

Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk - İngiliz Derneği



The Anglo Turkish Association of Northern Cyprus

Dates indicated are Draft Dates for guidance only, with actual tour dates confirmed closer to the actual indicated draft dates for the tour. All tours will only be undertaken if TRNC & Turkish Government Regulations can be complied with. Tours are subject to change should circumstances arise.

ATA Organised TOUR for FEBRUARY 2022

A guided tour to the Adana, Mersin & Tarsus region of Turkey – 15th to 18th February (dates to be confirmed)

Mersin's nickname in Turkey is "Pearl of the Mediterranean" (Turkish: Akdeniz İncisi). It is a port city in southern Turkey on the Mediterranean coast. It's a gateway to the ancient city of Tarsus, a Christian pilgrimage destination where St. Paul's Well commemorates the first Apostle of Christ. Nearby is Cleopatra's Gate, one of the remaining ruins of the city's ancient walls. In the city, the Mersin Museum exhibits archaeological artefacts from the city's long history. The city is also known for its many burial mounds and excavation.

Mersin is an incredible cultural melting pot. Saint Paulus, the first Apostle of Christ, was born in Tarsus which is 25 km to Mersin. Tarsus has inherited a cultural heritage accumulated in 6 thousand years. Archaeological excavations carried out in Yumuktepe tumulus, located at the centre of Mersin, have shown that the city was first built 9 thousand years ago.

Cleopatra Gate: Of the three gates of the city, once surrounded by walls, only the one facing the sea remains intact. Legend has it that Cleopatra entered the city through this gate to meet Antonius.

Aya-Thekla (Hagia Thekla): Built around 50 B.C., is a unique place with its legends which have reached our day and with the cultural heritage it contains.

Yumuktepe: It is north-west of the city. 33 tiers of civilizations were unearthed as a result of



excavations carried out in this tumulus. The first settlement in Yumuktepe was built in the Neolithic age and continued uninterrupted during Chalcolithic, Bronze, Hitite, Byzantium and Islamic eras. Artefacts, which are being displayed in Mersin Museum, include weapons used during the Hitite period, ceramics, stone seals, copper fishing lines, woman sculptures, jewellery and kilns. A castle discovered 25 meters under the tumulus is a small copy of the one built in Bogazkoy. Adana is an energetic city with excellent transport links to the rest of Turkey and into the Arabian Peninsula through Syria. From historical sites to modern cafes and bars, Adana has numerous attractions making it a

popular destination that is worth a visit. Situated in the middle of the Cukurova Plain (Cilician Plain), Adana is the sixth largest city of Turkey with over 2,2 million, nestled in the most fertile agricultural area of the whole country which is fed by the life-giving waters of the Seyhan river. The city's name originates in mythology, where it was said to have been founded by Adanus, the son of Cronus (God of Weather, Zeus' father).

POSTPONED
until a future date





Due to its being in the heart of that fertile center Adana has been an important city for many civilizations for centuries dating back to the Hittites. The precious River Seyhan is spanned by the ancient Taskopru (Stone Bridge) which was built by Hadrian and then repaired by Justinian. It is worth noting that to built a 300

meters long stone bridge in Roman times was a real feat.

In the city, the 16th century Great Mosque (Ulu Camii), the Yag or Eski Mosque, the Hasan Aga Mosque, Saat Kulesi (the clock-tower) built in 1882, an old covered bazaar, Bedesten or Arasta are of interest. You can also see the Ethnographical Museum where Turkish carpets, swords, manuscript books and tombstones are exhibited. The building itself is interesting as well since it was built as a church by the Crusaders. The Adana Archaeological Museum merits visiting too. Adana is also famous for its delicious Adana Kebap and other meat dishes.

Tarsus is a historic city in south-central Turkey, 20 km inland from the Mediterranean. It is part of the Adana-Mersin metropolitan area, the fourth-largest metropolitan area in Turkey with a population of 3 million people. It is best known as the birthplace of Saint Paul (also known as Saul of Tarsus I. c. 5- c. 64 CE) and, according to Plutarch, Cleopatra VII (I. c. 69-30 BCE) met Mark Antony (I. 83-30 BCE) aboard her ship outside the city's port-side gate, the ruins of which are a popular tourist attraction in the present day.



St. Paul Well: It is a well located in a courtyard of a demolished house, where St. Paul is believed to have lived, in Tarsus city centre. Recent excavations have unearthed some walls.

St. Paul Church: St. Paul, one of the leading figures of the Christianity, is believed to have had this church constructed as St. Paul Cathedral at Tarsus city centre in 1102. It attracts attention by its Roman-style thick and high walls, deep windows with a wide internal side and a narrow external side and thick columns.



The Cave of Seven Sleepers: The cave, mentioned in Kefh sura of the Koran, is 14 km north-west of Tarsus and is considered a sacred place both by the Muslims and the Christians. Around 250 A.D. Dacianus, a Greek ruler of Tarsus city, warned 7 young people, who had accepted to worship a single god, that they would be punished unless they worshipped idols. The 7 young people have fled from the ruler's oppression and took refuge in this cave where, according to legend, slept there for 309 years.

A tour itinerary will be published on the association Website and Facebook Group + Page once actual dates and costs are confirmed.

Please note this tour will sell out very quickly!

Descriptions of all Tours are done so using poetic journalistic license and should not be assumed to be a detailed description or itinerary of any particular Tour, rather a '*wetting the imagination*'. Detailed information on all Tours will be emailed to members in sufficient time prior to the actual Tour to enable informed decisions made as to if the Tours of interest to you. For more information on any of our Tours in 2022 please email our Tours Organiser; contact details can be found on the committee members page and tours page of our website.

