



KAHRAMANMARAŞ

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM



CONTENTS

- 1 DISCOVER KAHRAMANMARAŞ
- 3 CULTURAL TREASURES
- 7 NATURAL BEAUTIES
- 11 LOCAL FLAVORS
- 13 HANDICRAFTS
- 15 KAHRAMANMARAŞ IN 48 HOURS
- 19 HOW TO GET THERE?
- 20 ROUTES



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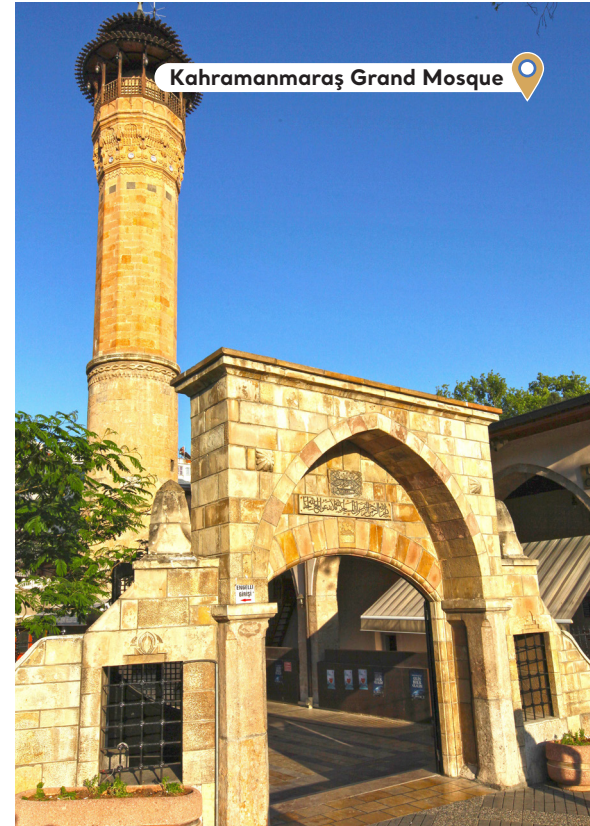
Kahramanmaraş Castle



DISCOVER KAHRAMANMARAŞ

- Trace Kahramanmaraş's 14,000-year journey through civilization at the Kahramanmaraş Museum. Explore exhibitions ranging from the Paleolithic era to the Eastern Roman Empire, including lifelike dioramas of the Ancient Elephant, Direkli Cave, and Domuztepe Mound.
- At the Direkli Cave Excavation and Diorama Hall within the museum, encounter the "Mother Goddess" figure, considered one of the oldest terracotta artifacts from Anatolia and the Near East.
- Witness the refined aesthetic sensibilities and masterful storytelling of antiquity in the floor mosaics of the Germanicia Mosaic Site, dating back thousands of years.
- Visit the Ice Cream Museum to get an up-close look at the production process of the world-renowned Maraş ice cream, a symbol of the city.
- Stroll through the historical Maraş bazaars and shop for geographically indicated products such as the fiery Maraş pepper and the famed Hartlap Knife, along with other locally made items that reflect the region's rich culture.
- Find serenity at Kahramanmaraş Grand Mosque (Ulucami), one of the city's oldest mosques, showcasing the architectural heritage of the Dulkadiroğlu Beylik era.
- Step into the city's historical roots at the Kahramanmaraş Castle, where the legendary "Flag Incident," one of the key sparks of the Turkish War of Independence, took place.

- In Afşin, visit the Eshab-ı Khef Complex a spiritual destination in both Christianity and Islam. Built above the Cave of the Seven Sleepers, it invites you to learn the tale of the faithful companions and their loyal dog, Qitmir.
- Explore the towering Döngel Cave, composed of three interconnected chambers, where traces of human settlement dating back to 10,000 BCE remain. Enjoy a tranquil day among the surrounding plane and walnut trees.
- Find peace in the fairy-tale beauty of the Yeşilgöz Sinkhole, and have a delightful picnic with your loved ones in the nearby recreation area.
- Embark on scenic hikes through Başkonuş Plateau, one of Kahramanmaraş's most prominent nature tourism spots.
- Visit the Kuyumcular Bazaar, where you can closely examine handcrafted jewelry such as braided bangles, woven strands, honeycomb patterns, and caged cords crafted by master goldsmiths.
- Enjoy winter sports at Yedikuyular Ski Resort, with activities like skiing, sledding, snowboarding, hiking, and snowmobiling.
- Discover some of the finest examples of Ottoman architecture while wandering the historic streets of Kahramanmaraş, especially at Dedeoğlu, Deligönüller, and Kocabaş Mansions.



CULTURAL TREASURES

Kahramanmaraş, one of the prominent cities of the Mediterranean region, offers visitors a captivating journey through 14,000 years of history. Archaeological excavations in Direkli Cave have uncovered stone beads dating back approximately 13,000 years, which resemble those found in a quarry in Saudi Arabia. This supports the idea that the city was a significant settlement on ancient migration routes even in prehistoric times.

According to historical sources, Kahramanmaraş was founded by a Hittite commander named Maraj during the era of the Hittites regarded as the first empire of Anatolia. Following the weakening of the Hittite Empire around 1200 BCE, the city became the capital of Gurgum, one of the Neo-Hittite city-states. In ancient Assyrian records, it is referred to as "Markas" or "Markasi." After the Hittites, the city came under the rule of the Assyrians, Medes, and Persians.

In 334 BCE, Maraş was conquered by Alexander the Great and later became part of the Seleucid Kingdom. From the 2nd century BCE onward, the region came into conflict with Rome, and in the 1st century CE, it was incorporated into Roman territory. It was rebuilt and named "Germanicia" in honor of Emperor Caligula.





During this Roman period, the now-celebrated Germanicia mosaics were created. After the Roman Empire split into East and West in the 4th century CE, the city came under Eastern Roman rule. In 637 CE, it was conquered by Islamic armies under Khalid ibn al-Walid. For centuries, the city served as a military base and frontier outpost between Eastern Roman and the Muslim world.

Control over Maraş shifted during the Umayyad and Abbasid periods. It was recaptured by the Eastern Roman Empire in 961, but following the Battle of Malazgirt in 1071, the city fell under Turkish control.

Throughout the Seljuk, Ayyubid, and Artuqid periods, the city frequently changed hands. It was ultimately brought under Seljuk rule by Sultan Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev I. During the Mongol invasions, Ağaçeri Turkmen tribes settled in Maraş. In subsequent centuries, the city witnessed struggles among the Seljuks, Armenians, Dulkadirids, and Mamluks. In 1515, Sultan Selim I annexed the Dulkadirid Principality, bringing Maraş into the Ottoman Empire, initiating a long period of peace and prosperity.

Kahramanmaraş Medal of Independence



After World War I, the British occupied Maraş on February 22, 1919, and handed it over to the French on October 29, 1919. The inclusion of Armenian units in the French army, the enthusiastic reception of the occupation by some Armenians in the city, and the removal of the Turkish flag from the fortress caused great unrest among the local population. Following this incident, a man known among the people as Sütçü İmam (Imam Ali) initiated the first armed resistance against the French occupation in Maraş during the Turkish War of Independence.

On November 29, 1919, the Maraş Association for the Defense of National Rights was established, and the local people joined the Kuva-yı Milliye (National Forces) movement under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Pasha. On February 11, 1920, after heavy losses, the French forces withdrew, and the people of Maraş took control of their city.

In recognition of this heroic resistance, on April 5, 1925, the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye awarded Maraş the Medal of Independence with Red Stripe. In 1973, the city was officially given the title "Kahraman" (Hero), and its name was changed to Kahramanmaraş.



NATURAL BEAUTIES

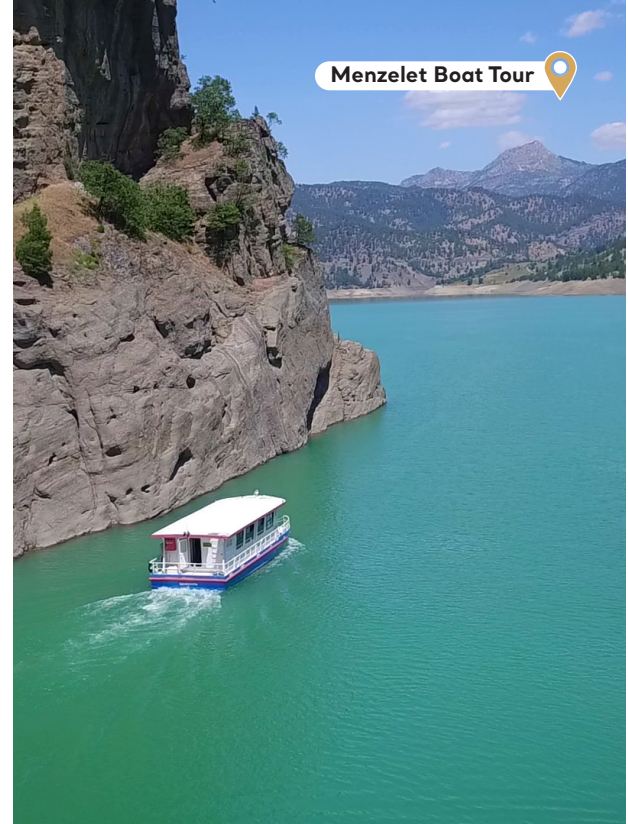
Kahramanmaraş-born author Rasim Özdenören, when listing the highlands of his hometown, poetically remarks: "In summer, the names of our central villages, where we retreat as highland pastures, are lyrical: Kazma, Üngüt, Ayakçıluluk, Kerhan, Güzlek, Gafarlı, Ağyar (Akyar), Sarız (a variant of Sarıkız), Kozludere, Tekerek..."

These highlands, adorned with poetic names, have stood at the heart of life in Kahramanmaraş for centuries. Especially in earlier times — before industrial production and service sectors took hold — these fertile highlands played a vital role in preparing the city for winter, influenced by the dominant Türkmen/Yörük culture.

According to Özdenören, local grape varieties such as ağüzüm (aküzüm), marhabaşı, bandırma, külefi, yıldız, kabarcık, and azezi were cultivated on these highlands. Their juices were combined with plentiful harvests of walnuts, pistachios, and figs to create winter delicacies like samsa and sucuk. Sheep and goat herds that grazed the lush forests and meadows produced uniquely flavored and nutritious meat and dairy products, which became the key ingredients in celebrated local specialties like Maraş Ice Cream.

Başkonuş Highland







Yedikuyular Ski Resort





Ali Kayası Observation Deck

LOCAL FLAVORS

You are in one of Türkiye's culinary capitals. The cuisine of Kahramanmaraş is a captivating reflection of its unique geography, climate, fertile highlands, and deep-rooted history. Its signature dishes and local ingredients have earned national and even international recognition.

Among the geographically indicated delicacies of Kahramanmaraş are:

Maraş Tarhana, Maraş Ekşili Soup, Maraş Eliböğünde (also known as Yanyana), Maraş Sumac Molasses, Maraş Kelle Paça Soup, Maraş Çöreği (Sweet Roll), Andırın Tırşik, Maraş Ravanda Sherbet, Maraş Parmak or Sıkma Cheese, Maraş Ice Cream, Maraş Samsa, Çağlayancerit Walnuts, Afşin Koçovası Garlic, Andırın Wild Carob Molasses, Bertiz Kabarcık Grapes, and Maraş Chili Pepper.

Kahramanmaraş is also home to a Dondurma Museum (Ice Cream Museum) and a Thematic Culinary Museum, both offering insights into the region's rich food culture. The fact that "ice cream" immediately brings Kahramanmaraş to mind in Türkiye is another clue to its culinary legacy.

Kahramanmaraş cuisine is designed for living — it nourishes and energizes. Dried and preserved winter foods like molasses, sucuk (grape sausage), hapısa, bastık (fruit leather), samsa, pestil, and Maraş çöreği are deeply tied to the cultural adaptations to the region's harsh winters.



Maraş Ice Cream and Baklava



Maraş Pepper

The city's signature dishes form a true feast of flavor: Maraş Tarhana Soup, Ekşili Soup, Maraş Kelle Paça, Ekşili Meat with Zucchini Stew, Bulgur Pilaf, Cottage Cheese Börek with Roasted Peppers, Maraş Dolma, Çöş Börek (Maraş Manti), Acem Pilav (Carrot Pilaf), Helise (Keşkek Aşı), Maraş İçli Köfte, Maraş Yoghurt Kebab, and Sulu Yağlı Köfte.

To crown these meals, enjoy the region's distinctive desserts: Çullama, Fig Compote, Candied Watermelon Rind, Walnut Kıрма Dessert, Hapısa, and of course, Maraş Ice Cream.





Maraş Burması ●

HANDICRAFTS

The centuries-old tradition and exceptional craftsmanship of Kahramanmaraş's handicrafts are still alive today, clearly reflected in the continued vibrancy and popularity of its bazaars throughout the city.

Among the most iconic crafts associated with Kahramanmaraş is jewelry making, a profession that embodies a deep-rooted cultural heritage. The elegance and artistry of the jewelry reflect the exceptional handicraftsmanship of local artisans. Globally renowned designs such as Maraş Braided Bangles, woven mesh, honeycomb patterns, caged cords, along with rings, necklaces, bracelets, and belts, are not only favored across Türkiye but also highly sought after in surrounding countries.

Another prominent craft is traditional leather shoemaking, known locally as "köşkerlik" or "çarıklık". The city's artisans continue to produce a wide variety of authentic footwear styles — including kelik, edik, Osmanlı yemenisi with buckles, Fatih yemenisi, palace yemenisi (with or without buckles), and Karadağ-style çarık. These handcrafted shoes are especially popular as props in historical and fantasy film productions, drawing strong interest both nationally and internationally. Handcrafted Maraş knives, especially the Hartlap Knife, are the result of a rich heritage passed down through generations. Produced by master artisans using traditional techniques, these high-quality knives are highly prized by both locals and visitors.

Alongside these crafts, Kahramanmaraş also preserves a wealth of other traditional arts — each grounded in millennia of knowledge and expertise. These include: wood carving, felt-making, weaving (Maraş abası), tinsmithing, leatherwork, saddlery, quilt-making, blacksmithing, cord embroidery, needlework, and stone carving.

Each piece crafted in this city carries the imprint of fine detail and timeless artistry making it impossible not to admire the richness of Kahramanmaraş's handmade legacy.



Coppersmithing

48 HOURS IN KAHRAMANMARAŞ

First Day

Start your day early with a hearty breakfast at one of the city's famous breakfast spots, sampling local flavors like molasses, sucuk (grape sausage), hapısa, bastık, samsa, pestil, and Maraş çöreği. As the morning light rises, head to Kahramanmaraş Castle to watch the sunrise over the city. Continue on to the Kahramanmaraş Museum, where exhibits illuminate 14,000 years of the city's history — not just to be observed, but experienced through modern, interactive displays. Complement this visit with trips to Direkli Cave, Germanicia Ancient City, and the Germanicia Mosaic Site, where many of the museum's artifacts originated.

Take a break for lunch and treat yourself to local classics like Maraş Tarhana Soup, Maraş İçli Köfte, and Maraş Yogurt Kebab, for a meal that's both comforting and unforgettable.

In the afternoon, explore architectural gems such as Dedeoğlu Mansion, Deligönüller Mansion, and Kocabaş Mansion – Maraş Culture House. Then immerse yourself in the bustling atmosphere of the city's historic bazaars, including the Covered Bazaar, Jewelry Bazaar, Saddlers' Bazaar, Coppersmiths' Bazaar, Pack Saddle Makers' Bazaar, and Blacksmiths' Bazaar, as well as the historic inns of Taş Han and Hışır Han.







Second Day

Begin your second day with another delicious breakfast, then step into the city's rich culinary and literary culture by visiting the Thematic Culinary Museum and the Ice Cream Museum. Continue your exploration at the Seven Poets Literature Museum and the Mahmut Arif Pasha Mansion – Ethnography Museum, where you'll gain insight into the modern history of Kahramanmaraş.

Afterwards, experience the city's spiritual depth by visiting some of its most iconic religious sites, including Kahramanmaraş Ulucamii, Abdülhamithan Mosque, Hatuniye Mosque, İklim Hatun Masjid and Tomb, and the Malik Bin Ejder Tomb.

For lunch, gather some picnic supplies from the city center and head to the scenic Yeşilgöz Recreation Area. In the magical atmosphere of the Yeşilgöz Sinkhole, enjoy a relaxing picnic with your loved ones, followed by tranquil nature walks through the surrounding landscape.

To unwind even further, consider visiting the healing waters of Döngel and Ilıca Thermal Springs or the Ekinözü Mineral Springs. You can also take a short trip to the Elbistan City Museum and to Afşin, where one of the region's most important religious and cultural landmarks, the Eshab-ı Khef Complex, awaits.



Mahmut Arif Pasha Mansion – Ethnography Museum



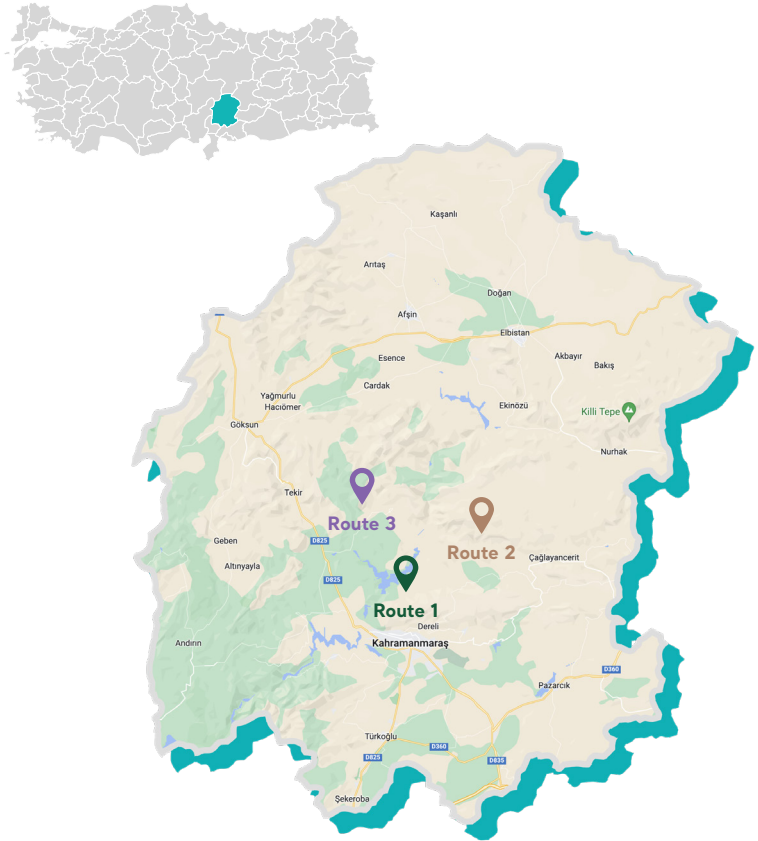
HOW TO GET THERE?

Located at the crossroads of the Mediterranean and Southeastern Anatolia regions, Kahramanmaraş is both a tourism hub and an industrial city — and thanks to its well-developed road network, reaching it is fast and comfortable.

If you're traveling by private vehicle from İstanbul, you can follow the route through Kocaeli, Sakarya, Düzce, Bolu, Ankara, Kırşehir, and Kayseri, reaching Kahramanmaraş in approximately 12 hours. Those departing from Ankara can arrive in about 6 hours via routes passing through Kırıkkale, Yozgat, Sivas, and Kayseri or via the Kırşehir-Kayseri corridor.

Intercity buses also offer convenient access to Kahramanmaraş from all across Türkiye. The bus journey from Adana takes around 2.5 hours, from Ankara approximately 8 hours, and from İstanbul, depending on the service, it ranges between 13 and 14 hours.

For those preferring to fly, Kahramanmaraş Airport, located just 9 kilometers from the city center, is easily accessible via daily direct flights from major cities like İstanbul and Ankara. From the airport, you can quickly reach downtown using a shuttle service or taxi.



ROUTES

📍 Route 1 Historical Route

- Kahramanmaraş Museum
- Elbistan City Museum
- Kahramanmaraş Castle
- Hurman Castle
- Museum of Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Seven Beautiful Men
- Literature Museum Library
- Mahmut Arif Pasha Mansion – Ethnography Museum
- Thematic Culinary Museum
- Ice Cream Museum (Katip Han)
- Germanicia Mosaic Field
- Ceyhan Stone Bridge
- Taş Medrese
- Sheikh Adil Fountain
- Elbistan Grand Mosque
- Çukurhisar Rock Tombs
- Pazarcık Forty Caves
- Direkli Cave
- Domuztepe
- Karahöyük
- Yassihöyük
- Sütçü İmam Memorial Tomb and Çınarlı Mosque

📍 Route 2 Culture and Faith Route

- Eshab-ı Khef Complex
- Kahramanmaraş Grand Mosque
- Abdülhamithan Mosque
- Hatuniye Mosque
- İklim Hatun Masjid and Tomb
- Malik Bin Ejder Tomb
- Dedeoğlu Mansion
- Deligönüller Mansion
- Kocabaş Mansion – Maraş Culture House
- Historic Maraş Bazaars
- Covered Bazaar
- Jewelry Bazaar
- Saddlers' Bazaar
- Taş Han
- Coppersmiths' Bazaar
- Blacksmiths' Bazaar
- Hışır Han
- Aslanbey Mansion
- Üdürgücü Mansion

📍 Route 3 Nature Route


- Döngel Cave
- Galgamaç Waterfall
- Çokran Waterfall
- Savruk Waterfall
- Andırın Kanlıböğüt Canyon
- Göksun Hançer Canyon
- Ali Kayası Glass Terrace
- Pazarcık Mizmilli Lake
- Gavur Lake
- Ilica and Döngel Thermal Springs
- Kapiçam Nature Park
- Körçöban Nature Reserve
- Poets' Hill
- Yavşan Plateau Nature Park
- Tekir Valley


- Savruk Cave
- Başkonuş Plateau and Recreation Area
- Fırın River Recreation Area
- Yedikuyular Ski Resort
- Menzelet Dam Lake Recreation Area
- Yeşilgöz Recreation Area
- Göksun Büyükkızılçık Mineral Spring
- Elbistan Pınarbaşı Recreation Area
- Döngel Thermal Springs
- Ilica Thermal Springs
- Ekinözü Mineral Springs
- Andırın Minareli Suspension Bridge





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