

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HALEPLIBAHÇE MOSAIC MUSEUM

Şanlıurfa Archaeology Museum, with approximately 80,000 artifacts, is Turkey's 5th largest museum. All of the artifacts belong to Şanlıurfa, and it is a museum where some of the world's oldest artifacts are exhibited. Located to the south of the museum, the Haleplibahçe Mosaic Museum displays mosaics uncovered during excavations, including the one depicting the hunting scenes of the Amazon Queens, as well as various other mosaics discovered in excavations around Urfa.



KIZILKOYUN NECROPOLIS

It is located on the slopes of Tılfındır Peak, to the north of Halil-ür Rahman Lake (Balıklıgöl). In the Kızılkoyun Necropolis, 103 rock tomb chambers dating back to the 2nd-4th centuries AD have been identified. Most of these tombs are known to have been made for the nobles of the time. Among the rock tombs, those with temple facades, reliefs, mosaics, decorations, and statues are the most magnificent. Additionally, wax statues, replica artifacts, skeletons placed on klinai, and burial gifts are exhibited to recreate the burial traditions of the period.



HALİL-ÜR RAHMAN LAKE (BALIKLIGÖL)

Halil-ür Rahman Lake (Balıklıgöl), one of the most important attractions in Şanlıurfa, is the place where the fire was said to have become "cool and safety " for Prophet Abraham. According to legend, after Prophet Abraham was thrown into the fire, a miracle occurred, and the surroundings turned into a rose garden. It is believed that the location where this miracle took place is Halilürrahman Lake (Balıklıgöl) and its vicinity.



URFA CASTLE

Urfa Castle is surrounded by a rock-carved moat on three sides. The two corinthian columns on top of the castle were built as monument columns during the reign of King 9th MANU of Edessa, between AD 240-242. The inscription in Syriac on the column to the east reads: "I am AFTUHA, son of the military commander BARŞAMAŞ (Son of the Sun). I made this column and the statue on it for my benefactor, the princess MANU, daughter of King MANU, and my lady and benefactor, Queen ŞALMETH."



THE CAVE WHERE PROPHET ABRAHAM WAS BORN

Located within the Şanlıurfa Dergah Plateau, it is situated near Halil-ür Rahman Lake (Balıklıgöl). To protect Prophet Ibrahim, his mother gave birth to him in this cave. It is believed that the water inside the cave has healing properties and can cure many ailments.



HISTORICAL BAZAARS

The old town center of Şanlıurfa is filled with beautifully preserved historical bazaars. These grand bazaars are called "covered bazaar". After Istanbul, Bursa, and Edirne, Şanlıurfa is one of the leading cities in Turkey in terms of grand bazaars.



HISTORICAL STREETS

A significant part of the historical architectural fabric of Şanlıurfa consists of its streets and houses. A large portion of this architectural fabric, composed of hundreds of houses and streets, has survived to the present day without deterioration.



GÜMRÜK INN

The Gümrük Han Inn was built in 1563 during the reign of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent by Halhallı Behram Pasha, the governor of Urfa. The inn, referred to as "Yetmiş Inn" in Evliya Çelebi's Travelogue, is also known as "Alaca Inn" due to its two-colored cut stone facades. The lower floor features shops selling prayer beads, tea houses, and local eateries, while the upper floor's rooms are home to tailors, attracting tourists with its unique architecture.



KARAHANTEPE

Located approximately 55 km from the city center of Şanlıurfa, it is situated within the Tek Tek Mountains National Park. The AD Structure features a 23-meter diameter, with a large portion built into the bedrock, where standing stones have been cleverly placed between the expertly constructed walls. Excavation work at the Karahantepe settlement, ongoing since 2019, and the findings obtained date back to the end of the Pottery-Free Neolithic A phase and the beginning of the Pottery-Free Neolithic B phase.



GÖBEKLİTEPE

Göbeklitepe, dated to around 12,000 years ago and considered a unique and impressive archaeological value for us, served as an unparalleled center for the Neolithic people who built it. It is located 15 km northeast of Şanlıurfa. With a diameter of approximately 300 meters and a height of 15 meters, one of the characteristics that makes Göbeklitepe unique is its monumental architecture, which contains traces of an extremely advanced symbolic world that was not expected at the time it was dated.

The most interesting finds at Göbeklitepe are the 'T'-shaped monumental standing stones (stelae), which can reach a height of 6 meters and a weight of 40 tons. These standing stones feature reliefs of animals such as foxes, wild boars, lions, snakes, ducks, vultures, and cranes. Additionally, many artifacts such as animal sculptures, human heads, and flint arrow and spearheads have been unearthed during excavations at Göbeklitepe. In 2018, Göbeklitepe was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Discovered for the first time in 1963, excavation work began in 1996 under the direction of Prof. Dr. Klaus Schmidt. Since 2020, excavations have continued under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Necmi Karul.



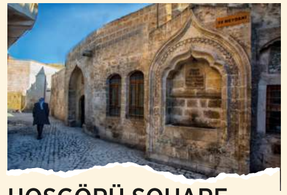
CULINARY MUSEUM

The historic Hacıbanlar's House, one of the most beautiful examples of Urfa's residential architecture, was built in the Ottoman Period in 1674 (H. 1085), according to the inscription on the keystone of the iwan. In 2011, it was transformed into the Kitchen Museum. The museum aims to preserve the variety of dishes unique to Şanlıurfa, the tools and utensils used in kitchens, and the traditional dining culture that has been passed down through the ages, as well as to promote Şanlıurfa cuisine to our country and the world.



ULU (GRAND) MOSQUE

It was built on the site of an old church known as the "Red Church." The courtyard walls, columns, column capitals, and bell tower of the old structure still exist. The mosque is believed to have been constructed by the Zengids Dynasty between 1170 and 1175. The narthex, which opens to the courtyard with fourteen pointed arches resting on piers, covered with cross vaults, is found for the first time in Anatolia in the Urfa (Grand) Ulu Mosque. In the prayer hall of the mosque, there is a well. According to legends, the cloth that Jesus sent to King Abgar with his apostle Thomas was placed in this well. Therefore, the water of the well inside the mosque is considered to have healing properties.



HOŞGÖRÜ SQUARE (ELLİSEKİZ SQUARE)

It is an important square concentrated with historical structures from the Ottoman period, opening onto four streets in the Nimetullah neighborhood. To the south of this square is the Kurtuluş Primary School (Numune Mektebi, late 19th century), to the east are the Sheikh Saffet Tekke (1892), Sheikh Saffet Fountain (1891), and the Tomb of Muhammet Muhyiddin (1795). To the north is the Reji Church (1861), and to the northwest is the Nimetullah Mosque, dating back to the 15th century. This square has the appearance of a "Square of Hoşgörü."



REJI CHURCH

Built in 1861 on the remains of a 6th-century church, the church was named in honor of two apostles (St. Petrus and St. Paulus) of Jesus. The structure was actively used until 1924, when the Syriac community of Urfa migrated to Aleppo, Syria. In 1924, it was repurposed by the Tobacco Administration, first as a tobacco factory and later as a grape storage facility. The church is known as "Reji Church" by locals, deriving its name from the French word "Regle" (Reji), which means "state monopoly."



CITY MUSEUM MAHMUDOĞLU TOWER

Built during the Crusader County period between 1122 and 1123, the structure is recognized by the name of the Mahmudoğlu family, as they were granted the position of gatekeepers during the late Ottoman period. Restored in 2014, the building has been serving as the City Museum since then. The museum features the history, geography, archaeology, beliefs, culture, society, economy, trade, transportation, health, architecture, sports, administrative structures, and tourism developments of Şanlıurfa from its founding to the present day. It also includes information about significant individuals and events within this development process, supported by documents, compilations, visual presentations, and animations.



CITY WALLS OF ŞANLIURFA

The exact date of the initial construction of the city walls mentioned in written sources from the 6th century AD is unknown. A significant portion of the walls surrounding the city began to be damaged and destroyed from the early 20th century onwards. The Harran Gate, along with the Mahmutoğlu Tower belonging to the Bey Gate, and various remnants of walls and towers have survived to this day. According to various sources, it is understood that the Urfa city walls had seven gates: the Harran Gate in the south, the Bey Gate and the Water Gate in the east, the Samsat Gate and the Palace Gate in the northwest, and the Western Gate and the Sakıb's Gate in the west.



JUSTINIAN AQUEDUCT

Built on Karakoyun Creek to transfer the kareez from the northern side of the city, this structure is the only example of "Aqueduct" architecture in Urfa. It is believed that this aqueduct was constructed by Byzantine Emperor Justinian alongside the Karakoyun Creek, which was opened after the great flood disaster in 525. The kareez would reach the distribution point at the Kadıoğlu Mosque through the water gauge located at the southern end of this aqueduct, from where it was distributed to the mosque, bathhouse, and houses.



MUSEUM OF LIBERATION

The building was constructed in 1903. It features a unique blend of European-style mansion architecture and traditional Urfa house design. During the Urfa War of Independence, it was occupied by the French and used as a headquarters. The marks of bullets fired by the Urfa liberation militia can still be seen on the walls of the structure. It was restored by the Şanlıurfa Governorship and opened as the "Şanlıurfa Liberation Museum" in 2009.



FIRFIRLI MOSQUE

Located on Vali Fuat Bey Street (Büyükyol), the structure, originally built as a church, is also recorded as the Twelve Apostles Church. During the Ottoman period, due to the presence of windmill-like materials on the building, it became popularly known as the "Fırfırlı Church." According to sources, the "Foil Cross," which holds great significance for Christianity and was located in the Varak Monastery in the Van region, was brought to Urfa and placed in this church in 1092. According to the inscription above the mihrab of the mosque, the church was converted into a mosque in 1956.



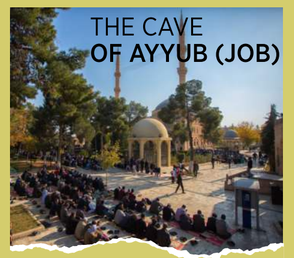
HALİL-ÜR RAHMAN MOSQUE (DÖŞEME MOSQUE)

It is located next to Halil-ür Rahman Lake (Balıklıgöl). The mosque is also popularly known as the "Döşeme Mosque." A church was built in 504 AD by Priest Urbisyus in the name of the Virgin Mary. This church, recorded as the Prophet Mary Church, was converted into a mosque during the reign of Abbasid Caliph Al-Ma'mun (813-833).

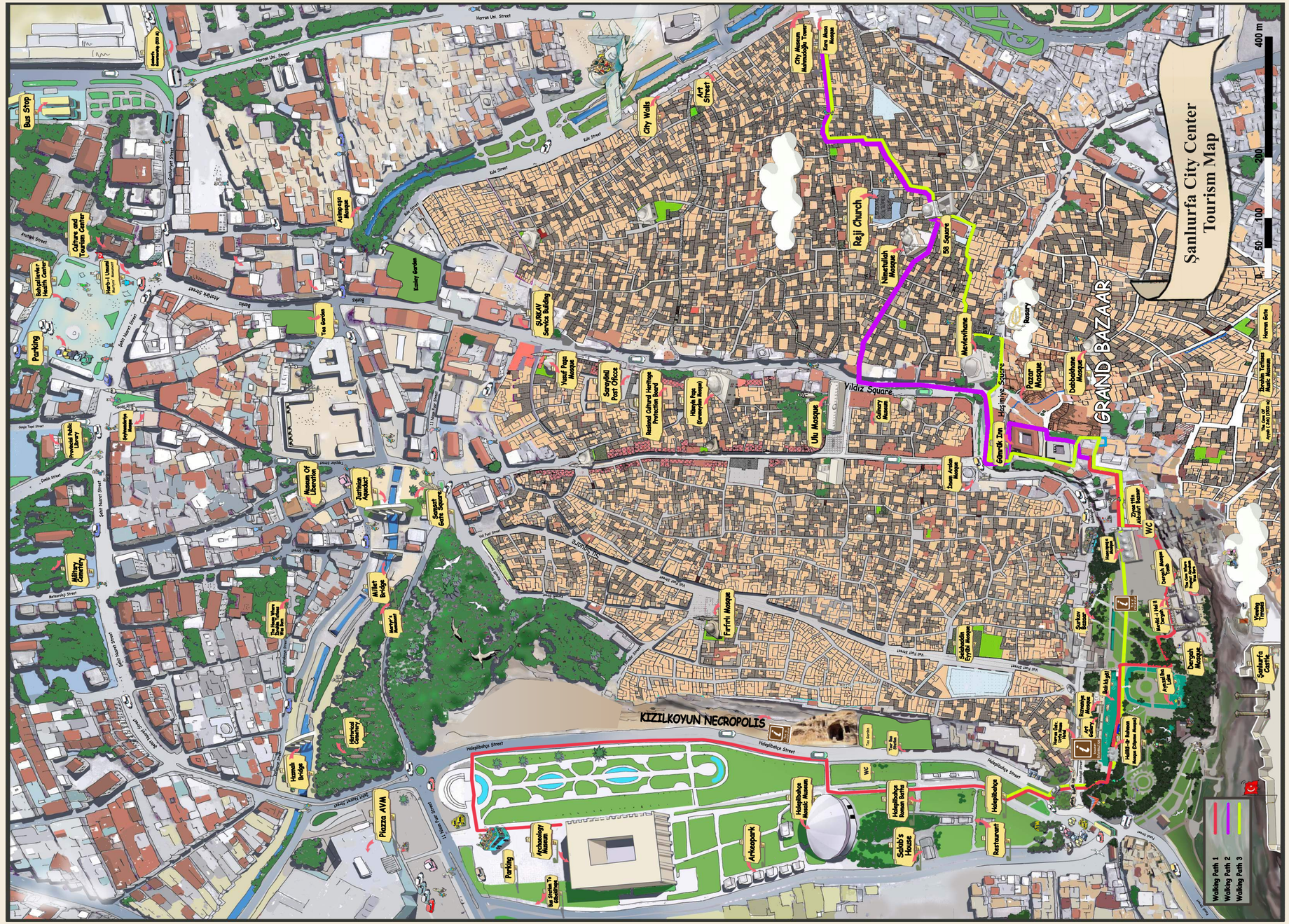


İBRAHİM TATLISES MUSIC MUSEUM

It is located next to the historic Harran Gate. This structure, serving the local tradesmen and merchants under the name "Yasin's Coffee House" has been expropriated and restored by the Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality. Named after our valuable fellow citizen, Mr. İbrahim Tatlıses, who has made significant contributions to the recognition of our city and music across the country, it was opened in 2011 as the "İbrahim Tatlıses Music Museum."



There is a "Çile Magarası (Suffering Cave)" and a "Şifalı Kuyu (Healing Well)" in the comlex known as the Authority of Prophet Ayyub in the Prophet Ayyub District, to the south of the Sanlıurfa city center. Known among the prophets for his patience, it is the place where Prophet Ayyub fell ill and suffered. It is known as the place where the Prophet Ayyub stayed until he recovered from a serious disease.





LOCAL CUİSENE

Ranked among the top five cuisines in the world, Turkish cuisine, and specifically Urfa cuisine, serves as one of the fundamental cornerstones of our culinary culture. The culinary culture of Urfa is our richest cultural heritage, passed down from the past to the future. For centuries, the people of Urfa have had a rich culinary tradition that offers exquisite examples of palate satisfaction. Known as the "Halil İbrahim Sofrası," it is believed to have originated from the time of Prophet Abraham, who never dined without guests. This tradition is widely recognized and cherished by all.

Discovery

Geographicallİndicotions and Tradition Product



CIGER KEBABI



CIG KOFTE