

HATAY

In the light of the archaeological researches, Hatay is one of the settlements that date back to the very past (early ages). Dating back to the Paleolithic Age, its history is an indication that the city offers very good conditions in terms of climatic conditions and soil fertility. Indeed, Hatay has been a city that many civilizations wanted to have throughout history.

Another feature that makes the Hatay region attractive and makes it open to migrations in every period of history is that it is located at the crossroads of the roads connecting Anatolia to Syria and Palestine via Cukurova. In addition, the most suitable ports that can be used to get out of Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean are also in the Hatay region. On the one hand, a big city that connects the roads, on the other hand, strategic harbors that open the doors of the city to the world, that connect cities and seas...

Features that make Hatay a world city are not only limited to these of course. The first known civilization steps in Hatay were unearthed in the excavations at Tell Tainat and Tell Atçana. Furthermore, documents and historical artifacts showing that the late Hittite Principality united and founded the Hattena Kingdom were found in Çatalhöyük near Kırıkhan today.

The name Hatay was given by Atatürk.

Antioch is known to have been named after Antiochus, the father of Nikator I in 300. During this period, water channels were built and water was brought from Defne (Harbiye) to the city. With the Olympics that began in 195 B.C., it became famous as the "City of Olympics".

Between the years A.D. 29-40, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, St. Pierre came to Antioch and tried to spread religion, and those who believed in Jesus Christ were called Christian here. Later, the city became an important center of Christian religion.

Hatay joined Turkey totally as a province with the name "Hatay" on July 23, 1939.

Yavuz Sultan Selim conquered this land in 1516 and the period of the Ottoman Empire began.

This domination continued until 1918. During World War I, French troops took over the rule of Hatay. Thus, Hatay joined Syria under the auspices of France.

After the War of Independence, the independent government of Hatay was established in 1938 with the intervention of the Turkish Government upon the efforts made for France to give independence to Syria. Lasting for 10 months and 21 days, Hatay State joined the soils of the Republic of Turkey by the decision of Hatay Assembly on June 29, 1939.

Hatay has a very important place with the first illuminated street of the world (today's Kurtuluş Street), the first use of the word "Christian", being the third largest city in the Roman period, and having the first mosque of Anatolia in its bosom.

Hatay still lives its history today and makes it live with the legendary tolerance of civilizations, and perhaps with the coexistence of its people who have lived in peace and brotherhood for centuries.

Trip Suggestions on Habib-i Neccar Mosque Route

If you devote one day to the faith centers in Antakya, it is possible to see the faith centers of other celestial religions within walking distance of Habib-i Neccar Mosque.

After visiting the Habib-i Neccar Mosque and Complex, the Catholic Church and Sarımiye Mosque, which are back to back with each other, and Orthodox Church, Protestant Church, Synagogue and Ulu Mosque are among the places you can visit in a short time and those you should visit.

You can wander around the historical Uzun Çarşı (Long Bazaar) and Kurşunlu Han (Leaded Inn) and take a break of tray kebab and coal fired künefe. By continuing your trip, you can get souvenir products from the bazaar. If you have time, you can buy souvenirs for your loved ones by visiting the Ancient Glass House on Kurtuluş Street.

After discovering the Old Antakya Houses and Streets, you can end your trip by having best tastes of Hatay Cuisine in Antakya houses turned into restaurants.



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The First Mosque Built in Anatolia

**HABIB-I NECCAR
MOSQUE**

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
GOVERNORATE OF HATAY
PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATE OF
CULTURE AND TOURISM

CITY OF PEACE, CULTURE AND TOLERANCE; HATAY

HABIB-I NECCAR MOSQUE

Habib-i Neccar Mosque was built in 638 during the period when Antakya was dominated by Muslim Arabs. **It is also accepted as the first mosque in Anatolia.**

There are tombs of Habib-i Neccar and Semun Safa 4 meters below the ground in the northeast corner of the mosque, and those of the apostles

Yahya (Pavlus) and Yunus (Yuhanna) in the entrance. The dome and minaret of the mosque have been damaged and restored many times throughout history.

Completely destroyed in the last great earthquake in 1854, the mosque was rebuilt in Ottoman architectural style by Ottoman Sultan Abdulmecid. The fountain in the yard of the mosque is a work of that period.

Habib-i Neccar's story is told in the Surah Yasin in Holy Book of Quran.



Habib-i Neccar Mosque, an example of faith and tolerance to all the world.



The Story of Habib-i Neccar

The man whose story is told in the Surah Yasin according to Islamic sources.

In the Qur'an, it is told that a third person was sent to support two envoys who came to a city to invite the people of the city to Hakk (the Right), that the people opposed them, that only one man coming from far side of the city believed and supported them, that he was killed by the people of the city as understood from the general meaning of the verse although not explicitly stated, that he entered heaven thanks to his faith, and the people of the city that did him evil were destroyed with a shout. (Yasin 36/13-29)

According to the commentators, the names of the envoys are John, Paul and Shem'un's-Safa (Simon Peter), and the city to which they are sent is Antioch. The name of the believer who accepted their preaching is Habib b. Moses, Habib b. Israel or Habib b. Mer'i. In the commentary books, it is narrated that Habib was a nejar (carpenter), a silk weaver, a kassar (cloth bleacher) or a shoemaker, that he spared half of his daily earnings to his family and the other half to charity, he was far away from the city busy with worship because he had the disease of leprosy, that he was stoned, lynched or slaughtered with a whipsaw when he called the people to believe in, and that he took his cut head and walked.

The style of verses in the Qur'an shows that this story was known in the time of the Prophet. With the verse meaning "Tell them about the city people as

an example" (Yasin 36/13), the story is reminded, and holding the fate of the city people is advised. There is also no information in the hadiths about where this city is, when the incident occurred, and the identity of the person whose faith was reported.

In the Holy Qur'an, peoples such as Thamud people (Hud 11/67; al-Kamer 54/31), the people of Median (Hud 11/94), the people of Lot (al-Hijr 15/73), and Ashab al-Hijr (al-Hijr 15/83) were destroyed with a shout because they had not listened to the messengers of Allah. It is not known whether the city mentioned in the Surah Yasin belongs to one of these peoples. Although it is known that there was an earthquake in 35 B.C. in Antakya, where the commentators say that the incident took place, it is not possible to determine its relevance to the incident described in the Qur'an.

On the other hand, it is said in some commentary books that Jesus Christ sent the envoys to the city. Christian sources mention no information that Jesus Christ sent envoys to Antioch during the preaching activity. Sent to this city by the Christians in Jerusalem after his ascension, Barnabas summoned Saul (Paul) from Tarsus, and together they spread the new religion there for a year (The Acts of the Apostles 11/22-26). While Paul and Barnabas were in Antioch, Simon Peter also went there (Letter to Galatians, 2/11). However, in the New Testament, there is no incident similar to the story described in the Quran.

Although it has been claimed that Agabus mentioned in the New Testament (The Acts of the Apostles 11 / 27-28) is Habib-en Neccar (IA, V/1, p.9), there is no evidence to prove it (El [Fr]., III/1, p.12-13). The information about Agabus in the New Testament is as follows: "On those days, some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world. This took place in the days of Claudius" (The Acts of the Apostles 11/27-28). In the New Testament, the activity of Agabus in Kaysariye eight years after this incident is also mentioned (The Acts of the Apostles 21/10-11). Greeks believe that Agabus was one of the seventy disciples Jesus Christ chose and that he was martyred in Antioch (DB, I/1, p.259).

H a b i b - i N e c c a r M o s q u e , t h e f i r s t m o s q u e i n A n a t o l i a

Habib-i Neccar has two tombs. The first is in the mosque with the apostles; the other is located on Mount Habib-i Neccar.

Because of all these features, it is regarded as sacred by both Muslims and Christians.

