

# HATAY

In the light of the archaeological researches, Hatay is one of the settlements that date back to the very past (early ages). Dating back to the Paleolithic Age, its history is an indication that the city offers very good conditions in terms of climatic conditions and soil fertility. Indeed, Hatay has been a city that many civilizations wanted to have throughout history.

Another feature that makes the Hatay region attractive and makes it open to migrations in every period of history is that it is located at the crossroads of the roads connecting Anatolia to Syria and Palestine via Cukurova. In addition, the most suitable ports that can be used to get out of Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean are also in the Hatay region. On the one hand, a big city that connects the roads, on the other hand, strategic harbors that open the doors of the city to the world, that connect cities and seas...

Features that make Hatay a world city are not only limited to these of course. The first known civilization steps in Hatay were unearthed in the excavations at Tell Tainat and Tell Atçana. Furthermore, documents and historical artifacts showing that the late Hittite Principality united and founded the Hattena Kingdom were found in Çatalhöyük near Kırıkhan today.

The name Hatay was given by Atatürk.

Antioch is known to have been named after Antiochus, the father of Nicator I in 300. During this period, water channels were built and water was brought from Defne (Harbiye) to the city. With the Olympics that began in 195 B.C., it became famous as the "City of Olympics". Between the years A.D. 29-40, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, St. Pierre came to Antioch and tried to spread religion, and those who believed in Jesus Christ were called Christian here. Later, the city became an important center of Christian religion.

Yavuz Sultan Selim conquered this land in 1516 and the period of the Ottoman Empire began.

This domination continued until 1918. During World War I, French troops took over the rule of Hatay. Thus, Hatay joined Syria under the auspices of France.

After the War of Independence, the independent government of Hatay was established in 1938 with the intervention of the Turkish Government upon the efforts made for France to give independence to Syria. Lasting for 10 months and 21 days, Hatay State joined the soils of the Republic of Turkey by the decision of Hatay Assembly on June 29, 1939.

*Hatay joined Turkey totally as a province with the name "Hatay" on July 23, 1939.*

Hatay has a very important place with the first illuminated street of the world (today's Kurtuluş Street), the first use of the word "Christian", being the third largest city in the Roman period, and having the first mosque of Anatolia in its bosom.

Hatay still lives its history today and makes it live with the legendary tolerance of civilizations,

and perhaps with the coexistence of its people who have lived in peace and brotherhood for centuries.



## Sokullu Mehmet Pasha Complex

Located within the boundaries of Payas district, Sokullu Mehmet Pasha Complex is one of the unique structures built by the architect Sinan, who came to the fore with his works in the Ottoman Empire.

Consisting of a caravanserai, a market, a Turkish bath, a mosque and a madrasah, the complex was built in 1574. The Bazaar section of the complex was restored in 2014 by the Municipality of Payas and turned into a touristic place for social purposes. Payas Castle and Genie Tower are also very close to the complex.



## Long Bazaar

It is a historical bazaar with many sections in the center of Antakya for many years. It contains historic inns, Turkish baths, mosques, historic trees, and buildings. The bazaar consists of several sections and has multiple entrances. All sections of the bazaar can be reached by passing through the streets of Antakya. Long Bazaar has served the people living in this city for centuries. It is one of the busiest points of the city where all the needs are met today and the materials of Antakya Cuisine are sold.

## İskenderun

İskenderun was founded in 333 B.C. by Alexander the Great. The first name of the city was "Alexandretta". With its conquest by the Arabs in A.D. 638, it started to be called "İskenderun". Located at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea and on the east coast of the gulf of the same name, İskenderun is a place that attracts attention with its plateaus, touristic, historical, cultural and natural beauties as well as its economic values. The district has recently expanded its commercial volume with its tourism potential. It is known for cultural tourism and welcomes local and foreign tourists.



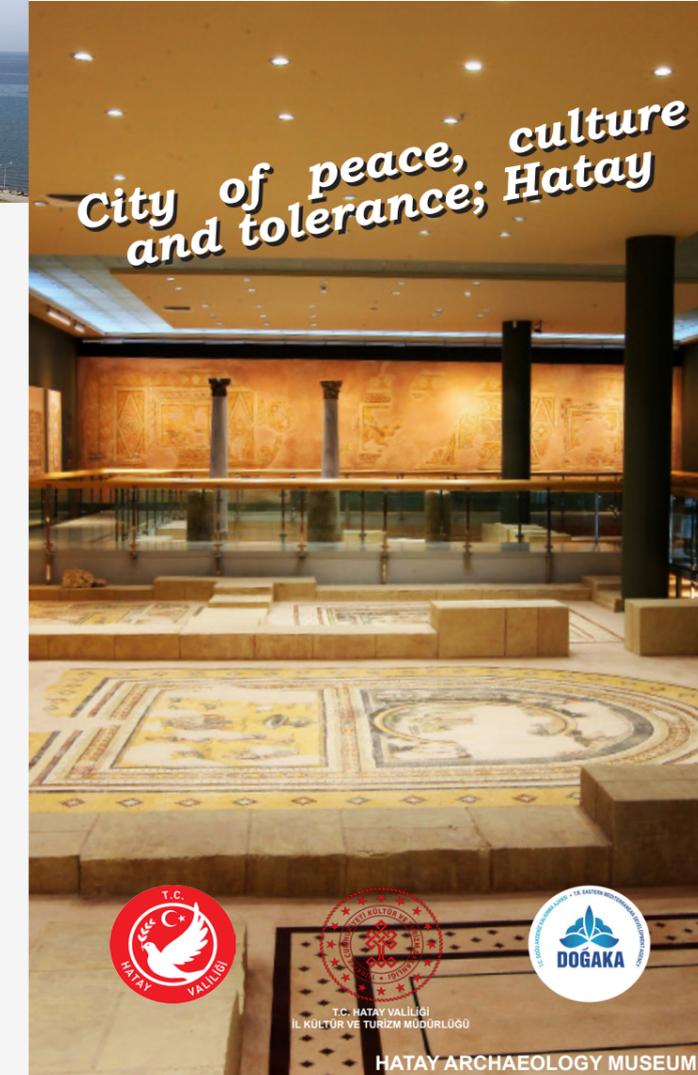
## Arsuz

It is a district of Hatay that stands out with its sea tourism and historical places. Located between Mount Amanos and the Mediterranean Sea,

Arsuz gained district status in 2014. Arsuz is a preferred holiday and tourism center for its sea. It is an ideal holiday destination for trekking, paragliding, diving, hunting and plateau tourism.

## Ruins of Issos (Epiphaneia)

It is the ruins of the city of Isos, known as a prince city in history, and between Dörtöyl and Erzin on the west of the Adana - İskenderun highway. This region is where Darius III, King of Persia, and Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, fought. It was established in 333 B.C. during the Hellenistic period and continued to exist during the Roman period. There are ruins of ancient cities, water tanks and arches in the area.



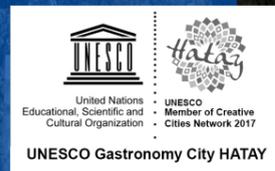
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
GOVERNORATE OF HATAY  
PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATE OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

+90 (326) 214 92 17  
+90 (326) 213 33 86  
iktm31@ktb.gov.tr  
Cumhuriyet Mah. Şehit Mustafa Sevgi Cad.  
No:8/A 31100  
Antakya / HATAY

This brochure was printed with the contributions of the Eastern Mediterranean Development Agency.



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UNESCO Gastronomy City HATAY

# HIDDEN CITY ANTAKYA (ANTIOCH)



## St. Pierre Church

It is a natural cave carved into the rocks at the foot of Mount Hajj, which is an extension of Mount Habib-i Neccar on the Antakya - Reyhanli highway.

Considered the first priest after Jesus Christ, the apostle St. Pierre (St. Peter) came to Antioch between the years of A.D. 29-40, and held his first religious meeting in the cave today known as St. Pierre Church. The name Christian, for the first time, was given to those who believed in the Jesus Christ. The church is a place of pilgrimage and one of the first places of worship for Christians. Near the church, there is a rock relief of Charon, known as the ferryman of Hades in mythology.



## Habib-i Neccar Mosque

The mosque was built in 638, when Antakya was conquered by Muslim Arabs. It is considered to be the first mosque built in Anatolia. Being on Kurtuluş Street, the mosque bears the name of an Antiochian who first believed in the apostles of Jesus and gave his life for this cause. The tomb of Habib-i Neccar is 4 meters below the ground in the northeast corner of the mosque. It is surrounded by madrasah rooms. The fountain in the yard of the mosque was built in the 19th century.

## Daphne Harbiye

The waterfall region of Hatay, Harbiye is a neighborhood of Defne district of Hatay. It is 10 km away from Antakya. The springs from the south of the valley form waterfalls and reach the River Orontes. Known for its cascades in the Hellenistic and Roman times, Daphne was a world-renowned resting place, and famous for its numerous mansions, temples and entertainment places built by the wealthy community. Today, it is famous for its appetizers, chipped stone souvenirs, cocoon breeding and cocoon silk production.



## Antakya Catholic Church

Located on Kurtulus Street in the city center of Antakya, the church is a small monastery. An old Antakya house was turned into a church for worship in the 19th century, with a special permission from the Ottoman sultan. The Catholic Church has a history of 600 years and is one of the pillars of the tolerance triangle, which includes a mosque, a synagogue and a church.



## Hatay Archaeology Museum

Hatay Archeology Museum is a large Archeology Museum where artifacts of ancient period are exhibited. Opened in 2014, the new museum is located in Maşuklu Neighborhood in Antakya. Hatay Museum is also known as Mosaic Museum. Therefore, it is one of the largest museums in the world in terms of mosaic collection. Artifacts found in Harbiye (Daphne), Antakya, Atçana, Samandağ and Iskenderun from Hittite, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods are exhibited in the museum.

## St. Simeon Monastery

Built in the 6th century A.D., this monastery was founded on a hill within the borders of Aknehir on the road to the district of Samandağ. It is famous for being the place where St. Simeon lived on a column for 40 years with his only concern to escape from people and the world. One part of the monastery is carved into solid rocks and the other parts are surrounded by steep open walls. In the middle of the octagonal yard there is a column made of natural rock. There are three churches to the east of this column and an outbuilding in the other direction. The monastery has three entrances and the east-west axis is in the form of a cross.



## Synagogue

It is estimated that the Antakya Synagogue, where the Jews of Antioch have held their religious worship for nearly 300 years, was built in the 1800s. The holy book in the synagogue, the Torah, is in Hebrew on gazelle skin and has a 500-year history.



## Samandağ (Seleukeia Pieria)

The town of Samandağ is an ancient city founded on the plain where Mount Silpius (Kel Dağ) and Mount Musa embrace the Mediterranean and to which the River Orontes (Asi) gives life. Although the city was founded by Seleucus Nicator I, there are cave settlements dating to the Paleolithic Age. The most important reason for the establishment of this city in the Hellenistic Age is the desire to dominate the Mediterranean Sea.

## Çevlik

Samandağ - Çevlik beach is one of the longest beaches in the world with a length of 14 km. Çevlik beaches are one of the spawning spots for sea turtles.

## Titus Tunnel

In order to divert the flood waters from the mountains to save the city and harbor in another direction during the Roman Period in the 1st century A.D., the tunnel was started by Vespasianus in 69 B.C., and completed by his son Titus in A.D. 81. It was carved by human hand, and is a natural engineering wonder that protects the city from flood disasters. It has an average height of 7 meters and a width of 6 meters, a length of 1380 meters, of which 130 meters is closed and the other part is open.



## Rock Tombs

It is very close to the Titus Tunnel. Spread over a large area during the Roman Period, the cemetery was carved on high and rocky slopes. It was named as "Beşikli Mağara (Cradle Cave)" by the locals because of the flat-roofed two stone cist graves, which were formed and processed in the same dimensions side by side inside the grave island.

## Lake Yenışehir

It is on the crossroads of Reyhanlı - Antakya and Cilvegözü. Formed by making sets in front of the water coming from the springs on the mountain slopes, the lake is a natural wonder. It hosts many ecological species. The lake has been bring in to tourism, and there are many touristic facilities, cafes, and promenade places around it. A dish specific to Reyhanlı, chicken cooked in salt is served to visitors in the restaurants around the lake.

# CITY OF FIRSTS IN HISTORY; HATAY

## Bakras Castle

It is located on the 27th km of Antakya - Iskenderun road, on the foothills of Kizildag, next to Bakras Village, which has the same name. Bakras Castle was the most important defense point of Antakya Principality in the north during the Crusades. The castle consists of barracks, dungeons, defense ramps and various rooms around an inner courtyard. It is on the route of Anatolia - Syria - Egypt.



## Koz (Kürşat) Castle

Within the borders of Altınözü, Koz Castle is also known in history by names such as Kürşat and Kuseyr. It is thought that the castle was built during the period of Antakya Principality in order to secure the southern region of Antakya and it was used during the Byzantine-Crusade era.

The castle was seized by the Mamluk army under the command of Baybars, who came to the region in 1268. There is a javelin square of 300 meters in length, a large bath, water tanks, an ammunition store, military wards and observation places.

## Antioch Orthodox Church

On Antakya Hürriyet Street, the church is the oldest church after Jerusalem and the most beautiful one of Orthodox Churches. Its construction began in 1860, and it was restored in 1900 with the help of Russian engineers after the great earthquake.



## Plateaus of Hatay

Hatay has an important geographical structure in terms of plateau tourism. Güzelyayla (Soğukoluk) in Belen district and Batıyaz Plateau in Samandağ district are the most important ones. Apart from these plateaus, Fırnız Plateau is in Serinyol District; Atik Plateau in Belen; Nergizlik Plateau, Çataloluk Plateau, Alan Plateau in İskenderun; Gülcihan and Topaktaş Plateau on the İskenderun - Arsuz road; Karıncalı Plateau in Erzin. These plateaus offer a variety of alternatives for those who want to cool off in hot summer days. You can engage in activities such as picnics, camping and nature walks in the plateaus filled with natural beauties.

