



Tuz Gölü (Salt Lake)

CENTRAL ANATOLIA

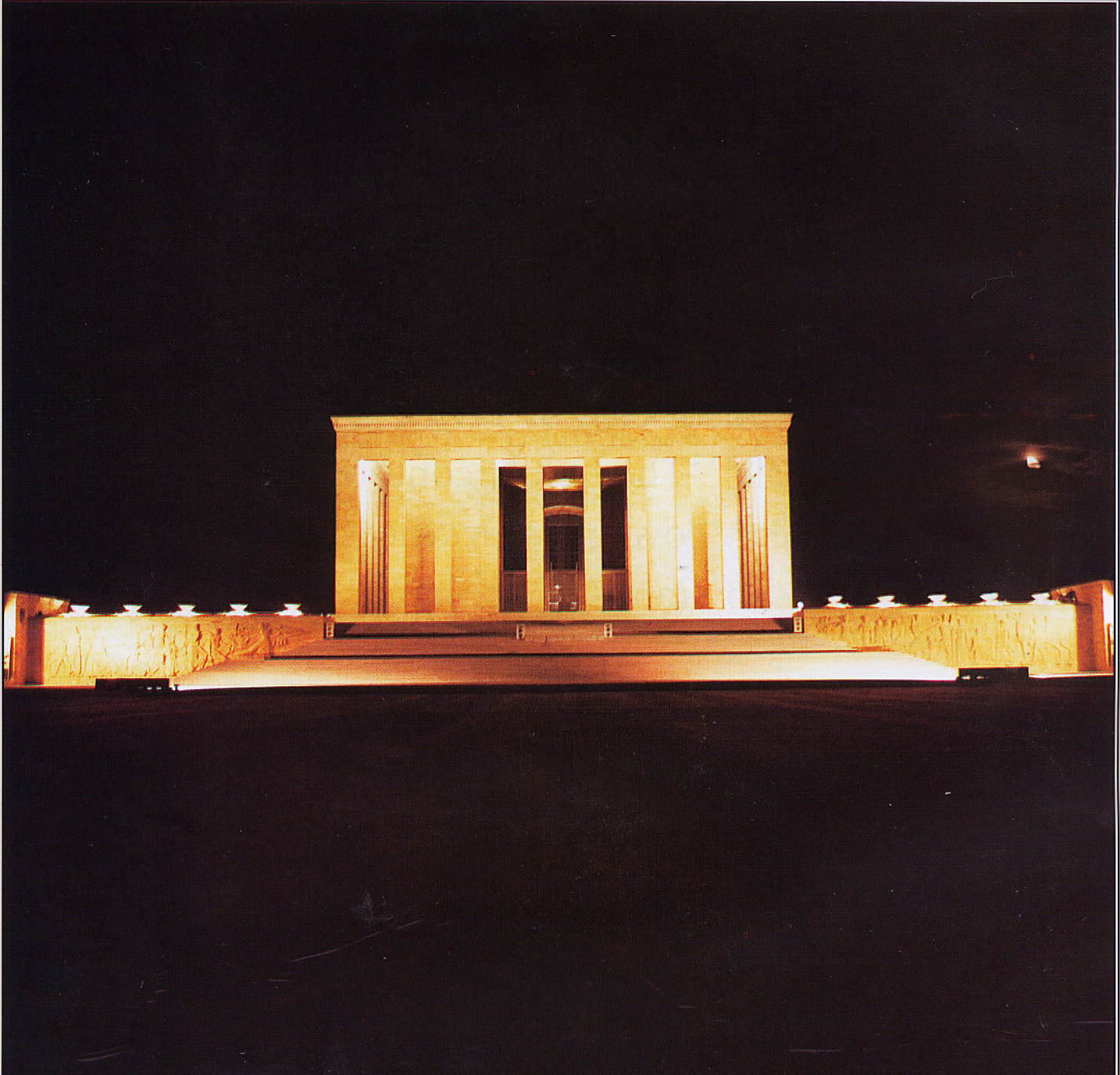
The central Anatolian plateau forms the heartland of Turkey: ochre-hued, cleft by ravines and dominated by volcanic peaks. The boldly contoured steppe has a solitary majesty covered with wheat fields framed by ranks of poplars.

This plateau was also a cradle of human civilization. At **Çatalhöyük**, remains of settlements as old as the eighth millennium B.C. have been unearthed. Here in the homeland of many civilizations and the historic battleground between East and West, the Hattis, Hittites, Phrygians, Galatians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans all fought for their sovereignty and established their rule. In the 11th century, migrating Turks from the east made the plateau their own.



Ankara (Angora) cat

During its turbulent history, Central Anatolia has endured invasion by great conquerors, such as Alexander the Great and Tamerlane. In the course of ten millennia of habitation, the denizens of the area have reflected in their art the dramatic contours of the surrounding landscape, from the vigorous paintings of Çatalhöyük and the confident lines of Seljuk architecture; to, more recently, the impressive modern form of Atatürk's mausoleum.



Antikabir

ANKARA

The city of Ankara lies in the center of Anatolia on the eastern edge of the great, high Anatolian Plateau, at an altitude of 850 meters. The province is a predominantly fertile wheat steppeland, with forested areas in the northeast. It is bordered by the provinces of Çankırı and Bolu to the north, Eskişehir to the west, Konya and Aksaray to the south, and Kırıkkale and Kırşehir to the east.

The region's history goes back to the Bronze Age Hatti civilization, which was succeeded in the 2nd millennium B.C. by the Hittites, in the 10th century B.C. by the Phrygians, then by the Lydians and Persians. After these came the Galatians, a Celtic race who were the first to make Ankara their capital in the 3rd century B.C. It was then known as Ancyra, meaning "anchor," one of the oldest words in the language of the sea-loving Celts. The city subsequently fell to the Romans, and to the Byzantines. Seljuk Sultan Alparslan opened the door into Anatolia for the Turks at the victory of Malazgirt in 1071. Then in 1073, he annexed Ankara, an important

location for military transportation and natural resources, to Turkish territory.

The city was an important cultural, trading, and arts center in Roman times, and an important trading center on the caravan route to the east in Ottoman times. It had declined in importance by the nineteenth century. It again became an important center when Kemal Atatürk chose it as the base from which to direct the War of Liberation. By consequence of its role in the war and its strategic position, it was declared the capital of the new Republic of Turkey on October 13th, 1923.

SITES TO SEE

Anıtkabir (Atatürk Mausoleum): Located on an imposing hill in the Anittepe quarter of the city stands the mausoleum of Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey. Completed in 1953, it is an impressive fusion of ancient and modern architectural ideas and remains unsurpassed as an accomplishment of modern Turkish architecture. There is a museum housing a supe-



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

rior wax statue of Atatürk; writings, letters and items belonging to Atatürk, as well as an exhibition of photographs recording important moments in his life and in the establishment of the Republic. (Anıtkabir is open everyday, and the museum every day except Mondays. During the summer, there is a light and sound show in the evenings).

MUSEUMS

The Museum of Anatolian Civilizations is close to the citadel entrance. An old bedesten (covered bazaar) has been beautifully restored and now houses a marvelous and unique collection of Paleolithic, Neolithic, Hatti, Hittite, Phrygian, Urartian, and Roman works and showpiece Lydian treasures. (Open every day, except Monday. During the summer, the museum opens every day).

The Ethnography Museum is opposite the Opera House on Talat Paşa Boulevard. There is a fine collection of folkloric artifacts as well as artifacts from Seljuk and Ottoman mosques. (Open every day, except Monday).

The Painting and Sculpture Museum is close to the Ethnography Museum and houses a rich collection of Turkish art from the late 19th century to the present day. There are also galleries for guest exhibitions. (Open every day, except Monday).

The Liberation War Museum, diagonally



**Painting and Sculpture
Museum**

across the street from Ulus Square, is in what was originally the first parliament building of the Republic of Turkey. There the War of Liberation was planned and directed as recorded in various photographs and items on exhibition. In another display are wax figures of former presidents of the Republic of Turkey. (Open every day, except Monday).

The Museum of the Republic, close to the Liberation War Museum, is housed in what was the second parliament building of the Republic. The exhibition here records important events in the early republican period. (Open every day, except Monday).

Atatürk's House is on the grounds of the Presidential Palace in Çankaya and was Atatürk's house after the founding of the Republic. The house is much as it was in Atatürk's day, and exhibits photographs that record important events. (Open Sundays and on religious and national holidays, 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm).

The Natural History Museum can be found on the grounds of the MTA (Mineral Research and Exploration Institute) on the Eskişehir road in Ankara. The displays record the evolutionary development of the world. (Open every day except religious holidays).

The Aviation Museum, located in Etimesgut displays various small and large scale models, aircraft, and aerial photographs. (Open everyday except Monday and Tuesday)

The TRT Museum (Turkish Radio & Television Broadcasting) has exhibits from the beginning of radio in Turkey, including antique phonographs and radios. It is located in the TRT General Directorate building in the Oran district. (Open Mon., Wed., Fri., 11 am - 3 pm).

Mehmet Akif Ersoy Museum, on the Hacettepe University Central Campus, commemorates the famous national poet who, in this house, wrote the text of the Turkish national anthem, as well as songs of independence, and many poems. (Open weekdays from 10 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 4 pm).

The TCDD Open-air Locomotive Museum, near the railway station by Celal Bayar Blvd., shows the history of steam locomotion through the locomotives on display. (Open weekdays).

The Cartography Museum, located in the Harita Genel Komutanlığı building in the Cebeci quarter, has old and new maps. (Open Tues. and Thurs. from 9 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 5 pm).

The Meteorology Museum on Sanatör-yum Ave. in Kalaba, shows the history of meteorology in Turkey. (Open weekdays).

The Education Museum follows the history



Mother goddess from Çatalhöyük,
Museum of Anatolian Civilizations,
Ankara



Cultic figure from Alacahöyük,
Museum of Anatolian
Civilizations, Ankara

and technology of education in Turkey. It is located in Ankara Gazi University, in the Beşevler district. (Open weekdays).

The Toy Museum in Cebeci houses toys of all kinds made of wood, metal, porcelain, paper, etc. (Open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 5 pm).

METU Museum on the campus of Middle East Technical University has archeological artifacts and ethnographic displays. (Open weekdays, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm).

T.C. Ziraat Museum at the Ulus branch of the bank displays a rich collection of coins and money in a building of architectural beauty. (Open weekdays from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm)

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Ankara Citadel: The foundations of the citadel were laid by the Galatians on a prominent lava outcrop, and completed by the Romans. The Byzantines and Seljuks made restorations and additions. The area around and inside the citadel, being the oldest part of Ankara, contains many fine examples of traditional architecture. There are also lovely green areas in which to relax. It is well known that the Ankara region was the cradle of wine in Hatti and Hittite times around 2000 B.C.. Many restored traditional Turkish houses in the area of the citadel have found new life as restaurants, serving local and international dishes and wine.

Roman Theatre: The remains, including *pro-scene* (stage), and *scene* (backstage), can be seen outside the citadel. Roman statues that were found here are exhibited in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. The audience area is still under excavation.

Temple of Augustus: The temple is in the Ulus quarter of the city. It was built by the Galatian King Pylamenes in 10 A.D. as a tribute to Augustus, and was reconstructed by the Romans on the ancient Ankara Acropolis in the 2nd century. It is important today for the "Monument Ancyranum," the sole surviving "Political Testament" of Augustus, detailing his achievements, inscribed on its walls in Latin and Greek. In the fifth century the temple was converted into a church by the Byzantines.

Roman Bath: The bath, situated on Çankırı Avenue in Ulus, has all the typical features: a *frigidarium* (cold room), *tepidarium* (cool room) and *caldarium* (hot room). They were built in the time of Emperor Caracalla (3rd century A.D.) in honour of Asclepius, the god of medicine. Today only the basement and first floors remain.

Column of Julian: This column, in Ulus, was erected in 362 A.D., probably to commemorate a visit by the Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate. It stands fifteen meters high and has a typical leaf decoration on the capital.

Monument of the Republic: Erected in 1927 in Ulus Square, it is a symbol of the



Atatürk Museum



Kocatepe Mosque



Güven Park

struggle for independence on the part of Atatürk and the Turkish people in the War of Liberation.

Monument to a Secure, Confident Future:

This monument, in Güven Park, was erected in 1935 and bears Atatürk's advice to his people: "Be proud, hardworking, and believe in yourself."

Victory Monument: Erected in 1927 in Zafer Square in the Sıhhiye quarter, it shows Atatürk in uniform.

Hattı Monument: Erected in the 1970's in Sıhhiye Square, this impressive monument symbolizes the Hattı gods and commemorates Anatolia's earliest known civilization.

MOSQUES

Hacı Bayram Mosque: This mosque, in Ulus, next to the Temple of Augustus, was built in the early 15th century in Seljuk style and was subsequently restored by Sinan in the 16th century, with Kütahya tiles being added in the 18th century. The mosque was built in honor of Hacı Bayram Veli, whose tomb is next to the mosque.

Aslanhane Mosque: This Seljuk mosque, near the citadel, was built in the 13th century. The mosque has a mihrap (prayer niche showing the direction to Mecca) of Seljuk tiles, and an unusual double colonnade of wooden columns. Next to the mosque is the tomb of Ahi Şerafeddin.

Ahi Elvan Mosque: Found in the Ulus

quarter near the Citadel, this mosque was built and finished during the late 14th and early 15th centuries. The finely carved walnut mimber (pulpit) is of particular interest.

Alaaddin Mosque: This mosque is inside the Citadel walls. It has a carved walnut mimber, the inscription on which shows that the mosque was built in the 12th century by the Seljuk ruler, Mesut.

Yeni (Cenab Ahmet) Mosque: This is the largest Ottoman mosque in Ankara and was built by the famous architect Sinan in the 16th century. The mimber (pulpit) and mihrap (prayer niche) are of white marble, and the mosque itself is of Ankara stone (red porphyry), an example of very fine workmanship. Yeni Cami is on Ulucanlar Avenue.

Kocatepe Mosque: This is a recently constructed mosque of great size in classical Ottoman design with four minarets. Built between 1967 and 1987 in the Kocatepe quarter, its size and prominent situation have made it a landmark.

PARKS

Ankara has many delightful parks and open spaces established in the early years of the Republic in accordance with Atatürk's belief in the importance of trees and natural beauty. The most important of these parks are: **Gençlik Park** (which also has an amusement park), the **Botanical Gar-**

den, Seğmenler, Anayasa, Kuğulu, Abdi İpekçi, Güven, Demetevler, Cemre, Kale, Anıt, Göksu, Harikalar Diyarı, Kurtuluş (for ice skating) and **Altınpark (Fairground).**

Atatürk Orman Çiftliği (Atatürk Farm and Zoo) is now within the growing city and is a pleasant place to spend a day. There is also a replica of the house where Atatürk was born in Salonica, an excellent restaurant, and some cafes. Visitors can sample such famous products of the farm as its excellent beer, old-fashioned ice cream, yogurt, milk, and meat rolls.



**Presidential Symphony
Orchestra**

ARTS AND CULTURE

Ankara is a center for opera, ballet, jazz and modern dance, as well as home of the prestigious **Presidential Symphony Orchestra**. Ankara also has a large number of theatres staging many ambitious productions. In addition to public and private galleries throughout the city, exhibitions are also held at the **Atatürk Cultural Center**. The city also has many cinemas showing the best Turkish and foreign films, and there are a number of film festivals on various

themes throughout the year, in particular the **International Film Days** in March. Every year in April and May the city hosts the **Sevda Cenap And International Arts and Music Festival** with performances by the finest Turkish and foreign musicians. The **Children's Festival** on April 23 is also quite an event, with groups of children from all over the world taking part. There is also an **International Cartoon Film Festival** and the **Asian-European Arts Biennial** scheduled sometime in the spring or summer. Altın Park is home to the Ankara Fairgrounds where lovely fairs are held year-round.

SHOPPING

Visitors to the city usually like to visit the old shops in **Çıkırıçılar Yokuşu** near Ulus. The street of copper workers (**Bakırcılar Çarşısı**) is particularly popular, and many interesting old and new items, not just of copper, can be found here, such as jewelry, carpets, costumes, antiques and embroidery. Walking up the hill to the citadel gate, you find many interesting shops selling spices, dried fruits, nuts, and all manner of produce; the selection is huge and very fresh. Modern shopping areas are mostly found in **Kızılay**, on **Tunalı Hilmi Avenue**, including the modern mall of **Karum**, and in the **Atakule Tower** in Çankaya. From the



Atakule

top of Atakule (125 meters) there is a magnificent view over the whole city. There is also a revolving restaurant where the complete panorama can be enjoyed in a more leisurely fashion. The **Galleria** in Ümitköy, Bilkent Center, Armada in Söğütözü, Migros Akköprü and CarrefourSA in Bilkent are other modern shopping opportunities.

ENVIRONS OF ANKARA

Twenty-five kilometers to the south of Ankara on the Konya road is **Gölbaşı Lake**, a popular place to visit for its attractive scenery and its fine lake side restaurants. **İncek**, 15 km southwest of Ankara, is a favorite rest area for Ankara residents, with its lovely fruit trees, green areas and picnic sites. Another favorite place for picnics is **Karagöl Lake**, 68 km north of the city on the airport road, for which one should take the turn off for the town of Çubuk.

The three dams around the city, **Çubuk** (15 km on the Çankırı Highway), **Kurtboğazi** (50 km on the İstanbul Highway) and **Bayındır** (15 km on the Kırıkkale Highway) are pleasant places to visit for swimming and picnicking. There are also restaurants, and at Bayındır, good camping facilities. Other dams in the Ankara province include **Sarıyer**, **Kesikköprü**, **Hırfanlı**, **Asartepe**, and **Çamlıdere**.

Walkers will delight in exploring the three main forests around Ankara. South of the city, on the Kırşehir Highway (54 km), is

Elmadag Mountain (1,855 meters), some 23 kilometers east of Ankara, can be seen from most parts of the city. The first snowfall on the mountain heralds the start of winter and the beginning of skiing, and other winter sports to be enjoyed at the pleasant resort center there.

In the province of Ankara there are six thermal centers: **Kızılcahamam Kaplıca** 80 km to the north, **Haymana Kaplıca** 72 km to the south, and to the northwest are **Ayaş Kaplıca** (57 km), **Dutlu Kaplıca** (85 km) **Melikşah** in Çubuk (30 km), and **Malıköy** in Polatlı (80 km). All offer comfortable facilities in which to soak away your cares. The thermal baths have beneficial properties and are, of course, altogether pleasurable.

WEST OF ANKARA

At **Gavurkalesi**, 60 km from Ankara on the Haymana Highway near **Dereköy**, the remains of an open-air Hittite temple, a tomb and two reliefs of Hittite gods can be seen.

The most important Phrygian sites in Anatolia are to be found in the provinces of Ankara, Eskişehir and Afyon. **Yassihöyük (Gordion)**, 105 km southwest of Ankara on the Eskişehir highway, was the capital of Phrygia and the place where Alexander the Great cut the Gordion Knot to gain the key to Asia. The tumulus of King Midas, who turned whatever he touched to gold, can be visited here. Nearby, the remains of the ancient city Gordion, still under excavation, and a small museum are worth a quick tour. Farther along the same Ankara-Eskişehir road is **Ballıhisar (Pessinus)**, an important Phrygian religious cult center. The most important remains are those of a temple to Cybele, the mother goddess whose worship was at the heart of the Phrygian culture. The small open air museum has some interesting sculptures and tombstones.

At **Midas City (Yazılı Kaya)**, between Afyon and Eskişehir, two enormous facades cut into a rocky promontory once held cult

statues for the worship of Cybele in their niches. Throughout the area rock tombs, cave-like openings, pierce the sand colored stone. An underground passage leads from the site to the valley below.

Aslantaş and **Aslankaya** were both centers of cult worship in Phrygian times. The former, 34 km north of Afyon, has two monumental lion reliefs; the latter, 52 km from Afyon, comprises a temple and a lion relief. Other Phrygian monuments can be explored at nearby **Doğanlıkale**, **Kümbet** and **Deveboynu**.

Eskişehir was founded by the Phrygians in the first millennium B.C. on the banks of the **Porsuk River**. Significant architectural monuments include the 13th-century Alaeddin Mosque and the 16th-century Kurşunlu Complex. All four of the city museums are worth visiting: the Archeological Museum has Phrygian artifacts and sculptures from the area; the Meerschaum Pipe Museum displays pipes and other meerschaum works; and the Atatürk Culture Museum has a photographic exhibition taken from Atatürk's life, a number of personal effects and a display of items made of meerschaum.



Sphinx gate
Alacahöyük, Çorum



Twelve gods in Yazılıkaya - Hattuşaş, Çorum



Seyit Battal Gazi Mosque Complex, Eskişehir

The world's best meerschaum comes from mines in the area surrounding Eskişehir. Pipes and other objects can be purchased in the city souvenir shops. **Sakaryabaşı**, a spring-fed lake surrounded by beautiful park land, draws many visitors who want to enjoy the fresh air and eat fresh fish in one of the restaurants there.

Sivrihisar's charm derives from its many typical Ottoman houses which imbue the town with an air of bygone elegance. The 13th-century Ulu Mosque, formerly a caravanserai, and the Alemşah Mausoleum are very interesting and worth a visit. Connoisseurs of carpets and kilims will know that kilims from Sivrihisar are particularly prized. Near Sivrihisar, in the village **Nasrettin Hoca**, the Nasrettin Hoca Museum has ethnographical displays as well as amusing stories and pictures about the famous fabler.

On the hillside above **Seyyit Battal Gazi** stands the imposing 13th-century mosque and tomb complex built in memory of the "warrior of Islam," Seyyit Battal.

Yunus Emre Village (**Sarıköy**) is the burial place of **Yunus Emre**, the great 13th century poet. His poetry lives today, with its message of love and humanity as relevant as ever. Commemorative celebrations are held in the town every May. In addition, visitors to his grave can see a small museum dedicated to his life and works.

NORTH OF ANKARA

The third-century B.C. Galatian settlement of **Gangrea** is the foundation of present day **Çankırı**, 135 km from Ankara. The earliest evidences of civilization are dated at about 3000 B.C. There are important tumuli (burial mounds) in this province, as well as artifacts from various civilizations in the Çankırı Museum. The ruins of an 11th-century fortress overlook the city. In town, the Ulu Mosque (Sultan Süleyman), completed in 1558 by Turkey's greatest architect, Sinan, recalls the years of Ottoman culture. The Çavundur thermal spa has bathing and drinking water beneficial for rheumatic and inflammatory diseases. The waters flow from the ground at 54°C at a rate of 47 liters/second. Taş Mescit, or Cemaleddin Ferruh Darulhadisi, a medieval hospital built in 1242, lies just outside the city. North of Çankırı is the beautiful **Ilgaz National Park** and Ski Center. In the park, **Kadın Çayırı** is a particularly lovely rest area with pools, green areas and cafes. Near **Eldivan**, 15 km southwest of Çankırı, is **Bülbülpınarı**, a picturesque rest area with lush greenery and picnic spots.



**Nasrettin Hoca,
Akşehir**

NORTHEAST AND EAST OF ANKARA

Kırıkkale is a rapidly expanding industrial center on the major highway that leads east out of Ankara to the Black Sea. Passing by Kırıkkale is the **Kızılırmak River**, known in ancient times as **Halys**, where you can spend a pleasant afternoon relaxing in one of the restaurants, set in the pastoral landscape, or visit the restful **Celal Bayar Park**. In Kırıkkale, the Gun Museum displays different types of guns that are made in Kırıkkale's gun factories.

After the highway divides, the eastern fork leads to **Yozgat**, 217 km from Ankara. Founded in the 18th century by the Ottomans, this city has two important buildings from this period - the Çapanoğlu Mosque and the adjoining Süleyman Bey Mosque. The 19th-century Nizamoğlu Mansion, an attractive example of domestic Turkish architecture, now houses ethnographical exhibits. The Yusuf Karşioğlu Mansion Archeological Museum has Hatti, Hittite, Phrygian, Roman and Byzantine artifacts. **Çamlık National Park** is a few kilometers south of the city.

All the major early-Hittite sites lie in the province of **Çorum** in **Boğazkale National**

Park, between Yozgat and the city of Çorum. Impressive double walls running past the Royal Gate, the Lion Gate and the Yer Kapı (an underground tunnel), ring the Hittite city of **Hattuşaş**, known today as Boğazkale. The more than 70 temples in the city made this the Hittite religious center and gave it the name, "City of Temples". The largest ruins are those of the great temple to the storm god Teshup. The Acropolis contained government buildings, the Imperial Palace and the archives of the Hittite Empire. In 1180 B.C. the Phrygians devastated the city. After thorough excavations at the site, the city walls are now being extensively restored.

Yazılıkaya, an open-air rock pantheon dating from the 13th century B.C., contains fine reliefs of all the Hittite gods and goddesses.

Alacahöyük, north of Boğazkale on the road to Çorum, was the center of the flourishing Hattian culture during the Bronze Age. The magnificent Hattian gold and bronze objects in the Museum of Anatolian Civilization in Ankara were found in the Royal Tombs dating from this period. All



Relief of god and king
in Hattuşaş, Çorum

the standing remains at Alacahöyük, however, such as the Sphinx Gate, date from the Hittite period. Important Hittite settlements in the province of Çorum include **Alişar** and **Masathöyük**, as well as **Şapinuva** in the county of **Ortaköy**, which is situated in beautiful countryside along the **Çekerek River**. Şapinuva was the second most important Hittite city in the kingdom. Between the **Abdullah** and **Kargı Plateaus** is the village of **Hacıhamza** with interesting regional architecture.

Çorum, an important city on the road from central Anatolia to the Black Sea, produces the finest chickpeas in Turkey. Significant historical buildings include the 13th-century Ulu Mosque and the 19th-century clocktower. The tower, which was built in the shape of a minaret, is 27.5 meters high, 5.3 meters in diameter, and has an eight-sided base and is ascended by means of an 81-step circular staircase.

The small town **Merzifon**, 49 km northwest of Amasya, has several Ottoman monuments, including the 15th century Celebi Sultan Mehmet Medrese (theological college) and the 17th century Kara Mustafa Paşa Mosque. There are also sights worth seeing in Gümüşhacıköy, 22 km from Merzifon, including a 19th century bazaar, the 15th century Haliliye Medrese, and 18th and 19th century Yakup Paşa, Darphane, and Maden mosques.



**Decorative ceiling in Merzifon,
Amasya**



**Hazeranlar Mansion,
Amasya**

Set in a narrow gorge of the **Yeşilirmak (Iris) River**, **Amasya** dates from 3000 B.C. The ruins of the citadel rise from the craggy rock and contain an Ottoman Palace and a secret underground passageway. Hewn into the rock face above the city, are impressive Roman rock tombs that are illuminated at night creating a spectacular image. The beauty of the natural surroundings and the splendid architectural legacy have combined to endow the city with the accolade of one of the most beautiful cities in Turkey. Among the sights of interest for visitors are the 13th-century Seljuk Burmalı Minare Mosque, the Torumtay Tomb, the Gök Medrese Mosque, the 14th-century İlhanid Hospital with lovely reliefs around its portal, the 15th-century Beyazıt II Mosque complex and the unusual octagonal Kapı Ağa Medrese.

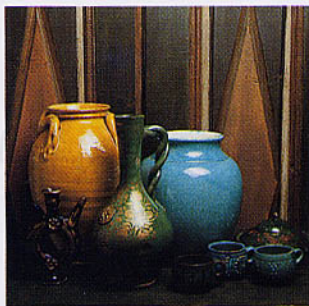
Traditional Turkish wooden mansions, or konaks, on the north bank of the Yeşilirmak River in the Hatuniye quarter (Yalıboyu), have been restored to their former splendor, and some of these have been turned into guest houses. The restored 19th-century Hazeranlar Konağı, one of the loveliest, now houses an art gallery on the first floor and the Ethnography Museum on the second. The Archeology Museum has an interesting collection of regional artifacts including mummies of the İlhanid Mongol rulers of Amasya. Cafes, restaurants, tea

gardens and parks line the riverside and provide tranquil spots from which to enjoy the city's romantic atmosphere. From the top of **Çakallar Hill** you have a beautiful view of the city.

Excellent places for relaxing are located near Amasya. Set amid magnificent mountain scenery, **Borabay Mountain Lake** is one such popular place for day trips. It is 63 km northeast of Amasya at an elevation of 1,050 meters. Seven Swans Bird Heaven is a refuge for migratory birds 32 km from Amasya. And Terziköy Thermal Spring, with hotel and motel facilities, is 36 km away.

The whole province of Amasya is filled with orchards which produce some of the world's most delicious apples.

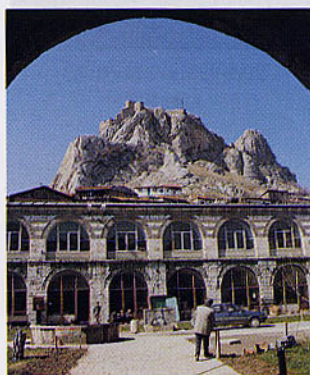
Tokat, also on the Yeşilirmak River, has many Seljuk and Ottoman monuments which lend a picturesque yet solemn aesthetic to the cityscape. Among the main historical buildings are the ruins of a 28 tower castle, the 11th-century Garipler Mosque and a Seljuk bridge. The 13th-century Pervane Bey Darüşşifası (Gök Medrese), one of Tokat's finest buildings, is now the Archeology Museum. A regional commercial center, Tokat has retained many of its old commercial warehouses, including the Taşhan, Suluhan, Yağcıoğlu Hanı and Gazi Emir (Yazmacılar) Hanı. A walk down Sulu Sokak in the city center, a street lined with inns, mausoleums, bazaars



Tokat ceramics



Historical houses



Taşhan (Voyvodahan), Tokat

and baths, provides an excellent overview of the city's architecture. In the Gazi Emir (Yazmacılar) Hanı you can find many specimens of block-printed cloth, a 600 year-old tradition for which Tokat is famous. A tradition of carved and painted wood decoration and painted murals give the konaks (mansions) of Tokat a particular elegance. The 19th-century Madımağın Celalin Konak and the Latifoğlu Konak have been restored to their former splendor to give a vivid picture of the good life in rural Turkey 100 years ago. The **Balıca Cave** in Tokat, containing many fossils, is also a must to see. It is 680 m long with five underground levels and eight large rooms. The air in this cave filled with stalactites and stalagmites is beneficial for sufferers of asthma.

In 47 BC, the Romans conquered the four cities of Komana, Zela (Zile), Neccaesarea (Niksar), and Sebastopolis (Sulusaray) which were included in the province of Pontus in the first century AD.

Niksar, 55 kilometers northeast of Tokat, was once the capital of the Danişmend Emirs. The town has a well-preserved citadel as well as early Turkish monuments, including the Çöregi Büyük Mosque, which boasts a very fine 12th-century carved stone portal. It was in **Zile**, south of Amasya and west of Tokat that Julius Caesar, after a particularly speedy battle,

quaffed a cup of Tokat's fine local wine, and declared his famous "Veni, vidi, vici." Beneath the citadel which guards the city stands the restored Ulu Mosque of 1269.

Sivas, an important commercial center during the Middle Ages, stood at the junction of the caravan routes to Persia and Baghdad. Between 1142 and 1171 it was the capital of the Danişmend Emirs and a vitally important urban center during Seljuk rule. The remaining architectural monuments reflect this formerly prominent position. The Ulu Mosque dates from the Danişmend Emirate. The Seljuk buildings include the 13th-century Izzeddin Keykavus Şifahanesi, which was a hospital and a medical school, the beautifully decorated Gök Medrese, the twin minarets of the Çifte Minare Medrese and the Buruciye Medrese all of which reflect the aesthetic of the Seljuk period.

In 1919, the decision to liberate Turkey from occupying foreign powers was made by the National Congress which was convened in Sivas. Today, the 19th-century building where the congress was held has been restored as the Atatürk and Congress Museum, with a display from the War of Liberation as well as an ethnographic exhibit. In the Buruciye Medrese, the Museum of Archeology and Stoneworks displays finds from local digs as well as Islamic tombstones decorated with reliefs. The 19th-century Akaylar



Gökmedrese, Sivas



Sivas Kangal Dog

Mansion Museum is now an ethnographic museum. In town, there are excellent Sivas carpets for sale; the city has long had a reputation for fine weaving. And in **Sivrialan** Village, the Aşık Veysel Museum commemorates the famous Turkish poet (1884-1973) who was born here and who lived and died here.

Kangal, 68 km south of Sivas, is the home of Turkey's most famous breed of dog - the kangal ("dog of the Galatians," which came with them in the 3rd century B.C.). Used as sheep dogs, these golden-haired animals have also proven themselves in police and security work. Twelve kilometers northeast of Kangal is the famous **Balıklı Kaplıca** spa. At 36 degrees Celsius the waters contain bicarbonate, calcium, and magnesium, and spring from the earth accompanied by scores of tiny fish that are said to aid in the cure of skin complaints. In the province of Sivas are the famous spas of **Sıcak Çermik** (warm spring) and **Soğuk Çermik** (cold spring).

Once a Byzantine outpost, **Divriği** became the capital of the Turkish Mengücek Emirs in the 12th and 13th centuries. Although very much off the beaten track, visitors come to Divriği to see the Ulu Mosque and Medrese of 1229. Seljuk stonework reached its most exuberant expression in the animal and flower carvings on the portals. UNESCO has declared this site one of the world's leading cultural heritages.

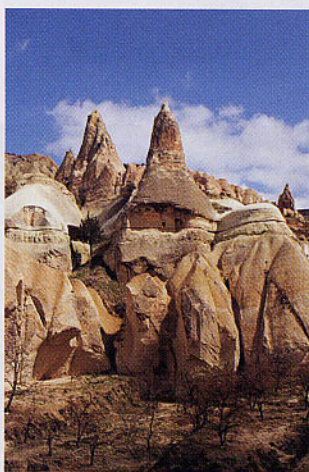
SOUTHEAST OF ANKARA

Founded in ancient times, **Kırşehir** became, in the Middle Ages, the center of the Ahi Brotherhood, a Moslem sect whose moral and social tenets played an important role in the spiritual and political life of Anatolian towns. Among Kırşehir's many fine Seljuk buildings are the Cacabey Mosque of 1272 (a former astrological observatory), the Alaeddin Mosque of 1230, and the Ahi Evran Mosque, near the tomb of the founder of the Ahi sect. Out of town, on the road toward Kayseri, is the attractive Aşık Paşa Mausoleum which was built during the period of Mongol rule, in 1333. The Kırşehir Archeology Museum houses objects mostly from Kalehöyük.

A major archeological center at Kalehöyük, in **Kaman** county, in the province of Kırşehir is still being excavated. Near **Kalehöyük** in a center of what were Hatti and Hittite settlements, is located one of the largest parks in Turkey, the **Mikasonmiya Anı Bahçesi** which contains 16,500 trees of 33 different species. The road to Nevşehir and Cappadocia passes through Hacıbektaş, the town where **Hacı Bektaş Veli** settled and estab-



Cacabey Mosque, Kırşehir



Cappadocia

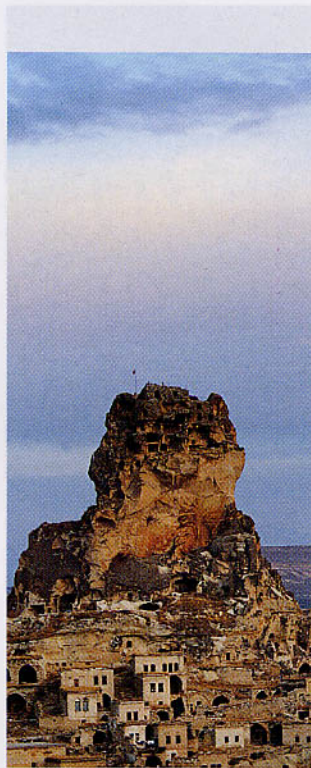
lished his Bektaş Sufi order in the 14th century. The whirling dervishes who followed principles of love and humanism were housed in the monastery which includes a mausoleum and mosque. The complex is now a museum open to the public. Honey and rose-colored onyx, plentiful in the region, were used by disciples of this order and are known as Hacıbektaş stone. In town, there are many exquisite onyx souvenirs for sale. It is also worth stopping to take in the interesting Archeology and Ethnography Museum.

Nevşehir, a provincial capital, is the gateway to **Cappadocia**. In the town itself are the hilltop Seljuk castle, perched on the highest point in the city, and the Kurşunlu Mosque, built for the Grand Vizier Damat Ibrahim Pasha. The mosque is part of a complex of buildings which includes a medrese (theological college), a hospice and a library. An ablution fountain in the courtyard still bears its original inscription. The Nevşehir Museum displays local artifacts.

Violent eruptions of the volcanoes **Mt. Erciyes** (3,916 meters) and **Mt. Hasan** (3,268 meters) long ago covered the

plateau surrounding Nevşehir with tufa, a soft stone comprised of lava, ash and mud. The wind and rain have eroded this brittle rock and created a spectacular surrealistic landscape of rock cones, capped pinnacles and fretted ravines, in colors that range from warm reds and golds to cool greens and greys. Locals call these fascinating capped pinnacles "peri bacaları" or "fairy chimneys." **Göreme National Park**, known in Roman times as Cappadocia, is one of those rare regions in the world where the works of man blend unobtrusively into the natural surroundings. Dwellings have been hewn from the rocks as far back as 4,000 B.C. During Byzantine times, chapels and monasteries were hollowed out of the rock, their ochre-toned frescoes reflecting the hues of the surrounding landscape. Even today cave dwellings in rock cones and village houses of volcanic tufa merge harmoniously into the landscape.

Ürgüp, a lively tourist center at the foot of a rock ridge riddled with old dwellings, serves as an excellent base from which to tour the sights of Cappadocia. In Ürgüp itself you can still see how people once lived in homes cut into the rock. If you wish to buy carpets and kilims, there is a wide selection available from the town's many carpet dealers, who are as colorful as their carpets, offering tea, coffee or a glass



Ortahisar, Nevşehir

of wine to their customers and engaging in friendly conversation. If sightseeing and shopping haven't exhausted you, the disco welcomes you to yet another kind of entertainment. At the center of a successful wine-producing region, Ürgüp hosts an annual International Wine Festival in October.

Leaving Ürgüp and heading south, you reach the lovely isolated **Pancarlık Valley** where you can stop to see the 12th-century church with its splendid frescoes, and the **Kepez** church, which dates from the 10th century. Continue on to the typical village of **Mustafapaşa (Sinassos)**, where traditional stone houses with carved and decorated facades evoke a former age. Travel on in a southerly direction, just past the village of **Cemil**, where a footpath on the west side of the road leads to **Keşlik Valley** where you will find a monastery complex and the Kara and Meyvalı Kiliseler (churches), both decorated with frescoes. Back on the main road you find the village of **Taşkınpaşa** where the 14th-century Karamanid Mosque and Mausoleum Complex, and the remains of a medrese portal on the edge of town make for a pleasant diversion. The next village is **Şahinefendi** where the 12th-century Kırkşehitler church, adorned with beautiful frescoes, stands at the end of a footpath 500 meters east of the village.

Soğanlı Valley, 50 km south of Ürgüp, is picturesque with its innumerable chapels, churches, halls, houses and tombs. The frescoes, from the 8th to the 13th centuries, trace the development of Byzantine painting. Four kilometers north of Ürgüp is the wonderful **Devrent Valley**, where the weather has eroded the stone into peaks, cones and obelisks called fairy chimneys.

Two kilometers west, in the **Çatalkaya Valley**, the fairy chimneys have a peculiar mushroom-like shape, which has been adopted as a symbol of the town.

The **Göreme Open-Air Museum**, a monastic complex of rock churches and chapels covered with frescoes, is one of the best-known sites in central Turkey. Most of the chapels date from the 10th to the 13th centuries (the Byzantine and Seljuk periods) and many of them are built on an inscribed cross-plan with a central cupola supported by four columns. In the north annexes of several churches are cut-rock tombs. Among the most famous of the **Göreme** churches are the Elmalı Church, the smallest and most recent of the group; the Yılanlı Church with fascinating frescoes of the damned entwined in serpent coils; the Barbara Church; and the Çarıklı Church. A short way from the main group, the Tokalı Kilise, or Buckle Church, has beautiful frescoes depicting scenes from the New Testament.

The town of Göreme is set right in the middle



Cappadocia

of a valley of cones and fairy chimneys. Some of the cafes, restaurants and guest-houses are carved into the rock. For shoppers, rugs and kilims are plentiful.

Continuing on the road out of Göreme, you enter one of the most beautiful valleys in the area. Rock formations rise up before you at every turn and entice you to stop and wonder at their creation. For those who climb the steps to the top of the **Uçhisar** fortress the whole region unfolds below. Rugs, kilims, and popular souvenirs can easily be purchased from the shops which line Uçhisar's narrow streets.

At **Çavuşin**, on the road leading north out of Göreme, you will find a triple-apse church and the monastery of St. John the Baptist. In the town are chapels and churches, and some of the rock houses are still inhabited. From Çavuşin to **Zelve**, fairy chimneys line the road. Unfortunately, it is dangerous to visit the churches in the Zelve valley because erosion has undermined the floors.

The charming town of **Avanos**, on the banks of the Kızılırmak River, displays attractive local architecture and is known for its handicrafts. Every August the town hosts an Art and Tourism Festival where a creative and friendly atmosphere pervades.

Pottery is the most popular handicraft and it is usually possible to try your hand at making a pot in one of the many studios. Rug weaving and knotting is also making a

come-back. Leaving Avanos in a southerly direction you come to an interesting Seljuk caravanserai, **Sarıhan**.

On the Nevşehir - Ürgüp road you can't miss **Ortahisar** and its carved-rock fortress. The churches in the **Balkan Valley** are some of the oldest in the Göreme region. In the neighboring **Hallaç Valley**, the Hallaç Monastery displays decorations from the 10th and the 11th centuries. North of Ortahisar, the **Kızılçukur Valley** is breathtakingly beautiful, especially at sunset. In the valley is the 9th-century Üzümlü church.

The underground cities of **Kaymaklı**, **Mazı**, **Derinkuyu**, **Tatlarin**, and **Özkonak** were all used by Christians of the seventh century, who were fleeing from persecution. They sheltered from the iconoclastic strife of Byzantium as well as other invasions in these safe and well-hidden complexes. These cities were a complete and self-sufficient environment, including rooms for grain storage, stables, sleeping chambers, kitchens and air shafts. Today they are well-lit, and an essential and fascinating part of a Cappadocian tour.

West of Avanos, **Gülşehir** has Hittite rock inscriptions, and nearby, at **Gökçetepe**, there is a bas-relief of Zeus. South on the Nevşehir road is the 13th-century church of St. John, and farther along is **Açıksaray**, where the carved rocks hide churches and



**Karanlık Church, Göreme
National Park**

chapels.

West of Cappadocia, over the mountains, lies **Kayseri**, known as **Caesarea** in Roman times. The city spreads out at the foot of the extinct volcano, **Mt. Erciyes** (3,916 meters). In the winter months the ski center has excellent runs for downhill skiers, and several pleasant hotels that cater particularly to them. Close to the Byzantine fortress, the 13th-century Hunat Hatun Mosque and Medrese, with the Mahperi Hatun Mausoleum, comprise the Hunat Hatun Complex, the first Seljuk complex in Anatolia. The Medrese is now Shopping center South of the complex, stands the beautifully decorated Döner Kümbet of 1276, a Seljuk mausoleum of classic simplicity. A major Seljuk city, Kayseri was an important center of learning and consequently, there are many medreses among the remaining historical buildings. Those interested in the Seljuk architecture should see the Çifte (Gıyasiye and Şifahiye) Medrese, the first Seljuk school of anatomy, which is now the Gevher Nesibe Medical History Museum. Nearby is the lovely Sahabiye Medrese. Near the city's bedesten (covered bazaar) is the restored 12th-century Ulu Mosque. The Hacı Kılıç Mosque, north of the Çifte Medrese, dates from 1249. In the Cumhuriyet quarter, the 19th-century Reşit Ağa Mansion houses the Atatürk Museum which displays Atatürk's personal belongings.

Across from the Atatürk Museum, the historical Güpgüpoğlu Mansion is now an Ethnography Museum.

South of Kayseri, in **Develi**, stand three more important Seljuk buildings: the Ulu Mosque, the Seyid-i Şerif Tomb and the Develi Tomb. The nearby **Sultan Marshes** are the habitat of many bird species, of interest both to ornithologists and nature lovers.

North of Kayseri, **Kültepe**, known in ancient times as **Kanesh** or **Karum**, was one of the earliest Hittite commercial cities. Dating from 2000 B.C., Kültepe was also one of the world's first cities of free trade. Today, however, only the foundations remain. Many of the finds can be examined in the Kayseri Archeological Museum.

On the same road is **Sultanhan**, a caravanserai built by the Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Keykubat in the early 13th century and a favorite stop for tourists.

Kapuzbaşı Waterfall is 176 km south of Kayseri. In this beautiful natural site, seven different springs on the mountain face fall from heights ranging between 30 and 70 meters.

Kayseri is one of the most important carpet and kilim production centers in Anatolia. **Bünyan** is the most famous carpet production center and **Yahyalı** is the most famous kilim production center. Rugs woven in finely knotted floral patterns continue a centuries-old tradition. Local productions can be purchased in any of the Kayseri carpet

shops.

Niğde, **Nahita** of Hittite times, lies in a valley flanked by volcanic peaks commanding the ancient trade route from Anatolia to the Mediterranean. Niğde's castle owes its present form to the Seljuks, and the elegant Alaeddin Mosque dates from the same period. From the 14th century era of Mongol rule are the Sungur Bey Mosque and the Hüdavend Hatun Mausoleum, an excellent example of the Anatolian tower-tomb. The 15th-century Ak Medrese now houses the Archeology Museum.

Ten kilometers out of town is **Eskigümüş**, a Byzantine monastery and church with massive columns and frescoes. These frescoes, dating from the 10th and the 11th centuries, are among the best-preserved in the region.

Bor, south of Niğde, was once a Hittite settlement. The town's historical buildings include the Seljuk Alaeddin Mosque and the Ottoman bedesten. Farther on, in the same direction, **Kemerhisar** is the site of the important Roman city of **Tyana**. A few more kilometers brings you to some Hittite ruins and a Roman aqueduct. The beautiful **Aladağlar (Ala Mountains) National Park**, perfect for mountain climbing, trekking and relaxation, is 50 km southeast of Niğde. One of the highest peaks is **Demirkazık** (3756 m). The best place to start your excursion in the park is **Çukurbağ**.



Akmedrese, Niğde



Ala mountains, Niğde

Most of the historical buildings in **Aksaray**, such as the Ulu Mosque, date from the 14th century. The Kızıl Minaret is noted for its attractive decorative brickwork.

Two of the most famous caravanserais from the Seljuk period are in the area: 40 km west of the city is the well preserved **Sultanhan** Caravanserai built by the Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Keykubat, and 18 km towards Nevşehir is the **Ağzıkarahan** Caravanserai.

The **Melendiz River**, at **Ihlara Valley**, has eroded the banks into an impressive canyon. Byzantine rock chapels covered with frescoes pierce the canyon walls. Some of the best known are the Ağaçalı (Daniel) Church, the Yılanlı (Apocalypse) Church and the

Sümbüllü (Hyacinth) Church.

Güzelyurt is another valley with dwellings dating from prehistoric times. You can see the beautiful silhouette of **Mt. Hasan** rising like a crown above the town. The valley's underground cities, buildings carved into the rock, interesting architecture, churches, chapels and mosques embody all of the characteristics of Cappadocia and give visitors a sense of historical continuity. Güzelyurt is a popular tourist destination with hospitable residents, extensive accommodations and numerous restaurants ensuring a pleasant stay. The rest area of **Evren** by the **Hirfanlı Dam Lake** offers fish restaurants, a beach and swimming.

SOUTH OF ANKARA

Konya, one of Turkey's oldest continuously inhabited cities was known as **Iconium** in Roman times. The capital of the Seljuk Turks from the 12th to the 13th centuries, it ranks as one of the great cultural centers of Turkey. During that period of cultural, political and religious growth, the mystic Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi founded a Sufi Order known in the West as the Whirling Dervishes. The striking green-tiled mausoleum of Mevlana is Konya's most famous building. Attached to the mausoleum, the former dervish seminary serves now as a museum housing manuscripts of Mevlana's works and various artifacts related to the mysticism of the sect. Every year, in the first half of December, this still-active religious order holds a ceremony commemorating the Whirling Dervishes. The controlled, trance-like turning or *sema* of the white-robed men creates a fascinating performance for the viewer.

Alaeddin Mosque was built on the site of the ancient Konya citadel in 1220, during the reign of the great Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubat and commands the Konya skyline. To one side of the mosque are the remains of the Seljuk Imperial



Mevlana Museum, Konya

Palace. The Karatay Medrese, now a museum, displays bold and striking Seljuk ceramics. On the other side of the mosque, the Ince Minareli Medrese of 1258 is remarkable for its marvelous baroque Seljuk portal. Other Seljuk works include the Sırçalı Medrese and the Sahip Ata Complex. Visitors find Konya's Archeological Museum of exceptional interest. The collection of the Koyunoğlu Museum is a varied one, from natural history to old kilims. Within the museum complex, the restored İzzettin Koyunoğlu house illustrates the way of life of a prosperous Konya family in the last century. **Sille**, 10 km north of Konya, has the Byzantine Aya Eleni church and several rock chapels with frescoes. **Akşehir**, to the northwest, is known throughout Turkey as the birthplace of the 13th-century humorist Nasrettin Hoca, whose mausoleum stands in the town. The 13th-century Ulu Mosque and the Altınkale Mescidi are other monuments worth seeing. The Sahip Ata Mausoleum has been converted into the town's museum.

On the way south to **Beyşehir** stop at **Eflatun Pınar** next to the lake to see this



Mevlevi Sema ceremony, Konya

unusual Hittite monumental fountain. Several interesting Seljuk buildings are scattered around lovely Beyşehir, on the shores of **Lake Beyşehir**, Turkey's third largest lake. In the southwestern region of the lake is the pristine wilderness of **Lake Beyşehir National Park**. Among the monuments are the Eşrefoğlu Mosque and Medrese, and the **Kubad-Abad Summer Palace** across the lake. Another medieval palace stands on **Kızkalesi Island**, opposite the Kubad-Abad Palace. **Hacı Akif Island** also offers relaxation and recreation to visitors.

Çatalhöyük, 45 km south of Konya, is a fascinating Neolithic site dating from the eighth millennium B.C., which makes it one of the world's oldest towns. Archeologists have determined that holes in the roofs of the mud houses were the entrance doors. The Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara houses the famous temple (reconstructed), along with mother-goddess figures and Neolithic frescoes from the original site.

Surrounding **Karapınar**, 96 km east of Konya, are numerous crater lakes; the most famous is the lovely **Meke Crater Lake**, 7 km southeast of Karapınar. On the north side of the road to **Eregli**, 8 km from Karapınar, lies **Acı Crater Lake**. In the center of the lake is an island which is a natural wonder. Surrounding Eregli, one of



the largest counties in the province of Konya, are yellow cherry trees. The Eregli Archeological Museum displays many Hittite, Roman, Byzantine and Seljuk artifacts.

At **Ivriz**, a Hittite site 168 km east of Konya and 18 km south of Eregli, you can see one of Turkey's finest neo-Hittite reliefs of a king and god of bountiful crops.

Karaman was once the capital of the Karamanid Emirate, the first Turkish state to use Turkish instead of Persian as its official language. Fittingly, Yunus Emre, the first great poet to write in Turkish, lived here in the 13th century. The surrounding fortresses date from Seljuk times, although the town's most significant buildings, the Araboğlu, Yunus Emre and Aktekke Mosques and the Hatuniye Medrese, were all built during the Karamanid reign.

The Region of 1001 Churches, the Karaman region, 150 kilometers from Konya is a largely undiscovered, mystical land of gently rolling hills and valleys, towering mountains, with monasteries, churches and chapel complexes. It is a paradise for photographers, walkers, nature-lovers and explorers. The Hittites settled in this region where many of their remains, including inscriptions have been discovered. One of the highest mountains in this region, **Mt. Karadağ** (2288 meters), is locally called **Mahalaç**; its ancient name was **Angel**



Reliefs in Ivriz, Konya

Michael. On top of the mountain, Hittites constructed a temple; the altar of which still remains. There are also the 4th-century remains of a monastery, church and a chapel complex; called the Angel Michael Complex. There is also a beautiful view here.

Visitors can still see the remains of churches and chapels at **Madeneşehir**, 45 km from Karaman, on the northern slope of Mt. Karadağ.

Derbe, 30 km north of Karaman, was an important early Christian site; one of the many where St. Paul preached the gospel.

Near **Taşkale**, 48 km east of Karaman, on the rocky northern slope of **Yeşildere**

Valley, are the remains of the fascinating historical city of **Manazan**. Built during Byzantine times, the entire city of narrow lanes, houses, squares, storage facilities, chapels and cemeteries (occupying an area approximately three kilometers long and five stories high) was carved into the rocky hillside of the valley. Today, parts of the city are still used for storing wheat.

South of Karaman up a steep narrow road are the remains of a beautiful Byzantine monastery, **Alahan**. Much is still standing, and there is some fine stone carving to admire. This magnificent location offers a breathtaking view.

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Mustafa Türkyılmaz, Bekir Baki Aksu, Abidin Özkan, Tahsin Aydoğmuş,
Akgün Akova, S. Haluk Uygur

Printed in Turkey by :
Yorum Matbaacılık / ANKARA - 2005
Tel: (0312) 395 21 12 - 395 21 13
www.yorummatbaacilik.com

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