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KIRŞEHİR



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM



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Yoğurt Soup with Veggies

DISCOVER KIRŞEHİR

- See the Kaman Kalehöyük Archeology Museum,
- Visit Ahi Evran Complex, Cacabey Gökbilim (Astronomy) Madrasa and Aşık Paşa Tomb, Neşet Ertaş Gönül Sultanları Culture House,
- Stroll around in Kent Park,
- See the underground cities,
- Observe flamingos in Seyfe Lake,
- Watch the sunset at Hirfanlı Dam,
- Buy souvenirs made of onyx or salt.

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

The city, which has hosted various civilizations, is located in the heart of Anatolia and serves as a crossroads. Kırşehir, which has fertile lands on the trade routes, lived its brightest years in the 13th and 14th centuries during the Anatolian Seljuk period. Historical figures who resided in Kırşehir include Cacabey, who had an astronomy madrasah built, Âşık Paşa, one of the important poets of classical Turkish, and Ahi Evran, the founder of the Ahi Order, which is similar to today's chambers of tradesmen.

Kırşehir is one of humanity's earliest towns, with several archaeological digs still ongoing and remnants of many civilizations visible. Archeological and ethnographic artefacts are exhibited in the Kırşehir Museum located in the Cultural Centre, while artefacts from various periods are exhibited in the Kalehöyük Archeology Museum. The most mysterious sites in the city are Mucur Underground City, Kepez Underground City, and Dulkadirli Underground City.







PEARL DROPS OF KIRŞEHİR

In the 13th century, mathematics, science, and astronomy education were given in the Cacabey Astronomy Madrasa, which attracts attention with its unique architecture, interior columns symbolising the planets in the solar system, observation well, luminous lantern, and observation tower, illuminating the darkness of the Middle Ages. In 2014, the Madrasa, which is now a mosque, was added to the UNESCO Temporary World Heritage List.

The complex, where the tomb of Ahi Evran, the founder of the Ahilik organization, a social movement that combines morality and art and has guided tradesmen and craftsmen for hundreds of years, is located in the city centre in Ahi Evran Neighborhood.

The tomb of Âşık Pasha, whose work "Garipname" which contains 10,613 couplets, is one of the oldest and most powerful works of Turkish literature, is located in the large cemetery in the Âşık Paşa District. The tomb's crown gate is one of the most rare examples of Anatolian Seljuk decorative arts. Gülşehri, known as the Aisopos of Turkish literature, was also a resident of Kırşehir.

Kuş Castle and Keçi Castle, which are among the most magnificent structures of the period in which they were built, Kesikköprü Caravanserai, which served the caravans, Üçayak Church, which reflects Byzantine period architecture, Hacfakılı Church, Aksaklı Church, which connects to the Underground City, and Altınyazı Church, which dates back to the first spreading periods of Christianity are must-see attractions.



PEACE IN NATURE'S EMBRACE

In 1990, Seyfe Lake was designated as a "Nature Conservation Area," and it is home to 187 different bird species. It is one of the world's most important wetlands for waterfowl feeding, breeding, and resting. Thousands of ducks, as well as pelicans, plovers, geese, swordbills, seagulls, bitterns, and terns, flock to the lake, which is home to one of the world's largest flamingo colonies.

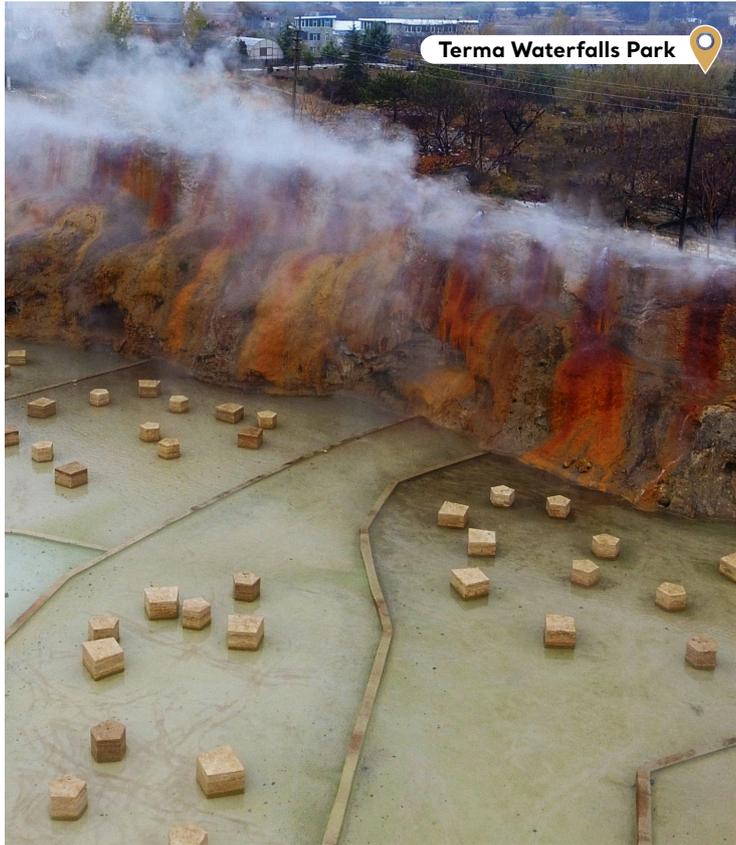
With its distinctive scenery, beach, and social amenities, Hirfanlı Dam Lake, also known as the "Sea of Central Anatolia," guarantees delightful moments to its guests. During the summer, the dam coastlines of Yeşilli, Uzunali, and Karaduraklı villages are used as camping grounds for activities such as underwater sports, sailing, rowing, and canoeing. Çuğun Dam Lake, located 20 kilometres outside the city, is one of the most popular picnic spots. The lake is home to carp, mirror carp, and mullet. The view from the frozen lake is irresistible during the winter months.





Obruk Lake, which has been declared a first degree natural protected area, is located on a rocky area. Reeds cover over half of the lake's surface.

In Kırşehir, the Japon Bahçesi (Japanese Garden), which is one of the largest botanical gardens outside of Japan, attracts local and international tourists, particularly Japanese. In the Garden, where the miniature of Sumeru Mountain is located, there is a little waterfall as well as various dwarf plants, trees, and ponds.



Terma Waterfalls Park



Thermal Hotel

HEALING WATERS

Terme Thermal Spring, one of the thermal springs in Kirsehir, is famous for its healing waters. It is a facility where people who suffer from rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis, diabetes, gout, gall bladder illness, gastrointestinal ailments, hypertension, chronic bronchitis and upper respiratory tract inflammations, and obesity-related diseases can go.

It is well known that bath treatment at Bulamaçlı Thermal Spring, which is located within the borders of the Çiçekdağı district and has a capacity of 20 beds, produces favourable effects in terms of rheumatism, neuralgia, neuritis, and gynaecological illnesses.





Çullama



Sulu Köfte

SHOPPING AND ARTS AND CRAFTS

Among the city's traditional handicrafts, carpet making, stone work (onyx), and embroidery hold a prominent position. Visitors to the city can bring home Kaman walnut and molasses, as well as onyx stone handicrafts as gifts for their loved ones.

TRADITIONAL CUISINE

Tandırda çömlek paça (pot trotter cooked in tandoori), çömlekte kuru fasulye (beans cooked in a terra cotta pot), et yahnisi (meat stew), madımak (local herb pasta), kesme aşı (lentil& homemade erişte/pasta dish), yoğurt çorbası (yoğurt soup), topalak (etsiz köfte) (meatless meatballs), düğür çorbası (bulgur soup cooked in meat stock), lepe (sütlü pilav) (rice with milk), pancar çırpması (beetroot and lentil dish), keşkef (wheat dish cooked with meat), çullama (meat dish with a sauce), soğanlama (onion dish with meat), sebzeli bulgur pilavı (bulgur pilaf with veggies), ayva dolması (stuffed quince) are mouth-watering delicacies of the local cuisine.



Stonework

FESTIVALS

Neşet Ertaş Culture and Art Festival
July-August

Ahi-Order Week Celebrations
September

Kaman Culture Art and Walnut Festival
October





48 HOURS IN KIRŞEHİR

First Day

On the morning of your first day in Kırşehir, start your day with a rich Kırşehir breakfast, featuring organic honey and butter, at Ağalar Mansion, one of the rare examples of Republican period civil architecture in Kırşehir.

After visiting Kentpark, a lush green waterfront space with social and cultural activities, head to the Ahi Evran Complex and view the tomb of Ahi Evran-ı Veli, the organizer of artisans and craftsmen. Then, visit the Cacabey Mosque and Madrasa, built during the Seljuk period as the world's first astronomy and space sciences research centre, and observe its unique architecture.

Go to the Kaman Kalehöyük Archaeology Museum, set on the historical Silk Road. The museum has a cultural heritage of 4,000 years, and exhibits more than 2,000 works to date, after 35 years of excavations. Savour the natural beauty of the Japanese Garden, the largest such botanical garden outside of Japan, next to the Kalehöyük Archaeological Museum.

Conclude your first day with a dinner of local Kırşehir dishes.



Second Day

On your second day, enjoy breakfast with a view of Hilla Lake (Hilla Gölü). At a temperature of 19 degrees throughout the year, the lake has water lilies and multiple fish species.

Visit the Kesikköprü (Broken Bridge) Caravanserai, on the banks of the Kızılırmak River, and gaze at the architectural features of the bridge, including its 13 supporting arches, a magnificent crown gate and lion sculptures. Kesikköprü (The Broken Bridge), next to the caravanserai, held significant commercial importance in the Seljuk period. Here, you can see the traces of history and the beauty of nature at the same time.

Go to the Mucur Underground City, featuring 42 rooms at a depth of seven to eight meters below the ground. The underground city was built to protect the area's population in the 2nd century, during the wars and raids of the Roman period. Relax amid the natural beauty and peace of Mucur Seyfe Lake National Park, home to nearly 700,000 birds, consisting of 167 species, including flamingos.

End the day's tour with a visit to the Kepez Underground City, which attracts attention due to its architecture and bicoloured soil structure.

Enjoy hot thermal water in in one of the city's thermal facilities in the evening.



HOW TO GET THERE?

Many cities, including Ankara and İstanbul, have bus services to Kırşehir. The bus terminal is 2 kilometres from the city centre, and municipal buses, minibuses, and private taxis provide urban transit.

Nevşehir Tuzköy Airport, located 80 kilometres from Kırşehir city centre, is another option for getting to the city.



ROUTES

Route 1

- Kaman Kalehöyük
- Archaeological Museum
- Kaman Çağırkan Japanese Garden
- Kentpark
- Ahi Evran Social Complex
- Çacabey Madrasa
- Ağalar Mansion Culture House
- Thermal Facilities



Route 2

- Kesikköprü (Broken Bridge) and Kesikköprü (Broken Bridge) Caravanserai
- Mucur Underground City
- Mucur Seyfe Lake National Park
- Kepez Underground City
- Dulkadirli Underground City
- Üçayak Church





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