With a history dating back to 6000 BC, Adana is one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia and is the fifth-largest city in Turkey. Stretching over an area of 14,030 square kilometres, Adana has been undergoing a rapid development in an attempt to become a metropolitan city. Adana lies in the heart of Çukurova, a geographical, economical and cultural region that covers the provinces of Mersin, Adana, Osmaniye, and Hatay. Home to approximately six million people, the region is mostly a large stretch of flat, fertile land regarded as one of the most agriculturally productive areas of the world.
Economy

Adana is one of the first industrialized cities, as well as one of the economically developed cities of Turkey. A mid-size trading city until mid-1800s, the city has seen attraction from European traders after the major cotton supplier, USA, turmoil with Civil War. Çukurova farmers exported agricultural products for the first time and thus started building capital.

Commerce

A leading commercial center in southern Turkey, city hosts regional headquarters of many corporates and public institutions. TÜYAP Exhibition and Congress Center hosts fairs, business conferences and currently it is the main meeting point for businesses in Çukurova. Academic oriented 2000-seater Alper Akınoğlu Congress Center is expected to open in 2012 at Çukurova University campus.
Adana Chamber of Commerce (ATO) was founded in 1894 to guide and regulate the cotton trade back then and it is one of the oldest of its kind in Turkey. Today the Chamber has more than 25,000 member companies, furthers the interests of businesses and advocates on behalf of them.

Adana Commodity Exchange, founded in 1913, functions mainly to organize the trade of agricultural produce and livestock in a secure and open manner. Exchange has currently 1350 members and it is located across the Metropolitan Theatre Hall.

Adana Chamber of Commerce facility
Agriculture

Adana is the marketing and distribution center for Çukurova agricultural region, where cotton, wheat, corn, soybean, barley, grapes and citrus fruits are produced in great quantities. Farmers of Adana produce half of the corn and soybean in Turkey. 34% of Turkey’s peanut and 29% of Turkey’s orange is harvested in Adana. Most of the farming and agricultural-based companies of the region have their offices in Adana. Producer cooperatives played significant role in the economy of the city. Çukobirlik, Turkey's largest producer co-operative, has 36064 producer members in 10 provinces and services from planting to marketing of cotton, peanut, soybean, sunflower and canola.

Adana Agriculture Fair is the region's largest fair attracting more than 100 thousand visitors from 20 nations. The fair hosts agriculture, livestock, poultry and dairy businesses. Greenhouse and Gardening Fair also takes place at the same time in part of the Agriculture Fair. Fair is organized on a 3.5 hectare area at TÜYAP Exhibition Center every year in October.
Manufacturing

Adana is an industrialized city where large-scale industry is based mostly on agriculture. Textile and leather are the major industry constituting 29% of Adana's manufacturing, plant oil and processed food manufacturing plants are also numerous. As of 2008, Adana has 11 companies in Turkey's top 500 industrial firms. The largest company of Adana, Temsa Global, in automotive manufacturing, has more than 2,500 employees and manufactures 4,000 buses annually. Marsan-Adana is the largest margarine and plant oil factory in Turkey. Advansa Sasa is Europe's largest polyester manufacturer employing 2,650. Organized Industrial Region of Adana has an area of 1,225 hectar and hosts almost 300 plants, mostly medium-scale.
Demographics

The population of the city of Adana as of December 31, 2012 is 1,636,229. Yearly population growth rate is steadily decreasing from %2.52 in 2009 to %1.17 in 2012. Women population in Adana is slightly higher than men standing at %50.22.

Adana is made up of the municipal populations of the five metropolitan districts; Seyhan, Çukurova, Yüreğir, Sariçam and Karaisah.

Cityscape

Architecture

Rowhouses of Tepebağ

The golden age for the architecture of Adana was the late 15th and the 16th century when Ramdanid principality chose Adana as their capital. City grow rapidly during that period with many new neighborhoods had been built. Most of the historical landmarks of Adana are built during this period, thus Mamlukand Seljuqid architecture are dominant in Adana's architectural history.

The first traces of settlement in the quarter of Tepebağ, can be traced to be the neolithic age. The quarter is next to the Taşköprü stone bridge, situated on a hill which gives its name Tepebağ (Garden on the hill).
Taşköprü (Stone Bridge)

Taşköprü (English: Stone Bridge) is a Roman bridge spanning the Seyhan River in Adana. Throughout ancient Anatolia and Persia, the bridge was a vital contribution to the trade routes and until 2007, it was one of the oldest bridges in the world to be open to motorized vehicles. It was then set for pedestrians only, now hosting social and cultural events. The bridge was known with different names throughout the history; Saros bridge, Justinian bridge and finally Taşköprü.

Büyük Saat

Büyük Saat (The Great Clock Tower), built by the local governor of Adana in 1882, is the tallest clock tower in Turkey rising 32 m (104.99 ft) high. It was damaged during French occupation, but was rebuilt in 1935, and its image can be found in the city’s coat of arms. Kazancılar Çarşısı (Bazaar of Kazancılar), founded around the Büyük Saat.
Ramazanoğlu Mansion

Ramazanoğlu Mansion was built in 1495 during the reign of Halil Bey. A three-storey building, made of stone and brick, it is one of the oldest sample of a house in Turkey. This hall is the Harem section, where the Ramadanid family lived. Selamlık section, where the government offices were, do not exist today.

Sabancı Merkez Camii (English: Sabancı Central Mosque) in Adana is the largest mosque in Turkey. The exterior of the mosque is similar to the Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Blue Mosque) in Istanbul while the interior decoration is similar to the Selimiye Mosque in Edirne.
Ulu Cami, a külliye built in 1541 during Ramadanid era, is the most interesting medieval structure of Adana with its mosque, madrasahand türbe. The mosque has black and white marble with decorative window surrounds and it is famous for the 16th century Iznik tiling used in its inner space. The minaret is a unique sample with the Mamluk effects it bears and with its orthogonal plan scheme.
Saint Paul Catholic Church

Churches

In the 19th century, the city had four churches; 2 Armenian, 1 Greek and 1 Latin. Saint Paul Catholic Church (Bebekli Kilise) was built in 1870 and used as an Armenian Church until 1915. It is currently serving to the Roman Catholic community of the city. It is located in the old town, close to 5 Ocak Square. On Abidinpaşa Street, there used to stand a larger Armenian Church. During the republic period, the church was demolished and Central Bank (Merkez Bankası) regional headquarters was built instead. Latin Church was built in 1845 at Kuruköprü area and converted into a museum in 1924.
Parks & Gardens

Adana has plenty of parks and gardens, mostly well maintained. Owing to the warm climate, parks and gardens are open all year long without the need of winter maintenance.

Recreational pathways on both banks of Seyhan River cross the entire city from south end to Seyhan Reservoir. Pathway then connects to Adnan Menderes Boulevard which goes all the way along the southern shores of Seyhan Reservoir, and the wide sidewalks of the boulevard extend the pathway to the west end of the reservoir. Dilberler Sekisi is the most scenic part of the pathway which is along the west bank, in between the old and the new dam.
Süleyman Demirel Arboretum is a large botanical garden containing living collections of woody plants intended partly for the scientific study of Çukurova University researchers. The arboretum is also used for educational and recreational purposes by city residents. 512 species of plants exists in the arboretum.
Atatürk Park is a 4.7-hectare city park built during the first years of Republic. It is centrally located at the commercial district. The park holds a statue of Atatürk and hosts Public Ceremonies.
Transportation:

Adana is a metropolitan city having a large bus terminal, a railway station and an airport. The railway station is located in the city centre offering services to many main and nearby cities of Turkey. The Adana airport, called “Şakirpaşa Havaalanı”, is about 5 km from the city centre and there are regular buses from and to the city centre every 15 minutes. The taxi prices are about 30-40 TL (15-20 Euros) from the airport to the campus. The main bus terminal of Adana is located close to the airport, about 15 minutes to the city Centre. There are many travel agencies offering scheduled and unscheduled services to all cities within Turkey and many countries and cities abroad. To travel within the city, beside taxis there are scheduled municipal buses and local buses you can use without having to pay in cash, but using a ticket or “kentkart”. Additionally, there are minibuses that are a little more expensive than the scheduled buses, but they drive about every 5 minutes to nearly every corner of the city and you can pay in cash.
Society and Culture

Çukurova State Symphony Orchestra performed its first concert in 1992 and since then, the orchestra is performing twice a week from October to May at Greater Municipality Theatre Hall. The orchestra consists of 39 musicians and conduct regular tours in Turkey and abroad.

Adana State Theatre opened its stage in 1981 at Sabancı Cultural Centre. It performs regularly from October to May.

Adana Town Theatre was founded in 1880 to be the first theatre in Adana by governor ZiyaPaşa. Town Theatre currently performs weekly at Greater Municipality Theatre Hall. Greater Municipality Theatre Hall also hosts Town Chorus and community theatre, folklore and concert performances. Seyhan Town Theatre and Seyhan Folkloric Dances stage weekly at the 1000-seater Theatre Hall of Seyhan Cultural Centre.

Amphitheatres in Adana host performances from April to November. Mimar Sinan Amphitheatre, the largest in Adana, can accommodate 8000 people and hosts concerts and movies. It is located at the west bank of Seyhan River. 2100-seater Merkez Park Amphitheatre, 3000-seater Çukurova University Amphitheatre and Doğal Park Amphitheatre in Çukurova District also hosts theatres, concerts and movies.
Adana Archaeological Museum opened in 1924 is one of the oldest museums in Turkey. The museum exhibits archaeological works from all over Çukurova. Notable works are; two Augustus statues from Hittites, Achilles Sarcophagus depicting Trojan War and statues from Magarsus and Augusta ancient cities.

Adana Ethnography Museum was opened in 1983. At the front and back yard there is epitaph and gravestones of Adana are leading figures of 17th century. On the west yard, there are inscriptions of Stone Bridge, Misis Bridge, old City Hall and Bahripaşa Fountain. Inside, there are clothing, jewellery and weaponry of Yörüğ villagemen.
Atatürk Museum exhibits War of Independence and first years of Republic at the mansion, Atatürk stayed during his trips to Adana.

State Fine Arts Gallery was opened in Sabancı Cultural Center in 1982.

75.Yıl Art Gallery in Atatürk Park, Adana City Hall Art Gallery and Art Gallery in Seyhan Cultural Centre are the other public art galleries.

FESTIVALS

Altın Koza International Film Festival is one of the most important film festivals in Turkey, taking place every year in June since 1969. During Altın Koza of 2009, 212 international films were shown in 11 movie theatres across the city. Long Film Contest, International Student Film Contest and Mediterranean Cultures Film Contest are held during the festival.

International Sabancı Theatre Festival is held every year in April since 1999. In 2009, festival hosted 16 theatre groups who performed 20 plays. 6 of the theatre groups attended from Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Egypt and Kyrgyzstan.
Çukurova Art Days is a regional festival that takes place every April since 2007. 115 poets, painters, musicians and caricaturists from 10 different countries attended festival in 2009, which took place in Adana, Mersin, Gaziantep, Antakya, İskenderun, Tarsus and Aleppo.

13 Kare Arts Festival began in 1999 as a festival of photography dedicated to 13 photographers of Adana who died in an accident during an AFAD (Adana Photography Amateurs Association) trip. The festival then extended to other arts. During the festival, exhibitions of nature, under-sea and architecture photography, puppet shows, shadow theatre and several concerts are held. The festival takes place every December.

Seyhan Cultural Events is a month long festival during Ramadan. During the festival, theatreplays, sufi music concerts, folkloric dances and children shows held at Seyhan Cultural Centre.

Climate

Adana has a typical Mediterranean climate. Winters are warm and summers are hot and dry.

Sports

Football is the most popular sport in Adana, basketball, volleyball and handball are also played widely in the professional and amateur level. Warm weather and waters make the city a haven for sports like rowing, sailing, swimming and water polo. Being a farmer’s town, horse racing and horse riding is also popular. Adana hosted some international tournaments.
Bi-annual Men’s European Wheelchair Basketball Championship took place in Adana on October 5–15, 2009. 12 countries competed at the event and Italy won the title after a final game against Turkey. Adana is also a candidate for the 2013 World Junior Wheelchair Basketball Championship. 1967 Women’s European Volleyball Championship was organized in Turkey and Adana was a host city together with İstanbul, Ankara and İzmir. Group C games are played in Adana at the Menderes Sports Hall.

**Healthcare**

Adana is a major health center to a wide region from Mediterranean to Southeastern Anatolia. There are 4 university hospitals, 8 state hospitals and 7 private hospitals in the city. Hastaneler (Hospitals) area in the Seyhan district is home to hospitals that are lined up on both sides of the H.Ömer Sabancı Street. Numune General Hospital, Çukurova State Hospital, Hospital for Thoracic Diseases, Military Hospital and medical centers are the healthcare facilities of this area.
Food & Drinks

Adana Kebabı
Adana kebabi (colloquially known as Kıyma kebabı) is a long, hand-minced meat kebab mounted on a wide iron skewer and grilled on an open mangal filled with burning charcoal.

Şalgam
A popular beverage from southern Turkey’s cities of Adana and Mersin.
**Bici Bici**

Bici Bici - a local desert, served on the street by bici-bici vendors and it is a nice refreshment on a hot day.

**Tel Kadayıf** - A Classic Adana dessert
Ayran- a cold yogurt beverage mixed with salt.

Lahmacun- a round, thin piece of dough topped with minced meat (most commonly beef and lamb) and minced vegetables and herbs including onions, tomatoes and parsley, then baked.