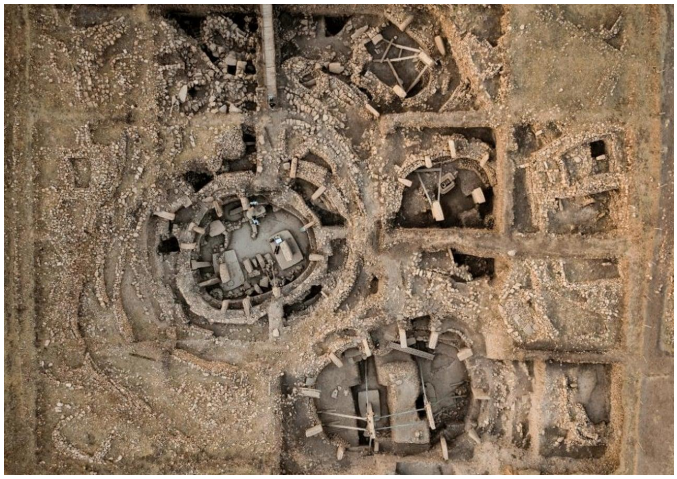
Göbeklitepe / Istanbul / Şanlıurfa

Mesopotamia – Ancient Origins of Stone Hills: Gobeklitepe and Glorious Urfa Day-Tour from Istanbul



Tour code: IB-TR-026266

Duration: 1 day

From €36.00 / person

Starting point: Istanbul

Languages: English

Overview

Embark on an extraordinary day trip from Istanbul to Şanlıurfa, the legendary City of Prophets and one of the cradles of civilisation. Discover the UNESCO-listed Göbeklitepe, explore the fascinating Neolithic discoveries of Karahantepe, and experience the spiritual atmosphere of Balıklıgöl and the

legendary birthplace of Prophet Abraham. Admire magnificent Roman mosaics and remarkable archaeological treasures as you uncover the ancient heritage of Mesopotamia.

Your itinerary

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Early morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Sanliurfa, most locals just say; the city of prophets or glorious Urfa - located in the southern foothills of the Taurus Mountains in the upper Mesopotamia and the eastern shore of the Euphrates in the Fertile Crescent region of Anatolia.

Meet your local guide on arrival and start exploring up close, our journey begins with Unesco World Heritage site of Gobeklitepe, a groundbreaking archaeological site that has transformed our understanding of early civilisation. Stroll the boardwalk, see active digs, the earliest sacred structures and rethink how early humans built sacred spaces, believed to be between 11,000 and 13,000 years old - long before the creation of pottery, writing, Stonehenge or the Pyramids. Next, we explore Karahantepe, recently excavated settlement showcases similar T-shaped pillars and intricate carvings, shedding new light on the Neolithic era. With over 250 megalithic structures, Karahantepe offers insights into how our ancestors transitioned from nomadic lifestyles to settled communities. Excavations began in 2019. Gobeklitepe shows us monumental architecture. Karahantepe helps us understand the people, rituals and symbolic world behind it.

Discover fascinating stories, insights and facts on the roots of Ancient Edessa for the Crusaders, ancient and modern history of Sanliurfa. Urfa is set right at the crossroads of routes to Europe, Asia, and Africa, just about everyone important has marched through and left their mark, including the Babylonians, Hurrites, Assyrians, Egyptians, Alexander the Great, Greeks, Romans, French and Seljuk Turks under Salahaddin. Great powers had risen and fallen, some influenced the world enormously whereas others were erased from the memory of time.

Driving back to the important Silk Road city of Sanliurfa and explore city's main attractions, wonderful oasis of cool shade with the sound of flowing water - Balikligol and a cave engrained in historical lore, believed to be the birthplace of the Prophet Abraham. Inspired by all we've learned, we'll continue on to explore the massive and complex mosque of Halilurrahman.

Then it's on to the Haleplibahce Mosaic Museum, renowned for its stunning Roman mosaics. Our day concludes at the nearby Sanliurfa Archaeology Museum, featuring a vast array of artefacts from Gobeklitepe, Karahantepe, and the Mesopotamian region, providing a thorough exploration of this historically rich area. Ideal for time-pressed history buffs. Late night flight back to Istanbul and

transfer to your accommodation.

Seasonal Notice: Karahantepe Archaeological Site will not be seen on this itinerary from October 20 to April 1 due to winter operating hours.

Good to know

Enjoy a full-day guided journey from Istanbul with domestic flights and airport transfers.

Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Karahantepe is excluded from the itinerary between 20 October and 1 April.

Plan your journey

Contact our team for dates, availability and a personalised quote.

https://istanbluetravel.com/

This document is for information only. Prices and availability are subject to confirmation.