



ELAZIĞ



Briefly ELAZIĞ...

The province of Elazığ has an altitude of 1,067 metres, and its surface area is 9,313 square kilometres. It is in the Upper Euphrates Zone of Eastern

Anatolian Region.

The province is adjacent

to **Bingöl** province to the east, the **Keban Dam Lake** and **Tunceli** province to the north, the

Karakaya Dam Lake

and **Malatya**

province to the southwest, and

Diyarbakır province to the south. The city

is principally fed by the Fırat River (Euphrates) and its tributaries, as well as other

major rivers of the region, Dicle (Tigris), Murat and Karasu. Elazığ resembles an inland peninsula surrounded by the natural

Lake Hazar and dam lakes of **Keban**, **Karakaya**, **Kralkızı** and **Özlüce**. The

provincial boundaries contain extensions of Eastern Taurus Mountain Range

including the peaks of **Hazarbaba** (2,347 m.), Mount Mastar (2,148 m.), Mount Asker (1,768 m.) and Mount Hasan (2,118 m.).

The natural geography of Elazığ would indicate a harsh continental climate.





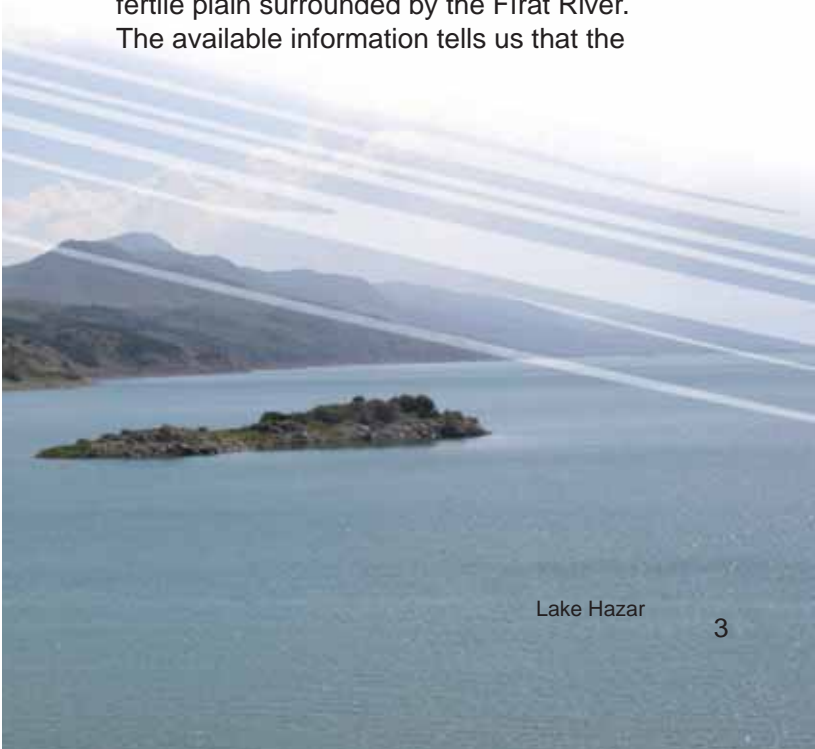
Lake Hazar and Its Beach



However, the dam lakes created during the recent decades have influenced the climate and made it more temperate and warmer. The harsh winter months, with snow and arctic colds, have given way to a more temperate period. The average annual temperature has reached between 13 to 15°C degrees, and it is now possible to grow olive trees on the fertile plain where the city was founded.

History of Elaziğ and Harput

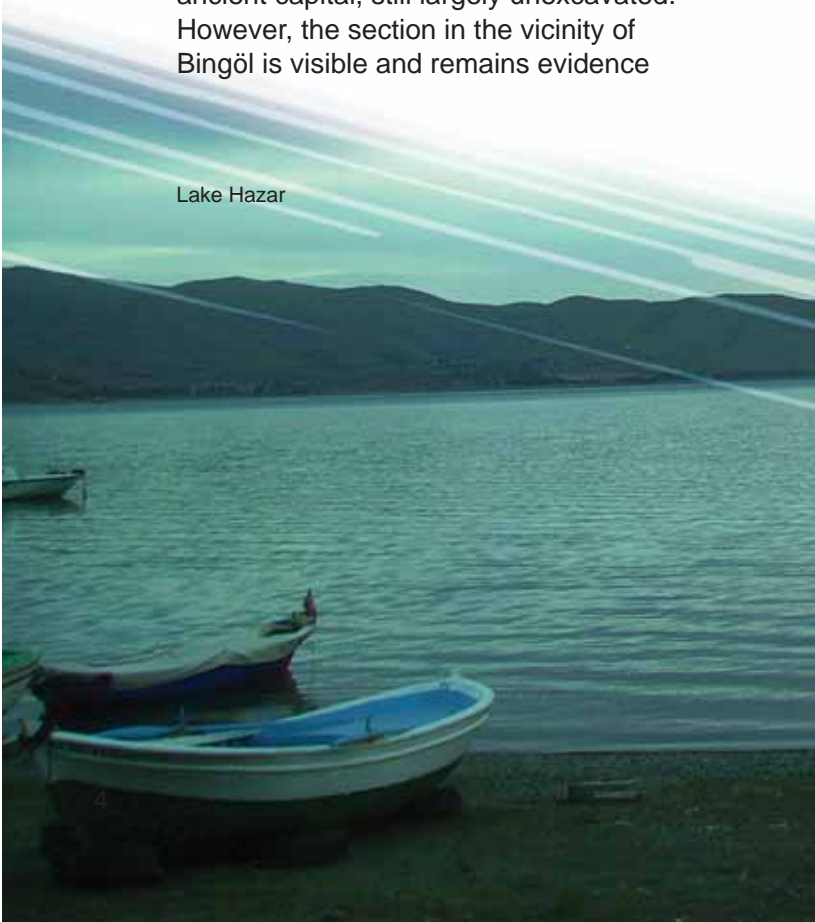
The history of Elaziğ is also the history of Harput, the history of a great civilization possessing thousands of years of cultural accumulation. Harput, together with its environs, the home of numerous civilisations since the Paleolithic Period, has been a region of utmost importance since ancient times with its strategic location serving as a crossroads on a fertile plain surrounded by the Fırat River. The available information tells us that the



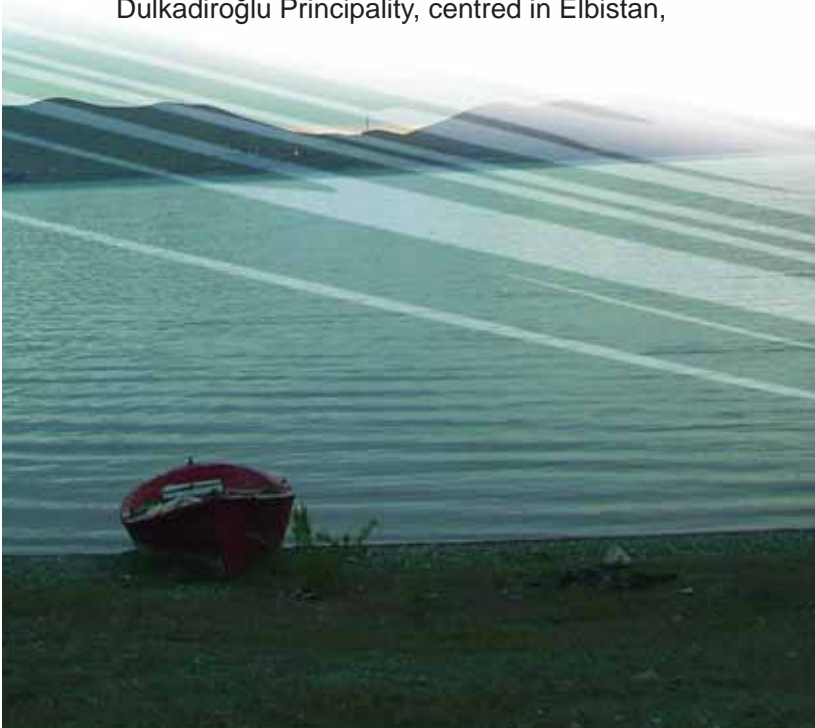
Lake Hazar

Hurrians ruled the region from 20,000 BC, followed by the Hittites (14th-13th centuries BC) and Assyrians (9,000-7,000 BC). Subsequently the Urartians became the dominant force of the region which was centred on their capital city, Van (Tushpa). The Urartians introduced many innovations to the region, some of them their own inventions. The Urartians paid great attention to sciences, engineering and infrastructure and their skilled engineers undertook the first **systematic road building** in Anatolia, approximately 2,800 years ago. The road constructed by the Urartians between their capital Tushpa and Malatya is in the region of the ancient capital, still largely unexcavated. However, the section in the vicinity of Bingöl is visible and remains evidence

Lake Hazar



of an impressive undertaking. The region experienced the dominations of Med, Scythian and Persian satrapies (kingdom) in the 7th century BC. Being exposed to various invasions during Hellenistic Era, the rule of the region was taken by Byzantines as Firat River was accepted as boundary as a result of the conflicts in the 5th century between Sassanids and Byzantines. After a short domination of Abbasids in the 8th-9th centuries, the region was taken by Byzantines once again and included in Mesopotamia. During the Turkish Period, starting with the conquest of Anatolia by Great Seljuk Empire in 1071, Turkification of the region was given importance. By the 11th century, Çubukoğulları (about 1085-1113) and Artuklu (1113-1234) principalities dominated the region, making Harput the centre. In 1243 the territory was taken by Anatolian Seljuk Empire. After a short-term Mongol invasion, it was retaken, and in 1139 Dulkadiroğlu Principality, centred in Elbistan,



and Akkoyunlu Principality (1454-1465) ruled the region. Harput and its environs were added to Ottoman territories with the war of Otlukbeli held by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror. Although the region witnessed the conflicts of Safavids in the 16th century, Ottomans took control of the region in 1516 for certain. The sanjak of Harput, affiliated with Diyarbakır province until the end of the 19th century, started growing thanks to its military and strategic location on trade routes. The settlement in the city can said to be begun with the construction of a mansion house by the governor of Diyarbakır, Mehmet Reşit Pasha, on the territories of today's Elaziğ, previously called *mezra*. It is understood from the yearbooks that Harput became a separate province in 1877 where



non-Muslim population was dwelled upon. The existence of many foreign schools and religious and social buildings belonging to various orders supports this estimation. The Muslim, Armenian, and Assyrian populations living side by side for years were instrumental in creating the rich cultural heritage of Harput, each adding their own colours. Housing one of the rare printers of the period, the rich treasure of Harput shedding light upon the present is being unearthed with excavations. The city was re-founded under the name of “*Mamuret-ül Aziz*” in the 19th century and the first settlements started in the region called *Saray-ı Atik*. In 1934, with the construction of railways, the settlement activities gained speed, new neighbourhoods were formed and construction activities increased, and finally the city took its present shape.



Entrance of the Fortress of Harput

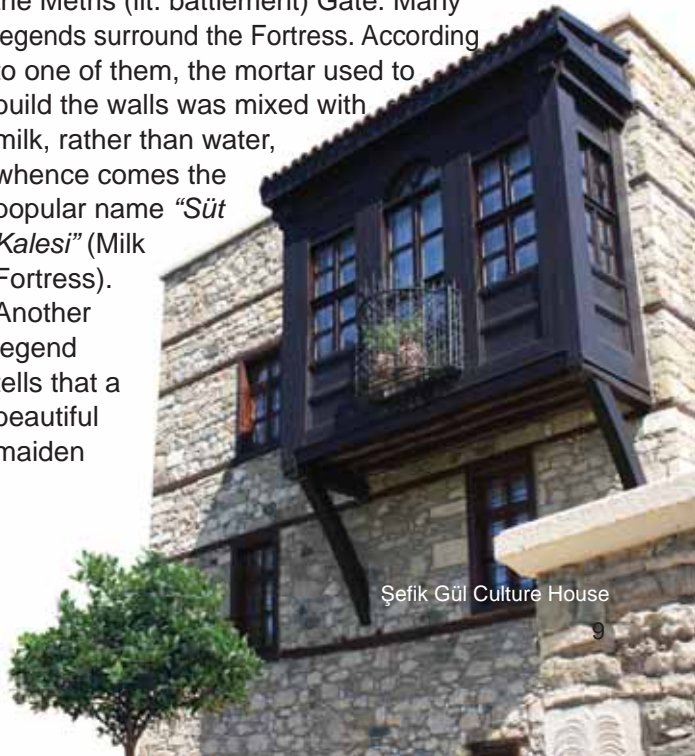
Sightseeing in Elaziğ...

We recommend that you start your sightseeing tour of Elaziğ with a tour of historical at Harput. The rocky outcrop of **Harput Hill** (Kayabaşı), which should be on everybody's list, can be seen from many places in the city, and it is about 10 minutes from the city centre. The hill has a commanding panoramic view over the whole city. Afterwards you are ready to enjoy a tour exploring the old city of Harput. If you feel a bit tired, there are many teahouses where you can sit sipping Turkish tea while looking out over the city towards the Keban Dam Lake. Once you have seen the sites of Harput, a walk along the main street of the city brings you past the Old Governor's Offices and İzzet Paşa Mosque. Also make time for the Covered Bazaar, with its passages and markets. A short excursion tour takes visitors to the numerous facilities along the shores of Lake Hazar, as well as the lakes formed behind the dams at Cip and Keban.

The Fortress of Harput



Fortress of Harput: The **Fortress**, believed to have been built by the Urartians in the 8th century BC, is one of the most striking ruins in Harput. The bastions and walls of the Fortress, which was repaired and renovated several times, are still standing. During the rule of the Artuqids, Dulkadiroğulları and Akkoyunlu principalities and the Ottomans, the Fortress was enlarged, and rock hewn rooms, stairs and secret passages were added. According to the inscription on the Fortress walls, the first repair and expansion was completed by Artuqid Emir Nizameddin İbrahim in 1205. During that era the castle doubled as a palace, and later it was repaired by Dulkadiroğulları Principality. The main entrance portal faces Harput, and there are two other gates, the Dağ (lit. mountain) Gate and the Metris (lit. battlement) Gate. Many legends surround the Fortress. According to one of them, the mortar used to build the walls was mixed with milk, rather than water, whence comes the popular name “*Süt Kalesi*” (Milk Fortress). Another legend tells that a beautiful maiden



lives in the galleries under the Fortress, and sleeps in a magical golden kiosk. She wakes up once every year and asks, “Has the Milk Fortress come to ruin? Have the mules given birth to lambs? Has the river bath disappeared?” before she falls asleep again. The local people believe that when her questions are answered in the affirmative it will be the harbinger of apocalypse and Harput will be destroyed. Rumours circulate from time to time that certain people can hear the voice of the maiden.

Artefacts from the rich history of Harput are on public display at **Elaziğ Archaeology and Ethnography Museum**.

Grand Mosque

The Grand Mosque, situated in the centre of Harput, was commissioned by Artuqid Emir Fahreddin Karaaslan between **1156** and **1157**. The Grand Mosque, which is still used for worship, is one of the oldest and most valuable Islamic structures in Anatolia. It has an oblong plan, and has three sections: the *harim* or main worshipping hall, the entrance to the main hall which also serves as an overflow area for late arriving members of the congregation, and the open courtyard. The thick walls were built with dressed stone and the arches and minaret were built with brick. The brickwork decorations surrounding the minaret are significant examples of Artuqid arts. Parts of the minaret are from different periods, and the surface is decorated with alternating wicker, hexagon, star, and intertwined



brickwork patterns. The ebony *minbar* is considered a masterpiece, and at present it is in the Kurşunlu Mosque.

Sara(y)hatun Mosque

Sara Khatun was the mother of the Emir of Akkoyunlu Bahadır Khan, and the Sarayhatun Mosque was commissioned as a small prayer house by her in **1465**. In 1585 Hadji Mustafa, and in 1843 Hadji Ahmet Effendi, the Mufti of Harput, undertook substantial repair work, and the mosque's present form is the result of those repairs. Although it originally formed part of a religious complex, only the mosque itself has survived. The mosque, to which a minaret was added in 1898, has a square plan, the central space covered by a dome seated on four thick columns. The side naves are covered with barrel vaults. The minbar was made of intricately carved stone, and the minaret was built with dressed stones of two different hues. The structure is still open and used for worship.

Kurşunlu Mosque

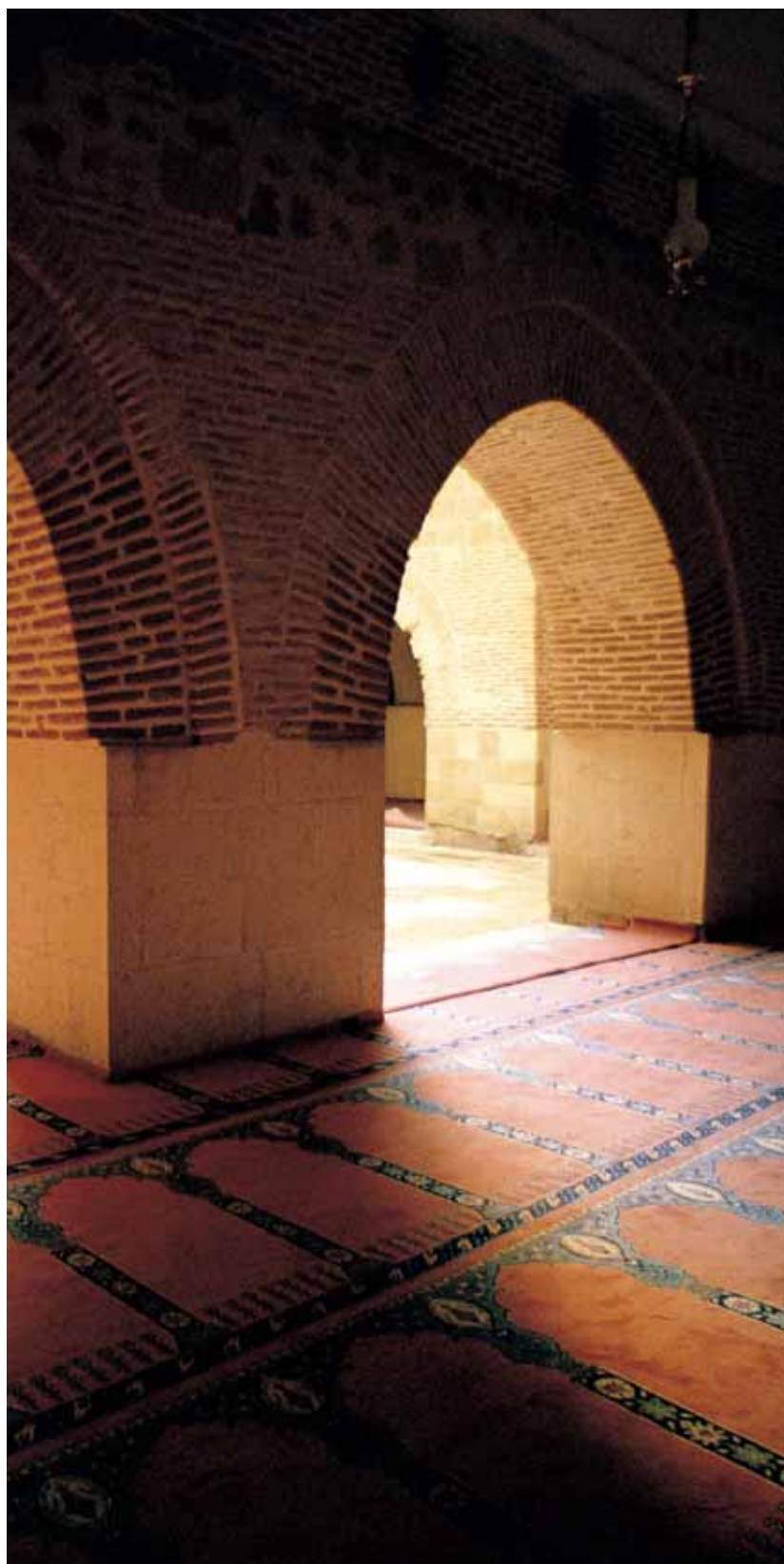
The Kurşunlu (lit. lead-clad) Mosque is situated to the west of the Old Governor's Office and it is one the most important Ottoman mosques in Harput. The structure was built in **1738-1739**, and is believed to have been commissioned by Osman Agha, one of the Çarsancak (Four Counties) emirs. The mosque was built on a square plan, and the main praying hall (*harim*) was covered by a dome. The late congregation section had three lesser domes clad with lead, from whence

Grand Mosque



Grand Mosque





derives the mosque's name. The minbar that once adorned the Grand Mosque, famous for its superb workmanship, was donated for safekeeping to the Kurşunlu Mosque by the Ottoman Sultan Murat IV. The old plane tree grown in the gardens of the Kurşunlu Mosque is believed to have been used as a shade and back rest by the famous 17th century traveller and journal writer Evliya Çelebi when he stayed in Harput.

Alacalı Mosque

This mosque is situated in the Ağa Neighbourhood of Harput and is believed to have been built between 1202 and 1204, in the Artuqid Period. The mosque, which was substantially renovated during the 19th century when the decorated wooden ceiling was installed, was built on an oblong plan with the west entrance gate set in a clover arch. The minaret of the structure was built over the entrance gate. The minaret was built with pale hued stones up to the adhan platform (*şerefe*), and above the platform the minaret was built with alternating pale and dark hued stones, creating a chequer effect. The name of the mosque, "Alacalı" (motley), derives from that feature, and the mosque was, for a time, the first museum of Harput.

Arap Baba Masjid and Tomb

The Arap Baba Masjid of Harput was built during the Seljuk Era. The masjid was built over a rock base, and its mihrab and dome soffit were richly decorated with glazed tiles and mouldings. The



Kurşunlu Mosque
Alacalı Mosque



minaret of the masjid was set between the masjid and the tomb. The entrance door to the minaret was from inside the masjid, and the minaret had a surrounding glazed tile border, a feature rarely seen in Seljuk buildings. We have more detailed information about the ground floor tomb. It was commissioned by Yusuf bin Arab Shah between **1279** and **1280**, during the reign of Seljuk Sultan Ghiyaseddin Keshüsrev III. It is not known for certain who rests in the tomb, but legend tells that it houses the body of “Arab Baba”, a corpse that, despite the passing of centuries, has not decomposed.

Ahi Musa Masjid and Mosque

This structure owes its importance to the fact that it is the only **Ahi** building in Harput. The structure indicates that the Ahi community, which was a medieval guild type organisation of artisans and traders, was prosperous and active in the region. According to its inscription, the tomb, which contains several sarcophagi, was built in **1185** for the freedom fighter Ahi Musa Hervi (Herdi). The longest is believed to belong to Ahi Musa, the second to his successor Esseyid Hasan, and the third to Seyit Ahmet.

Meryem Ana Church

The Meryem Ana (Virgin Mary) Church is one of the earliest **Assyrian** churches and it is located to the west of the Fortress of Harput. The Church is believed to have been commissioned during the period of Theofilos, the 8th Patriarch of the Antioch Assyrian Church in **179 AD**.



Arap Baba Masjid and Tomb

Although it was originally part of the *Beni Baüth* monastery in the old Assyrian neighbourhood, only the ruins of a bathhouse survive. The rock face formed the rectangular floor of the church and the western wall. A half-dome spanned the exedra apse, and other sections were covered with vaults. The empty section of the structure, once a monastery, used to be the metropolit's offices, school, guesthouse, and other ancillary buildings. The church is open to visitors, and the building is still used for Assyrian religious ceremonies on certain dates.

Cemşit Bathhouse

The bathhouse is an **Ottoman** era building situated next to the Mosque of Sarahatun. It was commissioned by Cemşit Bey, one of the Beys of Sipahi (Cavalrymen) of Ottoman Sultan Selim I, in the first half of the 16th century. It follows the classical layout of Ottoman bathhouses, and its undressing space had two gates. The

bathing area and hottest section were built over square plans and covered with domes seated on pendentives. The bathing area had four niches for basins. While the building is open to the public, it no longer functions as a bathhouse.

Ağa Mosque

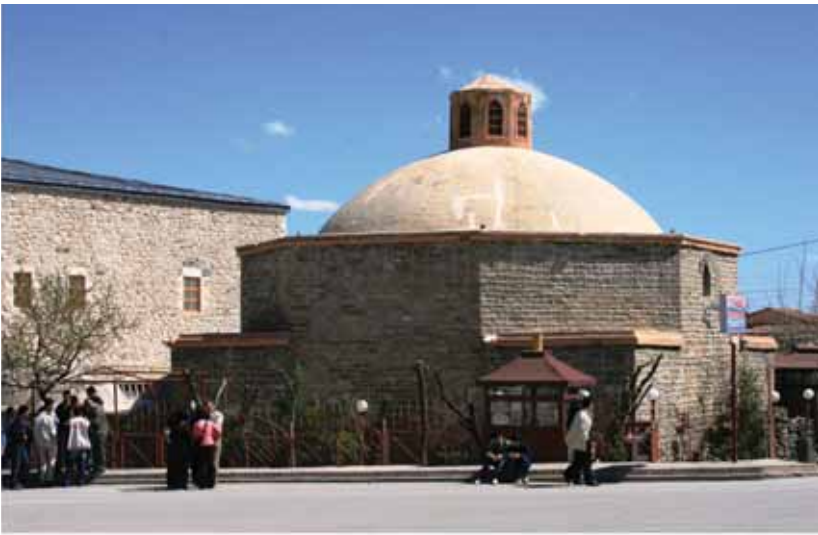
According to the inscription, which is kept for safe-keeping at the Museum of Harput, the Ağa Mosque, which is situated along the main street of Harput, was commissioned by Pervane Agha in **1599**. The only part of the mosque that was left standing in 1996 was its minaret. A replica of the original mosque has since been built on the site and opened as a place of public worship.

Tomb of Fethi Ahmet Baba

The tomb was built (**1313-1314**) over a rock base following the death of Fethi Ahmet Baba. Only the burial section of the original tomb survives. Built over octagonal plan foundations, the burial section contains a large sarcophagus which still bears the original calligraphy. The garden of the tomb is used as a recreation area. Religious visitors use the garden in their ceremonies, and perform the blood sacrifice of animals nearby.

Tomb of Mansur Baba

The Tomb of Mansur Baba is situated to the left of the road climbing towards the Fortress of Harput. It has an octagonal plan and built with dressed stone. While the internal decorations are original, the roof of the second storey monumental



Cemşit Bathhouse
Ağa Mosque



structure was built at a later time. There are four sarcophagi which are believed to belong to Mansur Baba and his family. The structure has typical Artuqid Era architectural features.

Monument of Çubuk Bey

The monument, situated within the courtyard of the Grand Mosque, was sculpted by Nurettin Orhan. Erected to honour Çubuk Bey, who captured Harput in 1085 and laid the foundations of the Çubukoğulları Principality, it commemorates the Turkish domination of the region.

Elazığ City Tour

Tours of Elazığ start from the city centre, where notable stops include the İzzet Paşa Mosque, the markets and passages. **İzzet Paşa Mosque** is situated in the market area, and it was originally commissioned in 1866 by Hadji İzzet Pasha of Elazığ. However, the original mosque was demolished and a new mosque was built in 1972. The mosque has become the hub of the bustling market, and one of the symbols of Elazığ itself. The **Kuyumcular (Jewellers') Market** occupying the ground floor of the structure is a good place to start shopping for souvenirs.

Excursions in the vicinity of Elazığ: Lake Hazar and Inundated City Sivrice...

Lake Hazar and the Inundated City, which appears when the water level of the lake falls, are situated in Sivrice County, about



İzzet Paşa Mosque



31 kilometres from Elaziğ. Camping areas, holiday resorts, hotels, seafood restaurants and picnic areas dot the shores of Lake Hazar, ready to serve day trippers from the city. The clear waters of the lake and the public beaches make it the region's premier holiday destination, and the population explodes during the summer months. The "Inundated City", which appears when the water level falls, is a draw for both history buffs and diving enthusiasts. The "Inundated City", also known as the "Kilise (Church) Island", is located on the southwest part of the lake, 2 kilometres from Sivrice town. Historical

Batık (Inundated) City



records call the island *Dzovk*, and it was the seat of the Catholicossate of the Great House of Cilicia during the 11th and 12th centuries. The last Catholicos who lived on the island was Catholicos Grigor III Pahlavuni. He eventually abandoned the church on the island and moved the seat of the Catholicossate to Halfeti in 1150. The church fell into disrepair, although studies indicate that the island was still used during the Seljuk Era.

Keban Dam: The Keban Dam has played a major role in the social and economic development of the Southeastern and Eastern Anatolia regions. It is situated 47 kilometres outside Elaziğ city centre. It is the second largest dam lake in Turkey, after the artificial lake behind Atatürk



Dam. The Keban Dam generates massive amounts of hydroelectricity, and the lake is utilised for fishing and fish farming. Regular ferry services run between the three counties, and superb seafood restaurants cluster near the ferry terminals as well as at various locations along the lake-shore.

Alternative Tourism

The rugged terrain of Elazığ teems with wild life, making the region a prime **hunting** location. The lakes and rivers of the uplands are also a paradise for rod

Keban Dam



and fly fishing. There are more than, 20 species of fish in the Firat River, Keban Dam Lake and Lake Hazar. Commercial fishermen mostly catch pike (*Esox lucius*), barbel (*Barbus rajanarum mystaceus*), and common carp (*Cyprinus Carpio*). The shores of the lakes and rivers are, however, absolutely suitable for **amateur rod and fly fishing**. Every July and August water sports festivals are held at Lake Hazar.

The Mount Hazarbaba (2,347 metres) to the southeast of Elaziğ, and the Mastar Mountain (2,171 metres) to the east of city have very rich flora and fauna, and the snow remains on the peaks until early summer, which renders them ideal **trekking and nature walk** routes.





For **winter tourism** the most important local facility is the **Hazarbaba**

Ski Centre which is 6 kilometres from the city centre. A 1,400 metre long piste, surface lift, catering facilities and a ski house are at the service of skiing enthusiasts.

Those seeking to immerse themselves in nature will enjoy **walking** or **cycling** along the banks of the River Murat, where history and nature intertwine.

The **Tur-Pol** tourism facility of Sivrice County has the capacity to accommodate 300 cars, 200 tents and 50 caravans, and the **camping facility** at the shore of Lake Hazar has a capacity for 20 cars and numerous tents. The recreation areas along the shores of the Keban Dam Lake and Cip Dam Lake provide facilities for camping. The Cip Dam Lake is 10 kilometres from Elazığ, and there are many family friendly facilities suitable for picnics and fishing activities as well as the



social centre of Fish Farm. The Harput Recreation Area, which is 5 kilometres from the city centre, and the Zafran 100. Yıl Recreational Area within the Fırat University campus, are much loved public facilities. More people every year come looking for a different sort of holiday, camping out along the shores of Lake Hazar.

Once you have toured historical Harput, consider visiting the **Buzluk Cave**, just a short distance away, which are ice cold even in the warmest days of summer. The Buzluk Cave are 11 kilometres from Elaziğ, and their geomorphology makes them cold in summers and warm in winters. They are the most impressive caves situated in the vicinity of historical Harput.

Thermal Springs and Spas

The most prominent thermal springs of the province are at the **Gölan Spa**, which is 16 kilometres from the seat of





Buzluk Cave

Karakoçan County. The temperature of the thermal springs of Gölan is 45°C. The springs are believed to have therapeutic effects for various ailments of the internal organs, such as the stomach, intestines, liver, and gallbladder, as well as some types of rheumatism, gynaecological and dermatological complaints. The mineral springs closest to the city are Mürüdü Sarılık Fountain, Yurtbaşı Mineral Water, Perçenç (Akçakiraz) Spring, Gümüşkavak Mineral Water, Korucu Village Yel Spring and Harput Dabakhane Spring. There are three basins fed by a spring at Dabakhane, situated in a ravine to the north of the Fortress, and the odourless, clear and drinkable water is believed to have a healing effect on some ailments.

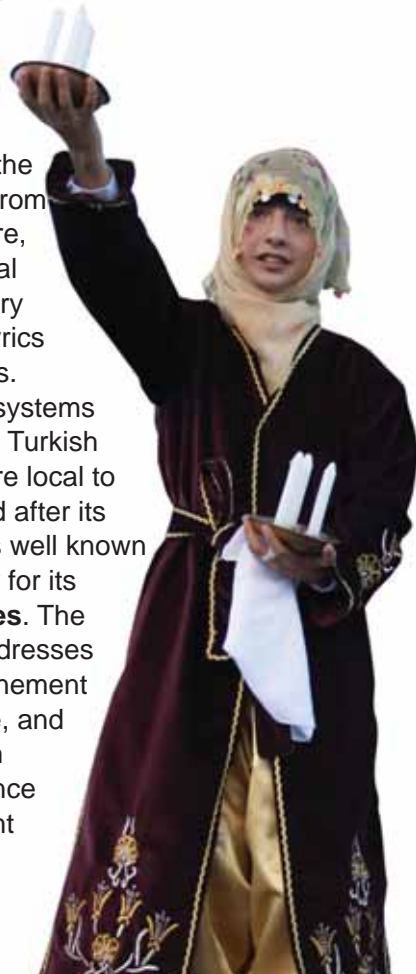
Culture-Arts

The region centred on Elazığ-Harput has played an important role in history, and it has always had a lively and rich cultural

life. Elazığ's rich cultural heritage includes its fortress, schools and madrasahs, mosques, bathhouses, and the artisans and craftsmen who continue ancient traditions. The culture of Harput is a rich mixture of traditional belief systems regulating manners and customs, old traditions, a rich folk music dominated by ballads, couplets and ditties, a repertoire of folk dances, a superb cuisine, and delightful, eye-catching garments.

Harput's **folk music** has a special place in the musical culture of Turkey. The traditional music of the region is played on classical instruments, a marked difference to mainstream folk music in other regions. Some of the lyrics were taken from the Divan Literature, that is, the classical literature and poetry of Turkey. Other lyrics record local events.

Twelve *makams* (systems of melody types in Turkish classical music) are local to Harput and named after its environs. Elazığ is well known throughout Turkey for its superb **folk dances**. The plain and elegant dresses represent the refinement of the local culture, and their harmony with corresponding dance figures has brought





Meat Balls

the region a well-deserved world-wide fame. The “**Çayda Çıra**” dance, which is renowned around the world as the “Candle Dance”, is synonymous with Elaziğ. There are also famous line or circle dances such as *Halay*, *Ağır* (slow) *Halay*, *Üç Ayak* (three steps), *Temür Ağa*, *Keçike* (lit. girl), *Bıçak* (lit. blade), *Delilo*, *Büyük Ceviz* (lit. great walnut), *Tanzara*, *Nure*. The traditional equestrian team sport **Jereed** (*Cirit*) is popular and played in the region.

Coppersmiths are amongst the most important craftsmen of the region, and the visitor can look into workshops at the **Bakırcılar Çarşısı** (Coppersmiths’ Market) where copper plates are beaten into fine objects. Other handcrafts of the region are needle lace making, carpet weaving, saddle making, and flat-soled leather shoe (*yemeni*) making. There is a state theatre as well as several local theatre groups in the city. The **International Hazar Poetry Evenings**, **Çayda Çıra Film Festival**, and the **Short Films Festival** are among the important cultural activities of the city.

Archaeology Museum of Elaziğ

The **Archaeology Museum of Elaziğ** is on the campus of Fırat University, and its fascinating galleries display the ancient artefacts unearthed in excavations of the local area. There is also an ethnographic section displaying local garments, carpets, silver and copper ware, old coins, tobacco pouches, needle lace bordered headscarves, and old kitchen utensils. The inscription tablets of many old structures of Harput, and priceless artefacts from the Seljuk, Artuqid, Dulkadiroğulları, and Ottoman eras are on public display at the museum, and the entrance courtyard is utilised as an open air museum exhibiting finely carved grave stones of ram and stallion shaped funerary sculptures.

Palu Fortress

The Palu County was controlled by several civilisations, including the Hittites, Assyrians, Hurrians and Urartians. When it was conquered by the Urartian King Menua it was made the capital and the focus of all activities. The Fortress, built on a steep and craggy hill, contains an inscription regarding King Menua. There is also a tunnel driven 80-85 metres into the rock, and ruins from the Byzantine Era. The heritage of Urartu capital rests heavily on Palu Fortress, which has commanding views over the Palu Plain, and Murat River. Today, its historical importance and the splendour of its





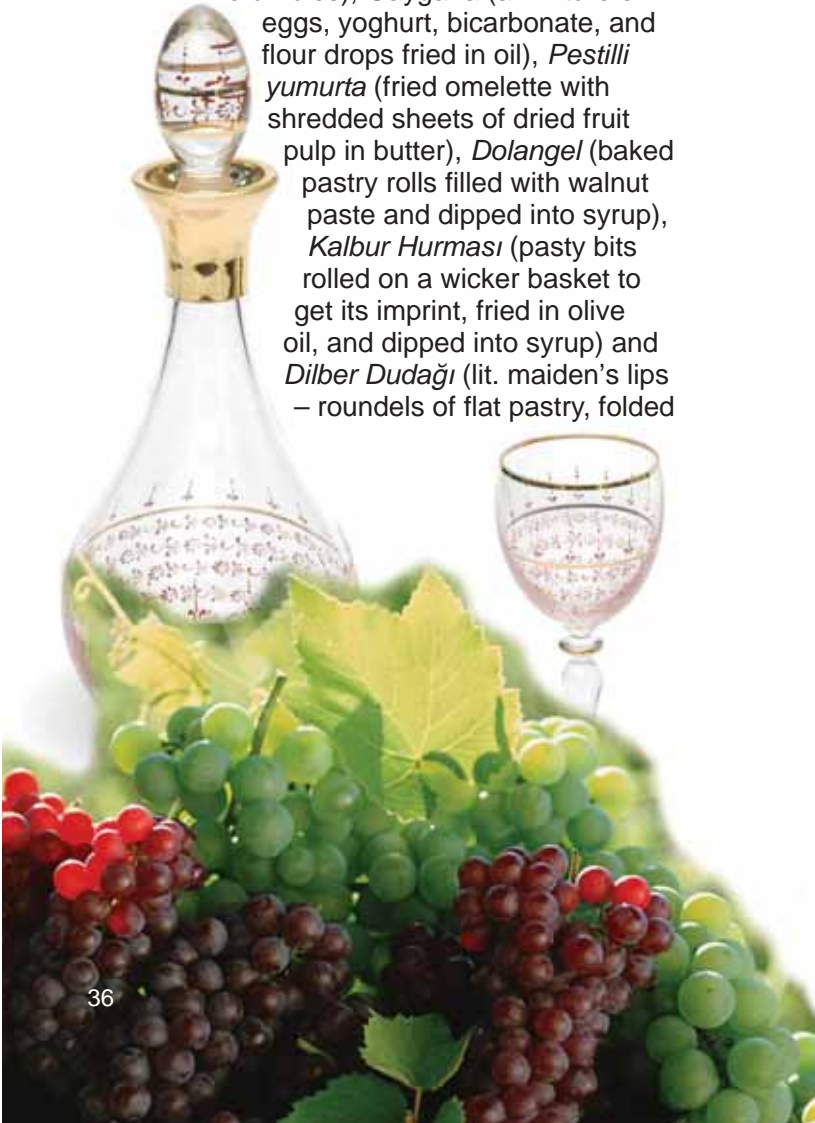
Palu Fortress

location make it one of the most popular sightseeing stops in the region.

Elazığ Cuisine

The cuisine of Elazığ-Harput is a rich variety of tastes reflecting the local culture. There are almost 150 separate dishes in the region, which are renowned across the country by their local names. Dishes unique to Elazığ include *Kelleçoş* (fried meat and onion served over a bed of flat bread pieces softened in yoghurt), *İşgene* (a breakfast soup containing broth and vegetables), *Harput Köfte* (meatballs made with a mixture of minced meat, cracked wheat, herbs and spices boiled in a tomato sauce), *Taş Ekmeği* (unleavened flat bread baked over hot stone or hotplate served with butter and jam), *Peynirli ekmeğ* (Flat bread baked with fresh cheese sprinkled with sugar), *Fodula* (meat and vegetable stew served baked with sage sauce in small hollowed bread rolls), *Gömme* (baked handmade filo pastry roundels built with a layer of meat filling and a layer of walnut paste), *Ufalama* (baked unleavened bread

dough, top crust removed and soft inner parts crumbled and mixed with butter), *Söğürtme* (baked aubergines and peppers, charred skin removed, the soft cores pasted and mixed with hot chillies, garlic, spices, and parsley), *Işkın Yemeği* (a wild rhubarb dish), *Pirpirim* (purslane softened in butter and served with garlic flavoured yoghurt), *Hesüde* (wheat starch dough fried in unsalted butter served warm with ground pistachio and chocolate crumbles), *Gaygana* (a mixture of eggs, yoghurt, bicarbonate, and flour drops fried in oil), *Pestilli yumurta* (fried omelette with shredded sheets of dried fruit pulp in butter), *Dolangel* (baked pastry rolls filled with walnut paste and dipped into syrup), *Kalbur Hurması* (pasty bits rolled on a wicker basket to get its imprint, fried in olive oil, and dipped into syrup) and *Dilber Dudağı* (lit. maiden's lips – roundels of flat pastry, folded

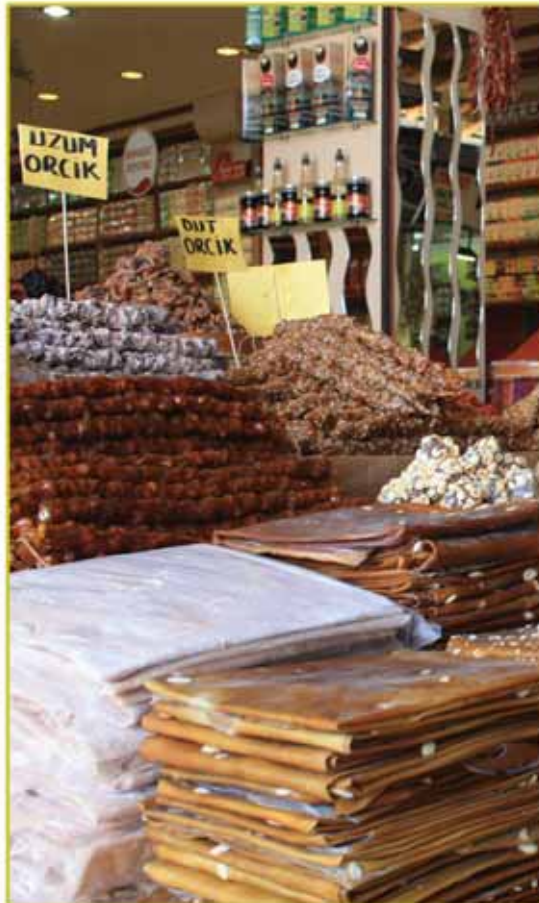


and filled with walnut paste, baked and dipped into syrup) are some of the dishes unique to Elazığ. The Ağın County, which is famous for its unique houses, has a special snack called **Ağın Leblebisi**, which has a peculiar preparation method, and taste. (The chick peas are boiled in cauldrons heated on wood fire until nearly all water is evaporated. On a second fire a large hotplate containing a thick layer of very thin sand, which is obtained from a local source, is heated. The boiled chick peas are put into the sand, and raked with wooden instruments until they are fried. Then the mixture of sand and chick-peas are separated over a wire mesh.) This laborious process, however, yield delicious results!



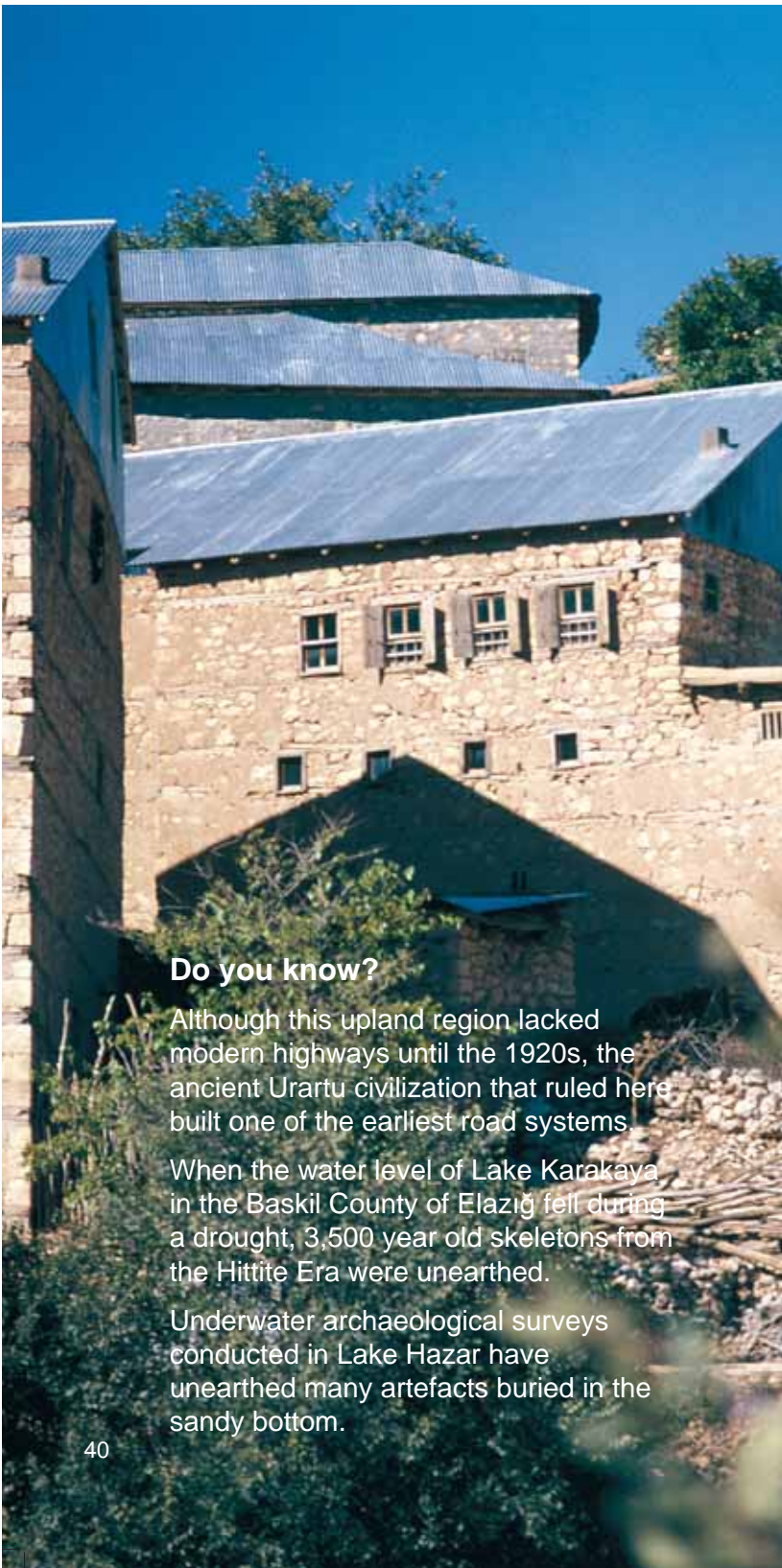


Covered Bazaar



Elaziğ is the top **grape** producing province of the Eastern Anatolia Region. Two varieties “*öküzgözü*” and “*boğazkere*” grapes are particularly good and well-loved in the region. The “**Buzbağ Wine**” has gained the acclaim of wine connoisseurs across the globe. The “**Öküzgözü**” (lit. oxen eye) variety of purple grapes is also enjoyed as table grapes with a very intense flavour, famous for its rounded, dark coloured grapes and large bunches. We strongly advise you to taste it. Another interesting local taste of Elaziğ is **Çedene coffee**. It is made of the dried and milled stones of the fruit of a variety of wild pistachio tree, the terebinth (*Pistacia terebinthus*) which is locally called as Menegiç tree.





Do you know?

Although this upland region lacked modern highways until the 1920s, the ancient Urartu civilization that ruled here built one of the earliest road systems.

When the water level of Lake Karakaya in the Baskil County of Elazığ fell during a drought, 3,500 year old skeletons from the Hittite Era were unearthed.

Underwater archaeological surveys conducted in Lake Hazar have unearthed many artefacts buried in the sandy bottom.



Shopping in Elazığ

Among the souvenirs and local produce of Elazığ, *orcik* (walnut halves sewn in a thread, dipped into thick grape syrup, and dried in the open air), *orcikli şeker* (caramelised sugar coated walnut pieces), *dut unu* (flour of dried mulberries mixed with ground bitter almonds), Çedene coffee, Buzbağ Wine, copper ware from Coppersmiths' Market, would make fine presents for your loved ones.

Transport

Elazığ is the gateway to the Eastern Anatolian Region, and highways connect it to every corner of Turkey. There are five local companies providing coach service, and many other companies passing through Elazığ also provide coach transport to other provinces almost every hour of the day. **Ferryboats** plying the Keban Dam Lake supplement highway connections between towns such as Pertek, Çemişgezek, Ağın, and Baskil, as well as the neighbouring province of Malatya. The **Elazığ Airport** (12



Winter Camp of Hazarbaba Ski Centre

kilometres to the city centre) is open for regularly scheduled domestic flights. The **railroad** hub of the region is in Malatya, where the branch leading to the Iranian border, passing through Elazığ and Tatvan, and the branch coming from Diyarbakır meet. The Blue Train (passenger express) provides connection from Elazığ to Ankara.

Do not leave unless you have ...

Visited the Archaeology Museum of Elazığ,
Explored the Fortress of Harput and its environs,
Swum and camped at the shores of Lake Hazar, a gemlike natural wonder,
Visited Buzluk Cave, Gölan Spa and Hazarbaba Ski Center,
Tasted the local cuisine ...

Local Activities

- * Hıdrellez Culture and Spring Festivities / 6 May
- * Kavallı Village Cherry Festival / 3rd week of June
- * Gezin Strawberry Festival
- * Dallica Patila (flat bread and cheese) Fest / 1st-4th week of July
- * Karakoçan Culture and Arts Festival / 3rd week of August

International Activities

- * Hazar Poetry Evenings / 3rd week of June
- * Piri Davut Festival / 28 July
- * Traditional Vineyard and Honey Incentive Contest / 25 September



IMPORTANT PHONES

Governor's Office

(+90 424) 237 60 01- 02

Governor's Office Phone Exchange

(+90 424) 212 44 70

Elazığ Municipality

(+90 424) 238 24 90

Fırat University

(+90 424) 237 00 00

Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism

(+90 424) 236 58 54

Security Directorate

(+90 424) 241 10 00

Gendarmerie Headquarters

(+90 424) 241 11 80

Museum Directorate

(+90 424) 241 11 30-31

Train Station Directorate

(+90 424) 218 10 72-212 18 67

Elazığ Education and Research Hospital

(+90 424) 238 10 00- 237 49 43

Elazığ Harput State Hospital

(+90 424) 234 15 00 (15 lines)

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Elazığ Tourism-Travel Agency

(+90 424) 212 46 45

Duman Tourism-Travel Agency

(+90 424) 212 48 71

Uğur Tourism-Travel Agency

(+90 424) 233 92 70

Soylu-Evliyaoğlu Tourism-Travel Agency

(+90 424) 233 04 44

Hıdırbaba Tourism-Travel Agency

(+90 424) 237 90 82

Çedene Tourism-Travel Agency

(+90 424) 247 02 38

23 Seyithanoğlu Tourism-Travel Agency

Velioğlu Tourism

(+90 424) 237 76 75

Yaka Tourism and Travel Agency

(+90 424) 233 97 15

Nifer Tur Travel Agency

(+90 424) 238 95 80

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

Akgün Hotel (4 Star)

(+90 424) 248 20 00 (15 lines)

(+90 424) 238 86 86

The Marathon Hotel (4 Star)

(+90 424) 425 11 00-01-02

Turpol Tourism Facilities (Motel)

(+90 424) 425 10 20-22

Mavi Göl Tourism Facilities (2 Star)

(+90 424) 266 32 15

Baranlar Restaurant

(+90 424) 218 88 81

Dervişoğulları Tourist Restaurant

(+90 424) 237 63 02

Yakamoz Cafe

COACH COMPANIES

Elazığlılar Tourism

(+90 424) 238 82 80

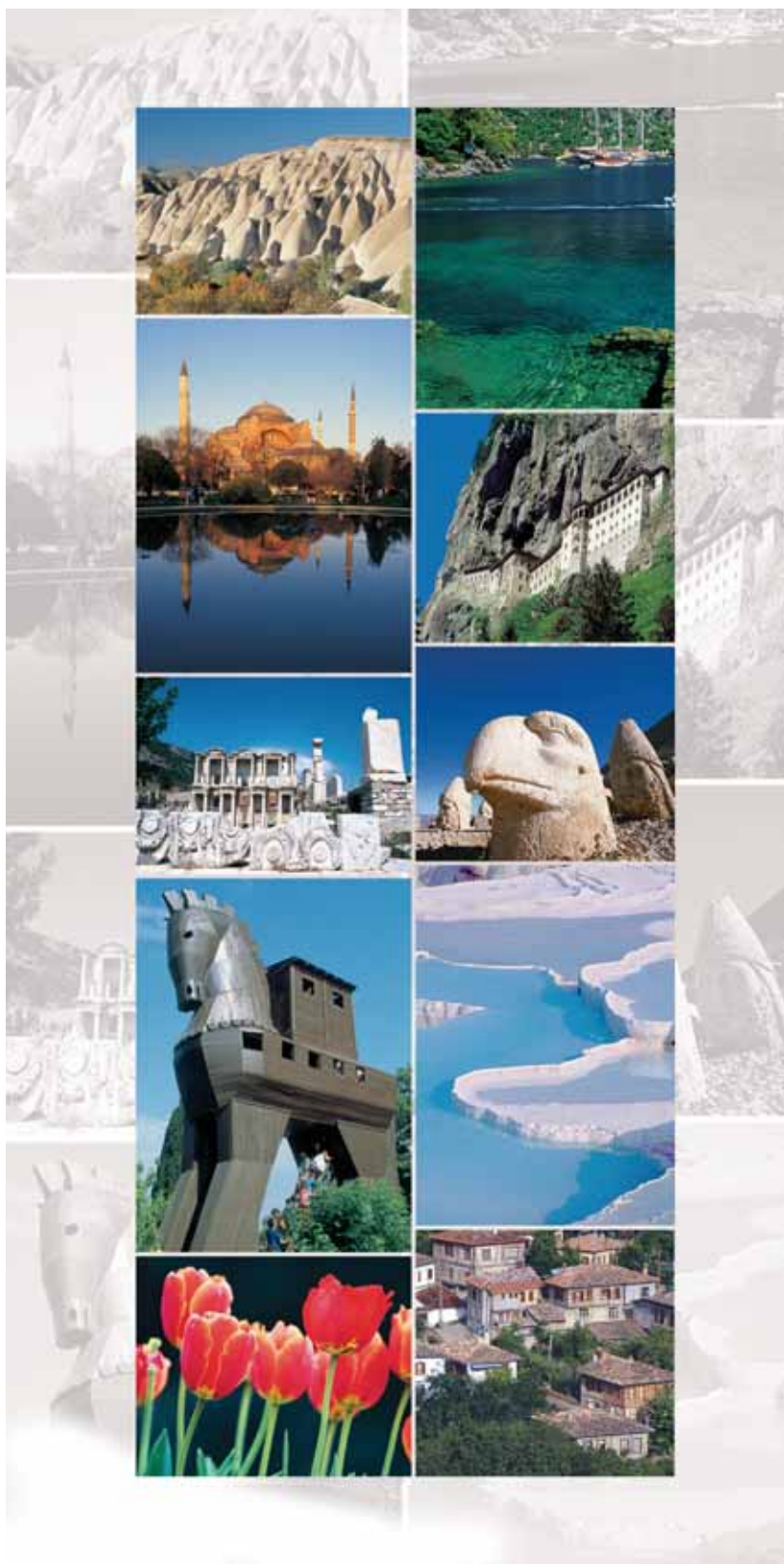
Hazar Tourism

(+90 424) 212 75 75

Murat Tourism

(+90 424) 23895 80





Cultural Heritage is Fragile

The world's cultural heritage is like a big puzzle. Each monument, each object, is an irreplaceable part of the overall picture which gives us insight into our origins, our development and our lives today. It helps us to understand and appreciate other cultures. Each discovery, each new interpretation adds to the puzzle and makes the picture clearer. We must ensure the protection of every single piece today, so that future generations may have the opportunities to enjoy the puzzle.

Many people are not aware that our cultural heritage is under stress from natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and from slower acting processes such as pollution or human actions. Even the most innocent gestures such as collecting ancient pieces of pottery or mosaics as souvenirs have a destructive impact if repeated by thousands. Touching an object of stone, metal or textile leaves traces of grease, acid or sweat on its surface. Climbing a monument wears down the structure underneath and can dismantle it. Writing or engraving names inflicts permanent damage. Strolling around narrow crowded places with bulky bags or backpacks might knock over an object or scratch a mural painting and ruin it. There are countless ways in which one can unknowingly contribute to the destruction of cultural heritage.

In 2020 there will be 1.6 billion visitors per year worldwide. Let us raise awareness of this issue so that we may join together to protect and enjoy the diversity and richness of our cultural heritage.

**International Organization for Conservation
of Cultural Heritage (ICCROM)**



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
General Directorate of Information ©

www.kulturturizm.gov.tr
www.goturkey.com

Text

Z. Reyhan Aslan

Redaction

Pınar Güneş

Graphic Design

A S M E D Y A

Tel: 0312 496 07 06



Photos

Cengiz Ekici, Erdal Yazıcı, Kazım Zaim,
Necmettin Külahçı, Servet Uygun,
Sıtkı Fırat, Tarkan Ersoy,
Öznur Aksoy, Yusuf Tuvi and
Archive of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Print

Başak Matbaacılık ve Tanıtım Hiz. Ltd. Şti.
Tel: 0312 397 16 17 Fax: 0312 397 03 07

Ankara, 2011
For Free Distribution