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Seek out the ancient treasures of Ankara by Jesse Wallace

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Although often overlooked for Istanbul, the other more prominent and picturesque Turkish city, Turkeyâ€™s capital city Ankara still offers plenty of sights and attractions for visitors. Despite the cities appetite for development, there are plenty of reminders of Ankaraâ€™s past scattered throughout the city. Evidence of Byzantine, Hellenistic, Hittie, Ottoman, Phrygian and Roman times remain and seeking these out is worth the exploration.

The Ankara Citadel, also known as the Hisar, is the most famous of Ankaraâ€™s landmarks and is one of the best viewpoints in the city. Dominating the capitalâ€™s skyline from its hilltop, looming 978 metres above the city, this ancient fortress was the birthplace of the original town, established in Hittite times, almost 3000 years ago. Inside the walls you will discover a cobblestoned, labyrinth-like ancient Turkish village, which will easily enthrall you for a few hours.

Another striking monument to add to your list of things to do in Ankara is the Anitkabur, the Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk. Anitkabur was the founder of the Turkish Republic and this imposing building is a powerful icon of Turkeyâ€™s independence. Spend some time wondering along the Road of Lions and through the Ceremonial Plaza, visit Ataturkâ€™s tomb in the Hall of Honour and learn about the significance of the ten symbolic towers. Afterwards, enjoy the quiet in the Peace Park, surrounding the monument.

Other Ankara landmarks that are worth a visit include the Roman Baths and some of the cityâ€™s beautiful Mosques, including the largest and newest, the Kocatepe Mosque and the Haci Bayram Mosque.

To delve further into the fascinating history of Turkey and Ankara, there are several must-see museums that you should add to your itinerary, one of them being the Ethnography Museum. Located near Ankara Castle, its displays are dedicated to the cultures of both historic and current societies that have shaped Turkey. Just next door is the State Art and Sculpture Museum, which houses an impressive collection of Turkish artwork from the 1800â€™s to modern day. The Anatolian Civilisations Museum is housed in a 15th century building, dating back to the Ottoman Empire. Inside, is a huge collection of works from Hatti, Hittite, Neolithic, Paleolithic, Urartian and Roman civilizations and more.

Further enhance your Turkish history and cultural adventure, by booking a traditional Turkish bath at a reputable Hamam. The Sengul Hamam is well known and has a good reputation, or ask your hotel in Ankara to recommend a good quality Hamam close by. Top your Turkish experience off with meal at a traditional Turkish restaurant. Ankara boasts plenty of restaurants to choose from, but for a true authentic taste of Turkey, ask the advice of the locals.

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Jesse Wallace writes for a digital marketing agency. This article on a hotel in Ankara has been commissioned by a client of said agency. This article is not designed to promote, but should be considered professional content.

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