Bazaars and Boyahane, Kavafhane, Hanönü, Hüseyiniye Bazaars are located around the Gümrük Inn and have preserved their historic features until the present day. Eight of these bazaars are covered bazaars and one of them is underground bazaar. Şanlıurfa, after Istanbul, Bursa and Edirne, is the fourth city in Turkey in terms of covered bazaars.

KAZAZ BAZAAR (BEDESTEN – COVERED BAZAAR)

It was built in 1571 and is a bazaar adjacent to the southern part of the Gümrük Inn. The foundation records named after Rıdvan Ahmet Pasha dated 1740 indicate that the bazaar referred to as Bedesten was repaired at that time. Lined up in both sides and about 1 m above the ground level, the shops are occupied by "kazzaz" tradesmen selling traditional Urfa women and men's wear. The Covered Bazaar of Şanlıurfa is among the rare ones in Anatolia, which has protected its authenticity.





SİPAHT BAZAAR

It is another covered bazaar adjacent to the western part of the Gümrük Inn. It is a bazaar covered with cradle vaults on the north-south directions. In this bazaar, rugs, carpets and keçe (mat), and handicrafts like furs and saddlebags are sold. It has preserved its historical features until the present day.

KINACI BAZAAR

Existing on the western side of the Mençek Inn, it lies to the north-south directions. The northern part is covered with cradle vault while the southern part is open. The shops lined up on the both sides of the bazaar are being used by goldsmiths nowadays.

HÜSEYİNİYE BAZAARS (COPPERSMITHS BAZAARS)

Built in 1305 by Hartavizade Hüseyin Pasha, it is between the Çadırıcı Bazaar and Kazancı Bazaar. Copper handicrafts are exhibited in the shops in this bazaar.

BOYAHANE (DYING) BAZAAR

It is an underground bazaar, which is under the new "boyahane bazaar" lying adjacent to the west of the Pamukçu Bazaar. It is closed since 40 years since the yarn and cloth dying arts were abandoned.





ŞANLIURFA CASTLE

It is located on the hill to the south of the Khalil-al-rahman and the Aynzeliha Lakes, which are now at the city center. The east, west and southern wings are surrounded with deep natural trenches and the northern wing is a steep rocky area. It is believed that Prophet Abraham was thrown into fire by King Nimrod from this hill. The two columns above the castle are dated to 3rd century B.C. It is stated in some resources that the castle has been repaired by the Abbasid dynasty between 8th and 9th centuries.





The exact date of construction of the city walls, which are first mentioned in written resources of the 6th century, is unknown. Most of the city walls surrounding the city have been damaged and demolished by the beginning of the 20th century. Currently, Harran Gate, Bey Gate and Mahmutoğlu Tower, together with some remnants of walls and towers have survived until the present day.

According to various resources the city walls have had eight gates; Sakib's Gate, Su Gate, Western Gate to the west; Samsat Gate, Saray (Palace) Gate to the northwest; Bey Gate, Su Gate to the east; and Harran Gate to the south.





MUSTAFA KEMAL PASHA MONUMENTAL FOUNTAIN

It was first built by the administrator of Urfa Nusret Bey in 1917. Originally it was located before the Governorship in Mustafa Kemal Avenue. Later in 1972 it was moved to its current location known as "Abide". This monument is first in Turkey since it was erected for honoring Mustafa Kemal Pasha before being named as "Atatürk".

MONUMENT OF THE MARTYRS OF THE GREAT WAR (WORLD WAR I)

It is in the city center just before the governorship building. It has been built in 1917 by the administrator of Urfa Nusret Bey, to the memory of all martyrs and veterans from Urfa who fought in the frontiers of Syria, Palestine, Gallipoli, Iraq, Galicia, Macedonia, Caucasia, Sinai, Hedjaz and Yemen during the First World War.



Streets and houses form an important part of the historical architectural structure of Şanlıurfa. Being one of the rare cities managing to preserve most of this structure formed of hundreds of houses and streets, Şanlıurfa is a city candidate for UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List.

Among many historical streets; Arabi Mosque, At Pazarı, Çataldağ Square, Güllüoğlu, Hızanoğlu Mosque, Hüseyin Pasha, İrfaniye, Karanlık Kapı, Madenli, Yorgancı and Zincirli Streets are major tourist attractions for their high walls, oriel windows extending to the streets, pathways covered with cradle vaults called "kabaltı".

Ministry of Culture and Tourism has registered 380 of the traditional houses, which form a main part of the historical architectural structure of Şanlıurfa, as historical assets. The houses of Urfa have the beauty of a palace. The houses are composed of two sections as "harem" and "chamber". Among these houses, which are renovated according to the original structure and used as tourist attractions, are Abdulkadir Hakkari House, Akçarlar's House (Harran University Culture House), Akyüzler's House, Gülizar Guest House, Hacıhafızlar's House (State Gallery of Fine Arts), Sema Küçüksöz House, Şahap Bakır's House (Turkish Parliament Culture House), ŞURKAV Culture House (Mehmet Bağmancı's House – Malatyalı Halil's House), Yusufoğlu House (Çardaklı Mansion), Mehmet Uslusoy House (Saray Guest House), Çubukçular's House (Gülizar Guest House), Sayganlar's House (ŞURKAV Condolence House), Hacıkamalzade Küçükhacı Mustafa Efendi Mansion (Governorship Guest House), Kürkçüzade Mahmut Nedim Efendi Mansion, and Sakıb's Mansion.

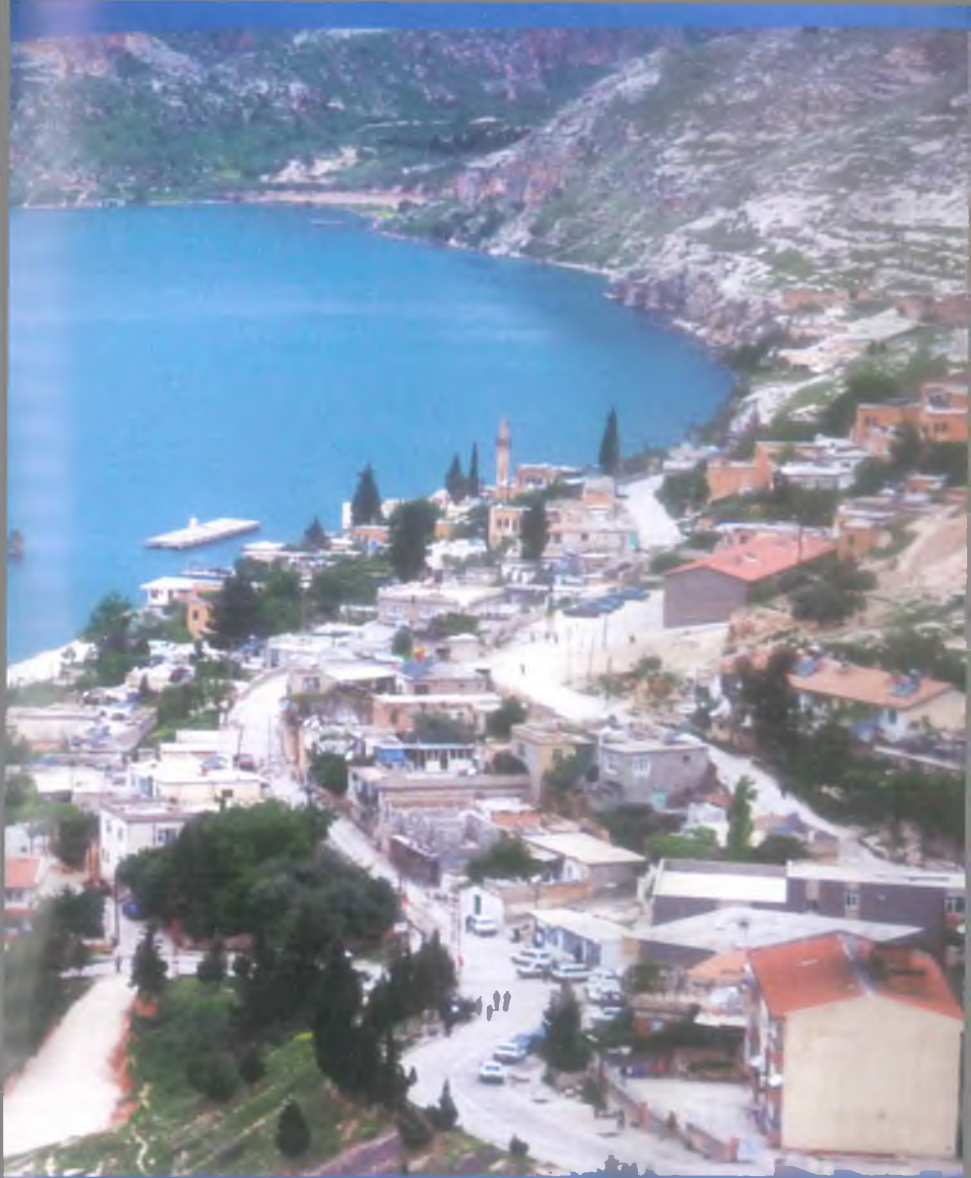




HALFETI: A HOLIDAY PARADISE

Accommodating historical and cultural assets, Halfeti, after the construction of the Birecik Dam, has a considerable tourism potential. The "black rose", which has become the symbol of the city, attracts attention of all visitors. It has become possible to access the St. Nerses Church, Bar Shavma Monastery, Rumkale hosting many historical assets, the historical village of Savshan





hosting the rock church, through boats. The district of Halfeti has an important tourism potential.

Among many historical houses of Halfeti, Hamitbey Mansion, Muhittin Kanneci House and Hamamlı House are worth seeing with their peculiar architectural structures. The district administration has renovated Hamitbey Mansion to be used as a restaurant and guest house naming it "Şelaleli Konak" (Waterfall Mansion).





KARACADAĞ SKI CENTER

The governorship has built skiing tracks in Karacadağ, which is among the rare places where snow is accumulated. The tracks are 600-700 m long; and in addition a 250 m lift has been built. The center is 60 km from the district of Siverek, and includes a cafeteria and a bungalow type service unit. The skiing season is four months starting from November. The center is 150 km from the center of Sanliurfa.

THERMAL TOURISM KARAALI THERMAL SPRING

The Special Province Administration has built three-star thermal spring facilities in Karaali village with 32 rooms having the capacity of 100 beds. In addition, the apartment hotel has 50 rooms, each with a capacity of four people. The water temperature is between 41-49 °C and has a hot water capacity of 150.000 m³/h. The thermal spring is effective in healing rheumatic diseases, dermatological diseases, inflammatory diseases and kidney stones.





ATATÜRK DAM

It is the largest dam in Turkey and is built on Euphrates River. It is one of the most considerable recreation areas of the region, and is 52 km from the center of Şanlıurfa. The Sightseeing Terrace, afforested by the DSI (State Water Works) is main excursion location during the weekends. Every year Water Sports Festival is being organized on the dam lake. The Euphrates Turtle (*Rafetus Euphraticus* – Green Water Turtle) (about 250 kg, and 1 m long), which is only seen in Euphrates and Tigris rivers can be seen here at its natural habitat. The turtles, now on the edge of extinction, are under protection in Bozova Natural Protection Area. The "Bozova District Administration's Facilities" around the dam lake for camping and sports provide a good opportunity for holiday visitors.





HERMIT IBIS (BALD IBIS)

This specific type of ibis, which is on the edge of extinction, exists only in Birecik district in Turkey and is the most interesting animal species in Sanliurfa. Locally named as "kelaynak", they are recognized as sacred by the people of Birecik. Their arrival to the city by mid-February is considered as the first signs of the arrival of spring. Each year in May a "Kelaynak Festival" is organized in Birecik for these birds.

PIGEON

The number of pigeons kept in houses with traditional courtyards in Sanliurfa, famous with its culture of ornithology, is believed to be around 50.000. There are many "birdman houses" where the birdmen meet and exhibit their birds. The most known one of these is the "Çardakli Kahve". There are more than 50 species of pigeons in Sanliurfa.

PARTRIDGE

Partridges are among the favorite birds in Sanliurfa. Being a singing bird, partridge is also a prey bird. They are caught alive to set traps.

ARAB HORSES

Şanlıurfa is among the places where the noblest types of Arab horses are bred. Among the 3000 purebred Arab horses in Turkey, half of them exist in Turkey. National horse races are organized in Şanlıurfa Hippodrome between December-April every year by the Turkish Jockey Club.

GAZELLE

Gazelles, origins of which are Middle East and North Africa, are under protection in Turkey only in the 26 hectare area of the Şanlıurfa Ceylanpınar Agriculture Enterprise.



SIRA GECEŖİ (TRADITIONAL ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTS)

"Sıra gecesi" is a kind of meeting where groups of friends meet at one of the group member's house to chat, play, sing and eat. This tradition goes back to centuries ago. The "sine qua non" of these nights is "çiğ köfte". Nowadays, guest houses organize "sıra gecesi" for their visitors from outside.





Urfa has one of the most delicate cuisines since many centuries. Apart from the ability to cook well, sharing their meals with their friends and guests is a peculiarity of the Anatolian people. However, the hospitality of the people of Urfa is believed to be coming from Prophet Abraham, who was known to never eat any meal without a guest on his table. The term "Abraham's Table" is well known by all.

MEATBALLS

Çigköfte, mercimekli köfte, yumurtalı köfte, dolmalı köfte, içli köfte, aya köftesi, basma köftesi, likliki köfte, tiritli köfte, yuvarlak köfte, yahudi köftesi, kiyma, firenkli köfte, yağlı köfte.

KEBABS

Patlıcanlı kebab (kebab with eggplants), domatesli kebab (kebab with tomatoes), hashas kebab, soğanlı kebab (kebab with onions), küp kebabı, çöp kebabı, tike kebabı, elmalı kebab (kebab with apples), kemeli kebab, ciğer kebabı (liver kebab).





VEGETABLE DISHES

Su kabagi (water marrow), bamyasi (okra meal) isot dolmasi (stuffed isot (pepper)), isot, sögölme, karniyarik (stuffed eggplant), marul dolmasi (stuffed lettuce), tepsi kebab, kabak oturtmasi (marrow ragout), sarimsak asi (garlic meal), frenk tavasi, bütün patlican, kaburga (rib), acur annazigi, erik tavasi, lolaz dürümü, saca basma, kenger asi, acir pastirmasi, elma tasi, masluka, borani, mütahi, tas kebabi, baklali bulgur köftesi, köfteli erik (meatballs with plums), duvakli pilav, üzlemeli pilav, firikli pilav, migribi pilavi, kemeli tas kebabi.

PASTRY

Semsek, agziyumuk, peynirli ekmek, sac katmeri, lahmacun, hamurlu pitpit, döğmeç, ekmek asi.

DESSERTS

Tepsi katmeri, sillik, tas ekmeği, baklava, zingil, musa, paliza, peynirli helva, cevizli helva, küncülü helva, zerde, peynirli kadayif, asure, küncülü akit, kuymak, un bulamacı, pekmez bulamacı, bastik, çekçek, kesme, sucuk.

SALADS

Bostana, patates bostanası, yumurta bostanası, koruklu hiyar salatası, zeytin bostanası, lebeni, kemeli cacık, marul cacığı, isot cacığı.





İBRAHİM TATLİSES MUSIC MUSEUM

It's also known as Yasin's coffee. It was built by Melikşah. It is near the Harran Kapı (Harran door). This historical place was nationalized and restored by municipality. Now it gives service as a İbrahim Tatlıses music museum. People of Şanlıurfa are interested in music is known by everybody in country.

Şanlıurfa people adopt music as a culture heritage and own this music culture will be transferred to the next generation by Şanlıurfa people. The assembly of municipality was decided to give this historical place the name of İbrahim Tatlıses who helps known of our city and who is the most famous folkloric singer in Turkey.







KITCHEN MUSEUM

Hacibanlar house which is one of the example pattern of traditional Şanlıurfa arhitecture was nationalized by Şanlıurfa municipality in 2008. Restoration projects were prepared by the construction department of Şanlıurfa municipality and in 09.10.2008 was approved by protection committee.

Restoration and museum works are made by their own possibility and construction team of municipality and Hacibanlar house was aimed to service as a kitchen museum for introducing Şanlıurfa kitchen culture to the all country and to the world. Need different kinds of food, both used to and equipments in kitchens and delay out of old table aims to introduce and showcase





At this point şanlıurfa kitchen museum objects to keep a live Şanlıurfa culture and transfer to the next generation .Food culture is not formed only by soup ,kebab, rice,desert some special foods are cooked related with its place. The museum trys to present equipments with eat culture.

The other aim of the museum is showing traditional life style in Şanlıurfa have besides food culture.The architecture feature of traditional Şanlıurfa house is related with Şanlıurfa kitchen culture traditional Şanlıurfa house has some important places such as; court,storeroom,owen,iwan,etc.



THE INTERNET ADDRESSES ABOUT ŞANLIURFA

www.sanliurfa.bel.tr
www.sutso.org.tr
www.harran.edu.tr
www.abuzerakbiyik.com
www.kultur.gov.tr/iller/sanliurfa.html
www.gapturkiye.gen.tr/iller/sanliurfa.html
www.gap.gov.tr
www.sanliurfa.gov.tr
www.sanliurfasembol.com
www.urfahaber.net
www.urfanet.net
www.sanliurfa.com
www.urfailan.com
www.urfarehberi.com
www.sanliurfa.gen.tr

TRANSPORTATION

The new Sanliurfa GAP Airport, which started flights in July 2007, is about 35 km from the city center and has a feature of a cargo airport. The airport has the longest track in Turkey. Regular flights are held from/to Ankara and Istanbul everyday. The city is connected to main destinations in Turkey via the modern highway network.

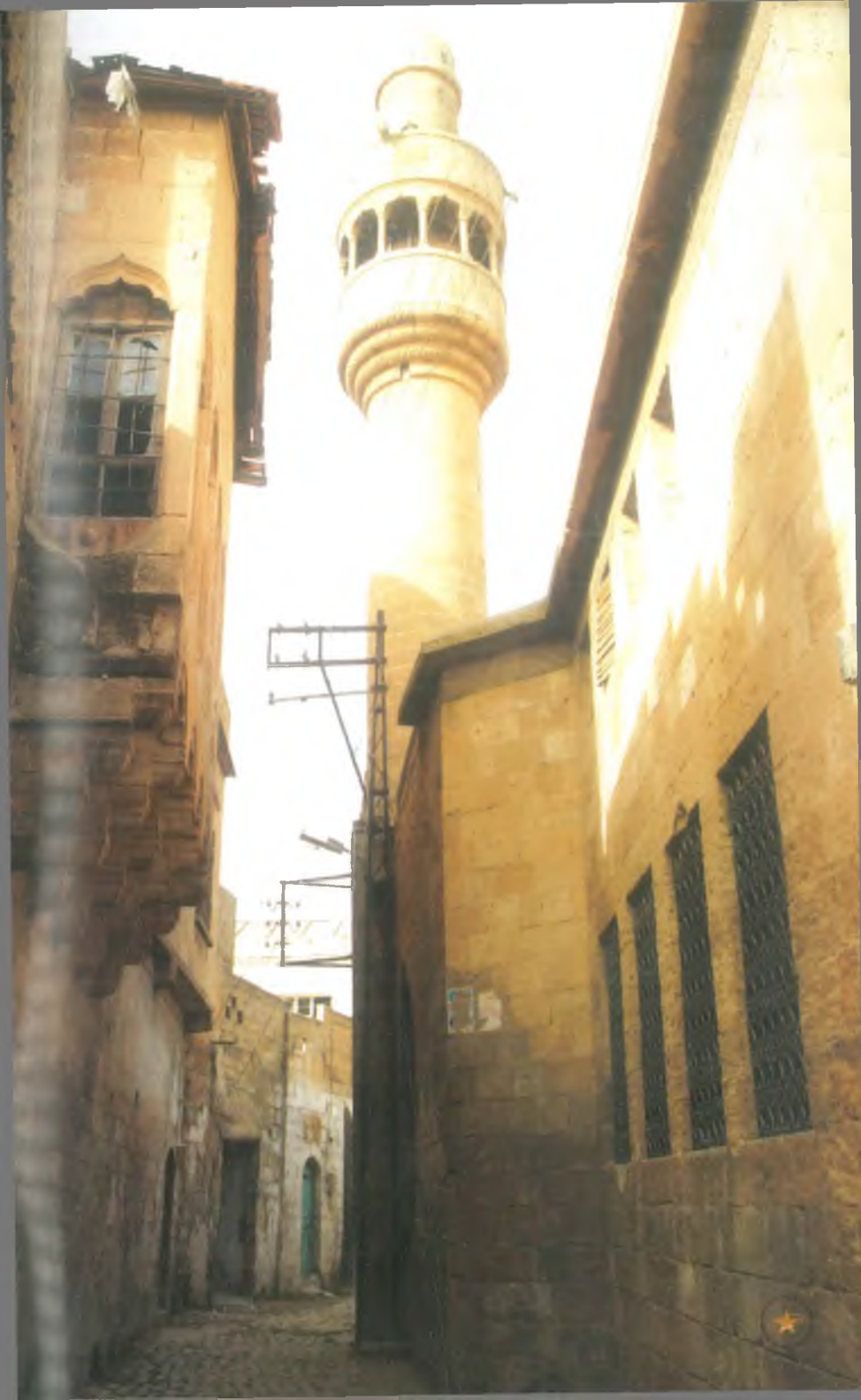
THE PROXIMITY OF ŞANLIURFA TO SOME DESTINATIONS IN TURKEY

Adana	345	Mersin	414
Adıyaman	115	İskenderun	450
Ankara	822	Atatürk Barajı	65
Bursa	1180	Habur Sınır Kapısı	380
Diyarbakır	181	Harran	47
Gaziantep	138	Hasankeyf	350
İstanbul	1274	Nemrut Dağı	190
İzmir	1245	Karacadağ Kayak M.	90
Mardin	185	Karacali Kaplıcalar	40

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- The liberation of Şanlıurfa, April 11
- Şanlıurfa The City of Prophets Culture and Arts Fest, October
- Hermit Ibis Fest, May 8
- International Atatürk Dam Water Sports Activities, September 22-23
- International Karakeçili Cultural Festival, June
- ŞURKAV Şanlıurfa International Culture and Arts Week, October
- International Harran Philosophy Days, June





IMPORTANT PHONES

Şanlıurfa Governorship	313 15 25
Municipality	313 16 34
Harran University	312 84 56
Security Directorate	313 00 00
Şanlıurfa Commerce and Industry Chamber	215 11 99
City Culture and Tourism Directorate	312 53 32
Şanlıurfa Museum Directorate	313 15 88
State Fine Arts Gallery Directorate	215 51 26
Vali Kemalettin Gazzezoğlu Cultural Center	215 68 48
ŞURKAV	215 73 30
State Hospital with 500 beds	314 10 86
Maternity Hospital	313 19 81
Children Hospital	313 22 22
Balıkligöl State Hospital	216 90 50
Harran University Research Hospital	314 84 13
Private Şanmed Hospital	216 36 16
Airport	378 11 23
Eyvan Tourism	313 33 34
Ezel Tourism	316 88 18
Göncü Tourism	312 41 24
Kadir-i Tourism	215 26 68
Kaliru Tourism	215 33 44
Kançal Tourism	312 09 09
Nuans Tourism	313 20 22
Puan Tourism	216 02 95
Salih Tourism	215 12 72
Şanlıurfa Cesur Tourism	313 47 47
Tatlıses Tourism	316 55 71
Şanlıurfa Astor Tourism	312 65 65
Urfa Seyahat	314 15 15

HOTELS

Harran Hotel	313 28 60
Hotel El Ruha	215 44 11
Hilton Garden Inn	318 50 00
Manici Hotel	215 99 11
Dedeman Hotel	316 89 89
Asur Hotel	313 07 57
Grand Urfa	313 13 11
Bakay Hotel	215 89 75
Emirgan Hotel	216 30 30
Kilim Hotel	313 90 90
Akgöl Hotel	313 39 00
Karaali Thermal Spring Hotel	256 70 03
Karaali Thermal Spring Apart	256 70 08
Teachers' Guest House	315 78 73
DSI Guesthouse	312 68 13

GUESTHOUSES

Narli House Guesthouse	215 99 11
Beyzade Konak Guesthouse	216 35 35
Çardaklı Köşk Guesthouse	217 10 80
Yıldız Sarayı Guesthouse	216 94 94
Dar-ül Beyza Guesthouse	215 57 57
Gülizar Guesthouse	215 05 05
Cevahir Guesthouse	215 93 77
Harran University House of Urfa	215 59 95
Çift Magara	215 97 57
Pinarbası Guesthouse	215 39 19

Phone Number (code:414)





Central Phn. : +90(414) 313 16 34
Mayor Phn. : +90(414) 313 10 40
Fax: +90(414) 313 32 58
www.sanliurfa.bel.tr
e-mail: bilgi@sanliurfa.bel.tr

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR

NECMİ KARADAĞ
PHOTOGRAPHS
A.REZZAK ELÇİ
ABDİ DEMİRTAŞ
İBRAHİM HALİL KARACA
MAHMUT ORMANCIOĞLU
ŞANLIURFA MUNICIPALITY ARCHIVE

REFERENCES

YRD.DOÇ. CİHAT KÜRKÇÜOĞLU
SELAHATTİN E. GÜLER

Translated into English from Turkish original text by:
Muhammed İkbâl SAYLIK

PRINTING

BULUT OFSET MATBAACILIK
Tel : 0414 216 81 25 • Fax: 0414 215 63 75
Ahmet Bahçivan İş Merkezi Zemin Kat
No:3/4 Şanlıurfa
www.bulutofset.com







Sanlıurfa...

The city of civilizations, where the ancient cult centers of the past dating back to 11.500 years exists, and where architecture and agriculture was first practiced...

A major faith tourism center, which hosts the Pagan and Sabil temples; where Prophet Abraham was born, and Prophets Moses, Jethro (Sho'aib), Jacob, Job and Elisha lived; and which Jesus Christ blessed...

The "museum city" famous with historical sites like Harran, Jethro City (Şuayb Şehri) and Sumatar, and rich historical architectural structure...

The city where çığköfte flavored by isot, mirra (bitter coffee) and traditional dishes are served to guests with the hospitality of Abraham; where traditional handicrafts are still alive; where music is combined with "sıra gecesı" tradition; and where Atatürk Dam distributes fertility to the World...