

LUXURY AT EMPIRE'S EDGE



EasternTurkeyTours



*"Let me be surrounded by luxury, I
can do without the necessities!"*

Oscar Wilde





Elegant lighting at the Izala Hotel, Gaziantep



Unique rooms carved through solid rock at the Museum Hotel, Cappadocia

LUXURY AT THE EDGES OF EMPIRES

Eastern Anatolia is a region that has, for millenia been both the point of contact and a zone of conflict between Empires and great cultures. It has also been a highway for people travelling between east and west as well as a major highway for the movement of whole peoples westward. Anatolia was once described as being like a great mare stretching her head out into the Mediterranean and for the Turks with their nomadic history, arriving in the 10th century, this is probably the best analogy of all. Back in the earliest times of recorded history the eastern Anatolian region was home to the Urartians; the greatest of the region's indigenous cultures to make the journey into

empire building, the Urartians built an extensive empire between 850 BC and 600 BC, encompassing what is now eastern Turkey, Armenia and North Western Iran. Known as talented military and irrigation engineers they left their mark across the region and especially in Van, known to them as Tushpa their Imperial capital. They come down to us in our history due to a biblical error in translation; Urartu became Ararat and known to us as the region where Noah's ark came to rest after the deluge.

The list of peoples to have left their mark here is a long and illustrious one. From the Assyrians, Persians, Hittites, Armenians,

Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and more latterly the many Turkish tribal groups such as the Seljuks who staked their claims at the battle of Manzikert in 1071 and established the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum identifying themselves, by their choice of name, as the heirs to Rome. After the Seljuks, the Ottomans delivered Anatolia into the modern era. All of their remains and their achievements are here, in central and eastern Turkey, waiting to be discovered.

As a place in the world where shifting frontiers have always made it feel remote, distant and far from the centre of things eastern Turkey still has the feel of a border region. But it's a border region that has embraced the modern world. The transport infrastructure has been modernised with new airports supported by excellent flight connections and extensive road development. Add to this a constantly evolving and growing stock of luxury hotels and we can truly say that eastern Turkey is on the map for the luxury traveller.

The hotel stock across eastern and south eastern Turkey encompasses all ranges and types from the artfully renovated town houses of Mardin, Şanlıurfa or Gaziantep to the elegant conversions of substantial old buildings right up to unashamedly modern and opulent brand new hotels. Here are just a few examples.



An exquisite room at the Erdoba Evleri Hotel

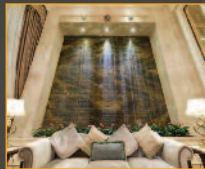
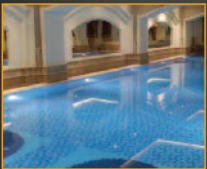


VAN

The Elite World Hotel

In our home base of Van our flagship hotel falls into the “modern and opulent” category. Recently built, the Elite World of Van is a luxurious hotel located in downtown Van and boasts all the five star amenities you would expect from hotels in major cities around the world.

www.eliteworldvan.com.tr

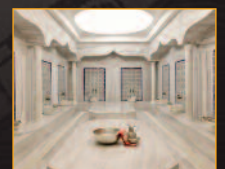
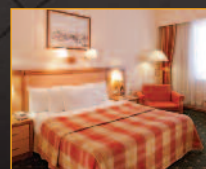


ERZURUM

The Polat Renaissance Hotel

The Polat Renaissance in Erzurum also a modern hotel, part of the Marriott group, that compares to its equivalents anywhere. Part of the Palandoken ski resort the Polat is just minutes from the centre of Erzurum. Amenities such as ski passes and fitness classes in the gym are all included for the hotel’s guests.

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/erzbr-renaissance-polat-erzurum-hotel

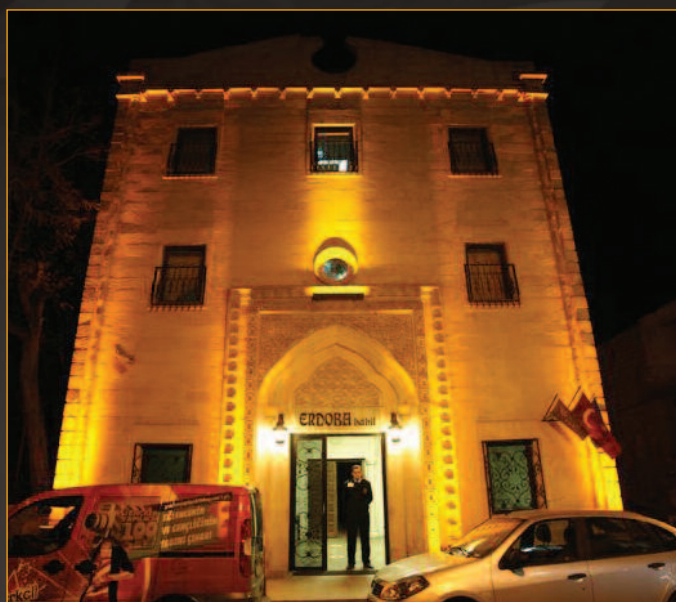
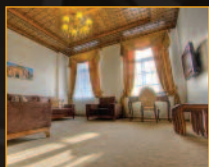


KARS

The Cheltikof Hotel

The Cheltikof Hotel in Kars is one of those places that can be called quirky and eclectic. The Cheltikof is a converted mansion from the Russian period of occupation. After the Russo-Ottoman war of 1877 the Kars region was incorporated into the Tsar's empire. It was regained by Turkey shortly after the First World War. Built as a merchant mansion just after the Russian occupation began the building was variously an opera house, a school, a military pharmacy and a maternity hospital before being transformed into a unique luxury boutique style hotel in 2011.

www.hotelcheltikov.com

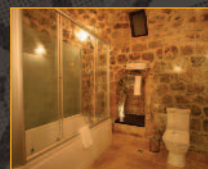
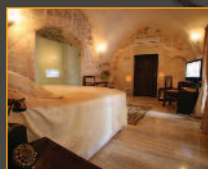


MARDIN

The Erdoba Evleri Hotel

Mardin is particularly spoiled for choice in luxury hotels with a number of converted and adapted Mardin town houses but, forced to pick, we might choose the Erdoba Evleri. Erdoba Evleri, simply meaning "Erdoba Houses" is made up of five buildings along one side of a street in old Mardin and converted with exquisite taste to produce a hotel of one's dreams.

www.erdoba.com.tr

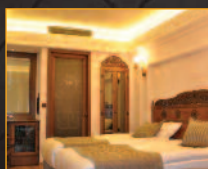
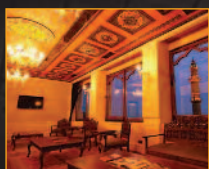
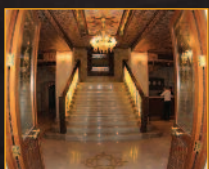


MARDIN

The Izala Hotel

Just opposite the Erdoba Evleri is the Izala Hotel, a group of modernised and adapted public buildings producing a hotel of elegance and mystery.

www.izalahotel.com

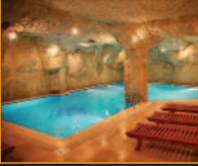


SANLIUREFA

The El Ruha Hotel

Known in ancient times as Edessa, Şanlıurfa is a town with an venerable pedigree but with a modern forward looking face. The El Ruha embodies these two aspects of Şanlıurfa; a modern build with all the amenities of a modern luxury hotel but built in traditional style of Urfa stone and located adjacent to the historic centre of old Urfa with its citadel, the Pools of Abraham, its bustling Ottoman era bazaar and state of the art modern Archaeological Museum complex, the location could not be any better.

www.hotelelruha.com



GAZIANTEP

The Şirehan Hotel

Gaziantep has a superb choice of hotels that compliment its fiery kitchen. The fabulous Şirehan Hotel is a converted 16th century Caravanserai that was once an important stop on the Silk Road. Tastefully and elegantly appointed the Şirehan is a hotel that will stand out in the memory.

www.gaziantepsirehanhotel.com.tr

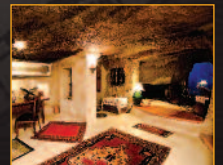
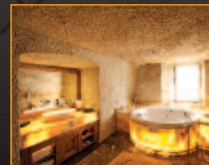


CAPPADOCIA

The Museum Hotel

Cappadocia is a remarkable region known for its other worldly geological formations and extraordinary landscapes. The region boasts many superb hotels but the unique nature of Cappadocia has an exclusive hotel to act as its luxury flagship. Built from the houses and caves that cascade down the castle rock of Uchisar, the Museum Hotel is that hotel. No room is the same and all rooms and suites have been furnished with antiques, designed to convey a magical atmosphere and enhance a mood that is unique for each and every visitor.

www.museum-hotel.com



EasternTurkeyTours

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