

## Ankara



Ankara: Turkey's capital and second largest city, Ankara lies at the heart of Anatolia.

Located in the Central Anatolia Region and home to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Ankara became the capital city by the time the Republic of Turkey was established.

The hub of many great civilizations with a history dating back to the Stone Age, Ankara and its landmarks are still of great importance in the present day.

Ankara is positioned in the middle of Anatolia and has a continental climate. Winters are cold and snowy whereas summers are hot and dry.

Famous for its great museums, parks, honey, Kalecik Karasi grapes and many other cultural and historical assets Ankara welcomes visitors any time of the year.



## How can I get there?

Ankara is located at the midpoint of Anatolia and counts among the cities with the most advanced transportation network. The city can be reached via direct flight from any airport city in Turkey and many other destinations around the globe.

Ankara Esenboga Airport is very close to the city center and offers the advantage of direct flight. The shuttles, taxis and public buses waiting outside of the exit gates will take you to your destination in the shortest time possible.

There are also intercity buses between any destination in Turkey and Ankara. There are shuttles, taxis and public transportation vehicles available at the Ankara bus terminal which is less than a six-hour ride from Istanbul.

Ankara is also reachable via railway as there is a fairly well-developed railway system connecting Ankara with many other cities.

One of most significant cities of Anatolia, Ankara with its well-developed transportation network, is ever ready to welcome its visitors.

## Events

One of the leading cities of Turkey, Ankara organizes major festivals all the year round.

Held in March annually, the International Ankara Film Festival lasts for ten days and welcomes movie enthusiasts from all over the world. In addition to other activities the festival program includes also a series of screening sessions.

The International Ankara Music Festival, which is held in April and hosts new talents every year, is also a member of the European Festivals Association.



The International Ankara Theater Festival and ODT&Uuml; Theatre Fest are among the city's most important events. Welcoming many artists and audiences every year, these festivals bring together theater lovers from all over Turkey.

The Cherrie, Carrot, Rice, Salt, Melon, Water, Kite, and Tomato festivals are some of the local festivals celebrated with great enthusiasm every year.

On the whole, Ankara offers a wide range of festivals, celebrations and events that welcome a great number of guests annually.

## **Attractions**

Ankara is the second most densely populated city in Turkey and the cradle of bureaucracy and education. A significant number of the city's population, are either students or professionals with white collar jobs.

Ataturk's Mausoleum is undoubtedly Ankara's most valuable monument.

The eternal resting place of the leader and founder of the Republic of Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the Mausoleum is at the same time a museum harboring many towers. Impressing everyone with its glory, the lion road connects the entrance gate with the mausoleum complex.

The Ethnographic Museum has a large collection of Turkish culture and art from ancient artifacts to the works of the present and is a crucial institution that sheds light on the development of the Anatolian lands.

The Atatürk and War of Independence Museum located at Ataturk's Mausoleum exhibits the most valuable artifacts dating from the early stages of the Republic to the present. Indeed, there are a variety of distinguished museums waiting for visitors in Ankara.

Gordion, the capital of the kingdom of Phrygia, is one of the most important settlements of Ankara province which is the home of many antique monuments and artifacts. A variety of ancient monuments and sites such as Gavurkale, Julianus Column, Ahlatlibel, Bitik and the Temple of Augustus are waiting to be explored by history enthusiasts.

Parks such as Gençlik Park, Kuğulu or Segmenler and areas of recreation such as Atatürk Forest Farm and Zoo are only some of the many recreational areas of the city where one can take a break and relax.

Famous for its old Ottoman mansions the historic façade of Beypazarı will immediately take hold of you while scenic beauty of Gölbaşı and Çubuk Dam will impress you with their shades of blue.

Kizilay, Arjantin Street and Çankaya are among the most popular areas where you can explore and enjoy the city life in Ankara.

Ankara Castle and Atakule, the most indispensable components of the city's skyline, are among the must-see sites that will impress you with their incredible views.

Your vacation in Ankara is not complete unless you try some of the delicious regional dishes such as Toyga soup, pilaf kapama, yazma çöreği (a traditional type of muffin), Halep dolma, and Beypazari Bagels.

This hospitable city welcomes all visitors who want to explore the capital of Turkey.