

# Gaziantep: The Turkish Cuisine Capital

Gaziantep a city located in south-eastern Turkey is a cultural and economical centre of the region. In 2011 total population of the city was 1,376,352, which made it the sixth most populous city in Turkey.

The city, which is well known for its desserts and its cuisine, is awaiting also lovers of history and nature.



Gaziantep is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Its possible to find the traces of ancient civilizations and cultures. Some of worth seeing places in the city are:

**Zeugma Museum** : The museum opened in 2011 is the biggest mozaic museum in the world containing 1700m<sup>2</sup> of mosaics. Almost all of them belong to old Antiquity period and images the myths, legends and symbol of the old Greece and Rome.

**Gaziantep Citadel**, also known as the Kale (castle): located in the centre of the city and displays the historic past and architectural style of the city. Inside of the citadel, there is an info zone with video and notes regarding war in Gaziantep between the Turkish and French armies after the World War I.

**Bey Mahallesi District:** One of historical districts of the city. Full of extraordinary architecture and mysterious streets.

**The Old Bazar (Market):** the place contains many old historical buildings constructed of the black, red and white stones typical for the Anatolian region. The buildings are mostly represented by mosques and former medrese (schools of the Middle Ages). There are several shops producing traditional Turkish shoes. One of the shops located in the Old Bazar was serving the Hollywood producers of the film "The Troy": they made shoes for the screen soldiers. Also, on the territory of the Old Bazar, there is an old shop of baklava (Turkish traditional cuisine made of pistachio), which was the first baklava producing café and is considered as the oldest in Turkey.

**The Hamam Museum:** the old museum for the Turkish traditional bath – Hamam, where oldest bath tools and technologies are collected. The visitors can try to produce own soap and take it as a souvenir.

## FOOD:



Food in Gaziantep is different from the cuisine in other parts of Turkey because of the influence of Oguz Turks and Aleppo. The difference is visible in its rice meals, soups, kababs, meatballs, etc. The meatballs come in varieties of cig kofte, meatball with malhita (lentils), Sour small meatballs, Small meatball with yoghurt, Icli kofte. Its desserts are a must try for the tourist as well and they include the sweet pastry baklava, burmali, kunefe, sari burma, kadayif etc.

Other than these, make sure you at least taste the lahmacun (a pancake prepared with spicy meat), yuvarlama (mas soup) and karisik dolama (a preparation made of different types of vegetables, yogurt, potatoes or potato with yogurt, beyran etc).



### **Transport:**

Gaziantep has an international airport and has direct flights to major cities in Europe, especially in summer. It is also well-connected with daily flights to major cities in Turkey, allowing to reach different destinations easily. It is 15 km from city center. You can reach the city center from the airport with the Havaş.

The coach station "otogar" in Gaziantep is one of the most convenient stations in Turkey. It is well-integrated with most of the cities in the West and the East. The local coach companies, "Seç Turizm, Ben Turizm and Çayırağası" provide excellent service with punctual arrivals.

The city centre is reasonably compact and walkable. There are plenty of local buses and trams serviced with the special electronic cards and equipped with the newest security systems.

### **Weather:**

The climate is warm and temperate in Gaziantep. In winter there is much more rainfall in Gaziantep than in summer.

**PLEASE SEE THESE VIDEOS!!!**

**THEY WILL SHOW YOU TRUE GAZIANTEP!!!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzgiQmVGBc4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auaqX-JmnS8&t=19s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHMGxztGmgU&t=14s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TIVUE1wWN0&t=47s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMQchbztgrQ&t=1s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Omi6ysoEG50>



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