

Tour Option 3:

ANKARA

23 October 2010 - 24 October 2010

The history of Ankara and its surroundings is traced back to the Hatti civilisation of the Bronze Age. Two thousand years before the time of Jesus, the Hittites become the dominant power of the region, and were then followed by the Phrygians, Lydians and Persians. In the 3rd Century BC, a Celtic race known as the Galatians made Ankara their capital city. The name Ankara comes from the word 'Ancyra', which means 'anchor.'

Ankara gained prominence under the leadership of Atatürk during the national resistance which followed World War I. It was declared the capital of the new Turkish Republic on October 13th 1923 when the National War of Independence freed Turkey from foreign occupation.

Occupying one of the most prominent parts of the city is Anıtkabir, the magnificent mausoleum constructed to commemorate Atatürk. This structure, which was completed in 1953, is a synthesis of antique and modern architectural themes, and proves the elegance and strength of Turkish architecture.

The oldest parts of the city surround the Castle. The Alaaddin Mosque found inside its walls is still one of the best examples of Selçuk art and wood craftsmanship, in spite of the fact that it was restored by the Ottomans. The area has experienced a rejuvenation with the restoration of many interesting old Turkish houses, and the opening a several art galleries and fine restaurants which feature examples of traditional Turkish cuisine. Near the gate of the castle is the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, which is a beautifully restored portion of the old bazaar. It contains priceless artifacts belonging to the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras as well as the Hatti, Hittite, Phrygian, Urartu and Roman civilizations.

Ankara has a vibrant cultural and artistic life with many select ballet, theatre, opera and folk dance performances. The city's Philharmonic Orchestra, which always plays to a packed house, is especially famous.





Tour Program

Depart around at 10.00 am to visit the Anatolian Civilizations Museum in the old Citadel, one of the best museums in Turkey, housing an extensive display of ancient settlers in Asia Minor starting from the Stone Age and especially dating back to Neolithic and Bronze Ages such as Catalhohuk and Bogazkoy settlements. Later, visit to the Mausoleum of Ataturk where the founder of the Turkish Republic rests in peace.

Museum of Anatolian Civilizations:

The collections in this museum place an unusual emphasis on the earlier of Anatolia's occupiers, and start with an interesting exhibits from the Catal-Huyuk site, often described as the earliest known human community in the world. Other highlights include a collection of tablets, the translations of which remind you how little some things in the world have changed over the millennia.

Citadel of Ankara:

The Citadel overlooks the city and is the acknowledged symbol of Ankara. It is the oldest part of the city, built either by Hittites or Phrygians, people live almost as they did 6000 years ago. The region was settled before 2000 BC.

Ataturk Mausoleum:

This mausoleum is the eternal resting place of Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, revolutionary, brave soldier, great leader and international figure. It overlooks Ankara and was completed in 1953 and Ataturk was buried there. The Mausoleum is adorned with statues, relief's and embellishments created by many of Turkey's artists.

Tour Fee:

Price per person: 42 €

(Price is valid for minimum 15 participants)

Tour fee Includes:

- * All transportations with private bus, Lunch, Entrance fees, English speaking guidance,
- * Drinks and tips are excluded from the price