Ankara, the capital of Turkey, stretches in the middle of Anatolian plateau right in the heart of historically inherited lands that goes back to thousands of years. One should not miss the alternative destinations and authentic sites and vibrant cultural life around here.

Ankara has long been known as the health center of its region. The city own various health centers dedicated to Asclepius, the god of health, since the antiquity. Today the spa centers located in Kızılcahamam, Ayaş and Haymana districts are the source of cure for various kinds of ailments. 77 kilometers away from the city center, Kızılcahamam, with its water rich with minerals, is one of the spa centers recommended by health experts. On the other hand, Ayaş, 83 kilometers away from the city center, with its potable water, is one of the unique thermal spas of the world.

Out of City Experience

Nallıhan, Beypazarı, Kızılcahamam, Çamlıdere and Polatlı, the districts of Ankara, offer an alternative outing for those who are willing to enjoy the quiet life of countryside. Nallıhan, 160 kilometers away from the city center, is an ideal escape point with its plateaus, hiking, camping, and bird watching opportunities.

Çayırhan District, near Nallıhan, owns an unequalled bird paradise that contains 77 bird species in its perimeter. Once an inner sea millions of years ago, the region got inflicted by erosion after the water drained to reveal the visual feast it is now. The geological formations and the spectrum of thousands of colors during sunset and sunrise, especially after the rain, offer a unique vista.

Beypazarı District, with its weekly farmers’ market, draws thousands of people from the city center to here. Old Ankara houses, natural hiking trails and traditional festivals make the old district more attractive for visitors. Located 100 kilometers west of the city center, the district is famous with silver works, originally called, ‘telkari,’ i.e. filigree wirework. Despite the fact that there’s been no silver mine in the region, the filigree wireworks are common artisanal craftsmanship in the district.

Ankara Castle

The Hittites are thought to have built it, after the Hittites, the castle was renovated and repaired during Roman, Byzantine and Seljuk periods. Its looming and impending walls still keep its solid structure.

Within its perimeter are the old Ankara houses with authentic cafes and historic inns. The Castle is still an attraction center of tourism visited by thousands of tourists.

Çengelhan Rahmi M. Koç Museum, located at the entrance of the castle, is the first and only industrial museum of Ankara. Dedicated to transportation, industry and communication, the museum exhibits a collection of objects used by Atatürk, the founder of Turkish Republic, miniature models of boats and automobiles can be seen in the museum.

Various inns and antique shops are lined around Atpazarı which is located near the museum. While you enjoy the joy of shopping, you can also taste the local food and beverages.

Health Center Ankara

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Europe’s Elite Destination
Hamamönü

Hamamönü, located between Ulus and Sıhhiye districts and renovated after a careful city-planning, is entitled to the “Elite Destination Award of Europe 2011.”

Historic Ankara houses, its authentic streets, cultural and artistic events all year around, hand-made products exhibited at the street corners, sounds of music, the street of Art, open-air movie theater, shopping stores promising novelties for all taste and budget, are among the sight-seeing spots of Hamamönü.

Hamamönü

Historic Downtown Ulus

Rich in history, Ulus is one of the oldest inhabited areas in Ankara. The Roman baths, now an open air museum, built in honor of Hadrian, the mischievous god, by the Roman emperor Caracalla in the 1st century B.C., the Augustus Temple which was built during the reconstruction era by an Ankara declared official capital of Galatea province, comprising of today’s Ankara, Corum and Kırşehir provinces, and Hacı Bayram-ı Veli Mosque situated in the vicinity, and the Grand National Assembly Building (First Senate House), the symbol of Turkish Republic, today the Museum of Turkish Independence will welcome all of you.

Kocatepe Mosque

Inspired by the architectural styles of Selimiye in Edirne and Sultan Ahmet (Blue) Mosque in Istanbul, Kocatepe was built during the 20th century with a specific 16th century touch. The mosque has one dome and four minarets.

Hacı Bayram-ı Veli Mosque

Hacı Bayram-ı Veli was born and raised in Ankara. He was the spiritual leader of his era (14th century A.D.) and a valuable scholar in Anatolia.

Ankara Development Agency

Active since 2010, Ankara Development Agency is a public enterprise promoting sustainable development and entrepreneurship in the region as well as aiming to increase the regional social capacity.

Investment Support Office

Investment Support Office, founded within the body of Ankara Development Agency, aims to promote the investment prospects in Ankara and offers consultancy services, coordination and follow-up support for entrepreneurs. With its pro bono services, the Office is at the disposal of investors as ‘one-stop-shop’ in Ankara.

Investment Support Office

A Moment of Silence

The Mausoleum, where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of Turkish Republic lies in eternal peace, represents the respect of Turkish peoples to their savior. Located on Rasattepe, the Mausoleum reflects the grandiosity of modern architecture. The Atatürk Museum and Independence War Museum give a chance for visitors to witness how a nation was born.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk Museum

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Ankara’s museums reveal the adventure of millennium old civilizations, the exhibition halls offer a vivid cultural life, its natural attractions and thermal sources promise a quiet and healthy life.

The city’s ancient name, Christy, by Cylab, comes from Ankara, meaning “rock.” During the course of history its name changed from Anamya to Engis, Engis, Anagora, Angora, and finally to Ankara.

Cylab, Hittites, Phrygians, Lydians, Persians, Seljukians and Ottomans inhabited the town. Today its population reaches over 5 million.

www.ankaraka.org

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