

# Anavarza

An ancient city on the passage to  
Central Anatolia:  
Şar Archaeological Site

*Don't Miss*



## Anavarza Archaeological Site Visiting Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Closed	8.30 17.30	8.30 17.30	8.30 17.30	8.30 17.30	8.30 17.30	8.30 17.30

[f TurkishMuseums](#) [i officialturkishmuseums](#) [t TurkishMuseums](#) [y TurkishMuseums](#) [g TurkishMuseums](#)

Address Dilekkaya Mahallesi/Kozan/Adana | Phone: +90322 454 38 55/57

Please visit the website for current information.



[www.muze.gov.tr](http://www.muze.gov.tr)



Anavarza city of strong,  
powerful, invincible ones







The excavations at Anavarza Ancient Site began in year 2012. The site is within Dilekkaya village, 28 km south of Kozan District, 70 km northeast of Adana Province.

The name of the site, founded on 4 thousands decare area, came from the Persian word meaning invincible "NEZARBA" according to epigraphic researches. When Roman Emperor Augustus visited the city, it was planned again and named Caesarea dedicated to Augustus. It functioned as the economical and political capital of Tarkandimotos Kingdom.



Emperor Septimus Severus granted neokoros title to Anavarza between the years 198 and 203 A.D., metropolis title in 204 A.D. The city was accepted as ideal place for logistics for Roman Armies during the wars between Cilicia Pedias (Plain Cilicia) cities and Parthians. The city became a leading city when state council started to gather in the city in 204 A.D. The three arched triumphal arch, double colonnaded street, theatre, amphitheater, Circus Maximus, temples, council building, necropolis, both and other monuments were built during this period. The three arched triumphal arch known as "Alakapi" in Anavarza opens to the Decumanus Maximus (colonnaded main street). The main street with double way, 34m width and 2700 m length, is the biggest street of Ancient World. It is the best preserved amphitheater among the three amphitheatres in Anatolia in Anavarza. The aqueducts, 25 km in length, built by Domitianus in 92 A.D. are one of the best and longest aqueducts in the world. The city became the capital of Cilicia Secunda which was established during the reign of Theodosius II. The city was destroyed by earthquakes in A.D. 525 and A.D. 561. It was rebuilt during the reign of Justinianus and I. Justinianus.



The Arabs invaded city in 7th and 8th century A.D. The owner of the city changed several times between Arabs and Byzantines in next centuries. The city consisting of a magnificent 1500 m. city walls with 20 bastions can be seen from the plain. The city was invaded by Toros I who escaped from Alparslan in 11th century A.D. and it became capital of Armenian Kingdom. After the Memluk invasion in 1375, the city was destroyed and lost its importance.

Anavarza, center of the myth of god Zeus Olybris, was birthplace of the famous pharmacologist Dioscorides, worked in Roman Army in the reign of Emperor Nero, known as Lokman Hekim among the society. He is accepted as father of pharmacology with his 5 volume scientific work "De Materia Medica". Moreover, the famous poet Oppianus was born and lived in the city where a lot of weaving workshops according to ancient sources were.

The city hosted several cultures and civilizations; Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Middle Age, Arab, Armenian and Ottomans. Therefore, the city was inscribed on the temporary list of World Heritage List in 2014.