

HARRAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

1. Ulu Mosque
2. Inner Castle (Fortress-Palace)
3. Mound
4. Market Bath
5. Eastern Market
6. Halep Gate
7. Raqqa Gate
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9. Jacob's Well
10. Church
11. Gastronomy Centre
- 12-14. Culture Houses



Visiting Hours		
April 1 - October 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 18:30 Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:30	October 2 - March 30 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 17:00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:30	Open everyday.
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HARRAN

CENTRE OF FAITH AND SCIENCE: HARRAN



Harran Archaeological Site is located at Harran Township, 44 km to the south of Şanlıurfa Province. Located at the center of the plain, called with the same name, Harran is at the junction of the roads stretching from south – to north and from east – to west. Having been settled by numerous civilisations, i.e. Old Assyrians, New Assyrians, Hittites, New Babilonians, Meds, Persians, Helens, Romans, East Romans, Emevis, Abbasids, Hamdanis, Numeyris (1059), Seldjuks (1086), Zengis and Ayyubids (1182), Harran was destroyed by Mongolians in 1272, and their people and wealth were carried to Mosul and Mardin. Harran has become the capital city of New Assyrian Kingdom and Umayyad State along the history and is the central city of Diyar-i Mudar at Cezire region.

It is indicated that Harran is named such because that it was built by “Haran”, uncle of Prophet Abraham. Harran means “road” in Chaldean language.

Existence of the Temple of Moon God Sin at Harran has provided a sanctity to this city throughout the historical ages. Harran’s Moon God Sin was made witness to the peace concluded among the kingdoms. As mentioned in the holy books, the settlement of Prophet Abraham in Harran has moved this city to a state of becoming a center of tolerance. Presence of more than one hundred scholars from Harran is well-known in history. Astronomer-philosopher, translator Thābit ibn Qurrah, astronomer al-Battani; the scribe Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah; medic, philosopher, mathematician İbrahim ibn Zahrun are some of them.

Fortress - Palace, Harran Ulu Mosque, Harran Mound, Conic Domed Houses, Market Bath, Eastern Market, Vaulted Road Market, Courtyard with Fountain, Aroma Shop are located in Harran within the elliptical city wall of about 4 km length.



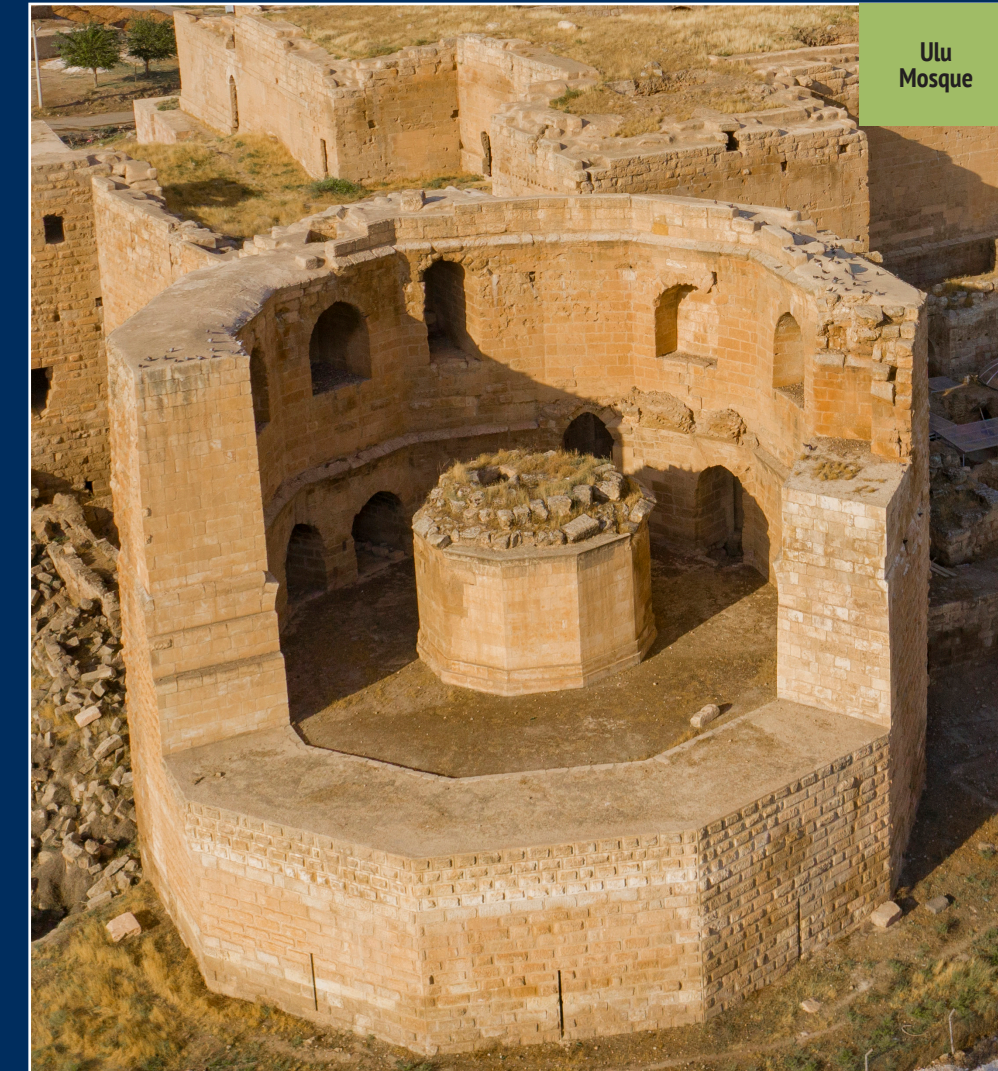
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Fortification which surround Harran city together with a moat is elliptical in plan and have a dimension of 1350 x 1000 m. The city wall of about 4 km length is 8 m. high and 1.50 m wide. It has six gates, i.e. Anadolu Gate, Aslanlı Gate, Baghdad Gate, Mosul Gate, Rakka Gate and Aleppo Gate. There exists 187 square faced buttresses in regular intervals. The standing inscription on Aleppo Gate is dated to 1192.

The inner castle is to the southeast of the city and has a quasi-rectangular plan of dimension 130x90 m and 30 m height. There are Polygonal (11 sides) towers at the corners of the inner castle. It is surrounded by a moat. Castle - Palace has 3 floors. The walls are in ashlar masonry and brick is used in some sections, vaults and arches. There are galleries, halls and rooms at the floors. There exist embrasures at the galleries through which bows and arrows were used. At the second floor, Castle mosque and Palace Bath and, to the south east, the gate with dog relief can be seen. İbn Shaddad, İbn el Varag and Dimaşki indicate in their memoires that the castle was previously a temple of Sabians. It is stated that the temple of Sabians was destroyed and instead a palace was constructed and this palace was converted to the inner castle by building polygonal towers and bulky external walls with galleries along the circumference of the palace in the period of Zengis and Ayyubids



Inner Castle



Ulu Mosque

This is known as the first great mosque of Anatolia with the richest stone engravings and the greatest courtyard with fountain and porches in its time. Harran Ulu Mosque, also referred to as Paradise and Friday Mosque, is located to the north east of the mound. Its eastern gate, shrine, courtyard gate, fountain and minaret are in good condition. The mosque was built almost in a square plan. Its sanctuary has four naves extending along the shrine wall. It has a wide courtyard surrounded by 6 gates and porches and adorned with a fountain. Upper part of its square plan stone minaret is made of brick. İbn Şeddad narrates that a mosque was built at the place where the Moon Temple existed when Harran was conquered in 639. The mosque was converted to a masonry building by Mervan II. In the middle of XIth Century, Nureddin Mahmud Zengi enabled the construction of 3th nave and Melik el Adil the 4th, and thus it took its final form. The inscription in Arabic on the east gate of the mosque is dated to 1192.



Conic Domed Houses

Conic dome houses of beehive form are seen in Harran. Such type is preferred in the region since the Neolithic age (Arpacia, Tel Halaf etc.). Conic domed houses of Harran which are thought to be built about 200 years ago form a cool space in summer and warm space in winter. The number of domed units increase according to the number of households.