



FIRAT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY www.fka.org.tr

Malatya Investment Support Center

Phone : +90 (422) 212 87 98 - 99

E-Mail : malatyaydo@fka.org.tr

Bingöl Investment Support Center

Phone : +90 (426) 213 57 55

E-Mail : bingolydo@fka.org.t

Elazığ Investment Support Center

Phone : +90 (424) 237 22 01

E-Mail : elazigydo@fka.org.tr

Tunceli Investment Support Center

Phone : +90 (428) 213 34 84

E-Mail : tunceliydo@fka.org.tr



www.fka.org.tr

TRAVEL GUIDE

MALATYA - ELAZIĞ

BİNGÖL - TUNCELİ



TRAVEL GUIDE

MALATYA - ELAZIĞ - BİNGÖL - TUNCELİ

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INTRODUCTION



Turkey, known officially as the Republic of Turkey, whose capital is Ankara, is a country where Europe, Asia and Africa, the continents of the Old World, approach to one another most closely. The most of its land is located in the Anatolian peninsula while the rest of it lies in the Eastern Thrace which is a part of the Balkan Peninsula. It is surrounded by the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, the Turkish Straits and the Sea of Marmara, which connect these two seas, and the Aegean Sea. Turkey is bordered by Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq and Syria

The region consisting of the Bingöl, Elazığ, Malatya and Tunceli provinces is located in the Central Turkey.

The River Euphrates and the River Tigris, thanks to their rich fauna, wetlands and fertile soils located at the various elevations, provided a land which would especially be favoured by the people to farm after the settled life began thousands of years ago. The scientists who excavated and researched the Arslantepe Tumulus of Malatya suggested that the human settlement this region began some 5000 years ago.

For thousands of years Hurri, Hittite, Med, Assyrian, Urartu, Greek, Persian, Roman, Byzantine, Sassanid, Seljuk, Mamluk and Ottoman civilizations ruled this region.

HISTORY

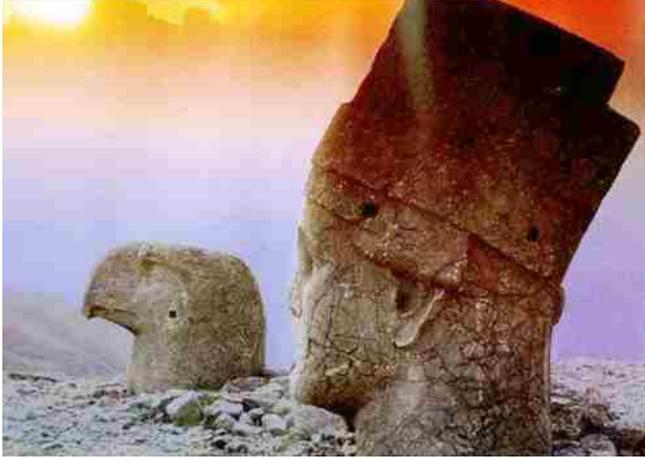
Malatya was an important town since the rule of Sargon, the Assyrian King, as it connects Anatolia to Caucasus via the River Karasu-Aras Road in the north, to the Middle East and Mesopotamia via Diyarbakır in the south-east, to Iran, Central Asia and Far East via the River Murat, Karasu-Lake Van in the east and the roads going to the Aegean coasts in the west. The importance of Malatya gradually increased as it was located at a junction and passageways. Malatya was part of the historical Silk Road and the Persian King Road.

The name 'Malatya' has not changed substantially since its establishment. It was referred as "Melita" in the Kültepe documents. It was called "Maldia" by the Hittites, "Meliddu, Melide, Melid, Milid, Milidia" by the Assyrians, "Melitea" by the Urartians, "Melitene" by the Romans and Byzantines, "Malatiyye" by the Arabs and finally "Malatya" by the Turks. The word Malatya derives from "Melid" meaning "honey" in the Hittite language. In the Hittite hieroglyphs the head and foot of an ox (or calf) symbolizes the city of Malatya.

According to the cave findings in Ansır village of the Yazıhan district and İnderesi in Malatya the prehistory of the city dates back to the Palaeolithic Age. Following the excavations at the Caferhöyük Tumulus it is suggested that the people living in and around Malatya left the caves and began to deal with farming and animal breeding and lived in the villages for the first time circa 7000 BC to start a settled life.

Malatya was settled in Mesolithic, Neolithic, Calcolithic and Mine Ages. Hittite, Assyrian, Persian, Roman, Byzantine, Arabian, Seljuk and Ottoman Empires ruled it. The city had been in Arslantepe, today's Orduzu district, until 2nd century BC before the Romans moved it to the north, 4 km away. Malatya was a strategically important crossroad and a trading centre. It was often conquered by the different civilizations as it was a border city and a strategic passageway. The Roman Empire moved the city of Malatya to a place called today called Battalgazi (or Old Malatya). Malatya became an important city then as the XII. Legion headquartered there. The Muslim conquered the city for the first time during the Umayyad Era. The city witnessed a lot of battles between the Muslim and Byzantine armies afterwards. After the rule of the Danişmentöğulları Principality and Seljuks in the 12th century the Mamluk State and the Dulkadiroğulları Principality conquered Malatya. It became an Ottoman town after the Turna Dağı Battle in 1515.

Malatya had been administratively a district of the Maraş province during the Ottoman Era before it was included into the Harput province in 1847. The Republic of Turkey made Malatya a province in 1924.



Nemrut Mountain

The Mount Nemrut National Park, included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO, is located within the borders of the Kahta district of Adıyaman and the Pütürge district of Malatya. The archaeological site of the Mt. Nemrut is about 100 km far from Malatya. Antiochus I, a Commagene king, built a hierethesion (monumental tomb-sanctuary) for himself and some gargantuan statues on the top of the Mt. Nemrut to show his devotion to the gods and his ancestors. The archaeological site contains some of the most splendid remains of the Hellenistic ages. The monumental statues and epitaphs are scattered around at the eastern, western and northern terraces. The well-preserved statues made of limestone blocks are 8-10 meters high.

Mithradates I founded his independent kingdom in an area called Commagene in the olden days.

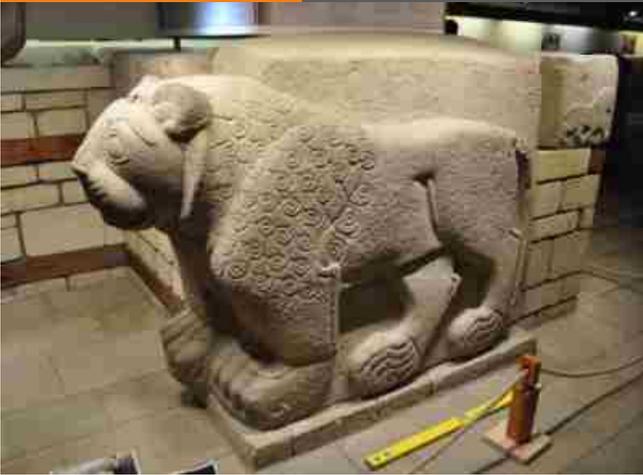
It became more important kingdom during the reign of his son, Antiochus I (62-32 BC). The independency of the kingdom ended in 72 AD after they lost a decisive battle against the Romans. It seems that the summit of the Mount Nemrut was not a human settlement. Only the tumulus of Antiochus I and some sacred monuments had been staying there for centuries. The summit oversees the fords of the Euphrates and neighbouring lowlands.

The 50 meters high tumulus with 150 meters diameter is covered by the small rock pieces to protect it. Though Antiochus I stated in his inscriptions that his body would rest there forever the archaeologists so far have been unable to find his royal tomb. At the eastern and western terraces the statues of Antiochus, gods and goddesses as well as those of lions and eagles welcome the visitors. The lion horoscope standing at the western terrace is a unique and original piece of the classical ages. The statues were carved through blending and synthesizing the Hellenistic, Persian and Commagene art. Thus it may be suggested that the Mount Nemrut is a bridge between the Western and Eastern civilizations.

After the Commagene became a forgotten kingdom the Mount Nemrut was desolated as well almost for two thousand years. In 1881 Charles Sester, a German engineer assessing the transport routes for the Ottomans, found the Mt. Nemrut and informed the German Consulate in Izmir about the site. In 1882 Otto Puchstein, a German archaeologist, and Karl Sester and in 1882 made first excavations at the site. In 1883 Osman Hamdi Bey, the Director of the Ottoman Imperial Museum, made some excavations, too.

Following the World War II the American archaeologist Theresa Goell and the German Karl Doerner made some excavations, research and investigation in the Mount Nemrut and other sites nearby. Today many tourists and local people visit the Mount Nemrut during the tourism season usually starting in April and ends in mid-December. They do not only see the archaeological remains but also bask in the magnificent colours of the sunset and sunrise.

PLACES TO SEE



Arslantepe Tumulus

Arslantepe was settled starting from 5000 BC to 11th century AD. It was last used as a Byzantine cemetery. The first excavations were carried out in 1932 when two lion statues, one king statue, some relieves, and the remains of a Late Hittite Palace were found.

The artefacts found and research carried out shows that Arslantepe is one of the important sites in terms of establishment of the states in the Near East. Especially the monumental palatial remains have placed Arslantepe among the peerless historical sites.

MALATYA



Battalgazi Grand Mosque

It was built during the reign of Alaaddin Keykubad I, an Anatolian Seljuk Sultan, in 1224. The brick parts of the mosque belong to the first period of the mosque while the stone parts to that of later period. This monument is a unique as it is the sole of example of a plan with four eyvans (a vaulted room with one side open to a court) of the Greater Seljuk ruled in Iran. Its altar is adjacent to its dome. It has an internal courtyard with garden and pool outside.

The mosque is decorated with turquoise and purple tiled mosaics and columns having geometrical stars and joggles as well as an inscription on the arch and tiled zigzag shaped mosaics. The internal part of the dome is decorated with the magnificent mosaics coated with the bricks. The lower parts of the dome are decorated with the brickworks revealing the geometric art of triangle shapes.

PLACES TO SEE



Armourer Mustafa Pasha Caravanserai

It is situated in Battalgazi (Old Malatya). It was established in an area of 68x76 meters. It was built by the Bosnian Mustafa Pasha, who was the armourer of the Ottoman Sultan Murat IV, in 1637 over a 68 x 76 meters rectangular plot. It has an open courtyard and enclosed hall.

This caravanserai is built at the junctions of roads going to the East. It shows that the commercial activities were intense in Malatya. It also was used by the Ottoman military. The foundation of the caravanserai is pretty strong. There are some shops aligned in front and at the side of the building. It is one of the most important caravanserais along the historical Silk Road.

MALATYA



Old Malatya City Walls

They are situated in the centre of the Battalgazi district. The construction of the walls started in late 1st century AD when the Roman Emperor Titus (79-81) moved the headquarter of XII. Legion to Malatya. The Emperor Traianus and Constantius I (363) expanded the city walls. The Emperor Justinianos (527-565) completed the construction.

Today only there are a few bases and bastions of the walls which once protected Melitene against the attacks. According to the chronicles the walls had 95 bastions and 11 gates.

PLACES TO SEE

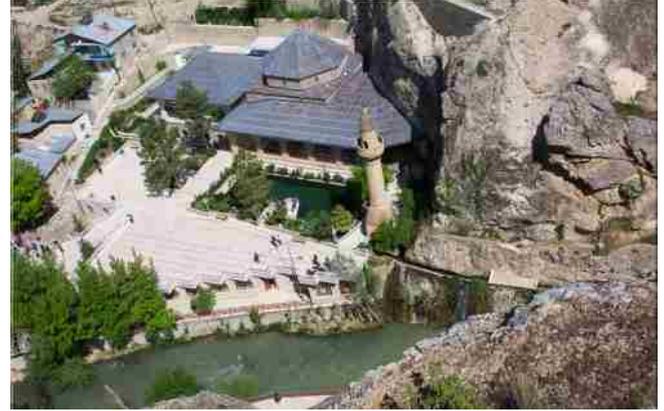


Tohma Canyon

It lies between the Somuncu Baba Mosque and Taş Bridge in the Darende district. The two slopes of the Tohma Stream are composed of the steep crags and ragged valley. Over the crags there are natural hollows and cave-like parts.

Water is brought to the Somuncu Baba Mosque by a canal made out of carving the rocks over the slopes. Rafting, trekking, photo-safari and climbing are popular activities in this canyon. The 8 km long canyon is a moderately tough but comfortable track for rafting which takes about one hour.

MALATYA



Somuncu Baba Mosque and Shrine

The Somuncu Baba Shrine, in the Darende district, is located in the same complex together with the Somuncu Baba Mosque and the Balıklı Göl (pond with fish). The construction date of the shrine is not known. The minaret of the mosque was built in 1686. In the middle of the mosque the shrine stands with a wooden sarcophagus made in the Republican Era.

A rectangular room to the south of the mosque is today used as library. There are some stone-made tombs in the shrine. The Somuncu Baba Museum lies in the basement floor of the mosque.



Zengibar (Sengbar) Castle

It is located to the west of Tohma Stream, in the Darende district, and between the Somuncu Baba Shrine and the Ottoman Cemetery. It is an Ottoman castle. It goes down to the Ottoman Cemetery via a steep slope in the west. The portcullis, which stands over the mountain slope where Darende lies back to, was built over a passable steep slope. The passageway is only possible through this section as the rocks are very steep. The gate made of ashlars has only one entrance. The remains of ramparts still exist on the top and the parts near the Tohma Stream.



Günpınar Waterfalls

It lies in the Günpınar village of Darende. Its waters drop about 40 meters at three steps. The spring water, on the left of the Waterfalls, not flowing separately from the main stream is frozen in winter making Günpınar resemble Pamukkale.

PLACES TO SEE



Şire Bazaar (Dried Apricot Bazaar)

Though the word şire means “juice of grapes and other fruits” the Şire Pazarı is mainly understood as the Dried Apricot Bazaar in Malatya. The city deserves to be named 'World Capital of Apricot' as it produces 10-15% of the fresh and 70-85% of dried apricots worldwide. You may buy the dried apricots and some other foodstuff made of apricots such as apricot delight, apricot soujouk (a kind of rolled dessert), doner and jam.

The locally produced pekmez (thick syrup made of grapes or mulberries), Hekimhan walnut, dried concord grapes and honey as well as some other dried foodstuff brought from the other provinces of Turkey are sold in this bazaar.

MALATYA



Coppersmith Market

The Coppersmith Market, which used to have many customers some decades ago as the utensils made of copper were intensively used, now only produces souvenirs. One still may find the hand-made laundry basin, cauldron, pail, tray, bowl, plate, pitcher and hand-basin that are reminiscent of the old Anatolian culture in this market.

PLACES TO SEE



Malatya Mansions

The traditional Malatya mansions are generally two-storied and have special architecture style. Owing to the climate of the region these separate houses are thick-walled and have small windows. Some houses are three-storied. The first floor of the house is composed of different rooms organized in accordance with the function intended.

The main construction components are stone, adobe and wood. Wood is used in making door, window, ceiling and floor, beams among the walls, outer woodwork, stairs, cupboard, bedding cupboard and laundry hanger. At the entrance there are a cellar called zahirelik (store of provisions), a kitchen called hizna and a big room called kış damı (room used in winter). A wooden stairs are used to go upstairs, which also goes to the sofa of the upper floor. Guest and living room as well as other rooms are aligned along this sofa. There are rooms designed in accordance with the need in this floor which is used as Selamlık (part of house reserved for men) and Haremlik (part of house reserved for women).

MALATYA



Levent Valley

The valley, lies in the Akçadağ district with its hidden natural wonders and rock reliefs, waits for its visitors. There are some rock reliefs in some caves, which emerged out of the geological formations, with different sizes. These reliefs are supposed to be dating back to the Late Hittite Period.

This valley is a potential route for alternative tourism activities such as trekking, parachuting, rock climb, camping and scouting.

PLACES TO SEE



Sultansuyu Ranch

It is located in the Akçadağ district. It was established to provide riding horse, felt and wool to the Ottoman Army in 1865. Today it is operated by the state-owned General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises and famous for its purebred Arabian race horses.

MALATYA



Millet Inn

Though there is no any record proving the construction date of Millet Inn of the Arapgir district the local people claims that it was built in 1850s. It was used as a trade centre for years. The building has a skewed plan similar to a rectangular shape. It is two-storied.

There is a square-planned court with a pond in the middle. The shops are aligned along this court. There are 12 shops in the first floor and 13 shops in the upper floor. The two storeys have the same plan.

PLACES TO SEE



Old Arapgir Castle Bridge

It was built over a brook flowing in the Old Arapgir. It connects the Arapgir Castle to the Serge quarter. It was built at very narrow point and quiet strong. Its length is 13,70, width 3,10 and height 5,60 m.

The width of bridge arch between the two abutments is 7,70 m. considering its construction technique it is supposed that it was built by the Ilkhanids.

ACCOMMODATION

Malatya has many hotels having about 1500 beds. In addition to the 5 star Anemon Hotel you may also stay in Avşar Hotel, 4 star, Grand Akkoza, Aksaç, Grand Sinan, Bezginler, GAP Royal and Tiryandafil (in Darende district, 120 km far from Malatya), all of which are 3 star. Hotel Beydağı, Büyük Malatya, Remark and Yeni Hotel are the other hotels to accommodate.

CUISINE

Malatya has many fruits that are consumed as dried foodstuff, pestil (dried fruit roll-up), pekmez and pickle. Apricot, apple, mulberry, pear and grape are popular dried fruits. They are prepared in Summer and Autumn to consume them in Winter.

They are prepared in Summer and Autumn for Winter. Floor, burghul (boiled and pounded wheat), dairy products and meat are the main ingredients of the meals. Burghul is very popular and used in soup and köfte (burghul balls). Among the baked products Malatya and its villages have delicious tandour bread, dürüm (rolled bread with some foodstuff inside), katmer (crisp flaky pastry) and kömbe (made of flour, butter, salt and roasted meat).

Köfte has a special place in Malatya cuisine. Some of them are stuffed köfte (with spinach, potatoes or meat), içli köfte, sıkma köfte and ekşi köfte.

Apricot, which is the symbol of Malatya, has also special place in the Malatya cuisine adding zest to the dishes from kebabs to desserts. One of the main special dishes is kağıt kebab. It is cooked inside an oven steaming the buttery lamb cutlet and vegetables in a special curl paper for about 15 hours





SHOPPING

Woven clothes decorated with wooden moulds and through printed techniques, carpets and kilims having vivid colours, copper wares, dried apricot, locally made pestil and pekmez made of apricot and mulberry are recommended.

Malatya Park, Kapalı Çarşı, Coppersmith's Market, Dried Apricot Bazaar and the shops aligned at the Atatürk, İnönü and Milli Egemenlik Streets are places you may buy.

THINGS TO DO

- * Visit Mount Nemrut, Arslantepe, historical monuments in Old Malatya (Battalgazi).
- * Taste kağıt kebab, analı kızılı köfte (fist sized burghul balls filled with seasoned minced meat) and apricot dessert with butter.
- * Buy apricots in Şire Pazarı.



The city of Elazığ was founded in the Eastern Anatolia Region among the skirts of the hill on which the historical Harput Castle was constructed. The city, at an altitude of 1067 meters, is established over a slightly slope ground. The history of Harput, the old settlement, is fairly old while modern Elazığ is relatively young city.

According to the historical records the oldest inhabitants of Harput are Hurris who began to settle in the Eastern Anatolia as of 2000 BC. Hittites ruled the region after Hurris. The Hittite rule did not last long and Urartians, who founded a state in the Eastern Anatolia circa 9th century BC, conquered Harput and ruled it for a long time.

The most distinct historical monuments in Harput date back to that period. The Ottoman Sultan Abdulaziz named the city “Mamurat ül-Aziz” in 1867. But local people called it “El Aziz” as pronouncing it seemed difficult. When Atatürk visited the city in 1937 it was named as “Elazık” meaning “City of Provisions”, which finally was pronounced Elazığ.



Harput Castle

The castle, which is supposed that it was built by the Uartians, overseeing the Elazığ Valley has highly imposing appearance. Harput means “Stone Castle” in Urtian language. Here “har” means stone (rock) and “put” (berd) means castle. Legend has it that it was known as “Milky Castle” as milk and egg white are used in its mortar.

There are galleries and dungeons inside. The Church of the Virgin Mary, which is one of the earliest Assyrian churches, lies at the back slope of the castle. The castle was then located in the city centre. Therefore there are remains of some old settlements and hamam onto and around it.



Grand Mosque

This mosque, one of the earliest mosques in and around Harput, was built by the Artuqids in the 12th century. The Iranian-Seljuk plan and form was blended with the Anatolian architecture. It has two gates and some ornaments. It is also called the “Mosque with Slanted Minaret” as the part of minaret up to the balcony is slanted.



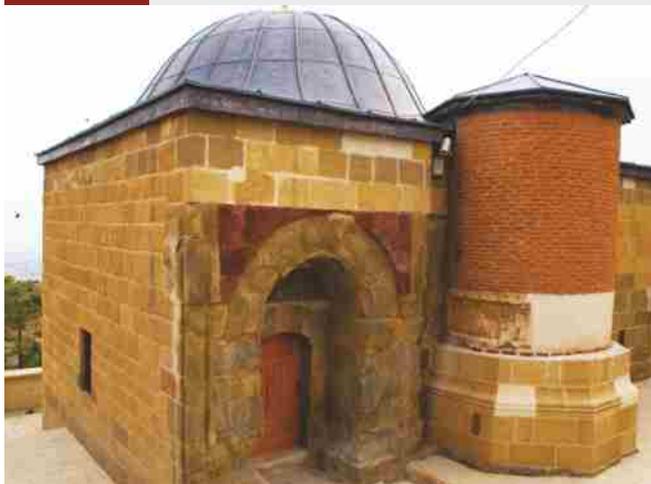
Buzluk Cave

The cave is located to the north-east of the Harput Castle. Thanks to its geomorphologic structure the ice layers in the form of the stalactite and stalagmite emerge in Summer while the hot air prevails in Winter. Thus the inside of the cave is cool in Summer and warm in Winter. In the olden days townsfolk used this cave as cold storage depot to preserve their foodstuff.



Church of Virgin Mary

The church located at the slope of the Harput Castle is one of the earliest examples of the Assyrian churches. One of its walls is composed of the rocks. Inside the church there are passageways reaching to the castle.



Arap Baba Shrine

The shrine contains the mummified body of Arap Baba about whom many legends are told by the townsfolk. Giyaseddin Keyhüsrev III, a Seljuk ruler, built this shrine and masjid. It has many elements of Seljuk architecture. Legend has it that there was a drought that lasted for a long time in the region. Then a woman saw in her dream that Arap Baba should have beheaded to end drought. And he was beheaded. Then rain started but this time rain did not stop causing flood. Arap Baba appeared in the same woman's dream and asked his cut head be brought near his body. What he requested had been done and rain stopped. People believed that Arap Baba was an important man. Therefore they built a shrine in his memory in a place where all the townsfolk may see and visit. The body of Arap Baba, which was not decayed until 10-15 years ago, could be seen in his glass-made coffin.



Hazar Baba Mountain Ski Centre

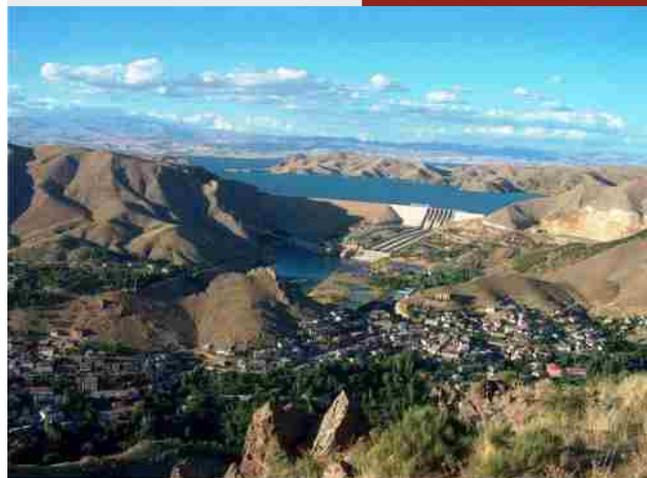
There is a ski centre at the Hazar Baba Mountain in the Sivrice district. It has 19 chairlifts and a cafeteria where you may dine. The ski track offers a splendid landscape as it faces the Lake Hazar and Keban Dam Lake.



Hazar Lake

The Lake Hazar is the deepest natural lake (tectonic) of Turkey. It is registered as wetland. It hosts several endemic plant and living being within its watershed.

The 22 km long lake is like a holiday resort as it has several beaches and accommodation facilities owned by either the state enterprises or private companies along with. The sunken city and its remains appears when the waters ebb. It attracts the interest of the divers.



Keban Dam Lake

The Keban Dam Lake, which was built in 1965-75, is the biggest artificial lake of Turkey. It produces electricity. It could initially produce one-fifth of the power need of Turkey. The number of the hatcheries increased in recent years making Keban the most trout producer. It is a real enjoy having trout in the restaurants watching the gorgeous view of Keban Lake.

The Golan Spa, the Elazığ Archaeology and Ethnographic Museum, the Ağa Mosque, the Eseyiye (Aslanlı) Mosque, the Alacalı Masjid, Hoca Hasan and Cimşit Hamams are other touristic places.

ELAZIĞ



ELAZIĞ RACECOURSE

Elazığ Racecourse was officially opened on June 21, 2002. In the racecourse, there is a grandstand for 2500 persons, jockey house, doping building, blood collection unit and a hospital for racehorses. The runway of the racecourse is 1550 m long and 20 m wide. This racecourse is the unique racecourse in the east of Turkey.

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PLACES TO SEE



ÇIRÇIR WATERFALL

Çirçir Waterfall is in Keban near Keban Dam. The waterfall, which has unique natural view, gives the opportunity to the visitors to eat delicious trout. Elazığ producesthe largest amount of trout in Turkey.

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ACCOMMODATION

In the centre of Elazığ there are 4 star Marathon and Akgün Hotel. In addition there are several accommodation facilities around the Lake Hazar offering services to the visitors. Especially Mavi Göl and Turpol Facilities, 30 km from the city, have splendid mountain and lake view.

CUISINE

Elazığ has one of the richest cuisines in Turkey with about 150 kinds of meals. As well as the typical three meals in a day there are meals called kuşluk (mid-morning) and yatsılık (mid-evening) courses in Elazığ. Elazığ has delicious pestil, walnut and orcik (soujouk with walnut).

The main meals of Elazığ cuisine are bean soup, lobik soup, anamaşı, kelecoş, taraklık, kındık köfte, küncülü köfte, muhaşerli köfte, işkene, sapan dolma, kile dolma, çaypalası, pirpirim boranı, tavşan üfelemesi, kırmanlı pilaf, simit pilaf, chickpea bread, fodula, zarafat, patıla, heside, dolanger, hürriyet kadayıfı, orcik, pilit and gah.



SHOPPING

Çedene coffee, Ağın chickpea, Buzbağ wine made out of the famous Boğazkere grapes, tulum cheese, yellow mulberry pestil, mulberry and grape pekmez and mulberry flour. Embroidered hand-made yazma, copper wares and octagonal hat.

THINGS TO DO

- * Having içli köfte, patıla and orcik and drinking çedene coffee in the historical ambiance of Harput.
- * Watch the traditional folk dance çayda çıra and listen the traditional music kürsübaşı.
- * According to the season either swim on the Lake Hazar or ski over the Hazar Baba Ski Centre.
- * See the Keban Dam Lake and eat trout there. Heal in the spas. Buy hand-made yazma and octagonal hat.





The original name of the city is Mingöl which meant “region of lakes”. Townsfolk pronounced it later as Bingöl meaning “one thousand lakes”. Later Bingöl was later named as “Çevlik” meaning vineyard-garden. The history of Bingöl dates back to 2000 BC. Herodotus cited that Bingöl was within the Komojen Region together with Diyarbakır and Muş. Urartian, Assyrian, Persian, Roman, Muslim Arab, Seljuk, Saltuqid, Akkoyunlu and Ottoman civilizations ruled Bingöl.

According to the famed traveller Turkish Evliya Çelebi the source of the Fountain of Youth, a legendary spring that reputedly restores the youth of anyone who drinks of its waters, was in Bingöl. He cited that Alexander the Great began to seek for the Fountain of Youth as he could not relieve his pains. Finally he could find and named it as Çapakçur meaning the water of paradise. He built a castle called Çapakçur on the shore of the River Murat. This name was used until recent history. Today there is a stream called Çapakçur flowing through Bingöl.

The altitude of Bingöl is 1177 m. Erzurum is located to the north, Muş to east, Diyarbakır to south and Elazığ and Tunceli to west.

BİNGÖL



Sunrise

It is a magnificent experience to see sunrise over the Kale Hill of the Bingöl Mountains located at the Karlıova district. You may see every colour and detail of sunlit during sunrise.

PLACES TO SEE



Moving Island

The 3 islands in the Hanzarşah village of the Solhan district move like a raft inside the lake. This "Moving Island" is a unique and mysterious wonder of nature.

BİNGÖL



Yolçatı Ski Centre

A 950 m long ski track, chairlift, ski car and ski equipment as well as a hotel having 50 beds serve the visitors in winter season. The centre is located in the Yolçatı village.

PLACES TO SEE



Kös Spas

Spas, located at the 20th km of the Bingöl-Karlıova highway, are beneficial to rheumatic and woman diseases. There are 1 hotel, 1 motel and 1 pension to accommodate and three pools.

BİNGÖL



Çır Waterfalls

Çır Waterfalls flow across 100 meters high bluff called Çır Taşı at the Uzundere Stream, which also gave this name to the village nearby. It has a fabulous view while falling down to the rocky stream bed. It is 8 km far from the İlica village. You may reach in there through two different roads. There are some crags and caves in Çır Taşı. There are some raptors living in these crags. The other places to see in Bingöl are Kral Kızı (Daughter of King) Castle, Sebeterias Castle, Ata Park, Kığı Castle and Peri (Nymph) Water.

ACCOMMODATION

You may stay in 3 star Hotel Sarıoğlu and Bingöl Hotel as well as Çınar Hotel and Atlı Hotel, located at the city centre. Kös Spas also offer rooms to accommodate.

CUISINE

Löl (gömme), mastuva, sörin, ayran soup (germe dui), turakin (patife), tutmaç soup, kılç, lopık, maliyez, parmar (purslane) and pilık are the local dishes. After the Bingöl cuisine interacted with those of other cuisines dishes such as içli köfte (fist sized burghul balls filled with seasoned minced meat), sulu köfte, yoghurt köfte, kuru köfte, squash köfte, eggy köfte, ayran köfte, fried köfte, gıldırık köfte and çiğ köfte have also been included in it. Bingöl cuisine has some delicious pickles made of cayenne pepper, cabbage, tomatoes, bean and eggplant. Vine leaves are preserved in salty water to make köfte in winter time.

The desserts are burma kadayıf, silki baklava, ashure (Noah's Pudding), zerde (saffron and rice dessert), rice pudding, revani (baked semolina), flour halva and dolanger.

One of the most popular tastes is a bread cooked in a tandour or over sac (iron sheet). Bread is usually made of wheat flour. It is sometimes made of corn and millet flour. A bread called by local people "nun kuryek" has a special taste. It is very popular and usually made in the villages.

Don't leave Bingöl without dining in Ata Park and tasting the unforgettable savour of kavurma (braised lamb meat cubes browned in its own fat) served in Yado Çeşmesi and Soğuk Çeşme.

BİNGÖL



SHOPPING

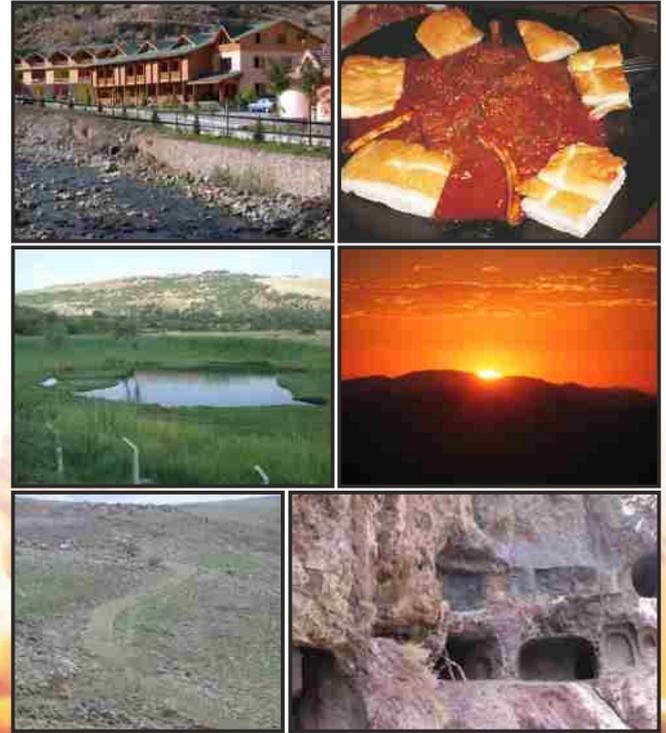
Astragalus, trifolium repens, clover and thyme and various kind kinds of other plants grown up on the highlands of Bingöl make the delicious Bingöl honey you must buy. You may buy as well walnut, handicraft, embroidery and hand-knit clothes.

THINGS TO DO

Watch sunrise on the Kale Hill.
Have breakfast with honey and kaymak (clotted cream of milk) in Yolçatı.
Visit the mysterious Moving Islands, walk over the historical

Visit the mysterious Moving Islands, walk over the historical Urartian road, see the Zağ caves which hosted many people, go to the curative spas.

Eat kavurma in Soğuk Çeşme.



The region is known as Dersim. In pursuant to an Act enacted in 1935 it named as Tunceli which also comprised the Kalan town. The word Dersim is composed of the words Der (Gate) and Sim (Silver) in Dimili dialect. Therefore it may be translated as 'Silver Gate' into Turkish.

There is some information about Dersim dating back to 4th century BC. The Greek travellers called it Daranis. It is supposed that the historian Ptolemy recorded Tunceli as Daranalis when the Persian King Darius enthroned in 519 BC. This name was used for centuries.

The word Dersim was used in the official documents before founding of the Turkish Republic. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk changed this name to Tunceli meaning 'place where people as strong as bronze live'.



Munzur National Park

A 42.000 hectares area lying between Tunceli and Ovacik was declared as a national park in 1971. The Munzur Valley National Park is one of the biggest national parks of Turkey. It starts 8 km away from Tunceli city centre and goes towards the Munzur Mountain. The Munzur Mountains, rising up to about 3300 metres in the north, is divided by the Mercan and Munzur Stream Valley.

This region was declared as national park thanks to its tributaries and spring waters, endemic plant species, fauna and flora and wild animals. Rare trout kinds, mountain goat and rupicapra rupicapra ornata and caspian snowcock are the original species of wildlife. They mainly live in the Munzur and Mercan Stream.

The natural gifts of the park are crater lakes lying at the 2000-3000 meters summit of the Munzur Mountains in the north of the national park, the springs over the Ovacik plain, the canyons and

waterfalls flowing along the valley. Unique natural landscape and all the wildlife may be seen at every corner of the national park. The Munzur Valley and its surrounding seem to be very rich in terms of game animals. Wolf, fox, weasel, bear, lynx, otter, badger, squirrel, rabbit, boar and wild goat live in this national park. The grizzly bear is one of the big mammals living inside the rocky coves and caves.

At the National park camping, picnicking, amateur fishing, trekking and some water and nature sports such as rafting and mountaineering are popular activities.



Halbori Springs

It is inside a deep and craggy valley by the Munzur Stream. The Halbori Springs that have very cold spring waters is a resort and recreation area.

TUNCELİ



Dereova Waterfalls

The waterfalls, known also the Spring of Bride, falls down 20 meters creating a splendid view. The waterfall offers very impressive and different view in Summer and Winter. When the fall is frozen in Winter the stalactites and stalagmites emerge creating a beautiful landscape.

PLACES TO SEE



Pülümür Stream Valley

The stream starts about 20 km in the north of the Tunceli-Pülümür highway and flows along a steep and narrow valley towards Pülümür. It has a rich forest vegetation on both sides as well as waterfalls, craggy slopes and canyons. The Pülümür Valley, starting from the eastern slopes of the Avcı Mountains and reaching to the south via several tributaries, is very narrow and steep.

The Pülümür Stream flows in this valley. There are a rich forest vegetation, sporadic waterfalls, craggy hills and canyons in the valley. The Ağlayan Kayalar and Zenginpınar Waterfalls are worth visiting with their abundant waters, natural environment and landscape. The Papaz Mountain in the east slope of the Pülümür Stream, rocky places at the both sides of the stream after the Nazimiye junction, rocks between Alacık and Kırmızı Bridge, the opposite slopes of the Ağlayan Rocks and slopes where the Gelin Odaları lies offer opportunities for trekking, rock climbing and paragliding. It merges with the Munzur Valley at the central district and flows down to the Keban Dam Lake towards the south.

TUNCELİ



Yelmaniye Mosque

According to its inscription the Yelmaniye Mosque, which is located at the Çemişgezek district, was built by Taceddin Yalman during the reign of Tamerlane. The date in the inscription cannot be read but it is thought that the mosque was built 1397-1406.

The other places to see in Tunceli are Pulur Tumulus, Yeniköy Tumulus, İn Coves, Uzun Hasan Shrine, Hamami Atik, Çemişgezek Bridge, Ulukale Mosque and Mazgirt Castle.

ACCOMMODATION

You may stay in 4 star Grand Şaroğlı Hotel in Tunceli. 3 star Pertek Thermal Hotel, at the shore of the Keban Dam Lake, is 20 km to Elazığ and 55 to Tunceli. The hotel has healing water allegedly beneficial to some diseases. Has Hotel, Yüksel Hotel and Dersim Pension are other places to stay in.

CUISINE

Tunceli has a very rich local cuisine. Some floury meals are Zirafet (Babiko), Sirepati, Keşkek, Kavut and Patila. There are some dishes made of the plants grown around Tunceli, some of which are Gulik Soup, Mushroom, Döğme Soup and pilaf and some dried vegetable meals. Halva, mulberry dessert and ashura are among the traditional desserts. The foodstuff is diversified where the viniculture is extensively carried out. Şire is used to make dessert. It is also eaten with bread. Pekmez, pestil and orcik is made of şire.

Also “şireli” tarhana (sundried food made of curd, tomato and flour) is made of grinded wheat. “Döğme pilaf” made of grinded wheat and “keşkek” (a dish of mutton or chicken and coarsely ground meat), “malhuta soup” made of coarsely ground wheat, tarhana, noodle and haşıl are common local dishes. One of the most known dish of Tunceli is hazırlop köfte. Tandour bread and yufka bread are popular. Ekşili bread and bazlama (flatbread) are made of leavened dough and yufka, kumbik, kül (ocak) gömme and değirmen pastry are made of unleavened dough. Some floury dishes are eggy tepsi kumbik with egg, water heurek, bişi and hırcı.



SHOPPING

“Cicim” woven by the skilful young girls embroidering the special local designs over it to be used as ground cloth and “saddle” to be used as bag are sold in the souvenir shops.

You may buy the pure and natural Pülümür honey made by the bees picking up the nectar of the various flowers grown up in the Pülümür Mountains.

Ovacık garlic with single clove which is naturally grown at the hills of the Munzur National Park is sold in the shops of the Ovacık district and city centre. Local people believes that this garlic is remedy for some diseases. The Şavak cheese, made of the milk of animals grazing over the pastures of high mountains of Tunceli, have many customers from other cities of Turkey.

THINGS TO DO

Visit the Munzur National Park and Ovacık Springs where the Munzur originates.

Taste the natural mountain garlic and Pülümür honey made of the nectar out of hundreds of flowers grown at the Pülümür Valley. Find remedy in the thermal waters of Pertek.



6.PLACES WORTH SEEING NEARBY



GÜRÜN

KEMALIYE

DİVRİ

KEMALIYE



The Karanlık (Dark) Canyon, located in Kemaliye of the Erzincan province, was formed by some 400-500 meters high craggy slopes.

The canyon which is a nature wonder has a closed ecological system with the narrow passages through which the daylight is unable to enter. It is likely to do some outdoor sports.

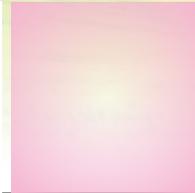
The Koçan Waterfalls which may flows down about 150 meters and the Kemaliye houses that have the traces of the different cultures lived on this land are worth seeing. These houses are the finest examples of the harmony between the natural environment and architecture.

DİVRİĞİ and GÜRÜN



The Divriği Grand Mosque and Hospital, which was built in 1228 in the Divriği district of Sivas province, a neighbour of Malatya, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985. The Gökpınar Lake, located at Gürün of the Sivas province, 17 meters deep, is also worth visiting with its clear water and natural trout.

7. PLACES TO VISIT



TOUR OFFER - 1

DAY 1

Fly to Malatya or Sivas and then driving to Gürün which takes about 2 hours. Going to Darende after visiting the Şuğul Valley which is also called "Tohma of Gürün" and the Lake Gökpinar which is one of the natural beauties of Turkey. Visiting the Somuncu Baba Mosque and Complex where the tomb of Sheikh Hamid-i Veli also known Somuncu Baba is. Stay in Darende.

DAY 2

Having a walk at the Tohma Canyon and Günpınar Waterfalls. After rafting in the Tohma Canyon if the weather is appropriate visiting the Akçadağ-Levent Valley on the way from Darende to Malatya. Getting to Malatya and staying there.

DAY 3

After visiting Yeşilyurt, the greenest district of Malatya, and having breakfast or lunching there going to the source of the Derme Brook which is believed to have been surfaced by Jesus Christ who touched the ground with his scepter, thus it would flow forever. Visiting the old Turkish mansions called Beşkonaklar at the city centre. Shopping in Şire Bazaar where the dried apricots are sold. Staying in Malatya.

DAY 4

Visiting the Armourer Mustafa Pasha Caravanserai and the Grand Mosque in Battalgazi, 10 km away from the Malatya city centre. After having a walk at the Prof. Dr. Metin Sözen Street, which was awarded by the Union of Historical Towns thanks to improvement works, departing to Arslantepe Tumulus that is one of the earliest city states to visit. Starting to the Mount Nemrut before evening and staying there.

DAY 5

Watching sunrise on the top of the Mt. Nemrut and seeing the monuments. Following the completion of this trip transferring the visitors, who may back by flying, to the Malatya Erhaç Airport.

TOUR OFFER - 2

DAY 1

After reaching in Malatya to either Malatya or Sivas by flight driving to Divriği. After visiting the Divriği Grand Mosque and Hospital going to the Divriği Castle and driving to Arapgir to stay in.

DAY 2

Visiting the monuments in Arapgir such as Millet Inn, Cafer Pasha Mosque, Mir-i Liva Ahmet Bey Mosque, Gümrukçu Osman Pasha Mosque and Çobanlı Mansion. Visiting the Kayaarası Canyon, a natural site, where you may see some wild animals especially mountain goat. Staying in Arapgir.

DAY 3

While driving to Kemaliye via Arapgir visiting the Ocak village, which is also known as the Hıdır Abdal Sultan Ocaq and supposed to be among the model villages in Anatolia, on the way before getting to Kemaliye, 40 km away. After visiting the district centre and Ethnography Museum sailing the Karanlık Canyon, one of the biggest canyons in the World, by boat. Staying in Kemaliye.

DAY 4

Visiting Apçağa village of Kemaliye before going to Ağın. Visiting the Bademli Rock Tombs and Hastek Castle and going to Keban by ferryboat. Dinner in a trout restaurant in Keban. Transferring visitors, who may back by flying, to the Elazığ Airport.

TOUR OFFER - 3

DAY 1

Flying to Elazığ and driving to Sivrice. Visiting the Lake Hazar and the Sunken City. Skiing at the Hazarbaba Ski Centre if it is Winter. Staying in Elazığ.

DAY 2

Visiting Harput, the Old City, 5 km away from the Elazığ city centre. Seeing Harput Castle, Arap Baba Shrine, Şefik Gül Culture House and Buzluk Cave before backing to the city. Staying in Elazığ. (Another option: After visiting Harput going to Pertek by ferryboat to stay in).

DAY 3

Going to Pertek by ferryboat from Elazığ to stay in the Pertek spas. Accommodation in Pertek.

DAY 4

Visiting the Pertek Castle, surrounded by water, the Sungur Bey Mosque and the Çelebi Ağa Mosque. Driving to Tunceli from Pertek. Accommodation in Tunceli.

DAY 5

Visiting the Munzur Springs and Mercan Valley, which is close to the Ovacık side of the Munzur Valley National Park that is one of the biggest national parks of Turkey located between Tunceli and Ovacık, and Mercan Stream. Transferring those who would back by flying to Elazığ or Erzincan.

TOUR OFFER - 4

DAY 1

After flying to Elazığ or Bingöl (It is expected that the Bingöl Airport would open in 2012) driving to Palu about for one hour. Visiting some historic churches, masjids and mosques in this district which is a member of the Union of Historical Towns before walking up to the Palu Castle. Visiting the castle and watching the district. Going to the Karakoçan Golan Spas. Staying in the thermal facilities.

DAY 2

Spending the whole day inside spas before going to Bingöl city centre to stay in.

DAY 3

Getting to the Kös Spas in the Ilıcalar village. Spending the whole day inside the spas before driving to Karlıova to stay in.

DAY 4

Trekking and visiting cultural sites after watching sunrise in Karlıova.

DAY 5

Getting to Solhan. Visiting the Moving Islands, a wonder of nature, and several historic sites located at the Kale village. Transferring those who may back by flight to Bingöl (as of the late 2012) or Muş.

LOCAL EVENTS

	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
MALATYA		Cherry Culture and Sport Festival	International Culture Art and Acrobatic Festival Algerian Taïeb Festival	Fethiye Culture and Art Festival Traditional Dances Zenginler Karakok Wrestling and Culture Festival Hekimhan Culture and Music Festival Hozas Culture and Art Festival	Grazişar Culture and Art Festival Ayrıgıt Grape Harvest Festival Doğuzgözü Apple and Culture Festival Alaydar Honey Pine Culture and Art Festival		Malatya International Film Festival
ELAZIĞ		International Hazar Poem Night Keban Water and Trout Festival	Walking Bagpiper and Culture Activities (Piñ Dances Festival) International Hazar Water Sport Festival	Elazığ Culture and Art Festival	Cyvizapın Film Festival	Çemişgezek Traditional Vineyard and Honey Production Contest	
BİNGÖL	Culture Spring Feast Day (Hızlılar)		Saklıba Culture and Nature Festival Suziye Honey Bees				
TUNCELİ			Çemişgezek Malberry and Cheese Festival Muzur Culture and Nature Festival		Pülümür Honey Festival		

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

9.1. LANGUAGE

The official language of Turkey is Turkish. Zazaki and Kurdish are common especially in Bingöl and Tunceli. Some Turkish people in the touristic places know English and German.

9.2. CURRENCY

The currency of Turkey is Turkish Lira (TL). US dollars and Euros are the easiest currencies to change although many banks and exchange offices will change other major currencies

9.3. POWER

220 V electric supply system is used in Turkey

9.4. TRANSPORTATION

Flight: There are airports in Malatya and Elazığ. From these airports there are direct or connecting flights to every airports of Turkey. Also there are direct international flights in summer time. Malatya Erhaç Airport is 34 and Elazığ Airport 12 km away from the city. There are taxis and shuttle buses from the airport. There are also airports in Adıyaman, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Sivas and Erzincan nearby. Bingöl Airport is expected to open in the end of 2012.

Highway: The region is a passageway at the direction of north to south and east to west. Therefore there are highways going to the each corner of Turkey.

Railway: You may go to Malatya, Elazığ and the Genç district of Bingöl by train.

Inland Water Transport: There are ferryboats running over the Keban Dam Lake to Elazığ-Pertek, Elazığ-Çemişgezek and Elazığ-Ağın. Also from the Battalgazi district of Malatya to the Baskil district of Elazığ there is a ferryboat service.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

9.5. COMMUNICATION

Mail: The postal services in Turkey are carried out by PTT. You may send your postcard, letter and cargo by PTT which charges it by weighing. You must use APS (Urgent Mail Service) if you want to send your post urgently.

Phone: The number of the phone booths has been decreased as the mobile phones are very common but still you can make a call using the phones of some kiosks paying a reasonable price. You may also buy the mobile line from one of 3 GSM operators, namely Avea, Turkcell and Vodafone. The international code of Turkey is +90. The area code of Malatya is 422, Elazığ 424, Bingöl 426 and Tunceli 428.

Internet: You may use Internet in some hotels, restaurants and cafes free of charge. There are also Internet cafes charging according to the usage term.

9.6. CLIMATE

The region has the Eastern, South-eastern and Central Anatolia climate. At the high plateaus steppe climate, temperate climate alongside the valleys originating from the River Euphrates and Tigris and hot and dry Mediterranean climate prevail. The region witnesses four seasons throughout the year. The lowest temperature is seen in December to February while the hottest season is in June to August.

Note

Note

TRAVEL GUIDE

MALATYA - ELAZIĞ - BİNGÖL - TUNCELİ

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