

## Gaziantep



Gaziantep: Previously known as Antioch and located in the center of the first civilizations on the historical Silk Road, Gaziantep is Turkey's sixth largest city worldwide famous for its Baklava.

The city of Gaziantep is one of the first settlements in Anatolia. Founded between the Mediterranean territory and Mesopotamia, the region developed with the establishment of many civilizations on site within the course of time.

Gaziantep showcases many valuable and well-preserved artifacts, treasures and ruins of ancient civilizations that have populated the city for centuries in 13 different museums. The province is literally an open air museum with things to discover in every corner.

Known as Antep previously, the city earned its prefix "Gazi" (veteran) in 1921, due to its superior efforts during World War I. It is still possible to see the traces of the war time in the area.

The city is the center of Southern Anatolia Project (GAP) which has contributed to development of the city and other cities nearby. The share of the economically fast growing city in world tourism is quite high.



Famous for its pistachios and its unique dishes the climate of Gaziantep is a blend of Mediterranean and Continental climate. The city is very warm in summer and quite cold in the winter.

The city, which is well known for its desserts and its cuisine, is awaiting also lovers of history and nature.

## Attractions

Gaziantep, the hub of settlements and cultures since the early days of civilization, has been the cradle of various historical monuments and heritages.

Founded by Alexander the Great in 300 BC, the ancient city of Zeugma is one of the greatest historical legacies today. Zeugma, the name of which meant "Bridge", was the connector of the Silk Road from China to Antakya. Well-known for its mosaic of the gypsy, which is exhibited along with many other valuable specimens at the Archaeology Museum of Gaziantep, the continuing excavations demonstrate that Zeugma is a true cultural center. The Medusa Museum of Glass Works and Zeugma Mosaic Museum exhibit historical examples of this period.

The artifacts displayed at the Hasan Süzer Ethnographic Museum and Yemesek Open-Air Museum shed light on the history of civilizations that have settled in the province of Gaziantep.

The ancient city of Düllük and the historic sites of Zincirli and Cıncıklı home to many relics of the ancient times are open-air museums of both historical significance and scenic beauty.

The Kendirli and Nizip Fevkani churches were built during the time of the Ottomans for the Christians who lived in this region. They played a significant role in determining the architectural fabric of the city.

The numerous historical mosques of Gaziantep have not only contributed to the city's skyline but also to its cultural development and maintained their significance up to the present day.

The Bazaars, inns and historic houses of Gaziantep are among the must-see sites for those who want to see the original texture and feel the historic atmosphere of the quaint city.

In Gaziantep plenty of sports facilities await you. Paragliding, safari, hiking, biking are some of the outdoor activities that can be done at fresh air while exploring the beautiful nature of Gaziantep.

Recognized worldwide for its delicious kebabs and baklavas Gaziantep has no rivals in this respect.

You will come across savory dishes prepared with fresh ingredients and secret recipes of delicate dishes that are kept in the family like a legacy in every corner and every household of the city. Dishes such as Alaca soup, Beyti, fried plum, Firik rice, Lahmacum, Onion kebab and desserts such as Baklava, Şöbiyet, Bulbul Yuvası are some of the delicacies that will delight your taste buds.

Also do not forget to watch folk dances accompanied by local folk songs. It is not difficult to adapt to the local culture and dance with them. It is highly recommended to see examples of the handicrafts unique to Gaziantep and take some small gifts to your loved ones before leaving the city.

## Events

Gaziantep, which has a great place in the history of civilizations, shares its cultural and natural assets with the world through festivals and festivities organized at both national and international level all the year round.

Days of specific importance for Gaziantep, such as the exemption of Gaziantep, the commemoration of Atatürk's arrival in Gaziantep, the renaming of the city as Gaziantep are celebrated with great enthusiasm in the winter months.

The Tourism Week and Tourism Fair and the Gaziantep Industry Fair are organized in spring and open the gates of the region to Turkey and the world. Organized with the support of many countries these fairs contribute to the development of the city.

Vacationers who visit the city during the Hidrellez Festivity in May can take joy in the colorful decoration and the festive atmosphere in the city.

The Islahiye Grapes, Pepper and Culture Festival, Peanut Festival and Oğuzeli Pomegranate and Culture Festival offer the most special harvests of the city's leading agricultural products to their guests.

The Republic Cup Aba Wrestling Tournament held in several categories awards the winning wrestlers with various prizes whereby it aims to ensure the continuation of the cultural heritage.

Why not become part of the cultural mosaic of the city and explore the true identity of the city?

## **How can I get there?**

At the crossroads of the Mediterranean and Southeast Anatolia regions, Gaziantep is rich in transport networks.

There are daily flights from Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir to the Gaziantep International Airport in Oğuzeli which is 20 km away from the city center. From there you can reach your destination by taking one of the shuttles leaving to the city center or one of the caps stationed outside of the exit gates.

Another way to get to Gaziantep is to take one of the intercity buses from any city in Turkey to Gaziantep. The buses and taxis stationed at the Gaziantep bus terminal will take you to the right destination.