

GASTRONOMY TOURISM

Home to many civilizations in its historical past, Hatay has preserved the food culture of these civilizations in its cuisine.

Hatay Cuisine is one of the richest cuisines of Anatolia with meat dishes, stuffed, vegetable dishes, jams, pickles, rice, appetizers, salads, herb dishes, desserts, pastries, dairy products and dry foods.

Having served people living in this city for centuries, Uzun Çarşı (Long Bazaar) is one of the busiest spots of the city where the ingredients of Hatay Cuisine are sold. There is a different and mystic atmosphere in the bazaar, where spices special to Hatay are sold. There are künefe shops and restaurants where you can taste local dishes in the bazaar.

In 2017, Hatay was declared as "Gastronomy City" within the scope of the Creative Cities Network by UNESCO. It is not possible to experience Hatay cuisine elsewhere. We strongly recommend you to taste the dishes of Hatay.



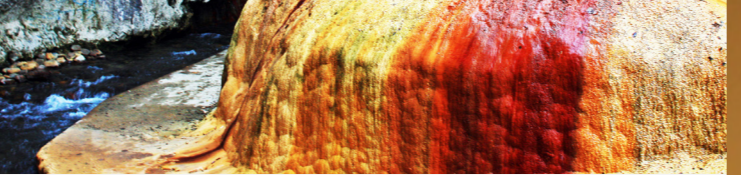
TOUR PROGRAM The First Day (Antakya-Defne)

- Hatay Archology Museum
- St. Pierre Church & Charon, the Ferryman of Hades
- Necmi Asfuroğlu Museum Hotel
- Antique Glass House
- Habib-i Neccar Mosque
- Kurtuluş (Herod) Street
- Synagogue
- Catholic Church
- Sarımiye Mosque
- Protestant Church
- Orthodox Church
- Ethnography Museum
- Trip to Old Antakya Streets & Houses
- Visit to Long Bazaar (Uzun Çarşı) and Leaded Inn (Kurşunlu Han)
- Break for coal fired künefe
- Shopping
- Dinner at Restaurants in Harbiye



The Second Day (Samandağ)

- Batiayaz Plateau
- Hıdırbey-Defne Road & Moses Tree
- Local Breakfast
- Shopping
- Dor Sanctuary
- Hızır Shrine
- Trip to the Coast and Harbor
- Titus Tunnel & Rock Tombs
- St. Simeon Monastery and Sunset View on the way back to Antakya



THERMAL TOURISM

Although not common in Hatay, there are three thermal facilities in Hatay.

Hamamat Thermal Springs: It is on the Reyhanlı road in Amik Plain of Hatay and within the boundaries of Kumlu district. There are various facilities in the thermal spring, which is identified to be good for many diseases with its healing waters.

Ottoman Palace Thermal Springs: The thermal mineral water of the thermal spring within the Ottoman Thermal Hotel opened in Antakya is at the highest value known in the world.

Erzin Thermal Springs and Healing Waters: It is known that thermal springs and healing mineral water are good for various diseases. The waters come from various parts of the rocks in the Baslamis Village of Erzin District.

DON'T LEAVE BEFORE...

Visiting Habib-i Neccar, mentioned in the Holy Quran, Beyazid-i Bestami, the symbol of love, the world's first cave church St. Pierre Church, the Titus Tunnel, Hatay Archeology Museum, the common heritage of 13 civilizations,

Visiting Harbiye Waterfalls, Long Bazaar, and historical Antakya Houses, places of peace and tolerance, taking a break drinking coal fired coffee,

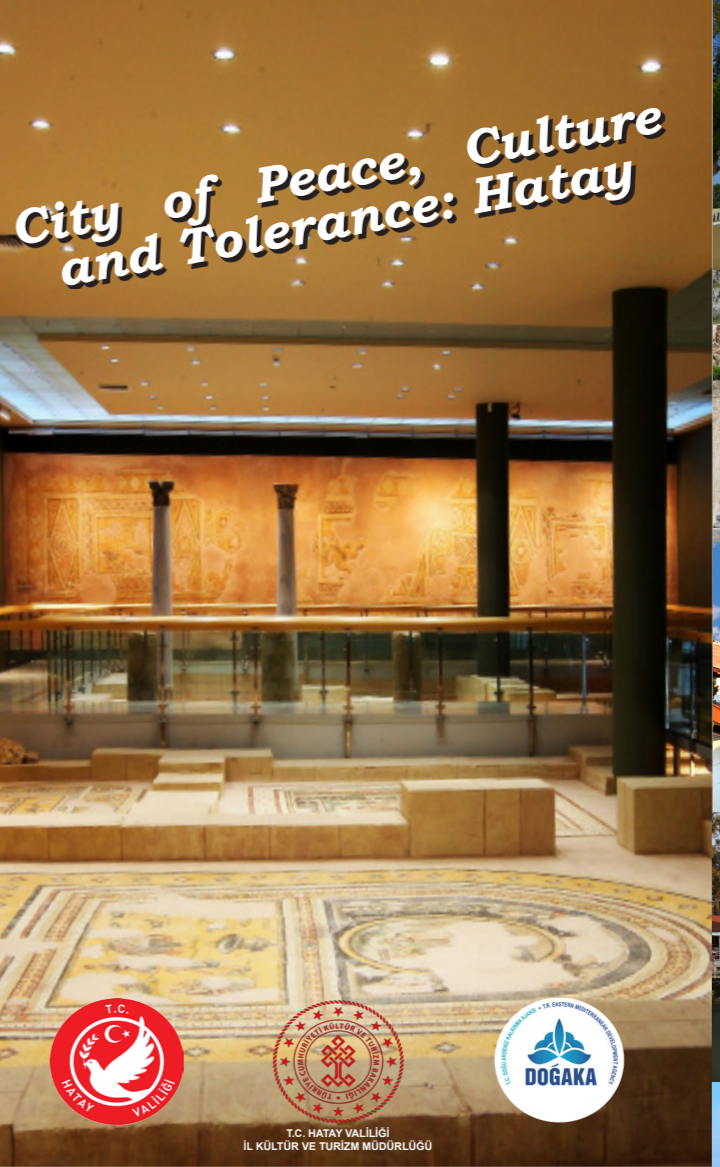
Having a boat tour in Samandağ, Arsuz, and İskenderun in the azure sea waters of the Mediterranean, visiting Sokullu Complex,

Tasting delicious foods of Hatay, tray kebab, and künefe, drinking licorice sherbet,

Buying local products such as künefe, olive oil, pomegranate sour, pepper paste, thyme, silk weaving, laurel (daphne) soap, and antique blown glass.

The Third Day (Belen - İskenderun - Arsuz Dört Yol)

- Belen
- Kanuni Sultan Süleyman Caravanserai
- Güzelyayla İskenderun
- Trip to the Coast Line & City Center
- Boat Tour
- Eating Fish on the Beach
- Arsuz
- Trip to the City Center
- Sea and Swimming Activities
- Water of Virgin Mary
- Dört Yol - Payas - Erzin
- Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Complex
- Payas Castle and Genie Tower
- Isos Ancient City
- Return to Antakya
- Dinner at Kuzeytepe



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

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TOURISM DIVERSITY IN HATAY

Cultural Tourism: Being the center of Hatay province and located at the crossroads of highways starting in the east, moving from north to south, Antakya has a very important place in terms of archeological, touristic and cultural history. Throughout its history, it has been a center of accommodation and cultural exchange for various regional people in trade between continents and regions. It became famous as one of the leading centers of civilization in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Iskenderun served as the import and export port of Mesopotamia and Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia. Today, a rich culture has formed as well as a common culture in Hatay, where many people from all religions still live. This has brought great peace, brotherhood and tolerance together.

Hatay Archeology Museum: It is a large archeology museum where mostly antique artifacts are exhibited. It is among the most important museums in the world in terms of mosaic artifacts.

Uzun Çarşı (Long Bazaar): It is the oldest and most important historical bazaar of Antakya. It contains historic inns, Turkish baths and mosques. Products specific to Hatay are sold in the bazaar.

Kurşunlu Han: It was built in Antakya by Köprülü Mehmet Paşa to host the Surre Regiment. The inn has been recently renovated and represents crafts and gastronomic values.

Historic Antakya Houses: The area between River Orontes and Habib-i Neccar Mountain is the ancient Antakya. Some of the houses have been restored and transformed into hotels, café-bars and restaurants.



Titus Tunnel: Carved with human hands during Roman times, the tunnel is a natural engineering wonder that protects the city from the flood disaster.

Rock Tombs (Cave with Cradle): Rock Tombs is a grave complex built entirely by carving into the rocks.

Tell Atçana: It is the ruins of a palace belonging to the Hittites from 5th century B.C. The artifacts found here are exhibited in Hatay Archeology Museum.

Dor Sanctuary: Remains of the column on a hill overlooking the Çevlik region can be seen.



Habib-i Neccar Mosque: It is the first mosque in Anatolia. The mosque was built in 638 by Muslim Arabs.

Ulu Mosque: It is one of the oldest mosques in Antakya. It was built in 1268 by the Mamluks.

Vakıflı Armenian Village Church: The building was established as a silk factory and later turned into a church. Vakıflı Village is Turkey's first and only Armenian village.

Hızır Shrine: It is considered to be the place where Khidr and Moses met and sailed from.

Şeyh Ahmet Kuseyri Tomb: It is located in Şenköy Neighborhood of Yayladağı district. It was built in the first quarter of 16th century.

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Charon, the Ferryman of Hades: It is a rock relief carved for gods in order to stop the plague epidemic spreading in the city during the Hellenistic period.



Sokullu Mehmet Pasha Complex: It was built by Architect Sinan. It contains a caravanserai, a market, a Turkish bath, a mosque and a madrasah.



Issos (Epiphaneia) Ruins: It is known as the place where King of Persia Darius III and King of Macedonia Alexander the Great fought in 333 B.C.



Altınözü Koz (Kürşat) Castle: It was built during the Antakya Principality to secure the southern region of Antakya.

Antakya City Walls: City walls built to protect the city during the foundation period of Antakya are the world's second longest identified walls.

Darbısak Castle: It was built to protect the road from the north to the Belen Pass during the Hellenistic period.

Kanuni Sultan Süleyman Caravanserai: The complex built by Architect Sinan is in Belen district.

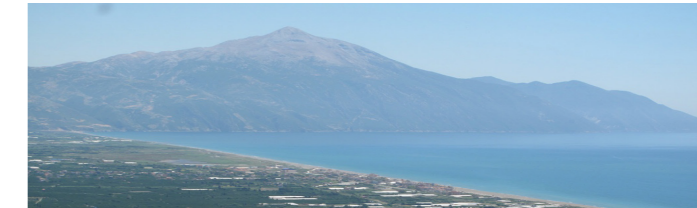
Bakras Castle: It is the most important defense point in the north of Antakya Principality during the Crusades.



NATURE-MARINE TOURISM

Hatay has a very favorable geography in terms of nature, sea and coastal tourism. The nature, sea and beaches in Arsuz attract the attention of local and foreign tourists. Samandağ-Çevlik is a place worth seeing with its long coastline, untouched bays of unmatched beauty, unspoiled nature and historical texture.

Samandağ - Çevlik: Çevlik beach attracts attention with its 14 km long sandy beach. It is also one of the spawning points of Caretta Caretta sea turtles. Daily boat trips and diving opportunity can be found here. You can visit the Titus Tunnel and Rock Tombs, and have picnic and go hiking in the natural areas with sea views. Recently, paragliding has also been included in the activities.



İskenderun - Arsuz: Located between the Amanos Mountains and the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea, İskenderun and Arsuz is almost a paradise with its unique natural beauties, historical and cultural riches, lush plateaus, entertainment centers, azure sea and accommodation and eating facilities suitable for all budgets. Daily boat trips and paragliding are also available here.



Defne - Harbiye: Very close to Antakya and established in natural beauties, Harbiye is famous for its waterfalls. A world-famous summer resort in ancient times, Harbiye is still an important tourism center with its restaurants, tourist hotels, pensions and entertainment places. You can also get gifts from stone sculptures and hand-woven silk products.



Hidirbey - Moses Tree and Laurel Road: It is believed that Moses Tree with its 3000-year history formed as a result of sprouting and taking root of Moses's scepter with the water of Ab-i Hayat (Water of Life). In the region, there are seats around a section organized as Defne Road and local products are sold there.

Yenişehir Lake: It is in Reyhanlı district. It is the most beautiful recreation and picnic area of the Amik Plain with many tourist facilities, tea gardens and promenade places around. Restaurants around the lake offer chicken in the salt to their guests.



HIGHLAND TOURISM

Hatay is a province rich in terms of plateaus. In the plateaus, you can find trekking, tents and camping areas, picnic areas and a resting place in the natural vegetation covered with pine, scrub trees and wild flowers. Bike and motorcycle tours can also be arranged with Foto-Safari. It is possible to find daily eating and drinking units and boarding houses.

The most well-known highlands are the Batiyaz Plateau in Samandağ, Güzelyayla and Atik Plateau in Belen, Nergizlik Plateau in İskenderun, Fırınz Plateau in Serinyol Neighborhood, Kuzuculu Plateau in Dörtöl, and Kirginhan Plateau in Erzin.

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Faith Tourism: In the Hatay region, which has hosted many nations with various beliefs throughout history, many poets, scientists and artists have raised; a rich cultural accumulation occurred over time. Today, Hatay, where people from many religions and beliefs live together as in the past, maintains this feature today, and Islam, Christian and Jewish beliefs live intertwined; mosques, churches and synagogues continue to exist side by side.



Beyazıt-ı Bestami Complex: It is located in Alaybeyi, Kırıkhan district. The tomb is placed inside the Darbısak Castle.



St. Pierre Church: It is considered the first church in the world. For the first time, those who believe in Jesus Christ are called "Christian" here.

Orthodox Church: It is the oldest church after Jerusalem and the most beautiful of the Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Catholic Church: An old Antiochian house was converted into a church and opened for worship.

Synagogue: It is the place where the Jews of Antioch have performed their religious worship for nearly 300 years.

St. Simeon Monastery: It has been famous as the place where St. Simeon has lived on a column for 40 years.

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