

## Diyarbakir



Survived many human millenniums, Diyarbakir can easily be mistaken for a fairy-tale city where time is suspended.

Its first settlements dating back to 9000 BC, the city is situated on the ancient Silk Route. One of the central cities of great civilizations throughout history, it has always been an important trading spot which brought many different cultures together.

Its harsh, terrestrial climate, with extreme hot and cold degrees, has shaped the city's bioclimatic housing architecture which is characterized by flat roofs.

Why not take a trip to Diyarbakir and explore this amazing centre of the arts and culture in South-eastern Anatolia?



## Attractions

As a witness to many great civilizations of the ancient world, Diyarbakir holds many treasures not only to be seen but also to be tasted&hellip; Being a proud heir to a 9000 year-old-history, Cayonu architectural site is composed of the first human settlements. You can walk into the city's gridiron city plan, and also explore the caves Uctepe, Hassuni and Hilal.



Having survived hundreds of years, many fascinating archaeological finds are exhibited in the Archaeology and Ethnographic Museum. If you are interested in the Turkish literary and philosophical history, you may also visit Ziya Gokalp's house and Cahit Sitki Taranci Cultural Museum. Among the city's unique architecture, historic religious buildings are particularly interesting. The Ulu, Behram Pasa, Safa, Kale (Castle) and Seyh Mutahhar mosques, in addition to St. Mary Syriac Orthodox, Mart-Thoma, Kirklar, Mart Pityon and St. Giragos Armenian churches are among the attractions.

One of the world's oldest and strongest structures, the fortress, the castle and the engulfing city walls reveal magnificent views.

The Tigris River, flowing peacefully through the city, crowned beautifully by the Malabadi, Haburman and On Gozlu (means 'ten eyes') bridges offers you scenes that match the dreamy landscape paintings with an exotic touch. When you go out for a casual walk in the city, make sure you have the proper equipment to catch the glimpses of the city in various daylight.

Relics of the golden times when the city thrived as a Silk Route stop, the inns and caravanserais Deliller and Hasanpasa are open for visitors.

The old bazaar and the markets are still the city's busiest sections.

The thermal springs in Cermik offers its healing water for those who would be interested.

Being the location for the rulers of the city since the ancient times, the Inner Castle houses an amazing collection of art work and architectural structures.

In the city, you can see the traditional flat roofed Diyarbakir houses built

with the local stones, which provide thermal relief especially during the summers when the warmth hits 50 degrees Celsius.

Famous with its fat and delicious watermelons, Diyarbakir's local cuisine offers a rich range of meals. Take your pick among mubar filling (a special kind of sausage), ribs, cartlak (liver) kebab, "veiled" rice, eggplant dish, burmali kadayif (a kind of sweet pastry with pistachio), liquorice syrup and many other local delight which are available at restaurants.

You will be sorry if you leave the city without buying one or two of the handcraft items, such as the cane work, which abound in the bazaar. The Anatolian gem of the southeast is ready to put its spell on you!

## **Events**

Diyarbakir, worth its history as a cultural spot that has adapted well to modern life, houses many festivals.

The very recently initiated Festival of the City Walls aims to integrate the young population with sports, literature and science. The local fruit is honoured with the watermelon festival, held during October.

Culture and Art Festival (end of May), along with Ziya Gokalp's Birthday Anniversary and the Cahit Sitki Taranci Celebration are among the important events of cultural and intellectual life of the city.

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

If you prefer flying and save time, Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara has connections with Diyarbakir. There are also many transportation options available at the terminal. Public busses, shuttle services and taxis will take you to your destination.

If you are not worried about the time spent on the road, you may also want to get on an intercity bus. Situated at the crossroads of the newly constructed intercity highways, you can find a bus to Diyarbakir from any city in Turkey. Additional transportation is also available at the main station.

Don't wait for the best time to visit this fairy city of Diyarbakir &ndash; because right now is the time!