

# LIFE IN ADANA

## ...and Adana

With a history dating back to 6000 BC, Adana is one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia and is the fifth-largest city in Turkey. Stretching over an area of 14.030 square kilometres, Adana has been undergoing a rapid development in an attempt to become a metropolitan city. It is situated in the most fertile agricultural area of the whole country that is fed by the life-giving waters of the Seyhan River. Adana's prosperity has long come from the fertile valleys behind it and its position as a bridgehead on the Anatolian-Arabian trade routes. Also its population boom can be attributed to its fertile plains, rivers and highlands. Additionally, besides having created a major textile industry, the city is also an importing trading centre for gold.

Due to its being in the heart of that fertile land, Adana has been an important city for many civilizations for centuries dating back to the Hittites, one of the most important Anatolian civilizations. The precious River Seyhan is spanned by the ancient Taşköprü (Stone Bridge), which was built by Hadrian (117-138 AC) and then repaired by Justinian (527-565 AC). It is worth noting that to build a 300 yard long stone bridge in Roman times was a real feat. Furthermore, it is the only ancient bridge still being used by both pedestrians and drivers.

You can also visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14yIzchTGE>

**Transportation:** Adana is a metropolitan city having a large bus terminal, a railway station and a airport. The railway station is located in the city centre offering services to many main and nearby cities of Turkey. The Adana airport, called "Şakirpaşa Havaalanı", is about 5 km from the city centre and there are regular buses from and to the city centre every 15 minutes. The taxi prices are about 40-50 TL (10-15 Euros) from the airport to the campus.

The main bus terminal of Adana is located close to the airport, about 15 minutes to the city centre. There are many travel agencies offering scheduled and unscheduled services to all cities within Turkey and many countries and cities abroad.

To travel within the city, beside taxis there are scheduled municipal buses and local buses you can use without having to pay in cash, but using a ticket or "**kentkart**". You can find out how to get one during the orientation programme. Additionally, there are minibuses that are a little more expensive than the scheduled buses, but they drive about every 5 minutes to nearly every corner of the city and you can pay in cash.

## **Society and Culture**

### **Performing Arts**

**Çukurova State Symphony Orchestra** performed its first concert in 1992 and since then, the orchestra is performing twice a week from October to May at Greater Municipality Theatre Hall. The orchestra consists of 39 musicians and conduct regular tours in Turkey and abroad.

**Adana State Theatre** opened its stage in 1981 at Sabancı Cultural Centre. It performs regularly from October to May.

**Adana Town Theatre** was founded in 1880 to be the first theatre in Adana by governor Ziya Paşa. Town Theatre currently performs weekly at Greater Municipality Theatre Hall. Greater Municipality Theatre Hall also hosts Town Chorus and community theatre, folklore and concert performances.

**Seyhan Town Theatre** and Seyhan Folkloric Dances stage weekly at the 1000-seater Theatre Hall of Seyhan Cultural Centre.

**Amphitheatres** in Adana host performances from April to November. Mimar Sinan Amphitheatre, the largest in Adana, can accommodate 8000 people and hosts concerts and movies. It is located at the west bank of Seyhan River. 2100-seater Merkez Park Amphitheatre, 3000-seater Çukurova University Amphitheatre and Doğal Park Amphitheatre in Çukurova District also hosts theatres, concerts and movies.

### ***Museums***

Adana Archaeological Museum opened in 1924 is one of the oldest museums in Turkey. The museum exhibits archaeological works from all over Çukurova. Notable works are; two Augustus statues from Hittites, Achilles Sarcophagus depicting Trojan War and statues from Magarsus and Augusta ancient cities.

Adana Ethnography Museum was opened in 1983. At the front and back yard there is epitaph and gravestones of Adana are leading figures of 17th century. On the west yard, there are inscriptions of Stone Bridge, Misis Bridge, old City Hall and Bahripaşa Fountain. Inside, there are clothing, jewellery and weaponry of Yörük villagemen.

Atatürk Museum exhibits War of Independence and first years of Republic at the mansion, Atatürk stayed during his trips to Adana.

## Festivals

Altın Koza International Film Festival is one of the most important film festivals in Turkey, taking place every year in June since 1969. During Altın Koza of 2009, 212 international films were shown in 11 movie theatres across the city. Long Film Contest, International Student Film Contest and Mediterranean Cultures Film Contest are held during the festival.

International Sabancı Theatre Festival is held every year in April since 1999. In 2009, festival hosted 16 theatre groups who performed 20 plays. 6 of the theatre groups attended from Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Egypt and Kyrgyzstan.

Çukurova Art Days is a regional festival that takes place every April since 2007. 115 poets, painters, musicians and caricaturists from 10 different countries attended festival in 2009, which took place in Adana, Mersin, Gaziantep, Antakya, İskenderun, Tarsus and Aleppo.

13 Kare Arts Festival began in 1999 as a festival of photography dedicated to 13 photographers of Adana who died in an accident during an AFAD (Adana Photography Amateurs Association) trip. The festival then extended to other arts. During the festival, exhibitions of nature, under-sea and architecture photography, puppet shows, shadow theatre and several concerts are held. The festival takes place every December.

Seyhan Cultural Events is a month long festival during Ramadan. During the festival, theatre plays, sufi music concerts, folkloric dances and children shows held at Seyhan Cultural Centre.

The Orange Blossom Carnaval is an annual celebration held every April in Adana, Turkey. The carnival begins in early April and has the simple slogan "Nisan'da Adana'da" (In April In Adana). It is one of the first Street carnivals of Turkey.

For more information <http://www.nisandaadanada.com/default.aspx?LangID=2>

## Climate

Adana has a typical Mediterranean climate. Winters are warm and summers are hot and dry. The highest recorded temperature was on the 8th of July 1978 reaching 44.0°C (111.2°F). The lowest recorded temperature was on the 30th of January 1980 of a cold -4.2°C (24.4°F).

Climate data for Adana

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C (°F)	15.0 (59)	16.1 (61)	19.4 (67)	23.6 (74)	28.1 (83)	31.7 (89)	33.8 (93)	34.3 (94)	33.1 (92)	29.1 (84)	22.1 (72)	16.6 (62)
Average low °C (°F)	5.5 (42)	5.9 (43)	8.3 (47)	12.3 (54)	16.1 (61)	20.1 (68)	23.6 (74)	23.7 (75)	20.7 (69)	16.1 (61)	10.6 (51)	7.0 (45)