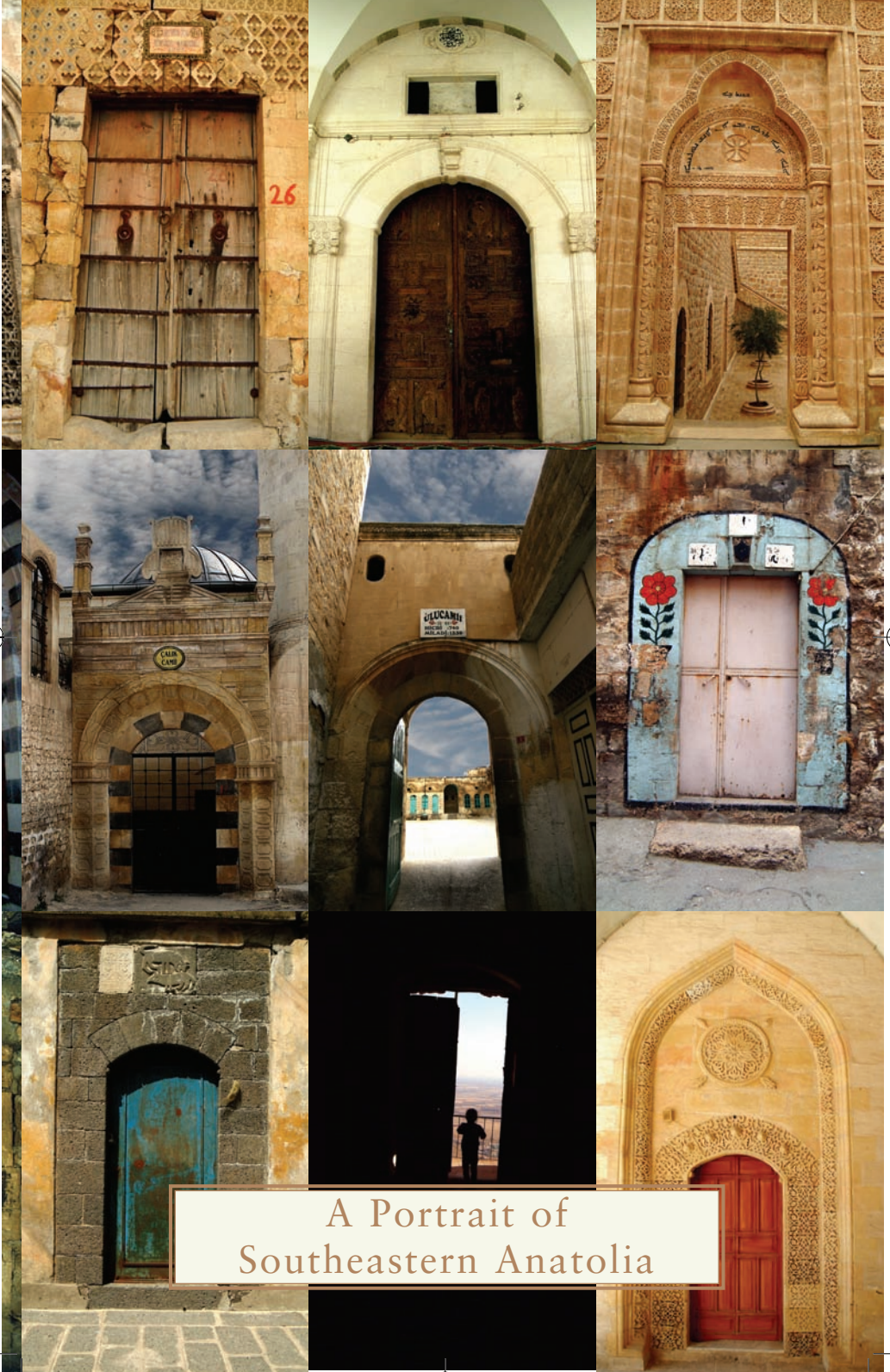


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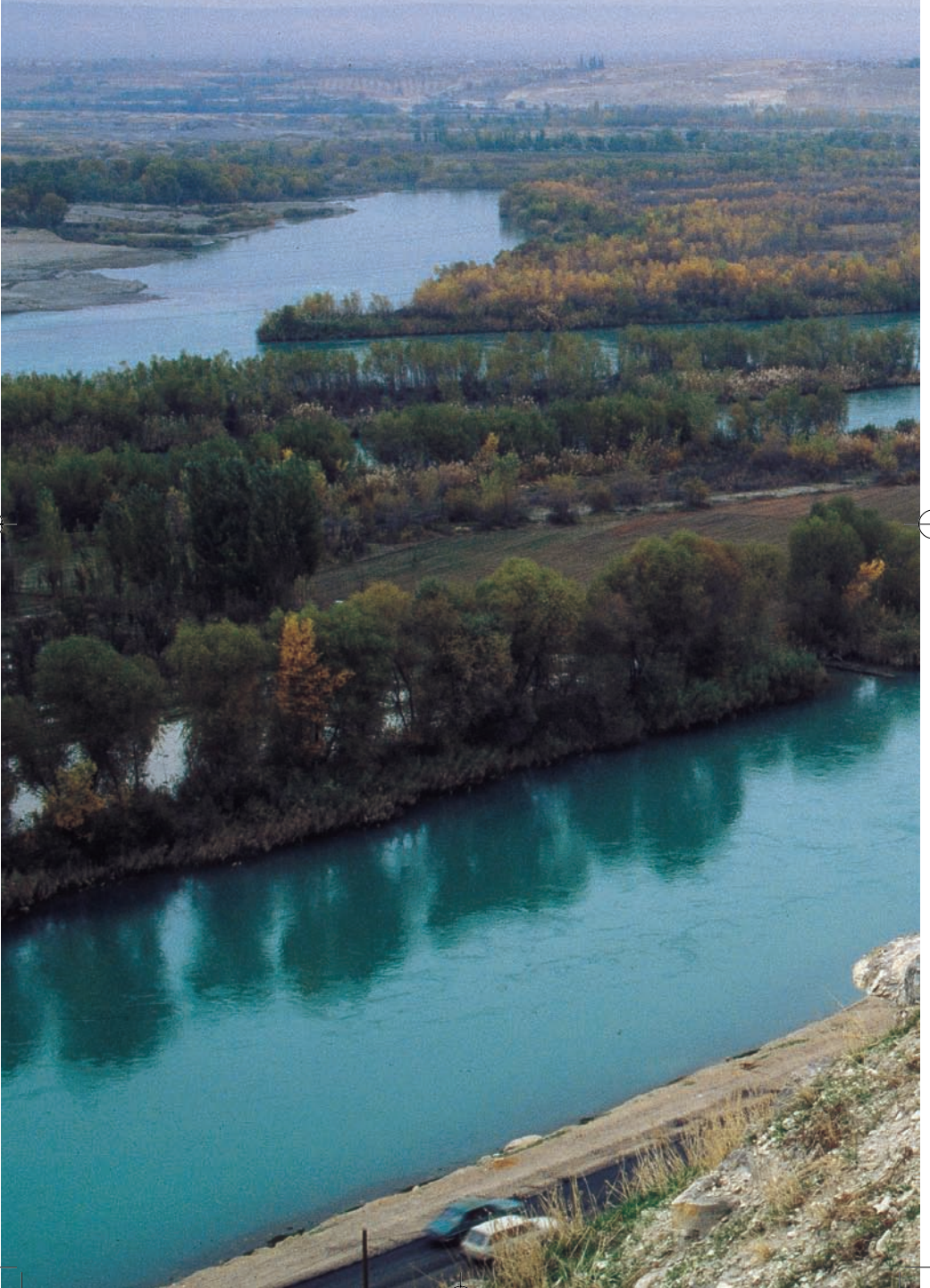


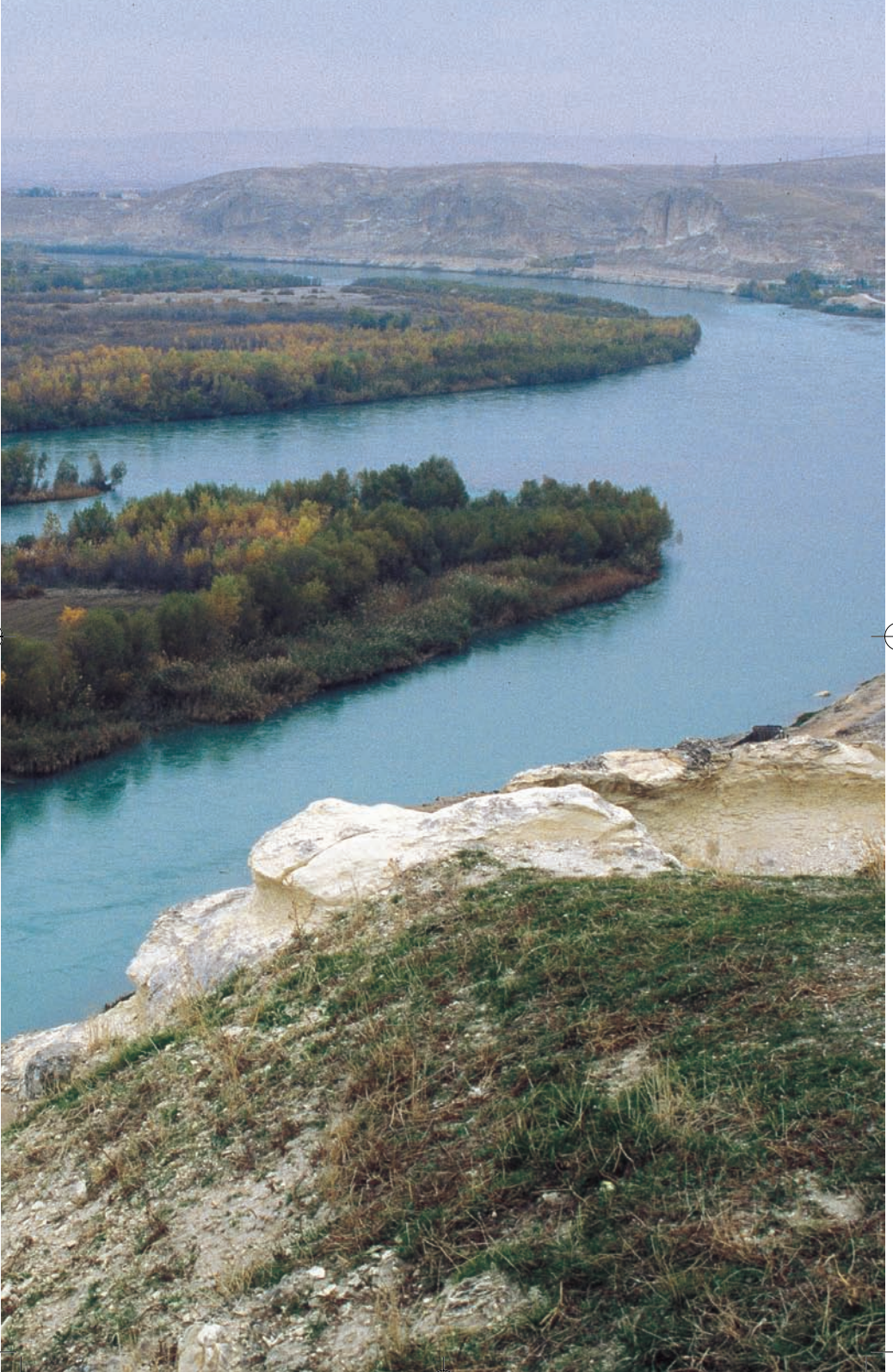


A Portrait of
Southeastern Anatolia

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The Euphrates





The Tigris and the Euphrates

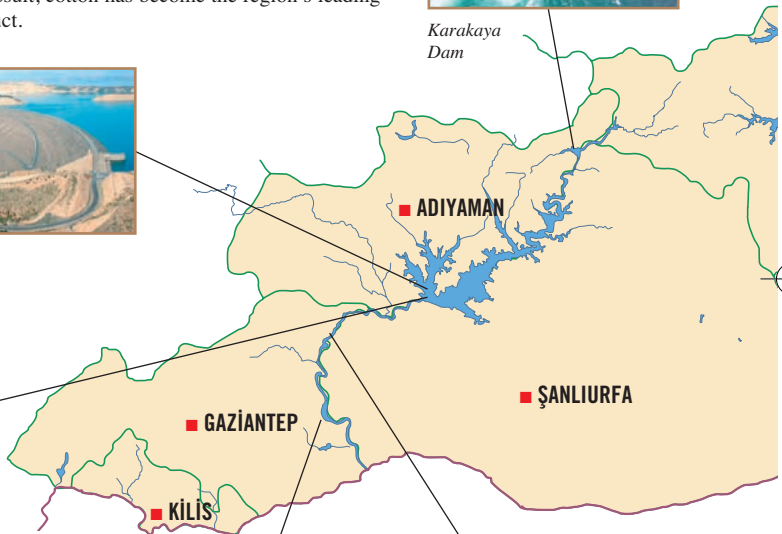
The Southeastern Anatolia Region is the smallest geographical region in Turkey, and is home to around ten percent of the total population. The most important rivers in the region, the Tigris and the Euphrates, are the lifeblood of not only Southeastern Anatolia but indeed the entire Middle East. The people and economy of the region are completely dependent on the waters of these rivers. For some 8000 years, the Tigris and the Euphrates have shaped the lifestyle and culture of the region. The land between the two rivers is extremely fertile, and is therefore commonly known as the Fertile Crescent. New dams over the Tigris and the Euphrates have helped regional agriculture to develop rapidly. In the past, only crops such as wheat and barley that need little water to grow were raised. With the introduction of irrigation schemes, industrial agricultural goods began to be cultivated. As a result, cotton has become the region's leading agricultural product.



Karakaya
Dam



Atatürk Dam



The Historic Role of the Tigris and the Euphrates

The Tigris and the Euphrates have also nurtured the cultures of the lands they flow through. Important civilizations such as the Sumerian, Assyrian and Babylonian kingdoms were established on the shores of these two rivers. The Tigris and the Euphrates are also associated with many popular legends in the region, one of the most important of which is the story of Noah's Ark. The lands between the Tigris and the Euphrates are known as Mesopotamia.



Motorboats on the Euphrates in
Halfeti



The Euphrates flowing out of the
Atatürk Dam



The Tigris near Diyarbakir



Hasankeyf and the Tigris



The Tigris



The Euphrates

The Tigris (Dicle)

The Tigris is born in Turkey, and has many tributaries, the most important of which are the Batman, Garzan, Botan, Habur, Upper Zab and Lower Zab. The Tigris joins the Euphrates in Iraq and then empties into the Persian Gulf. The river rises in the Maden Mountains in the Southeastern Taurus range and measures 1900 kilometers long, 523 kilometers of which are in Turkey. The average flow rate of the Tigris is 360 cubic meters per

second. The waters fall during the dry season at the end of summer and beginning of autumn. The Kralkızı, Batman and Dicle Dam and hydroelectric plants are located on the Tigris, and the Ilisu Dam is currently under construction.

The Euphrates (Fırat)

The Euphrates is Turkey's most abundant river with the highest water potential. The river rises in the Dumlu Mountain northeast of

Erzurum. The Euphrates is 2789 kilometers long, 1263 kilometers of which are in Turkey. Its major tributaries are the Murat, Karasu, Tohma, Peri, Çatlı and Munzur streams. From March-June, the river slowly swells, and then retreats between July and January, although the flow rate remains around 635 cubic meters per second. The highest dams in Turkey are built on the Euphrates. The region's completed dams are the Keban, Karakaya, Atatürk, Birecik and Karkamış Dams.

The Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP)

The Southeastern Anatolia Project covers the cities of Adıyaman, Batman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Siirt, Şanlıurfa and Şırnak in Southeastern Turkey. This region represents ten percent of the total land area of Turkey, and is home to 9.7 percent of the total population. The project includes the construction of 22 dams, 19 hydroelectric power plants and irrigation networks. The hydroelectric power plants at Karakaya, Atatürk, Batman, Kralkızı, Dicle, Birecik and Karkamış are now open. The construction of 13 dams within the project has been completed. 290,955 hectares of land in the Tigris and Euphrates river basins within the GAP region are now irrigated.



GAP aims to support the socio-economic development of Southeastern Anatolia.

GAP's Impact on Regional Life

With the implementation of GAP, important advances have been made in the region's agriculture, industry and lifestyle. Since 1995, the number of industrial businesses in the region has doubled. The number of organized industrial zones and small-scale industry complexes is rapidly growing. The Birecik-Şanlıurfa section of the new Gaziantep-Şanlıurfa highway that will connect the GAP region to the rest of Turkey and to the Middle East has opened. All seven cities in the GAP region have airports, and the largest cargo airport in Turkey, the GAP International Airport in Şanlıurfa, is currently under construction.



International Relations and Projects

International projects have been initiated to support the socio-economic development of the GAP Region. To this end, a number of externally funded projects are being implemented in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the European Union (EU). Three projects have been developed within this framework: the Cultural Heritage Development Programme, the Rural Development Project and the Small and Medium Entrepreneur Support Centre.



Regional Water Resources

The GAP region has abundant natural water resources. The main rivers in the region represent 28.5 percent of Turkey's total water resources. The average annual flow rate of the Tigris and the Euphrates combined is 53 billion cubic meters. The flow rate of the main branch of the Euphrates is 30 billion cubic meters, while the Tigris's is 16.7 billion cubic meters. The region's groundwater resources are estimated to be around 1.5 billion cubic meters.



Karakaya Dam



Birecik Dam



Karkamış Dam



Dicle Dam



Atatürk Dam



Kralkızı Dam

Fishing

The Atatürk Dam Reservoir is a fisher's paradise. The most common fish in the lake are sand smelt, pearl mullet, 'karaca', carp and 'şabut'.

Dams completed within the GAP framework

EUPHRATES

- Karakaya Dam
- Atatürk Dam
- Birecik Dam
- Hancağız Dam
- Karkamış Dam

TIGRIS

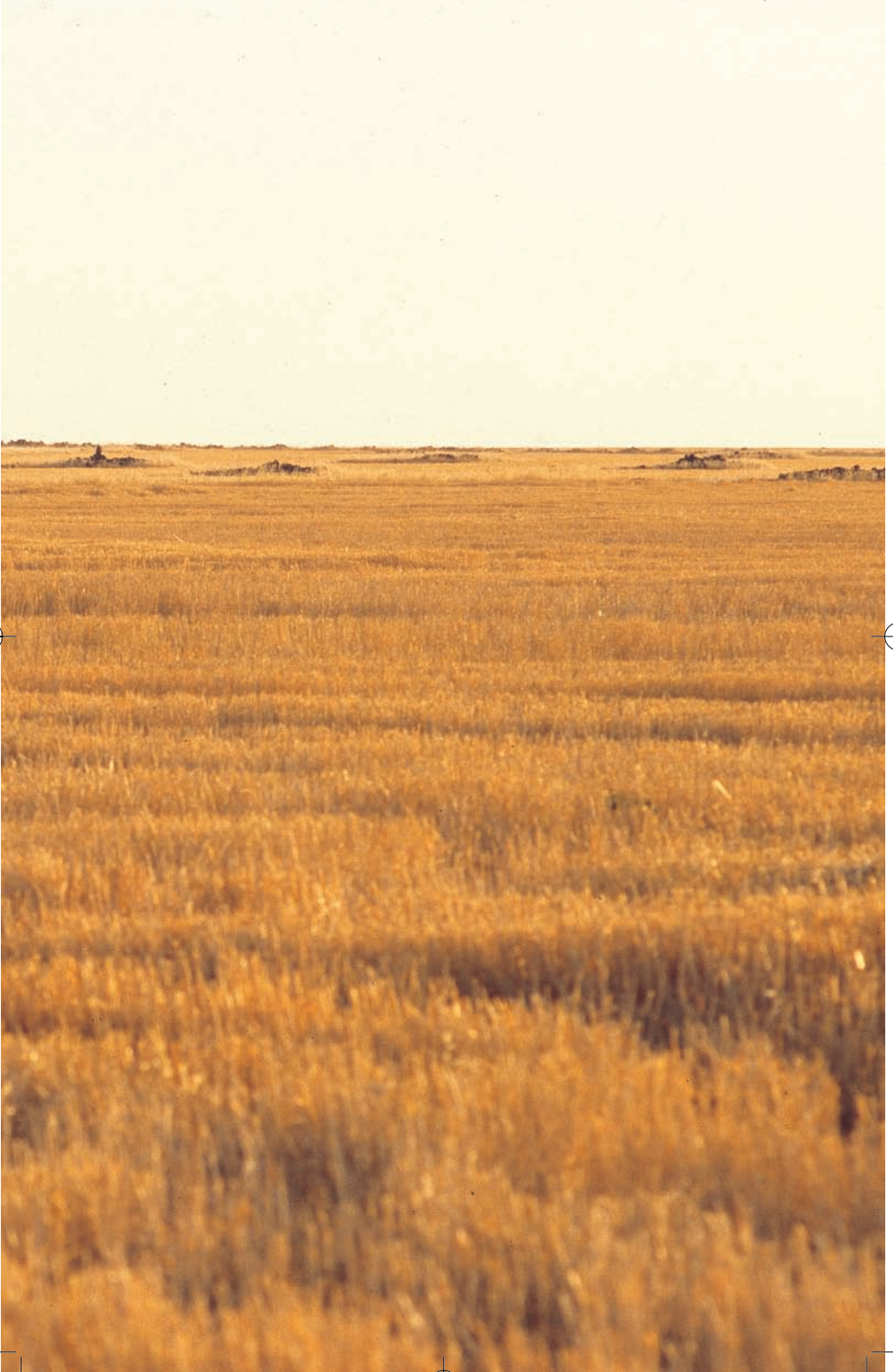
- Kralkızı Dam
- Dicle Dam
- Batman Dam



Water sports

Water sports have become increasingly popular in the region thanks to the opportunities afforded by the Atatürk Dam Reservoir. An annual Water Sports Festival is held on the reservoir, featuring surfing, rowing, sailing and swimming competitions.





The Atatürk Dam

The Atatürk Dam is located on the Euphrates between Şanlıurfa and Adıyaman. The dam was constructed within the framework of the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP), one of the largest water resource development projects in the world. Construction began in 1983 and was completed in 1992. The largest dam in Turkey, the Atatürk Dam provides hydroelectric power, irrigation and water supply. The rock-filled dam's height from its foundation is 184 meters, making it the fifth highest dam in Turkey after the Keban, Altınkaya, Karakaya and Oymapınar dams. The reservoir surface area measures 817 square kilometers, and its total storage capacity is 48.7 cubic kilometers. The average annual flow is 26,654 cubic kilometers. The annual energy production capacity of the Atatürk Hydroelectric Power Plant is 8.9 billion kWh.

The waters of the Euphrates collect in the reservoir and are used to generate hydroelectric power, for irrigation and as water supply.

Crest (dam wall) width 15 meters

Crest length 1664 meters

The base of the dam is half a kilometer thick



The volume of the embankment is 84.5 million cubic meters



The reservoir surface area is 817 square kilometers

THE DAM

- is the 25th highest
- has the 5th largest embankment volume
- the 21st largest reservoir capacity
- and the 32nd most powerful hydroelectric power plant

OF THE ROCK-FILLED DAMS IN THE WORLD



The dam has a rock-filled embankment

The waters of the Euphrates continue to flow south out of the dam

The hydroelectric power plant has 8 turbines and an installed capacity of 2400 MW



*Cotton grown in
Southeastern Anatolia*



Landscape and Geography

Based on its landscape and geography, Southeastern Anatolia is divided into two areas known as the Middle Euphrates and the Tigris. The border that divides Southeastern Anatolia in two passes through Karacadağ. The northern section is embraced by the branches of the Southeastern Taurus Mountains. The land gradually slopes down towards the hills and flatlands to the south. This region is covered in lowland plains and plateaus. The 600-1000 meter high Mardin Mountains known as the Mardin Eşiği (Threshold) serve as an important passage connecting the Diyarbakır Basin with Central and Eastern Anatolia and Mesopotamia. There are no natural lakes in Southeastern Anatolia, but there are a number of dam reservoirs on the Euphrates and Tigris river basins. Turkey's largest dam reservoir, the Atatürk Dam Reservoir, is in this region.



A hanging bridge near Pervari in Siirt.



Mountains

Southeastern Anatolia is hemmed in to the north by the Southeastern Taurus Mountains. Many of the mountains in the region have cultural and historic significance. Mount Nemrut in the Taurus mountain range stands 2150 meters tall. The temple tomb of the Commagene King Antiochus I is located at the summit of Mount Nemrut in the province of Adıyaman. According to local belief, Noah's Ark landed on Mount Cudi in Şırnak after the Flood. The 1938-meter Karacadağ extinct volcanic massif stands in the center of

region, on the Şanlıurfa-Diyarbakır border. Other major mountains in the region include: Mount Amanos (Nur) on the Gaziantep border, the Karakuş, Raman and Aydınlık mountains (Batman); the Maçı, Alem and Dibek mountains (Mardin); the Akdağ, Ulubaba, Gördük, Nemrut and Altın mountains (Adıyaman); and the Cudi, Küpeli, Kelmehmet, Tanintanin and Namaz mountains (Şırnak).



The Mereto Mountains in Batman (top); Mount Cudi in Şırnak (above); Karacadağ in Diyarbakır (below).





Plains

Plains cover much of Southeastern Anatolia. The land gradually slopes down from the higher regions in the north to the southern lowlands. The major plains in Southeastern Anatolia are the Mardin, Nusaybin, Cizre, Kızıltepe and Silopi plains in Mardin; the Harran, Suruç, Viranşehir, Ceylanpınarı, Halfeti and Birecik plains in Şanlıurfa; and the Barak, Araban, İslahiye, Yavuzeli and Oğuzeli plains in Gaziantep.



The Mardin Plain (top left); The Karasu River in Gaziantep (far left); The Hevsel Gardens in Diyarbakır (left); Near Runkale in Gaziantep (below).

Plateaus

The Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep and Adıyaman plateaus carved out by the Euphrates and its tributaries stretch to the west of the Karacadağ volcanic massif. The land to the east of Karacadağ is more hilly. Other important plateaus in the region include the Cemiraki, Ceman, Herekol and Bacavan.

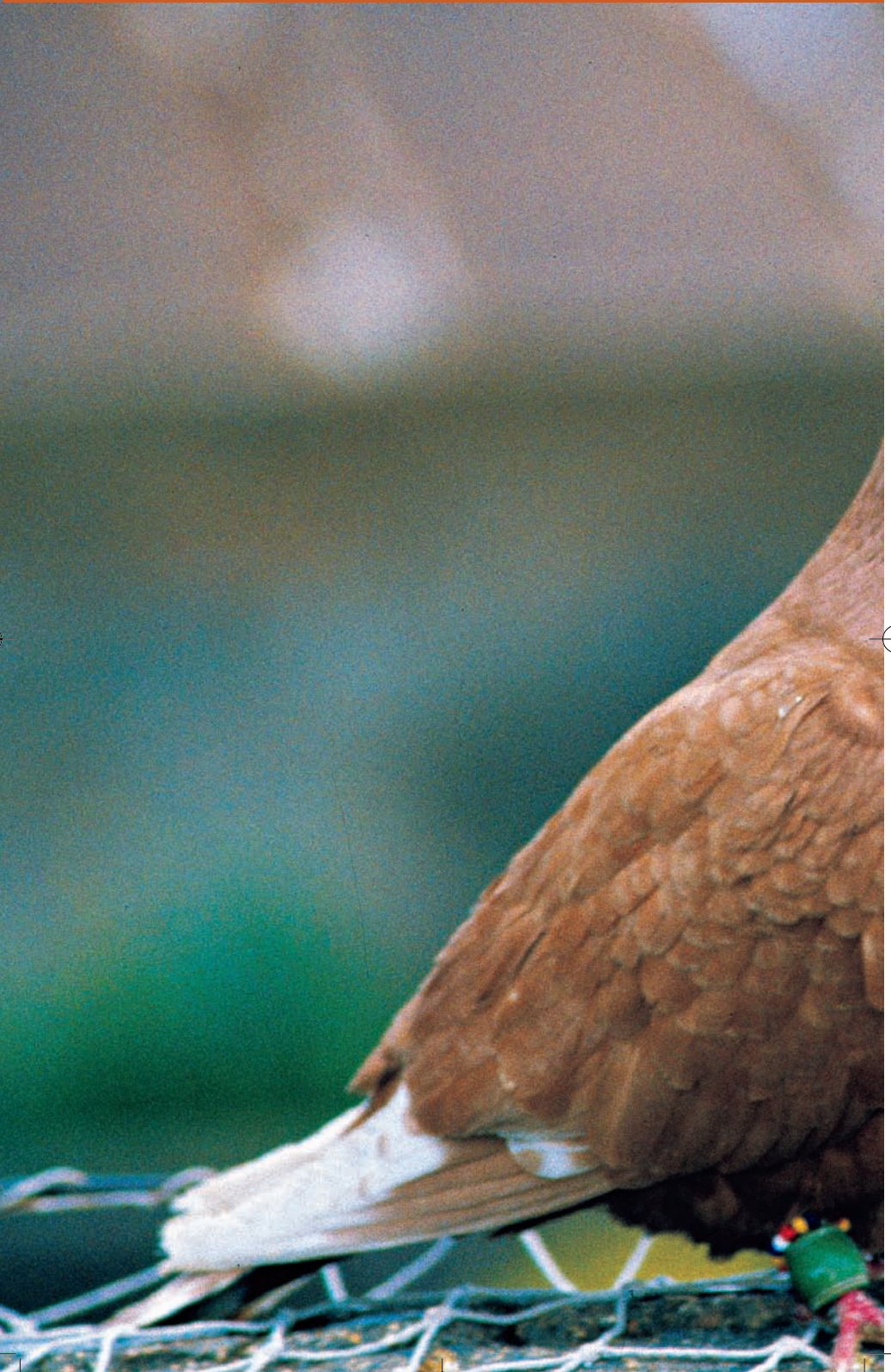


Caves

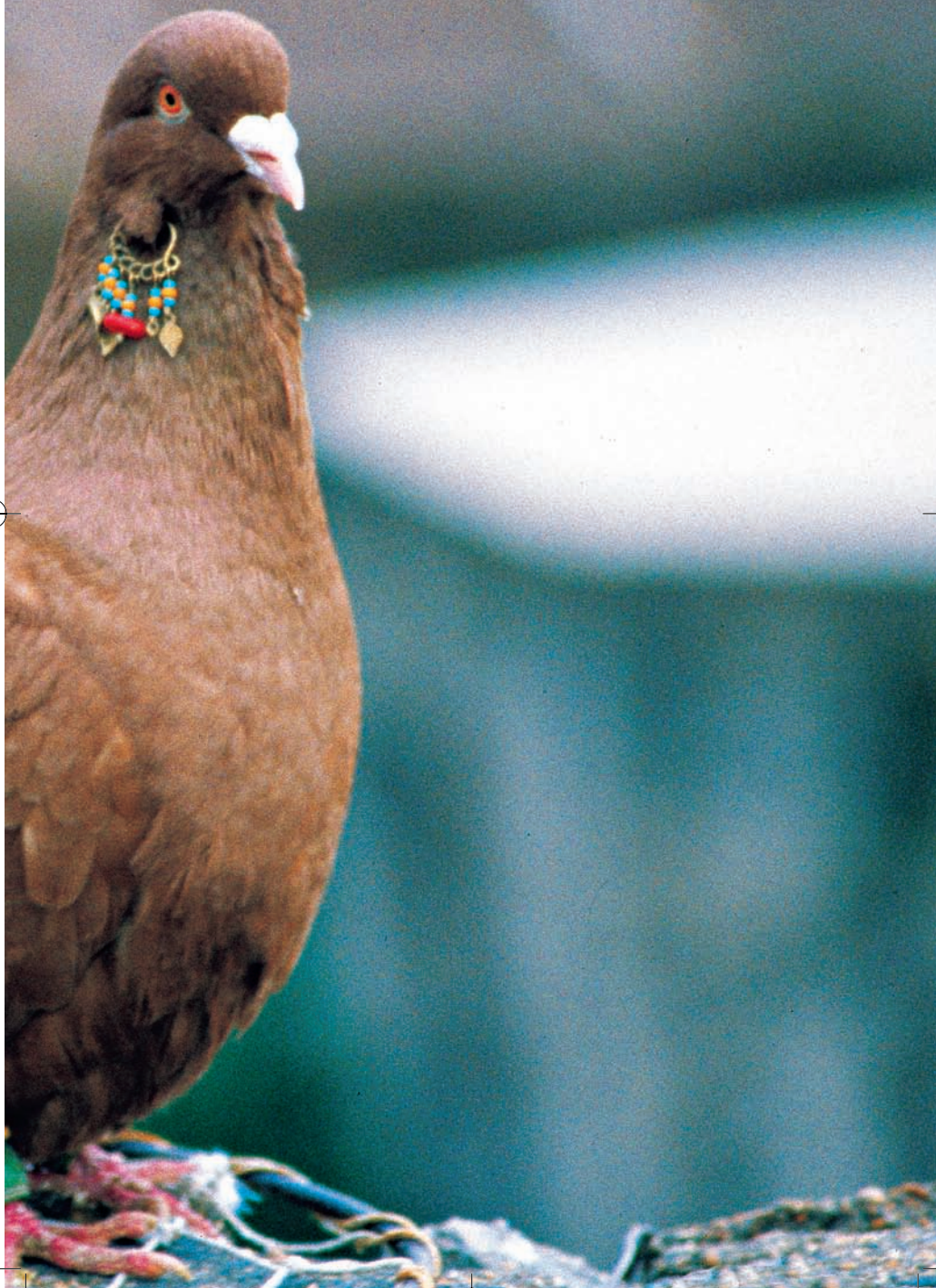
The region's mountains are largely calcareous rock formations. As a result, many are dotted with natural and manmade caves. There are literally thousands of caves around Şanlıurfa and Batman. An exquisitely beautiful cave that can accommodate hundreds of people lies at the summit of Mount Cudi; boasting historic ruins, this cave is an important natural attraction of the region.

Climate

Southeastern Anatolia has a predominantly continental climate, with hot, dry summers and cold, wet winters. January and February are the coldest months with the highest precipitation, while July and August are very hot and dry. The climate of the area is impacted on a local level by its dams, mountains and plains. Gaziantep and the Middle Euphrates region have a Mediterranean climate, while the areas to the north and east have a more continental climate. Winter temperatures do not fall below freezing in the Middle Euphrates, although it does rain. The Tigris region also has a continental climate with very hot, dry summers. Winters are very cold, with temperatures falling well below freezing. Southeastern Anatolia is the hottest region in Turkey, with temperatures reaching 40-42 degrees in the summer. The average annual temperature is 15 degrees.



*Raising birds is
a popular hobby
in Southeastern
Anatolia.*



Plants and animals

Southeastern Anatolia boasts a wide range of vegetation. Around 35% of the plant species in Turkey are found in this region. There are 384 endangered plants in the region, 82 of which are endemic to the area. Southeastern Anatolia is also a major agricultural zone. Indeed, the wild ancestors of many cultivated cereal crops can still be found in the region. In addition, a number of bulb plants and orchids grow in the area. Due to its continental climate, there are not very many forests in Southeastern Anatolia. However, a smattering of oak forests can be found at high elevations (above 700 meters).



Forests

Most of the region's forest areas are within the steppe belt. There are a few oak forests in the plateaus and mountains north of Siirt in the Southeastern Taurus Mountains. These pure oak forests are known as the 'Eastern Anatolian Oak Forests'. Wild fruit trees can be found at elevations as low as 600 meters near the Tigris. In the region of Diyarbakır, the tree line is as high as 2400 meters, above which only alpine vegetation grows.

Endemic Plants

A number of plants are endemic to Southeastern Anatolia. However, these only grow in certain areas of the region. The region's most famous endemic plants are the Crown Imperial (*Fritillaria Imperialis*) and Diyarbakır watermelon that grow in Diyarbakır and the Antep Pistachio found in Gaziantep.





Animal life

Southeastern Anatolia is located at an important zoogeographic junction. 324 different varieties of bird have been recorded in the region. Around 195 of these breed in the region, while the remaining are migratory birds. The region serves as a habitat for a large number of endangered birds. The most famous of these is the Bald Ibis. Other endangered bird species in the region include the Great Bustard (*otis tarda*), Cinereous Bunting (*emberiza cineracea*), and Spectacled Warbler (*sylvia conspicillata*).

Reptiles

Field studies have identified three species of frogs, two turtles, thirteen lizards and fourteen snakes in the region.

Gazelles and mountain goats

Mountain goats are considered wild animals at risk and are protected by the authorities. Until 1990, mountain goats were seen in the region of Nizip, but there have been no sightings since that time. Gazelles are usually found in open land and heath areas. The local gazelle population is only found in the Ceylanpinar State Farm.

Butterflies

Many varieties of butterfly have been identified in Southeastern Anatolia. Valleys provide the ideal habitat for butterflies. The deep valley located between the Tanintanin Mountains and Beytüşşebap is just such a location. On one occasion, 104 different butterfly species were spotted here. Twice this number has been recorded in other areas of the region.



Gecko (*Asaccus elisae*)



Euphrates soft shell turtle



Bald ibis



Hyena



Bird rearing

Breeding domestic birds is a popular hobby in



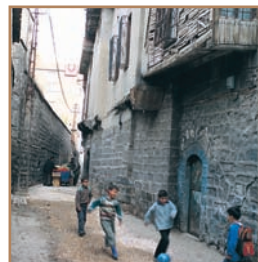
Southeastern Anatolia. Pigeons are the most popular bird. Some breeders even place decorative earrings on the birds.

Traditional Architecture

Like that of the rest of Anatolia, the architecture of Southeastern Anatolia is shaped by traditional and regional factors. The influence of the local lifestyle and social structure is readily apparent in Southeastern Anatolian architecture. The region's architectural history dates back to prehistoric times.

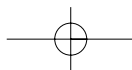
Southeastern Anatolia has served as a cradle for many civilizations, and has been settled by, in chronological order, the Hittites, Assyrians, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, Early Turkish Beylik Principalities, Seljuks and Ottomans.

The region has been settled since around 8000 BC. Southeastern Anatolian residential architecture displays a synthesis of Islamic and Christian cultures and builds on the traditions of Mesopotamia, an area with a rich cultural heritage. The basic form of Southeastern Anatolian houses consists of a large courtyard surrounded by iwans and rooms. The houses face inward, and are closed off from the streets. The region is renowned for the simplicity and natural style of its residential architecture. The most common construction material is stone; wood is usually only used to make doors and cupboards. Neighborhoods typically consist of a few streets with a fountain or a religious structure at the center. Most streets are narrow, often only wide enough for a person or pack animal to negotiate.



Residential Architecture

The region is renowned for its stone masonry houses ornamented with bricks, glazed bricks, mosaic ceramic tiles, local soft yellow soft and occasionally mortar. Apertures above the windows are a common feature used to let in air and light. The layout of the houses is dictated by the climate and the seasons. Most windows are south facing. The upper floors of the houses also have direct access to the street. The garden or courtyard serves as the heart of the house and communal life.



Unique Houses

The most striking ancient houses in the region are found in Zeugma. Zeugma was an affluent Roman city with large, two-story villas featuring beautiful courtyards and decorative mosaics. Harran's distinctive houses are made with local materials such as mud and stone and are plastered with clay. In Şanlıurfa, houses are usually two stories tall and built in contiguous rows. Gaziantep houses have high courtyard walls and face inward, casting shadows onto the narrow streets. The 'hayat' or central courtyard is the heart of Gaziantep houses. Courtyards are also found in Diyarbakır houses, which are usually made of stone and two stories tall. The houses of Diyarbakır and Silvan are characteristic examples of Turkish Islamic architecture. Siirt is famous for its 'cas' houses that have small windows and flat roofs. Mardin houses are built on a slope, with the roof of one house serving as the courtyard of the house above it.



Mardin



Gaziantep



Harran



Diyarbakır



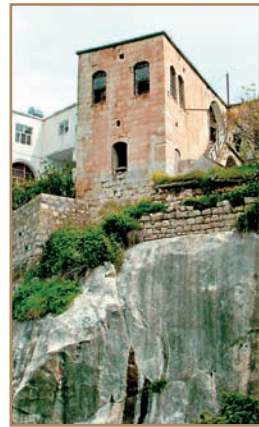
Halfeti (above and below)



Zeugma



The Grand Palace at Hasankeyf



Palaces

Dating back as far as 2000 BC, Southeastern Anatolia's palaces are the oldest structures in the region. All the palaces feature the highest quality structural, layout and building techniques. The most important palaces in the region include the Grand Palace in Hasankeyf, the palace ruins at the Tilmen tumulus in Gaziantep and the Artukid Palace in Virantepe. Although few examples remain, the stonework on the facades of the palaces is often of a very high standard.



*Kasmiye
Madrasa and
the Mardin
Plain*



Religious Architecture

The oldest sacred sites in Southeastern Anatolia date back to the Neolithic Age. Built around 9500 BC, the temple complex at Göbekli Tepe is one of the oldest in the world. Ancient shrines carved into the rock can be seen at Dülük (Doliche) near Gaziantep. Christianity became widespread in the region during Byzantine times; the most important stone churches and monasteries in the region include the Deyr-ül Zafaran Monastery, the Chaldean Catholic Church in Diyarbakır, and the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Adiyaman. Many of the region's mosques, particularly the grand mosques of Silvan, Mardin and Kızıltepe, are heavily influenced by the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus. The Diyarbakır Grand Mosque is the oldest surviving mosque in the region. The Artukids were the first to build mosques with domes and mihrabs. Other examples of religious architecture in the region include stone madrasas with courtyards surrounded by many rooms, iwan-style mausoleums known as 'türbe' and domed mausoleums known as 'kümbet'.



Deyr-ül Zafaran Monastery



Deyr-ül Zafaran Monastery



Dülük (Doliche)



Diyarbakır Grand Mosque



Harran Grand Mosque



Siirt Grand Mosque



Siirt Grand Mosque



Hasankeyf El Rızk Mosque

Bridges

The region is renowned for the beautiful bridges that span its many rivers and streams, including the mighty Tigris and Euphrates. The ashlar Cendere Bridge over the Cendere River, the Old Bridge at Hasankeyf with its Artukid decorative reliefs and the wide stone Malabadi Bridge over the Batman River are some of the best-preserved and most stunning examples of bridge architecture in the region.



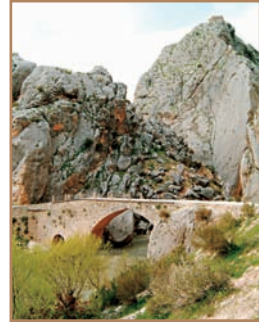
Ongözlü Bridge, Diyarbakır



Cendere Bridge, Adıyaman



Malabadi Bridge, Batman



Şeytan Bridge, Adıyaman



Cendere Bridge, Adıyaman

Military Architecture

There have been fortified settlements in Southeastern Anatolia since prehistoric times. With the rise of kingdoms in the region, defensive fortresses with high walls and towers were built at the highest points of the cities. The citadels of Diyarbakır, Gaziantep and Mardin, and the ashlar masonry walls of Diyarbakır are some of the finest examples of military architecture in the region.



Runkale, Gaziantep

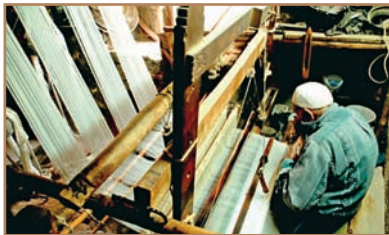
Handcrafts

Southeastern Anatolia has been home to many civilizations throughout history. Due to its location on the Silk Road, trade has always played a central role in the life of the region. In addition, many different religions have taken root in the region and had a profound impact on Southeastern Anatolian culture. The influence of different religions and cultures is particularly apparent in the region's handcrafts. The tradition of weaving kilims dates back to around 2000 BC, and glasswork to as far back as 4000 BC. The region produces traditional handcrafts including fabric, kilims, blankets, copper, silver and gold jewelry, stonework, mother-of-pearl inlay, woodwork, 'kazaz' and felt. The influence of Central Asian shamanism can be seen in the region's textiles, and there are Seljuk influences in its copper goods, and Artukid and Ottoman influences in its stonework. A number of traditional handcrafts are in danger of dying out, although the rising number of tourists to the region and the impact of the Southeastern Anatolia Project have stimulated a revival of local craftsmanship.



Kutnu

Kutnu is a silk and cotton blend fabric that is repeatedly dipped into a variety of dyes to create its unique pattern and color. The name 'kutnu' is derived from the Arabic word for 'cotton'. One face of the fabric is silk, and other is cotton. Kutnu is usually striped, although floral prints are also available. Kutnu is only made in Gaziantep, and was introduced to the city in the 1900s by Syrian weavers who had immigrated to the city from Aleppo. Kutnu was used in Ottoman imperial garments and also traditional Anatolian dress.



Antep work



Weaving

Weaving is the most common and widespread local handcraft in the region. Woven textiles are divided into two groups: fabric and 'sergi'. The most common materials are wool, animal hair, mohair, silk and cotton. A wide variety of textiles including fabric, carpets, felt and kilims are produced from these materials. Popular patterns include flowers, birds and snakes. The same motif may have different names in different parts of the country. For example, a pattern known as 'parmak motifi' in Siirt and Şırnak is called 'toplul kilim nakışı' in Sivas. Woven goods produced in Southeastern Anatolia include carpets, kilims, 'aba', blankets, silk, 'kazaz' and 'kutnu'.

A loose weave, thin woolen fabric known as 'ehram' being woven on a loom.



Felt making is a labor-intensive task that takes tremendous strength.

Kilims

Kilims are usually woven from sheep's wool, goat hair and camelhair, which are processed and then colored using natural dyes. The fact that kilims are easily portable makes them ideal for nomadic communities. Kilims are either known by the region where they were made such as Siirt, Jirkan and Antep kilims or by their patterns (Kürt, Yörük, Afşar, and Karakeçili kilims). In addition to serving a decorative function, kilim motifs express the weavers' hopes and dreams, as well as the regional culture. For example, the 'ibrik' pattern is woven by women who are expecting a child. Floral patterns symbolize happiness, lilies stand for loneliness, and ram horns represent abundance, strength, health, luck and longevity.



Mother-of-pearl inlay

Southeastern Anatolia is renowned for its mother-of-pearl inlay work.



Copper

Copper making is a common craft throughout the region.



'Yemeni' slippers



Midyat



Silver

There is a long tradition of silverwork in the region; indeed, silver artifacts have been uncovered in the ancient settlements and tumuli around Gaziantep such as Carchemish, Doliche and Belkis. The silver workshops of Gaziantep have recently experienced a revival in their trade. Mardin is also renowned for its silver, particularly 'telkari' filigree work. The town of Midyat in the province of Mardin is particularly famous for its 'telkari' work.

Music and Folk Dances



Folk dances

Southeastern Anatolian folk dances are inspired by daily life, nature, society, love, friendship and community. Every region of Turkey has its own local folk dances, all with different styles and forms. Most folk dances are performed in specific regions of the country: the *Horon* is danced in the Black Sea Region, the *Zeybek* in the Aegean and Southern Marmara, the *Teke* in the Western Mediterranean and the *Halay* in Southeastern Anatolia. All the folk dances performed in Southeastern Anatolia are versions of the *halay*, a dance that is performed by men and women, features intricate footwork, and is accompanied by a drum called a 'davul' and a shrill pipe known as a 'zurna'.

Halay

The folk dances performed in Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia all fall into the 'halay' category. The name 'halay' is derived from the word 'alay', which means a crowd of people. 'Halay' folk dances are expressions of unity, solidarity and continuity. At least three people are needed to perform a halay. The dance is usually accompanied by a drum called a 'davul' and a shrill pipe known as a 'zurna'. Halay can be performed in a straight line or in a circle. Men and women dance together, pounding their feet to the strong rhythm of the dance. The dancers either place their arms on each other's shoulders, hold hands or wrap their arms around each other's waists. The leader of the dance is called the 'halay başı' while the dancer at the back of the line is the 'poççik'. Waving handkerchiefs is an important part of the 'halay' dance. Many different varieties of halay folk dances are performed in Southeastern Anatolia, including the 'sal', 'hasat' and 'barış' in Adıyaman, the 'girani', 'delilo' and 'çepik' in Batman, the 'çepikli', 'şirin Nar' and 'barak halayı' in Gaziantep and the 'kıml' in Şanlıurfa.



A bride-to-be at a 'kına gecesi' or henna night before her wedding



Music

The music of Southeastern Anatolia is influenced by Anatolian, Islamic and Central Asian Turkish culture. The unique culture of every city in the region is reflected in its music. Dating back thousands of years, the folk music played in the region often expresses pain, separation, bravery, love, caring and friendship. Here, as in the rest of Turkey, traditional folk songs are known as 'türkü'. In addition to traditional anonymous 'türkü', songs and ghazals by known composers are also sung. Sufi music is also widely performed in Southeastern Anatolia. Popular local instruments include the *davul*, *zurna*, *tef*, *cura*, *cümbüş*, *bağlama*, *kanun*, *kaval*, *darbuka*, *ney* and *violin*. Many of Turkey's most famous musicians hail from Southeastern Anatolia.

Traditional Dress

The traditional dress of Southeastern Anatolia is influenced by the geography, traditions and lifestyle of the region. Every district in every province has its own unique style. Today, traditional dress is mostly worn in the villages. Men and women wear different traditional outfits. The style of women's head coverings changes in every province. 'Meşref', 'tepelik', 'ahmediye' and 'altuniye puşu' are worn in Gaziantep. A lavender, silk headscarf known as a 'yamşah' is worn by both men and women in Şanlıurfa. A black, knit headscarf known as a 'kofî' is worn in Mardin and Batman. Traditional dress changes from city to city. A long robe slit up to the waist on either side known as an 'üçetek' is worn in Mardin and Gaziantep, while the traditional dress of Şanlıurfa is a 'şale' and a 'fistan' in Mardin. 'Fistan' have a round neckline and are made of either white or cream colored fabric embroidered with a variety of patterns in silver or silver-gold wire or colored embroidery threads. A 'zıbn' is worn over a shirt and embroidered with spiral patterns in silver, gold and pearls. Traditional male dress in Gaziantep consists of 'şalvar' trousers and a 'Cezayir' waistcoat. Şanlıurfa is synonymous with 'aba' overcoats and furs, while the 'şalşepik' is worn in Siirt and Şırnak. A 'celok' or 'kurtek' is a traditional red or yellow shirt mainly seen in Batman.



A woman from Batman wearing a local headscarf (above). Many women sport traditional tattoos (right).



Women wearing traditional lavender headscarves (left). Şırnak men wearing clothing made from 'şalşepik' fabric (above).



Southeastern Anatolian Cuisine

The two staple ingredients of Southeastern Anatolian cuisine are wheat and bulgur. Garbanzo beans, lentils and rice also play an important role in the regional cuisine, as do milk products and red meat. Mutton is the most popular red meat. These ingredients are combined with a number of spices, sauces and pastes to create a wide range of dishes. The region is particularly famous for its kebabs, 'çiğ köfte' and 'lahmacun'. The Southeastern Anatolia kitchen mainly consists of a variety of meatballs made with meat and bulgur, kebabs, soups, and meat and vegetable dishes. A range of hot dishes made with yoghurt, meat, vegetables and cereals are also enjoyed in the region. Every city in Southeastern Anatolia has its own unique varieties of bread, pastries, molasses-based sweets, desserts, beans and salads.



Lahmacun and a range of kebabs

Meat and Meat Dishes

Breeding livestock is a common occupation in Southeastern Anatolia. As a result, the regional cuisine is heavily meat-based. Southeastern Anatolia is renowned throughout the country for its delicious kebabs, which are prepared and served throughout Turkey. The meat is first marinated with spices and sweet and sour sauces and then cooked, usually over a charcoal fire. Kebabs can be made from minced or chopped meat, and can be prepared plain, with vegetables, and even with fruit. Stews and dolmas made with meat, vegetables and fruits are also widely prepared in the region. Some of the most popular

kebab varieties in the region are 'kemeli tike' kebab, 'yeni dünya kebab', eggplant kebab, kebab with yoghurt, 'büryan', 'haşhaş kebab', kebab with onions, kebab with tomatoes and 'alınazik'. Common meat dishes include 'kelle paça', 'incik haşlaması', 'paşa köftesi', 'frenk tavası' and 'soğan tavası'.



İç pilav



Yeni dünya kebab



Yuvarlama

Rice

Wheat and wheat products play a very important role in Southeastern Anatolian cuisine. Rice is a staple in the regional diet. Local rice dishes include 'duvaklı pilav', rice with vermicelli, rice with lentils, rice with liver, 'meyhane pilavı', 'firikli pilav' and 'mıgribi pilav'. 'Çiğ köfte' (spicy raw meatballs) and 'içli köfte' (fried meatballs in a bulgur shell) are prepared throughout the region and are synonymous with Southeastern Anatolian cuisine.



Şiveydiz

Soups

Many bulgur and lentil-based soups are prepared in the region. In addition, yoghurt-based soups play an important role in Southeastern Anatolian cuisine. Soups can be made with water, milk, 'ayran' or meat stock. Some of the most popular soups in the region include 'lebeniye', 'alaca çorba', 'ezo gelin çorbasi', 'dövmeli alaca çorba', 'yoğurtlu çorba', 'börek çorbasi', 'keme çorbasi', 'şiveydiz çorbasi' and 'tarhana çorbasi'.



Baklava



Isot and tomato paste

Şanlıurfa is renowned for its crushed red pepper known as 'isot'. Tomato paste and pepper paste are also frequently used in the region's kitchens.



Şöbiyet

Desserts

Many varieties of grape-based desserts are prepared in the grape-producing regions of Southeastern Anatolia. Apple, quince and winter squash preserves are made with grape

juice. Fruit pastes and candies are also made from grape molasses. The most popular dessert in the region is baklava. 'Lokma' and halva are prepared on special occasions. Milk puddings are also widely consumed in the region. Popular desserts and sweets in Southeastern Anatolia: tene helvası, top helvası, niş bulamacı, şıllık, şöbiyet, bülbül yuvası, dolama, fıstık ezmesi, fıstıklı kadayıf, burma kadayıf, nuriye tatlı, zingil, revani, halbur hurma, küncülü akıt, şekerli leblebi, Mardin badem şekeri.



Time consuming and difficult to prepare, murra is the local variety of coffee (left). 'Meyan şerbeti' is a refreshing summer beverage made from licorice (above).



Şabut

The 'şabut' (*barbus grypus*) is a freshwater fish that measures around 25-50 cm long and has large scales, whiskers and a spilt tail. It has a dark brown back and dirty yellow stomach. Şabut has white meat and is the tastiest fish in the Tigris and the Euphrates. Şabut farming has begun in the Atatürk Dam reservoir.