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HALİL ÜR-RAHMAN LAKE (BALIKLIĞÖL) BASIN

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REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
SANLIURFA GOVERNOR
PROVINCIAL CULTURE AND
TOURISM DIRECTORATE



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Şanlıurfa Governorship - Şurkav Museum and Sales Center of Traditional Handcrafts

This house representing the traditional Urfa architecture was bought and restored by the Şanlıurfa Governorship in 1992 and served as "Funeral Home" until a new regulation has been carried out by the Şanlıurfa Culture, Education and Research Foundation (ŞUKRAV) in 2010, after which the house started serving as ŞURKAV Museum and Sales Center for Traditional Handcrafts as of 24/01/2011. You can find many handcraft products of our province here.



Traditional Handcraft Museum

Halil Ür-Rahman Lake (Balıklıgöl)

(The Place where the Fire is Cool and Secure)

The Halil-ür Rahman Lake (Balıklıgöl) North of the Urfa Castle is the place where "fire is cool and secure" for Prophet Abraham. According to holy books; Prophet Abraham, who lived in Urfa (approximately 2000 BC) was the first person to reject the divinity of Nemrut Bin Kenan and find the Lord through his mind. After Prophet Abraham broke the idols, which Nemrut and his folk worshipped, the King decided to throw Abraham into the fire and this is where the miracle occurred and where the spot turned into a rose garden. This belief was transferred by monotheistic religions to future generations and is also accepted according to the information of the public.



Halil Ür-Rahman Lake

Halil Ūr-Rahman Mosque (Döşeme Mosque) and Madrasa

The structure was built by Priest Urbisyus as Virgin Mary Church in 504 AD and turned into a Mosque and Madrasa during the Abbasid Caliph al Ma'mun period (813-833). Many students and scholars were trained in this madrasa. The open prayer place in the western part of the mosque is known as the spot where Prophet Abraham is thrown into the fire by Urfa King Nemrut Bin Kenan (approximately 2000 BC). A spring located in the area is believed to have healing powers. Şazeli Ali Dede (17. Yüzyıl) Türbesi



Halil Ūr-Rahman Mosque (Döşeme Mosque)

Shazili Ali Dede (17th Century) Mausoleum

He is a son of Shazili Hasan Dede, one of the founders of the Shazili Order. Coming from Africa he settled down in Urfa, founded the Shazili Order, served in the Halil Ūr-Rahman Mosque and Madrasa and was buried in the burial area, reserved for special people, of the mosque. Murad IV, one of the Ottoman Sultans, visited Shazili Ali Dede when he was on his Bagdad expedition in 1639 and gifted him the Karaköprü Village in order for him to use it during his services. The dish "Keşkek", remaining from Ali Dede, and the dish "Tirit", remaining from Prophet Abraham, are prepared and distributed every year in Karaköprü during the "Ali Baba Festival".



Shazili Ali Dede Mausoleum

Rızvaniye Mosque

The mosque located at the northern shore of the Halil Ür-Rahman Lake (Balıklıgöl) was built in 1736 (1149 hegira calendar) by Governor of Rakka Ahmet Pasha. The mihrap was built parallel and in form of three domes. A single balconied minaret is placed in the East of the mosque. Two-colored material was used for the entrance door to the sanctuary. The sanctuary (main prayer room) is due to windows in every direction, very illuminated. The most interesting part in terms of decorations is the entrance door. The wooden door has been built without nails but with a cross and inlay technique. On the door are various floral and geometric patterns. North of the mosque courtyard, is the madrasa belonging to the mosque.



Rızvaniye Mosque

Aynzeliha Lake

South from the Halil Ür- Rahman Lake and right in front of the Urfa Castle lies the 150 m2 big lake. Since it is believed that the place is sacred, the fish inside the lake are not eaten. According to the story the daughter of Nemrut, Zeliha, is thrown into the fire as she claims to believe in the religion of Prophet Abraham, as he is about to be thrown into the fire. Zeliha dies burning. Later a lake appears where Zeliha falls to the ground. And this lake is named Aynzeliha (the Lake or Spring of Zeliha).



Aynzeliha Lake

Urfa Castle

It is estimated that the Urfa Castle was built during the 10,000 BC on a Neolithic area. The 12,000 year old Balıklıgöl Statue and Castle area, which was excavated right next to the castle and is now exhibited in the Şanlıurfa museum, shows us the history of the Balıklıgöl Lake basin. Records belonging to the 6th century are not referring to the castle. First records about the castle belong to the 11th century. Thus the castle can be dated between the 6th and 11th century. The accepted view on the castle is as follows: It was built during the years 812-814 AD during the Abbasid Period. The two columns with Corinthian heads on the castle were built by the 9th Edessa King during the MANU period as memorial columns during the years 240-242 AD. The Syriac inscription on the eastern column says: "I am military commander BARŞAMAŞ (Son of the Sun), son of AFTUHA. I built the statue on this column for the daughter of Prince MANU, the wife of King MANU, my lady and my patron Queen ŞALMETH". Three sides of the Urfa Castle are surrounded by a moat carved out of rock. Also the Aynzeliha tunnel forms a passage within the castle.



Urfa Castle

Şanlıurfa Information Centre

This is our welcome center providing guest coming to Şanlıurfa with printed material and digital info.



Information Centre

Mevlid-i Halil (Dervish) Mosque and Cave (The place of Prophet Abrahams Birth)

The Mevlid-i Halil Mosque, lies on the Dervish Lodge, near to the Balıklıgöl. Mevlid means "holy birth". Since it is believed that Prophet Abraham was born in the cave right next to the mosque, it was named Mevlid-i Halil Mosque. According to present sources the structure underwent five big stages. First a pagan temple was built on the area during the Seleucid period. It is said that during the Jewish Era, there was a synagogue on the same area. During the first stages of Christianity, 150 AD, a church with the name Christian Church, was built on the same spot. During the Byzantine period the Urfa Hagia Sophia is built there. Finally Muhammed Salih Pasha built a mosque during the Ottoman Period in the year 1523. The local people believe that the water coming from the Mevlid-i Halil cave is, after the Zamzam Water the healthiest water on earth.



Mevlid-i Halil (Dervish) Mosque

Photos: Şanlıurfa Governorship Archive, Metropolitan Municipality Archives, Gülcan Acar, Burhan Akar, Mehmet Sait Rızvanoğlu

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