



ANCIENT PAMPHYLIA & LYCIA
TODAY'S ANTALYA



ANCIENT PAMPHYLIA & LYCIA TODAY'S ANTALYA

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A N C I E N T P A M P H Y L I A & L Y C I A T O D A Y ' S A N T A L Y A

With this book we want to introduce to you our city Antalya and the surrounding region, which was in ancient times named Pamphylia, "the Land of all Tribes" and Lycia, "the Land of the Light". The meaning of these civilisations today is still fresh and alive in Antalya and connects the philosophy of the people living here today with the past. The philosophy remaining from the past can also be sensed today by the visitors who come to our city. Tourism, which started around 1985, is still developing and gaining more and more loyal guests. The development, innovation, variety and fast rising hotel capacity has set Turkey among the world's most famous tourism destinations.

Antalya is a typical Mediterranean city. As you know the people of the Mediterranean are warm-hearted people, but the expression "Turkish hospitality" really has a very special meaning. It promotes peace and harmony between people which is the root of the social movement for which in fact tourism stands for and it is our aim to keep alive this Turkish hospitality as it is one of the main reasons for our success.

The climate of the Mediterranean has the ingredients to make people feel relaxed and at ease. The Toros Mountains rising from the shores of Antalya are covered with snow from November to April and instead of making one think of winter, it gives a sense of purity, cleanness and life.

Within the wide boundaries of Antalya there is history, natural beauty and a rich variety of local life style to be discovered. But it is in the heart of the city, where the old harbor and the surrounding Kaleiçi -the inner castle- are situated, that you will experience the spirit, smell, fragrances and the beauty of the past coming alive all around you.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY "ANTALYA'YA HOŞGELDİNİZ"

WELCOME TO ANTALYA

Nizamettin ŞEN

Antalya Promotion Foundation

Chairman of the Board

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HISTORY

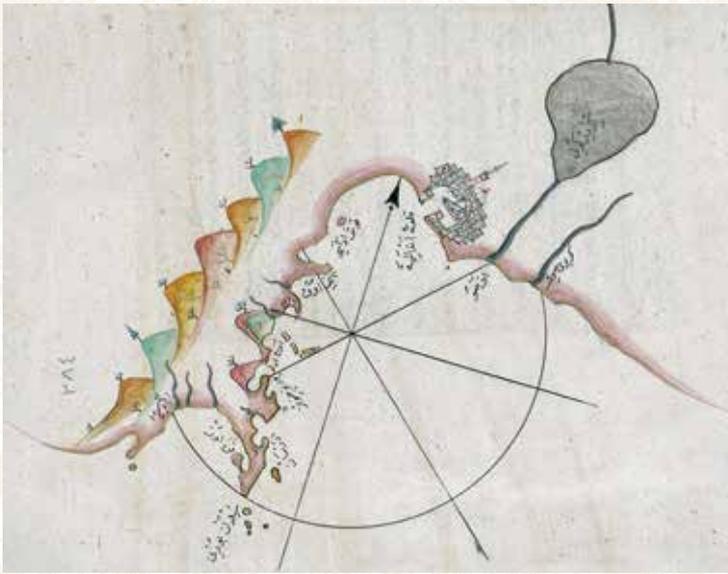
ANTALYA WAS THE SITE OF ONE OF THE OLDEST SETTLEMENTS IN ANATOLIA. TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETRES TO THE NORTHWEST OF ANTALYA'S CENTRE IS KARAIN CAVE, ONCE HOME TO A COMMUNITY OF EIGHTY PEOPLE, WITH EVIDENCE THAT ITS HISTORY GOES BACK TO THE PALEOLITHIC AGE. THE CAVE WAS DISCOVERED DURING RESEARCH CONDUCTED ON THE SURFACE BETWEEN 1946 AND 1958. SOME OBJECTS IN THE CAVE WERE DATED AS BEING ONE MILLION YEARS OLD.

THE REGION WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE BETWEEN 1400 BC. - TILL THE FALL OF THE HITTITES, MANY INDEPENDENT STATES WERE ESTABLISHED IN THE REGION. BETWEEN THE 11TH AND 8TH CENTURIES BC, FIRST THE LYDIANS AND THEN PERSIANS RULED THE REGION. IN THE 4TH CENTURY BC IT WAS ALEXANDER THE GREAT'S TURN TO CONQUER THE REGION. IN THE PERIOD FOLLOWING HIS DEATH, THE PROVINCE CHANGED HANDS A NUMBER OF TIMES, BECAUSE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN HIS GENERALS FOR CONTROL OF THE REGION.



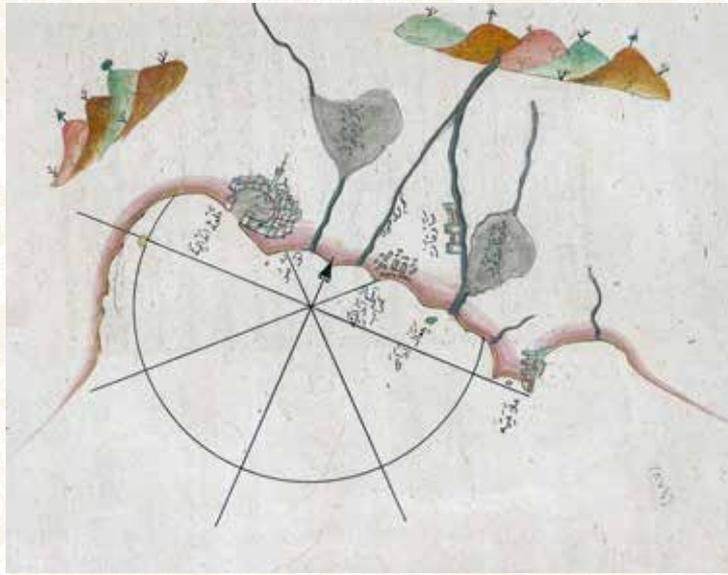
UNESCO and Turkey celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Piri Reis World Map (1513)

Piri Reis was an Ottoman Admiral, geographer and cartographer. One of the preserved maps of Piri Reis shows America. It dates 919 in the Muslim calendar, corresponding to 1513. The map marked a significant moment of history and its knowledge was transmitted throughout generations. For the 15th and 16th centuries it is a very rare example of the world's documentary heritage. In 2013 UNESCO and Turkey celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Piri Reis World Map.



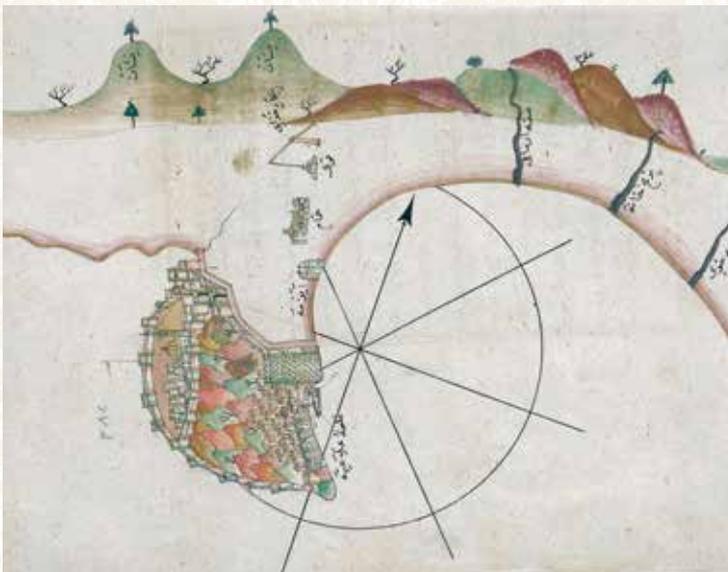
THE SHORES OF ANDALIYYE (ANTALYA)

When approaching from the sea, the landmark of Andaliyye is this there are mountains to its east. These mountains come down and disappear on the west. Where they come to an end, there is a roundish mountain whose western side is low. They head directly for that low place and when they come close, the bastions and ramparts of the castle become apparent. Before the castle is a harbor. This is a small harbor however and for that reason, ships putting into it moor up tightly bow-and-stern and so lie. On either side of the harbor entrance is a tower and between the towers they have stretched a chain so that no hostile ship may enter. From this harbor, Güğercin Adası is twelve miles and Şilden Burnu is sixty miles south by southwest. Between Şilden Burnu and Andaliyye however there are a number of harbors but we will describe them in the chapter on Şilden Burnu for at this point we are going to describe Kibrız Adası lest we overlook it. Let it be known as such and so much for that.



THE SHORES OF MANAVKAT (MANAVGAT)

"The city of Manavkat lies in a plain located three miles inland from the seashore. Before the city there is a ruined castle. A river flows to the east of that castle and discharges into the sea. There is also a big lagoon there that they call Yalı Göl. The outlet of that lake mixes with the sea at a place near the shore. On the southeastern side of the lagoon is another river they call Karpuz Suyu. Southeast side of that river is the peninsula that lies adjacent to Alaiyye. Midway between that peninsula and Karpuz Suyu is a small islet they call Çatal Adası. No ship may pass between that islet and the shore for it is too shallow. Thirty miles west-northwest of Manavkat Suyu lies Eski Andaliyye, which is a ruined castle. Between Andaliyye and this ruined castle, there are two big rivers. They call one of them Köprü Suyu and the other Aksu. The one known as Aksu rises in the vicinity of Egirdir and coming down, discharges into the sea. Between Aksu and Andaliyye there are some lofty cliffs that they call At Atladı. There are also rivers here and they extend as far as Andaliyye. So much for that."



THE CASTLE OF ALAIYYE (ALANYA)

"When approaching Alaiyye from the sea, its landmark is this; above it there are lofty mountains; these mountains have three peaks and Alaiyye lies below the one in the center. When one has approached closer, the castle of Alaiyye appears on the mountain. Alaiyye is a peninsula that resembles a very mountainous island and it is on this mountain that the castle is situated. The lower parts of the castle are prosperous while the upper reaches are deserted. Further above however is another fortress in which the castle wardens live. Down below by the sea there is a big tower built of red brick. There is a shelter at the base of the tower on the southern side. Little ships may lie here having moored up bow-and-stern. Before the ships, there are five dockyards built of masonry. Nevertheless this Alaiyye is an exposed place and there is no harbor here; it is merely a shelter for the summer and one should be wary when it is the time of the southeastern winds for this place is exposed to them. From Alaiyye, it is ninety miles west-northwest to Andaliyye while the Manavkat river is thirty miles, Let it be known as such and so much for that."



The King of Pergamon, Attalos II (159-138 BC), seized the natural port of Pamphylia, the city of Antalya, and took over control of what is now the site of the present day. The city was named Attaleia after him. In 67 BC the city was subsumed into the Roman territory, becoming prosperous under Roman rule.

The city became a centre where Christianity spread to the Anatolian soil. However, in the 7th century there were continuous attacks by Arabs on Anatolia and the Antalya region. In 652, the Byzantine navy lost a major naval battle against Arab forces fought in the waters off Antalya.

The Antalya region's next encounter with Islam was during the Seljuk period, with the capture of the city in 1085.

The city changed hands between the rulers of small kingdoms until 1426 when it fell to the Ottomans. The last invasion of the city was by Italian forces between 1919 and 1921.

On 5 July 1921 the invasion ended and Antalya became a city of the young Turkish Republic. For many years the economic activities of the city were based on the growing of fruit and vegetables in the mainly agriculture area, as well as fishing and maritime. Today it is the largest tourism centre of Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean.



The high Toros Mountains running parallel to the coast in particular formed a natural border to central Anatolia, one that could not be crossed in the winter. This geography was an obstacle to the forming of a larger union of states so instead rich city states on the coast were established, often controlled by a higher central authority. Moreover, with its agricultural richness and natural ports, the region attracted many settlers. This is why so many civilisations thrived in the region and left their historical heritage.









In the western part of Antalya one of history's first major confederations, the Lycian Union, was formed. This league, once the most powerful in the region, had its member states represented by a system of one, two or three votes, depending on the size and importance of the states. Starting from the west end of present day Antalya and stretching to Fethiye in the province of Muğla, it covered a very large area for those days. To the east stretched the state of Pamphylia.

The region with its steep mountains falling to the sea with just limited coastal plains had long drawn pirates.

The pirates did not just confine their activities to capturing and looting merchant ships but also from time to time they took control of and ruled whole cities.

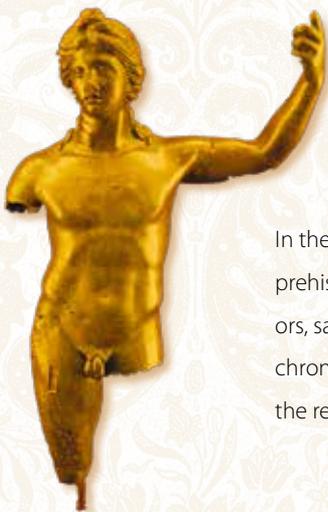
We mentioned that the region was where Christianity first spread to Anatolia. Many churches, chapels and other buildings dating from the early Christian era can be seen at various historical sites. The museums of the region have a wide collection of pre-Christian and Christian as well as Islamic artifacts. One of the world's best known figures, St. Nicholas, otherwise known as Father Christmas, was from the region of Antalya. Many myths, local legends and a rich history have survived from the area's past to the current day.





ANTALYA MUSEUM

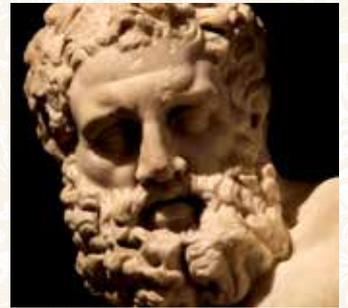
The Antalya Museum is one of Turkey's best and in 1988 it was awarded the "Museum of the Year Award" of the European Council. Having a stroll around the museum helps to locate and understand the historical sites in the region to be visited later. The main displays in the museum consist of finds from excavations at Side, Perge, Karataş-Semahöyük, Arykanda, Xanthos Lmyra, Patara and the Elmalı Bayındır Tumulus.



In the museum there is an exhibition entitled Children where ancient toys are on display, natural history, prehistoric pieces from the Phrygian era, statues of gods and goddesses, underwater finds, statues of emperors, sarcophagi, mosaics and icons, while in the ethnography section there are displays in thematic and chronological categories. The Antalya Museum has collections containing artifacts from various civilisations in the region. It is worth sparing time for it either before or after you visit the sites.



During excavations in 1980 in Perge, Prof. Jale Inan unearthed the lower part of a Hercules statue dating from the mid-to late second century A.D. The other part of the "Weary Heracles" was returned to Antalya in 2011 from a Boston museum. Joined with the marble torso this wonderful piece of art may now be admired at the Antalya Archaeological Museum.



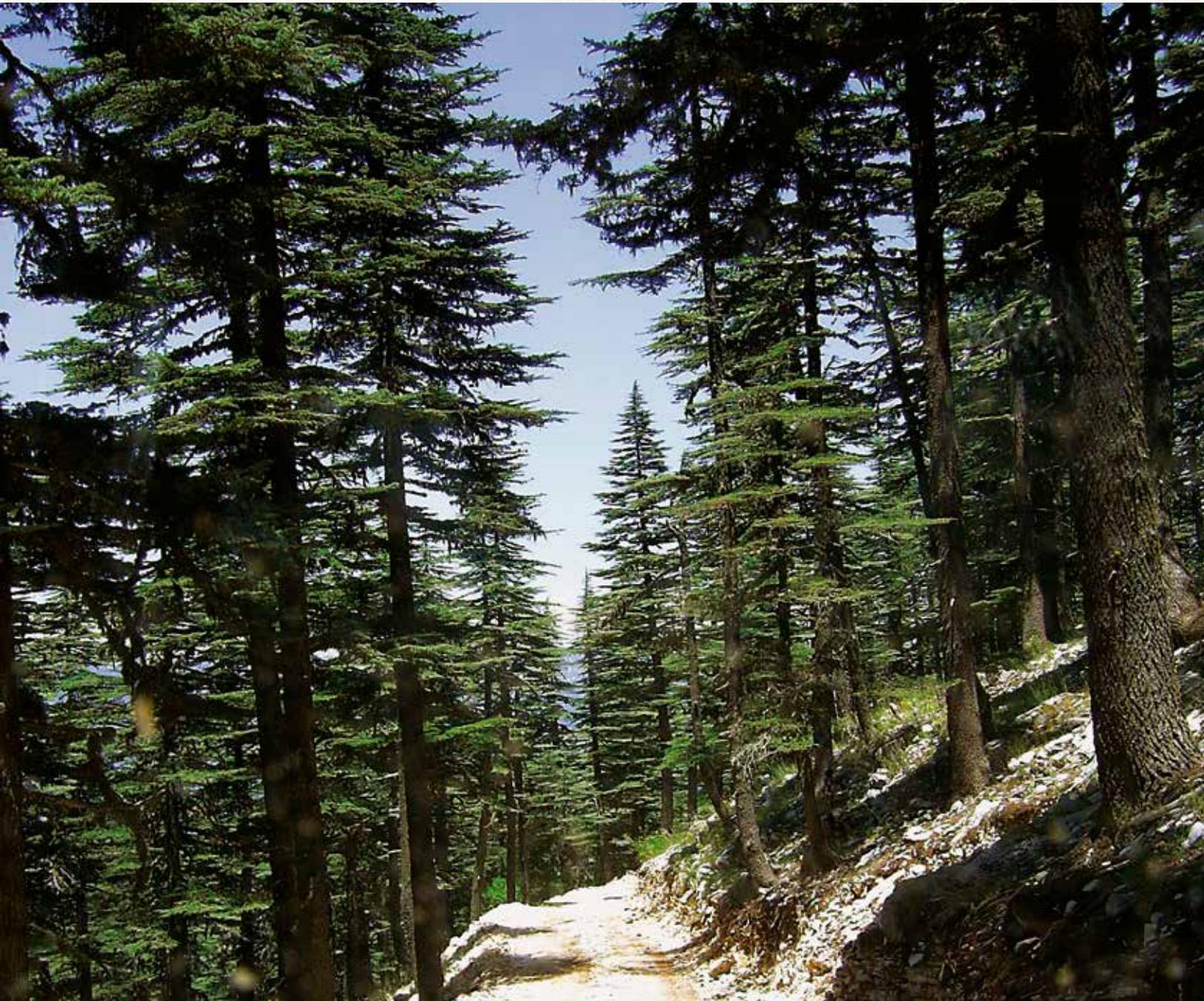




T H E C E N T R E O F A N T A L Y A

ANTALYA IS TURKEY'S FOREMOST TOURISM CENTRE AND INDEED ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TOURISM CENTRES OF THE WORLD. TOURISM IS ONE OF THE MAIN FOCUSES OF THE ECONOMY OF THE CITY AND THE PROVINCE OF ANTALYA. THE PROSPERITY BROUGHT BY TOURISM, AS EVIDENCED BY THE HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS AND MODERN BUSINESS CENTRES IN THE CITY, MEANS THAT ALL ALONG THE COASTLINE THERE IS COMPETITION TO DEVELOP TOURISM.

AT THE SAME TIME ANTALYA IS THE MAIN GATE OF THE REGION. WHETHER YOU ARRIVE BY AIR OR ROAD YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH ANTALYA BEFORE VISITING THE REGION. THE ANTALYA AIRPORT HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE AIRPORT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL (ACI) "EUROPE'S BEST AIRPORT" IN "10-25 MILLION PASSENGERS" CATEGORY. ICF AIRPORTS, ALSO MANAGED TO CLIMB UP TO THE 2ND LEVEL OF THE AIRPORTS COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS CARBON ACCREDITATION SCHEME (ACI ACAS), WHICH IS "CARBON REDUCTION" AND ACHIEVING THE "TURKISH GREEN AIRPORT CERTIFICATE".





The western coastal line is typical for the forest covered Toros Mountains reaching towards the sea. There are small coves with clear water, high peaks and beautiful cedar forests. Kemer and Finike are still famous for their orange orchards.

To the eastern side of Antalya the mountains retreat from the sea opening to vast planes, which are used for agriculture. The beaches here are long and sandy.





THE HISTORICAL CITY CENTRE AND KALEİÇİ (the inner castle)

Start your visit to Antalya in the historical city centre, which takes in Hadrian's Gate, the Hıdırlık Tower, the Yivli Minaret, the Kesik Minaret, and Kaleiçi with its narrow streets and historical houses and the ancient port. All are within an area of one square kilometer. You can cover all this on foot, which is a good thing as cars are banned on certain streets. It is known that Hadrian's Gate was built as the main gate of Antalya during the reign of the Roman Emperor Hadrian (117-138 BC).

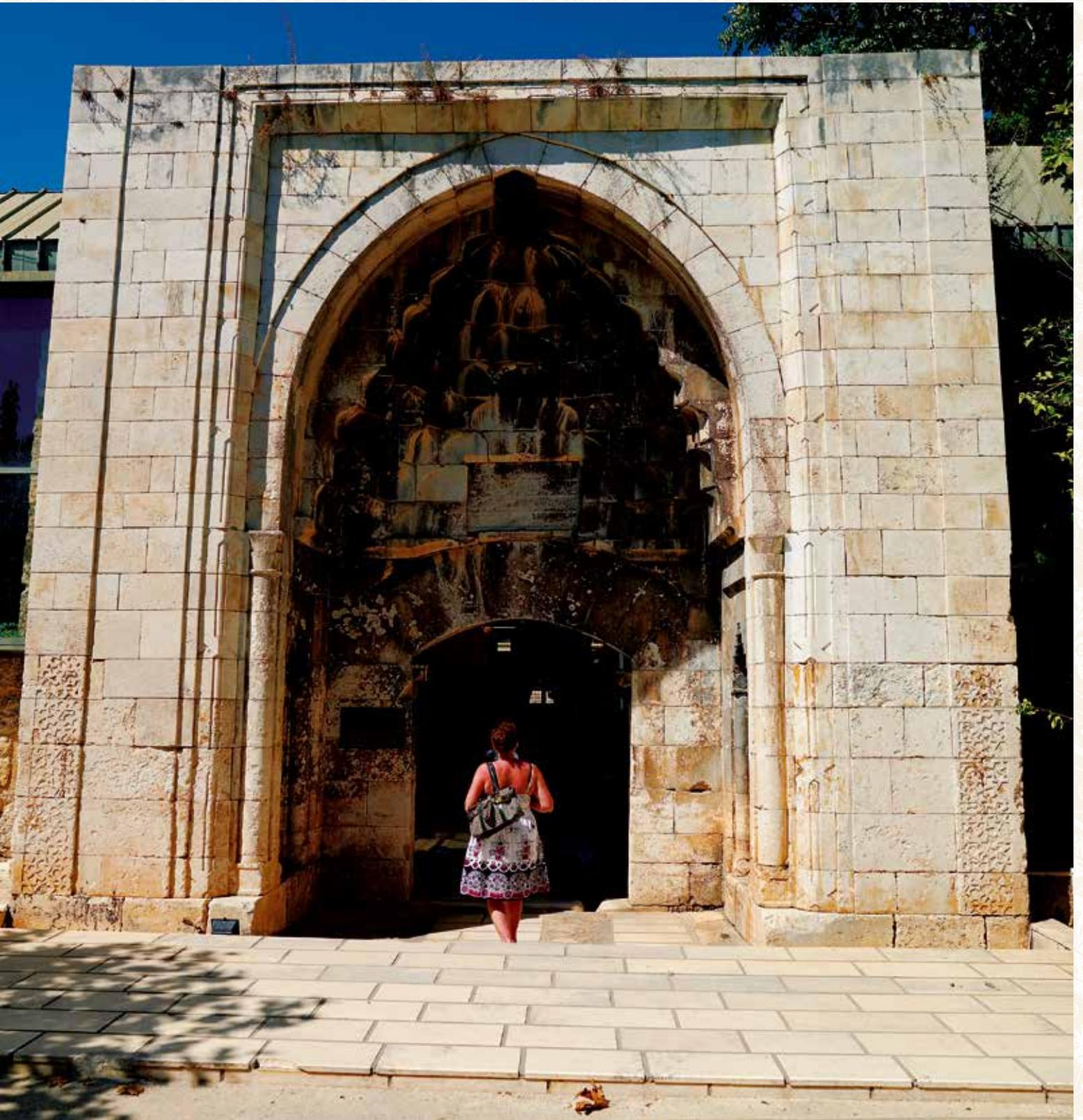
The gate today stands in its old glory. According to the famed traveler Eviya Çelebi, the historical city was surrounded by 4.5 km of walls. The walls of the fortress and towers were strengthened during the Seljuk period, surrounding the whole port area. At the southeast end of the walls the two storey Hıdırlık Tower stands 14 metres high. You can get to the Hıdırlık Tower once you enter Kaleiçi from Hadrian's Gate and follow Hesapçı Street down to the seaside.





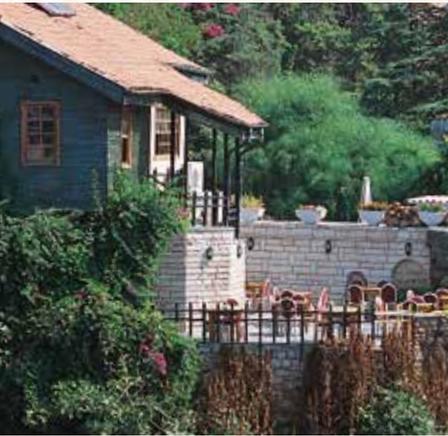


Once you enter Kaleiçi, one of the monuments that will attract your attention is the Yivli Minaret. It is seen as the symbol of Antalya. The 37-metre high brick minaret has eight chamfers or turns. It was built by the Seljuk Sultan Alaattin Keykubat I. Another interesting monument in Kaleiçi is the Kesik Minaret. The building was built as a church in the 5th century and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Later the son of Sultan Beyazid II, Korkut, had it converted into a mosque. The original wooden minaret burned down in 1986 and it has since been known as the Kesik (Cut) Minaret.





Kaleiçi can be visited at all hours of the day but the best time is towards evening. Many of the historical houses and mansions of Kaleiçi have been restored and a large number of them are being used as hotels, pensions, bars and shops.



Most shops offer gifts and souvenirs aimed at the tourist market. Most of the hotels, restaurants and bars in Kaleiçi have an inner courtyard. In the afternoon of a summer day it is enjoyable to take a drink with lots of ice in one of these courtyards under the orange trees.

There are also many cafeterias, bars and restaurants overlooking the sea from the city walls. The old port of Antalya was restored in the 1980s and this restoration work was recognised with the European Council Golden Apple award.







The nights in Kaleiçi are colourful. You can get carried away by the music emanating from the side streets, enjoy a drink or dance in bars and restaurants with live music and they are all open until late. You can make friends with people of many different nationalities whether Turkish, German, Russian or Italian.

Antalya is not a city with just sun, sea and sand. It has a great history especially in the Kaleiçi district.





TOY MUSEUM

Antalya's Toy Museum was inaugurated in the year 2011 on the 23rd of April, which is Children's day in Turkey and a national holiday. With an exhibition area of 700 square meters and lovingly displayed toys from Turkey and many other countries it is Turkey's second largest Toy Museum. The good old Teddy is as much at home here as dolls or cars and many other toys, some of them 100 years old or even more. Mickey Mouse and Cinderella are ready for a photo session and also Mr Spock is somewhere around.

The Museum is located at Antalya Kaleiçi and open daily except Mondays.

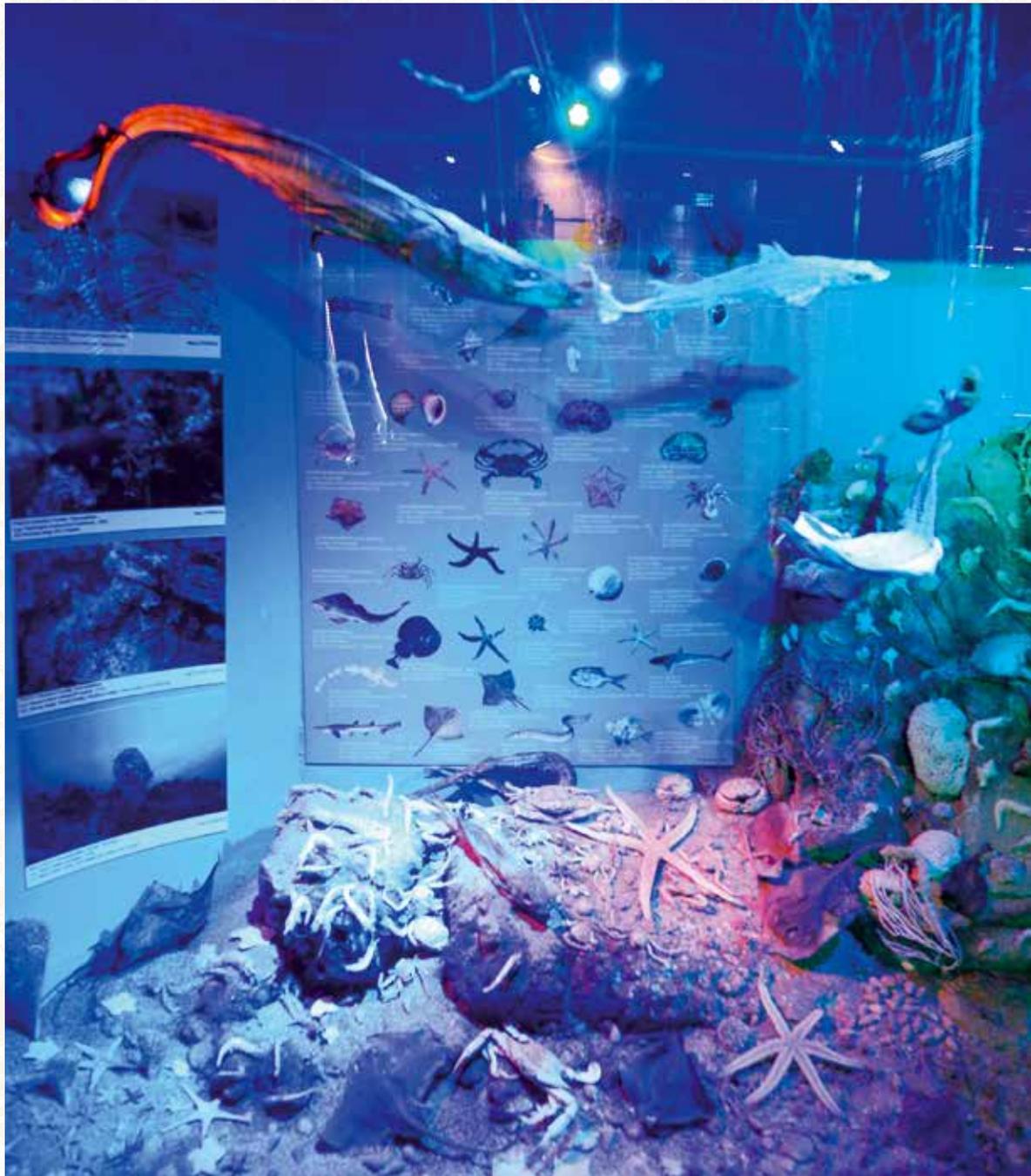


MARINE BIOLOGY MUSEUM

The Marine Biology Museum was established by Antalya Metropolitan Municipality.

Approximately 500 species of marine animals including three of the 15 endangered species such as Angel Shark (*Squatina cicuvellatata*), guitarfish (*Rhinobathos Cemiculus*) and Angular Rough Shark (*Exynatus Centrina*) along with sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*), nine species of sharks, 10 species of flat sharks, approximately 150 species of bony fishes, sponges, corals, shrimps, lobsters and crabs, shellfishes, octopus, squids and cuttlefishes, starfishes and sea urchins are on exhibit.

The Museum is located in Antalya Yacht Harbour in a former Post Office Building.





SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ KALEİÇİ MUSEUM

The Exhibition Hall of the Suna & İnan Kırac Kaleiçi Museum is the Aya Yorgi (Saint George) Church, considered to be a great cultural asset with monumental qualities inside the old City of Antalya. It is covered with a single-space vault over a rectangular plan which generally reflects the typical characteristics of Mediterranean architecture. Although its date of construction is unknown, an inscription indicates that major restoration work was carried out in 1863.



Generally the traditional Antalya houses are 2 storeys high with an outer vestibule plan. The basement is made of brick or stone and the upper floor has an open wooden framework style (Bağdadi duvar). It is common to see ornamental paintwork of twisted branches, flowers, the moon and star symbols, leaves, rosettes and other motifs as well as the words "Allah" and "Maşallah" written on the facades. At the entrance one passes through a wooden door leading to a pebbled mosaic courtyard with gardens on both sides. The garden is enclosed for privacy by high walls and tall trees, which also provide much shade during the daytime. Due to the mild climate, service rooms such as the kitchen, laundry, storage rooms, cellars, and stables are usually located in the basement. As a result these services do not really affect the planning of the house itself. In all of the gardens there is a cistern (well), which at the same time is used as a cool storage area where food is suspended in a basket. Throughout the streets there were canals running parallel to the houses and the water running through these canals was used in turn by people to water their gardens.



PANORAMIC ELEVATOR

Antalya Kaleiçi is beautiful and a visit is a must. To make the access to the old part of Antalya easier, a Panoramic Elevator was constructed. It connects the heart of the city, the Cumhuriyet Meydanı (Republic Square) with the Kaleiçi and the Yacht Harbour. An observation platform in front of the elevator is a perfect photo and selfie point, offering a stunning view over the bay and the Toros Mountains.

The elevator is about 30 m high and the use is free of charge. The access from the Yacht harbour is just next to the Toy Museum.



ANTALYA STOVE MUSEUM

This interesting museum is located in a historical part of the city, which is called Sobacılar Çarşısı (Stove and Blacksmiths Bazaar). The museum was opened in 2013 under the consultancy of the founder of the Istanbul Toy Museum, Sunay Akin. Among the different stoves from Turkey and other countries, there is also a "Salamander Stove". This is a small portable type of stove, which was manufactured in France in the years 1900 to 1950. The so called "Kuzine Soba", a wood-burning stove is a very typical example for Anatolia. For many people it bears memories of childhood and the smell of roasting chestnuts.

In Turkey, these types of stoves were first used in the Black Sea Region.



FİKRET OTYAM ART GALLERY

This small Art Gallery is located next to the Stove Museum. It was inaugurated in 2013 in honour of the famous painter and writer Fikret Otyam.



MODERN & TRADITIONAL SHOPPING

Traditional handicrafts such as the world famous handmade kilim rugs, Antalya Döşemealtı carpets, beautifully hand-painted ceramics, copper and brassware or the ornate Meerscham pipes make charming souvenirs and gifts.

Excellent quality gold, silver and leather goods are available at prices considerably less than abroad.

You may also enjoy a walk along the Atatürk Street in the centre of Antalya, a beautiful boulevard with high, old palm trees. Another shopping street is Konyaaltı Street or the pedestrian area of Şarampol. Ultra modern shopping malls, where all major Turkish and international brands are available, are located in all areas of the city. Some shopping malls and outlets are Deepo, Özdilek, Mark Antalya, 5 M Migros and Terra City.



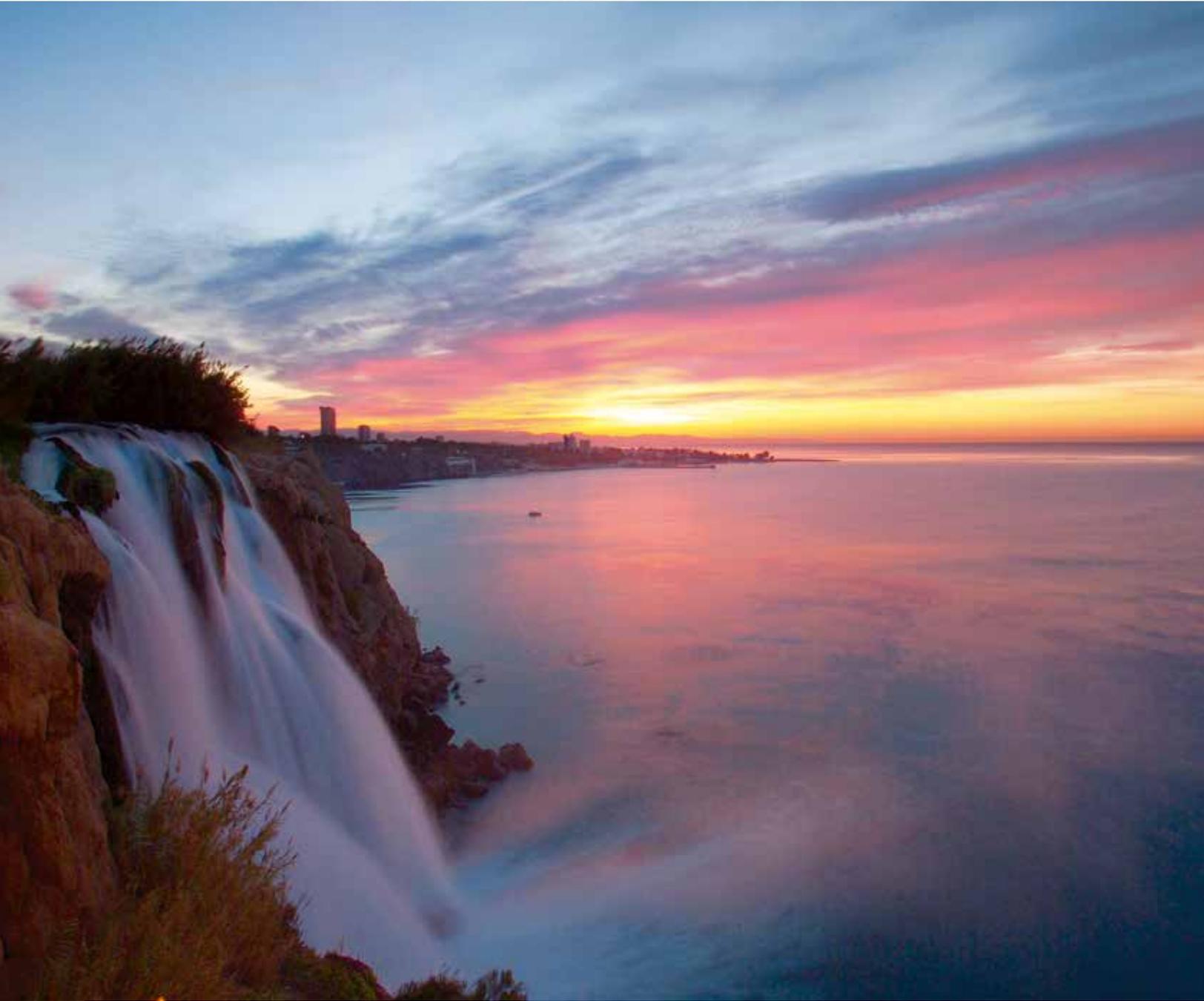


The busy street markets are colourful and offer fresh vegetables, juicy fruits, aromatic spices and sometimes also souvenirs and clothes. The markets are often named after the day on which they take place or after the district. There is almost every day a bazaar somewhere in Antalya and one of the biggest is "Çarşamba pazarı" - the Wednesday market.



THE DÜDEN WATERFALL

To enjoy a cool day in Antalya and also see a wonder of nature one should go to the Düdenbaşı waterfalls. The Düden waterfalls and the picnicking area around it attract both people from Antalya and guests from outside. The two sources of the falls, which have as much water as a river, are called Kırkgözler and Pınarbaşı. They converge after a short way and form the Biyıklı pot-hole (Düden) and disappear in it.





The word Düden means a hole that swallows water sources. Some of these pot-holes can be so big that they can engulf a whole river and lake. Starting at Düdenbaşı the Düden stream diverges into many rivulets that finally flow into the Mediterranean from the eastern side of a more than 40 metre high travertine forming a waterfall. Düdenbaşı is not simply a waterfall. The cave you enter via a narrow staircase and the verdant environment will impress you.



THE KURŞUNLU WATERFALL

The park is 20 km northeast of Antalya, and can be reached via the Antalya - Aksu Highway, then going north at Soğucaksu Bridge along the 8 km long road.

The forest area was made into a Natural Park in 1991, and the rich plant life combined with interesting water and rock formations at Kurşunlu Waterfall has created an unique natural landscape. The waterfall is formed by one of the tributaries of the Aksu River.



The National Park (entrance fee) has paths around the lake and along the valley and one may enjoy the rich flora. The maritime pine (*pinus pinaster*) is the dominant tree species in the area, but there are also plane trees, laurel, carob, wild olive, mastic, willow, fig, myrtle, oleander, blackberry, wild rose, tamarisk, spruce, kermes oak, thyme, wild mint, beech tree, bracken and ivy. On the water one may see water lilies and water mint.



BEACHES

In order to escape the hot temperatures of Antalya during the summer months it might be better to spend the daytime in the sea and leave strolling in the city to the evening. From every point in Antalya there are stairs taking you down to the seaside for a swim. But for a beach with sand you should go to Konyaaltı on the Kemer road to the west or Lara Beach to the east.





As in all parts of Antalya, these long beaches also have very clean and clear water. Behind both beaches there are many restaurants, cafes and buffets. If you care to go further out of town, on the Kemer road there are more beaches and picnic areas.





ANTALYA BEACH PARK, LARA BEACH & ATATÜRK PARK

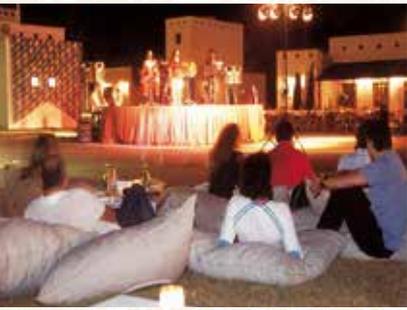
In the Antalya Konyaaltı wood a new beach concept has opened up. The Konyaaltı Beach Park Beach complex offers everything, a beach, swimming facilities, entertainment and beverages, aqua sports and shopping. Parallel to the beach there are cafes, restaurants of various cuisines, bars, nightclubs or night entertainment.



KONYAALTI BEACH

This beach is kind of a landmark of Antalya. It stretches out from the cliffs towards the Taurus mountains and offers an extraordinary view during any time of the day and the year. The beach is famous by locals and tourists. It offers various facilities and was awarded several times with the Blue Flag, the prestigious certificate for clean water and sufficient facilities.

At both Beach Parks, Konyaaltı and Lara, many alternatives for beverages catering to all tastes are at your service in the restaurant, pubs, cafes, fast food and bistros facilities.





ANTALYA AQUARIUM

As one of the biggest aquarium complexes of the world, Antalya Aquarium offers inspiration, entertainment and education all at once. After touring the 40 thematic aquariums, you will come across the biggest tunnel aquarium of the world with a length of 131 meters and a width of 3 meters.

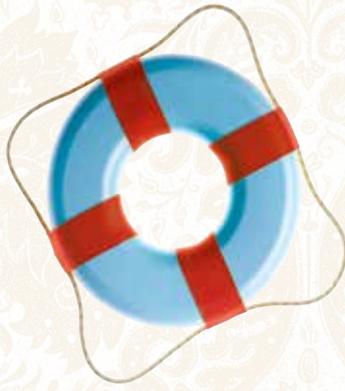
Besides, making snow balls from real snow in Snow World, you can step into a journey among the most poisonous, colourful and interesting species of the world in tropical reptile house; Fear Trophy. You can sail the world seas with multi-dimensional movie technology in Oceanride XD Cinema.

The Aquarium is located next to Konyaaltı Beach and close to the centre of Antalya.



The Atatürk Park is located on the cliffs in front of the Antalya Museum. Here you find a great choice of first quality restaurants with a spectacular view over the bay of Antalya and the ever present Toros Mountains.





LARA AND KUNDU BEACH

Lara Beach stretches southeast from Antalya and glamorous hotels are lined up the beach. The All Inclusive Hotels provide all a visitor might look for, wellness centres and A la carte restaurants, evening programme at the hotel's theatre and nightlife hotspots. Antalya is located nearby and easy to reach with taxi or public transport.



EXPO 2016 ANTALYA

Flowers and children - a green life for future generations

The horticultural " EXPO 2016 Antalya" is Turkey's first Expo. It will be organized between April and October 2016 on an area of 112 hectares next to the Aksu river. During the exhibition cultural and artistic events, international conferences, panel discussions, meetings and seminars will be organized. One of the aims of Expo 2016 Antalya is to further spread the environmental awareness. Also after the exhibition the Expo area will be open for visits. Arts and handicrafts represent and promote a nation's culture. Already the Ottoman Turks loved to say it with flowers. Whether on tiles or vases, on carpets or kilims, as embroideries or stamped on coins, in verses or songs, in the deliberately arranged garden of the Sultan's Palace or in the simple flowerpot of an Anatolian house - the flower has been part of the Turks' life since centuries. Since decades the Turkish children celebrate every year on the 23rd of April the "Sovereignty and Children's Day". It is a national holiday and on this special day, the children may replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss matters concerning children's issues. Expo 2016 Antalya will open its gates on this special day. Turkey is also worldwide one of the few countries where an extremely rich number of endemic plants can be found. According to present state of investigations about 30% of the cultivated plants still playing an important role for the food market today are originally from Anatolia. From 9,160 botanical species growing in Turkey about 3,300 are endemic and 500 of those endemic plants grow only in the province of Antalya.



The Turkish peony (*Paeonia turcica*) is endemic and the symbol flower of Expo 2016 Antalya.
www.expo2016antalya.org.tr/





SAKLIKENT AND THE GEYİK BAYIRI

In this hot city, where the sun always shines, for those who visit it in spring and winter months, there is another surprise for you: Skiing. Although no snow falls along the coastal area, on the 2,200 metre high peaks only one and a half hours away from the city there is good quality snow for three months of the year at Saklıkent (Hidden City). The Saklıkent skiing centre is at an elevation of 1,900 metres above sea level.



There are two ski lifts operating and the length of the ski runs vary from between 750 and 3,000 metres and are graded according to their degrees of difficulty. Those who wish can hire skiing gear and take classes from instructors. There is a cafeteria in the skiing centre but accommodation facilities are limited. The view towards Antalya and the Mediterranean is quite pleasing. In the area there are many trout, meat and barbecue restaurants.



GÜLLÜK MOUNTAIN TERMESSOS NATIONAL PARK

The area around the entrance of the park has been organised as a picnic site. There is a museum where there are displays of local fauna and flora.

The ancient city of Termessos was built in between two peaks on Güllük Mountain. The site of the city is 1050 metres above sea level and spread over a wide area. Termessos is one of the best-preserved ancient cities in Turkey. In ancient inscriptions the people of Termessos referred to themselves as the Solims, an old Pamphylian tribe.

The language they spoke was unique, being a type dialect of Psidia.

Termessos only really left its mark in history when Alexander the Great surrounded it in 334 BC, defying the invader.

It is reported that Alexander did not touch these brave people, he left them in their own fortresses and then continued his campaign into central Anatolia. The city enjoyed a period of prosperity during the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

There is not much information available on its subsequent life in the Christian era.

The remains of Termessos are to a great degree scattered amongst the thick marquis and forest area.






Antalya
döşemealtı

The hand-knotted Nomadic rugs from the Döşemealtı region north of Antalya are famous for their traditional designs. Some of the especially beautiful ones are exhibited in the Antalya Museum.







A L A N Y A

THE NEW ALANYA TO THE WEST STARTS FROM ULAŞ POINT AND THE BEACH IS DIVIDED BY THE HISTORIC PENINSULA AND EXTENDS KILOMETRES ALONG IN THE DIRECTION OF GAZİPAŞA. THE NUMBERS OF HOTELS, PENSIONS AND HOUSES IN PARTICULAR HAVE INCREASED OVER THE LAST DECADE. THEY ARE LOCATED IN ROWS ALONG THE MAIN ROAD THAT RUNS PARALLEL TO THE COASTLINE AND ON STREETS THAT ARE LINKED TO IT. THE OLD BANANA FIELDS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED, THEIR PLACE TAKEN BY HOTELS AND HOLIDAY RESORTS.





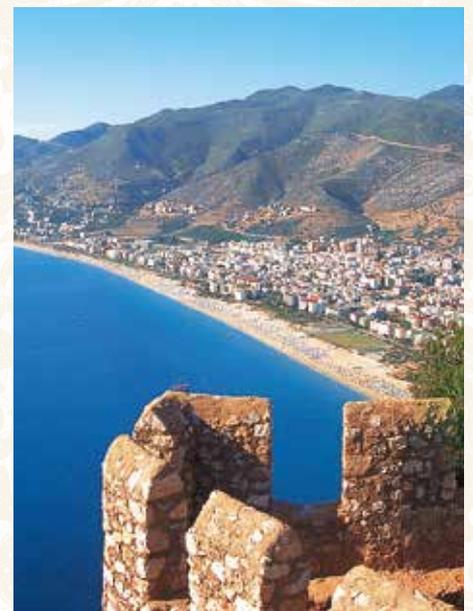
The history of the town goes back to the middle of the 4th century BC.

The ancient name of Alanya was Coracesium. It was an independent city located between Pamphylia and Lycia. It even managed to retain its independence during the rule of the Syrian King Antiochus III when he took over much of the region.

The locals of Coracesium were brave seaman and for some time they were involved in pirating activities in the Mediterranean. They posed a threat to the Roman coastal cities and commercial ships with maritime trading at times halted because of the pirates of Coracesium. Famine began to spread in the Roman cities. It was then that Coracesium's corsairs faced a very powerful attack from the strong army led by Commander Pompeus of Rome. All the pirates were killed and the city was taken by the Roman Empire.

Coracesium was also famed for its shipbuilding. It is said that the fleet given to the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra by Marc Antonius was built in Alanya. During the Byzantine era, the city's name was changed to Kolonoros, meaning "beautiful mountain". But the city had its best period under the rule of the Seljuk Turks. The king of the Seljuks, Alaaddin Keykubat named the city Alaiye meaning "Alaşehir-red city".

It is best to start the town tour from the historical centre of Alanya. If it is summer you may prefer to start in the early hours of the day or later in the evening after the effects of the sun ease. We recommend starting your visit from the Kızıl Kule (Red Tower) next to the port and move on to the Tersane (Shipyard) and the central fortress and then the inner fortress on the hill.





THE ALANYA MUSEUM

By any standard, Alanya is a town of rich historical heritage and this is reflected in its museum. The Alanya museum has three sections, with the first exhibiting archaeological finds and works from the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine eras. There are also finds from the pre-history period in this section. One of the most impressive displays is the bronze statue of Hercules. In the second section there are displays of ethnographic works, with the predominance of exhibits being from the Ottoman period.

There are calligraphic inscriptions, hand written Korans, samples of calligraphy work and an old Alanya house to be seen. The third section, in the garden of the museum, consists of displays of sarcophagi and some archaeological finds.

THE DAMLATAŞ CAVE

The cave is on the west of the peninsula.

The beach right in front of it took its name from the cave. The Damlataş Cave is enchanting with its very colourful stalagmites and stalactites. It has a standard temperature of 22-23 degrees Celsius with humidity levels around 90-100 percent and the level of carbon dioxide being very high. The cave is also radioactive and is believed to be good for non-allergic asthma and rheumatism.

The area of the cave that has the stalagmite, stalactites and the wide columns is between three to 14 metres wide and 15 metres high.



THE FOSFORLU, AŞIKLAR AND KORSANLAR CAVES

At the Korsanlar (Pirates) Cave you can look at the colourful rocks above you, see the deep tunnel where the waters end and heave yourself into the chilling waters of the darkness.

The boat tour also visits the Aşıklar (Lovers) Cave. However the height of the mouth of the cave is not suitable for boats.

After visiting this you move on to the Fosforlu (Phosphorous) Cave, which can be entered by boats. The cave is so named because of the reflections on the water, which give a phosphorescent look.



THE ALARA WATERFALL

The stream of Alara is fed by the waters flowing from two peaks of the Toros, one being Geyikdağ (2800 m) and the other Akdağ (2500 m). Due to the carstic nature of the Toros, many streams flow underground for a while and come to the surface later.



THE ALARAHAN AND ALARA FORTRESS

In the Seljuk period the sultanates of two most important cities, Konya and Alaiye, were linked by road, with part of the route following the Alara stream down to the Mediterranean. The Alarahhan Caravanserai served as one of the last resting points on the trip. Built in 1232 by the Seljuk Sultan Alaaddin Keykubat, though being abandoned and neglected for ages, the Han has survived and its roof and walls are still standing.



THE TOURISM CENTRES OF İNCEKUM, ALARA

The area from Avsallar to the Alara stream has a beach of golden sand with pine and cedar trees coming down to the shores. The İncekum tourism operators try to stress these characteristics of the area as a distinctive part of their region in their promotions. The İncekum region has many hotels of three, four and five stars and is a relatively new tourism resort, with the facilities being quite modern.





DİM RIVER

The Dim river that rises east of Alanya in the foothills of the Toros Mountains is six kilometres from Alanya. As you have come all the way here you should try rafting, a popular sport in the recent years.



The rafting facilities are set amidst trees and on a wide area on the river bank, providing a restaurant, archery and horse riding sections. There is a route of five kilometres for rafting. According to the water levels the tour can be completed in one to two hours. The tours provide protective helmets, life jackets, an instructor and lunch



THE DIM CAVE

The Dim cave, which is 360 metres long and 10-15 metres wide, is 232 metres above sea level and is the second largest cave in Turkey. It is open to visitors 09.00-17.00 every day of the year. Inside, the temperature is around 18 degrees Celsius and the cave has good walking platforms and lighting.







NIGHTLIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT IN ALANYA

The historical town centre of Alanya is lively every hour of the day and is a very colourful holiday resort with quality bars, restaurants, entertainment centres and shopping areas. However, after sunset the liveliness increases and nightlife starts continuing into the early hours. You will not get bored and can find a place suiting all different types of budgets and tastes.







S I D E - M A N A V G A T

ONCE YOU GET TO THE PORT OF ANCIENT CITY SIDE, THERE ARE TWO TEMPLES NEXT TO EACH OTHER. ONE WAS DEDICATED TO APOLLO AND THE OTHER TO ARTEMIS. SIX COLUMNS OF THE TEMPLE OF APOLLO ARE STANDING TODAY AFTER BEING RESTORED. YOU WILL COME ACROSS THESE IN ALMOST ALL PHOTOS RELATED TO SIDE. IN FRONT OF THE TEMPLES THERE IS ALSO A BYZANTINE BASILICA. ADDED TO ALL THIS, SIDE HAS MODERN HOTELS, FACILITIES AND THE WARM WELCOME YOU GET FROM ALL PARTS OF TURKEY IS PRESENT HERE AS WELL.



Nature has been so generous to the Side region. It has given beautiful waterfalls that burst out of the Toros Mountains, a river the flows into the sea and forms the Titreyengöl Lake, the Manavgat Stream, and the absolutely blue waters that lap its beaches.

Then there is the ancient history of Side, where rich civilisations rose and fell, leaving behind signs of their passing.

The hotels and holiday resorts are like ribbon running along the line of Çolaklı, Ilıca, Kumköy, Selimiye, Side, Sorgun, Titreyengöl and Kızılağaç. There is no reason why a holiday should be not enjoyed to the full in this colourful region.









THE ANCIENT CITY

The city walls of ancient Side are, to a great degree, still standing. They welcome guests with their grandeur. Even though the gate is pretty much in ruins it still reflects the glory of a past era. We enter the town and walk onto the colonnaded street. This leads us to the entrance of the agora and the theatre. In its time, the street was one the main thorough fares of the city, and decorated with Corinthian style columns. It is still impressive today. On the left of the street you see the remains of a Byzantine basilica.

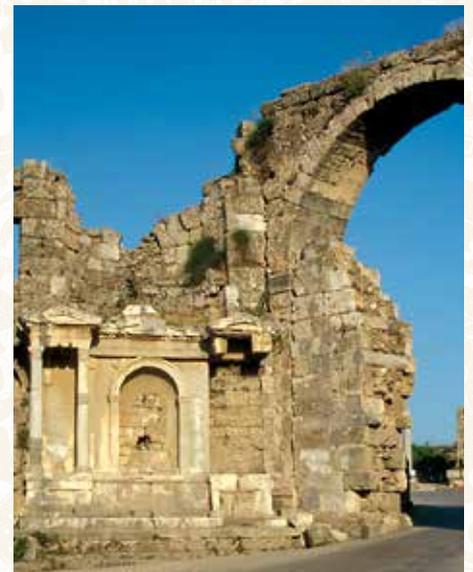
Before you get to the agora, the museum you can see on your right was an old Turkish bath and has been restored and converted. Before the theatre on the left there are the remains of the agora. The agora used to be used to be a very beautiful sight as it was surrounded by shops and marked columns.

The old glorious age was not the same for all people. The agora also served as market where pirates would sell off slaves at auction. The part of the agora that faces the sea was used as the state market. The courtyard of it was used as a marketplace and the standing parts of the building shows that the hall was decorated with columns and statues.

In the most impressive building of the ancient

city, the theatre, there is a monumental gate and fountain at the entrance. The fountain has been restored. The remains of the theatre that have survived to our day are dated to the 2nd century. It can seat up to 15,000 people and in the 5th and 6th centuries it served as an open-air church. The columns lying next to the theatre were brought from Egypt.

There is also a Roman era temple to Dionysus in the city. The colonnaded street starting from the entrance and leading to theatre in ancient times used to go all the way to the port. The rest of the street is under the current shopping area of Side. Once you get to the port there are two temples next to each other. One was dedicated to Apollo and the other to Artemis. Six columns of the Temple of Apollo are standing today after being restored. You will come across these in almost all photos related to Side. In front of the temples there is also a Byzantine basilica.







THE SIDE MUSEUM

The Side Museum displays small finds such as statues, sarcophagi, architectural pieces, altars, inscribed tablets, reliefs, columns, lamps, incense cups and tear bottles that were recovered in excavations since 1949. The most interesting pieces on exhibit in the museum are the statues of Nike, Hercules, Hermes, the three beauties and sarcophagi that have reliefs telling the story of the birth of Zeus, the punishing of Iksion and the figures of Eros.





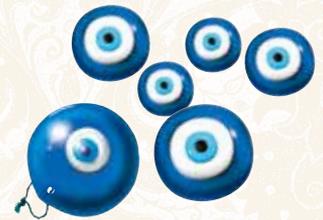
MANAVGAT

While Side and its surroundings stand more for its seaside, accommodation facilities, shopping areas, food and drink and certainly history, Manavgat is more about its natural beauties.

THE MANAVGAT STREAM AND WATERFALL

The Manavgat river is very popular for daily excursions on touring boats. They start from the center of Manavgat, visit the waterfall and then head to the strait. The tour lasts about three to four hours. In these boats, which cater to between 30 to 150 people, there is also a meal included.

There is also entertainment, sometimes it is live music and sometimes it is a belly dancer. A break is taken at the point where the waters of the stream meet with those of the sea. Those who wish to swim in the river and those who wish for a dip in the sea can take their choice. The water of the river is icy cold and an ideal means of cooling down.







Çolaklı, Kumköy

Çolaklı and Kumköy tourism centres are on the western side of Side with many new hotels, nearby shopping areas, and restaurants..

Sorgun

The street passing in front of the tourism information office further up leads into a wide area of forest. The area less densely planted with pine trees is used for running, walking and horse riding as it is famed for its oxygen rich air. There are also training facilities available for those who want to learn horse riding.



Titreyengöl (shaking lake)

Once you look at the Titreyengöl you know where its name came from. This name was seen as appropriate from the slight breeze giving the water a constant ripple. However, the lake part of the name is not quite accurate as this is not a lake. This is an area where the Manavgat Stream widens and slows its flow before pouring into the sea. It is surrounded with pine trees. At Titreyengöl you will also come across equestrian centres that give classes in horse riding and conduct tours in the forest.



FROM MANAVGAT TO OYMAPINAR

A trip departing from the seaside and following the Manavgat Stream into the mountains adds richness to your holiday, offering manmade lakes, ancient cities, pastoral restaurants and trout and other sweet water fish as a meal.



İBRADI AND THE ALTINBEŞİK CAVE

Akseki, which was known as Marla in the past, lies to the east of the Manavgat River. Akseki is a typical Taurus mountain district. In this region plants with bulbs are abundant. Especially the snowdrop (Kardelen) grows here, in the surroundings of Akseki, İbradı and Gündoğmuş.

In Akseki and in the neighbouring villages we find an unique domestic architecture, which started to be restored in recent years.



İbradı is exemplary, because with its stone cobbled roads and the historic yet comfortable houses it represents the traditional lifestyle of the region. İbradı is famous for providing many jurists for the Ottoman justice system and statesman, whose reputation went far beyond its borders.

The affluent residents of İbradı, built mansions, fountains, mosques and orchards and the influence on the architecture can still be admired today.



The authentic architecture of the houses in Ormana a few kilometres south complements Ibradi. The available material sources have guided the emergence of this characteristic construction technique. Irregular units of rubble stone are interlocked into each other without mortar. The system is reinforced, at regular intervals, with a pair of timber runner-beams on the two faces of the wall. These runner-beams are connected to each other by tie-beams, holding so each other in position and strengthen the construction. The system is named after the end of the projecting tie-beam. This "Button" gave the houses their name, "Düğmeli evleri"

The road that runs along the western shores of the Manavgat River links the region to Manavgat and Side and passes through an extraordinary beautiful landscape.

Ürnlü is another typical village of this area and located in the Altınbeşik National park and next to the Altınbeşik cave.

A L T I N B E Ş İ K C A V E

This cave was first discovered and explored by Dr Temuçin Aygen, the founder of the Speleologists Association of Turkey, during the surface researches for the Oymapınar Dam on the Manavgat River in 1966. The cave is located next to Akseki district's Ürnlü village and it is one of the most beautiful caves in our country. The cave is horizontal, 2,500 m long and partially active. The water system, which collects the Kızılova, Kambos and Söbüce waters, ends with the Altınbeşik Düdensuyu Cave below the Oruç Düdeni Cave, making it one of the world's longest and biggest carstic system. The Altınbeşik cave lake is part of the submerged waters of Lake Gembos.

Due to time-to-time activity of the cave, even in the dry seasons, the lower and middle levels may show a large extend of ponds. The cave is very humid and the average air temperature is around 16 - 18 °C.







B E L E K

30 KILOMETRES AWAY FROM ANTALYA AND MIDWAY BETWEEN ANTALYA AND SIDE, BELEK MAKES AN ATTRACTIVE HOLIDAY DESTINATION. IT IS A PLANNED SEASIDE RESORT WITH LONG BEACHES, A WIDE RANGE OF LUXURY HOTELS AND WORLD-CLASS GOLF COURSES. THE BELEK TOURISM CENTRE IN FACT WAS PLANNED TO ATTRACT GOLFERS AND NOW FEATURES 11 GOLF CLUBS WITH MORE THAN 15 COURSES, INCLUDING TURKEY'S FIRST LINKS COURSE AND ALSO THE FIRST GOLF COURSE WITH FLOODLIGHT.



Belek's fame as an international golfing destination is spreading, especially after the "Turkish Airlines Challenge", with famous players like Tiger Woods participating. The Bosphorus Bridge and the ancient theatre of Aspendos with Sergio Garcia, Henrik Stenson and Lee Westwood were the most unusual spots so far to showcase the unique skills of the players.

With the golf courses, the wellness and sports facilities in the hotels, the natural beauty and the historical sites in the surroundings, Belek has something for everybody.

International and national football teams choose the region for their winter training. Recently a 105.000 m² modern sports complex was opened, offering indoor, outdoor and aquatic sports facilities.

There is also a small town centre with municipal buildings and shopping streets.





ALL IN ANTALYA

Today Antalya is one of the world's foremost tourism destinations, and - after Istanbul - Turkey's most important congress destination, hosting more than 200 congresses per year. There is a diversity of creative activities making the destination a preferred incentive and event location.

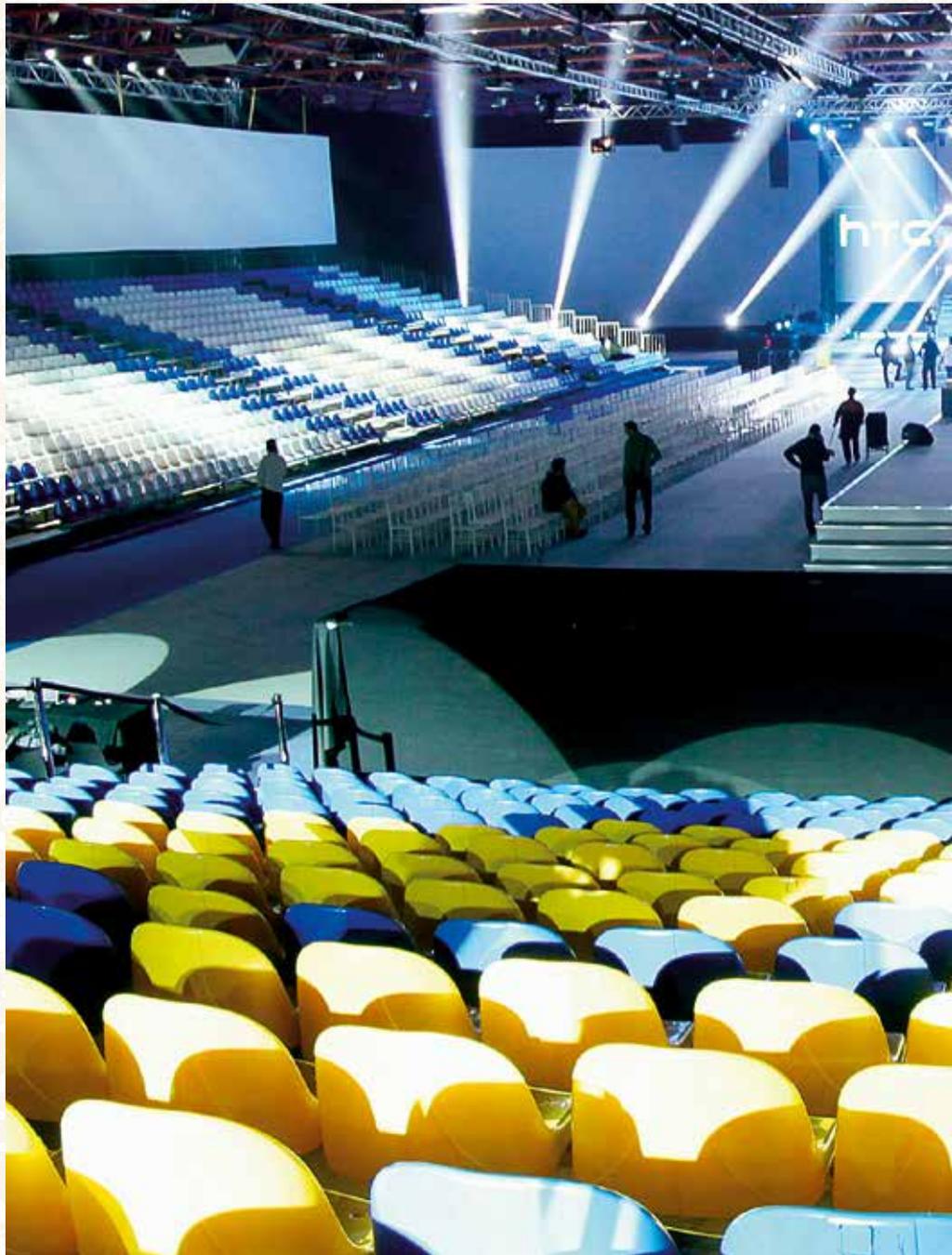
Antalya's share in Turkey's agricultural output is 5%, but more than 15% of vegetables and 7% of fruits are grown in the province. Half of Turkey's greenhouse production takes place in Antalya. The province of Antalya is the cut-flower centre of Turkey accounting for 43% of total production. Furthermore Antalya has a significant place in luxury yacht production, alcoholic beverages, wood processing and energy and food industry.

Antalya is a young city with two International Universities. The Akdeniz University was founded in 1982 and Antalya International University in 2010. Both universities participate in the Erasmus programme. A third University is planned.

Antalya is one of Turkey's wealthiest regions in terms of cultural tourism. You can come across an ancient settlement almost every twenty kilometres. Among these are very important ancient sites such as Phaselis, Perge, Aspendos, Side, Termessos, and Myra (St. Nicholas Church and Museum). Antalya is one of the richest areas concerning endemic plants with more than 800 different varieties.

National and international sports events take place here. Not only as golf destination Antalya gained international reputation, with about 100 football fields, the area attracts more than national and international football 2000 teams per year.

One of the World's most important organizations, G20 and B20 Summits will be organized in Antalya and in 2016 the city hosts Turkey's first horticultural exhibition.





WHY ANTALYA?
BECAUSE;

“all in antalya” *meet & team*



“Antalya, Turkey’s 5th largest city that stands for professionalism, experience, diversity and quality. It’s a city which hosts more than 13 million foreign guests, from all over the world on a yearly basis. Antalya is a new born star for the international congresses, conventions and incentives; with its new and well equipped hotels and their convention facilities. Antalya has more than 600.000 beds & 175 000 seating capacity to offer, with the best service from thousands of professional, educated, well-experienced, multilingual, friendly and courteous staff.

all in antalya means,
easy access,
new and well designed hotels,
good service,
delicious dining,
300 days of sun,
history,
arts & culture,
sports facilities,
shopping facilities,
entertainment,
hospitality,
safe City
12 months living City
and value for money

HAMAM AND WELLNESS

Hamam, a mysterious and mystical-sounding word, but this traditional bathing ceremony from Turkey today could be easily translated to wellness. In the Turkish tradition – no matter of young or old, modern or conservative – the steam bath is as popular as it was a thousand years ago.

Therefore, besides the hamams in the wellness areas of the hotels, you will also find typical hamams in the centre of Antalya, being the 700-year-old Balık Pazarı Hamamı (Fish Market Bath) in the Kaleiçi probably the most authentic one. Traditionally, the public hamam is not only used to clean the body, but serves also as meeting place, because here can be chatted in a relaxed atmosphere. While the

public hamam is open for women and men on different days, the hotel hamams use different regulations.

The process in visiting a Hamam is similar to that of a sauna, but is more closely related to ancient Greek and Roman bathing practices, with a focus on water instead of steam. In Western Europe, the “Turkish bath” as a method of cleansing and relaxation became popular during the Victorian era. The first modern Turkish bath was opened near Blarney in Ireland. During the following 150 years, over 600 Turkish baths opened in Britain.

The entire procedure is usually performed and accompanied by a “Tellak” the master of the Hamam rituals. After a first cleaning follows the steam room, with a comfortable temperature of 45 °C making the muscles relax and the skin

pores open. Another washing and it is time to lie down on the warm marble centre stone, the “Göbek taşı”. The “Tellak” will now wash your body with a special washing glove using professional massage techniques. This special treatment is called “Kese”. Dead skin cells and deeper deposits will be removed, the blood circulation increased and the skin will look rosy and fresh. Skin like silk – that’s the result of the Hamam!



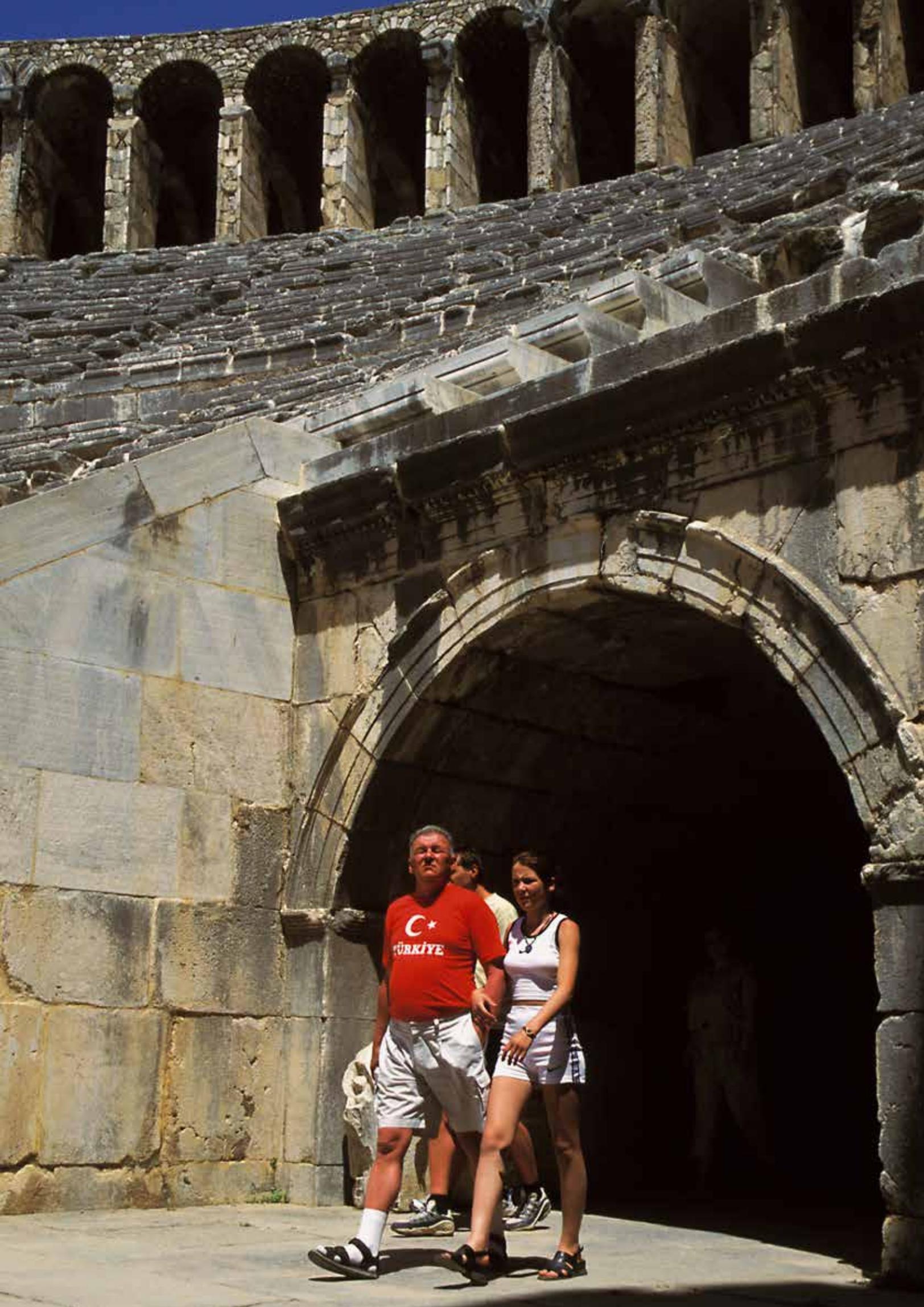
GOLF IN BELEK

Belek has grown to be the biggest golf centre in Turkey, boasting already 15 golf courses of international standard.

While most of the courses are attached to major hotels, there is also one private golf club and Turkey's only Links Course. Along with the pleasure of actually playing, it is also possible to watch the masters of the game in action and for the beginner or someone who wants to improve their game, lessons are available from qualified professionals.

Though golf is not widely played in Turkey, its international popularity, especially in the western world, has seen an upsurge in foreign visitors to Belek, which in turn has resulted in the development of new golf courses and hotels to cater to the needs of overseas enthusiasts. Belek's courses are blended with sea views and the surrounding forests, making for restful as well as challenging playing venues. Belek's fame as an international golfing is spreading, especially after the "Turkish Airlines Challenge", with famous players like Tiger Woods participating. The Bosphorus Bridge and the ancient Theatre of Aspendos with Sergio Garcia, Henrik Stenson and Lee Westwood were the most unusual spots so far to showcase the unique skills of the players.







ASPENDOS

THE THEATRE IS THE MAIN FEATURE OF ASPENDOS, ATTRACTING VISITORS WHO COME HERE TO SEE THE MOST MAGNIFICENT EXAMPLE OF SUCH ARCHITECTURE STILL REMAINING IN TURKEY FROM ANCIENT TIMES

ASPENDOS WAS FOUNDED BY COLONISTS COMING FROM ARGOS, UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MOPSOS. ASPENDOS FLOURISHED EVEN MORE IN THE ROMAN ERA. THE RUINS VISIBLE TODAY BELONG TO THIS ERA. THE THEATRE, WHICH IS IN AN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND IS CURRENTLY USED FOR CONCERTS AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES, CAN HOLD CIRCA 12.000 PEOPLE. IT IS A SPLENDID EXAMPLE OF THE WORK OF ROMAN ARCHITECTS, WHO MANAGED TO COMBINE THE AUDITORIUM AND THE STAGE IN A HARMONIOUS MANNER.



The uppermost section of the auditorium is covered with a gallery of columns.

The audience reaches the upper rows by climbing through the galleries on either sides of the stage. The theatre was built by the architect Zeno, Theodoros' son, during the reign of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius (161-180 A.D.). In the Hellenic and Latin engravings etched on the entrances on either side of the stage building, it is written that the theatre had been offered to the gods and the house of the emperor.



The 40 metre tall acropolis is accessed from the eastern gate, one of the three gates of the city. The well-preserved structure that you see is the part of the basilica from which the city's affairs were managed. Only the southern foundations of the basilica survive. At the right of these structures, there is a monumental fountain, of which only the facade remains.

On the plateau towards the north of the acropolis, you can see the aqueducts that were used to bring water to the city. The well-preserved remnants that still stand are the best examples of such structures in the region, and are extremely impressive. The remains of the building seen near the Eurymedon stream from the road before reaching the theatre are those of a gymnasium and its baths.







THE ANCIENT CITY OF PERGE

THE ANCIENT CITY IS TWO KILOMETRES FROM THE MAIN ROAD ANTALYA-ALANYA AND 15 KM. FROM ANTALYA. PERGE WAS ONE OF THE PAMPHYLIAN CITIES AND WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT IN THE 12TH TO 13TH CENTURIES BC. AFTER COMING UNDER THE RULE OF LYDIA AND PERSIA, THE CITY SURRENDERED TO ALEXANDER THE GREAT IN 334 BC. THE BRIGHTEST ERA OF THE CITY WAS DURING THE REIGN OF THE ROMANS IN THE 2ND TO 3RD CENTURIES AD. ALL THE REMAINS OF THE CITY THAT CAN BE SEEN DATE FROM THIS ERA. THERE ARE EXCAVATIONS CONTINUING ON THE SITE.



After passing the ticket office, the first entrance to the city is the Roman gate of the later period. On the right there is a Byzantine basilica. After the basilica comes the agora and on the left there are baths. Among the cities of Pamphylia the largest and most glamorous baths were to be found in Perge. When you continue your walk, there are two tall walls that run parallel to each other. These walls, which have become the symbol of Perge, are dated to the 3rd century BC. The oldest gate of the city is in these walls as well as two towers, all from the Hellenistic period. After the Hellenistic gate comes a colonnaded street. The 300 metre long street ends in the nymphaeum beneath of the acropolis. To the left of the street there is a palaestra (open square) of 79 x 79 metres in good condition which was dedicated to Emperor Claudius by Julius Cornutus in 41-54 AD). It is located to the north of the acropolis on a flat plateau. The theatre that is away from the historical site is the first view of the city you have on the road when approaching the entrance. The 15,000-seat theatre has been restored and re-opened to visitors. Behind the theatre is the impressive and large stadium. It is one of the best-preserved stadiums of the ancient world and the second largest after the stadium in the ancient city of Aphrodisias. The ancient city of Perge was part of Pamphylia. The region says the rise and fall of many civilisations, with their remains surviving to our day.

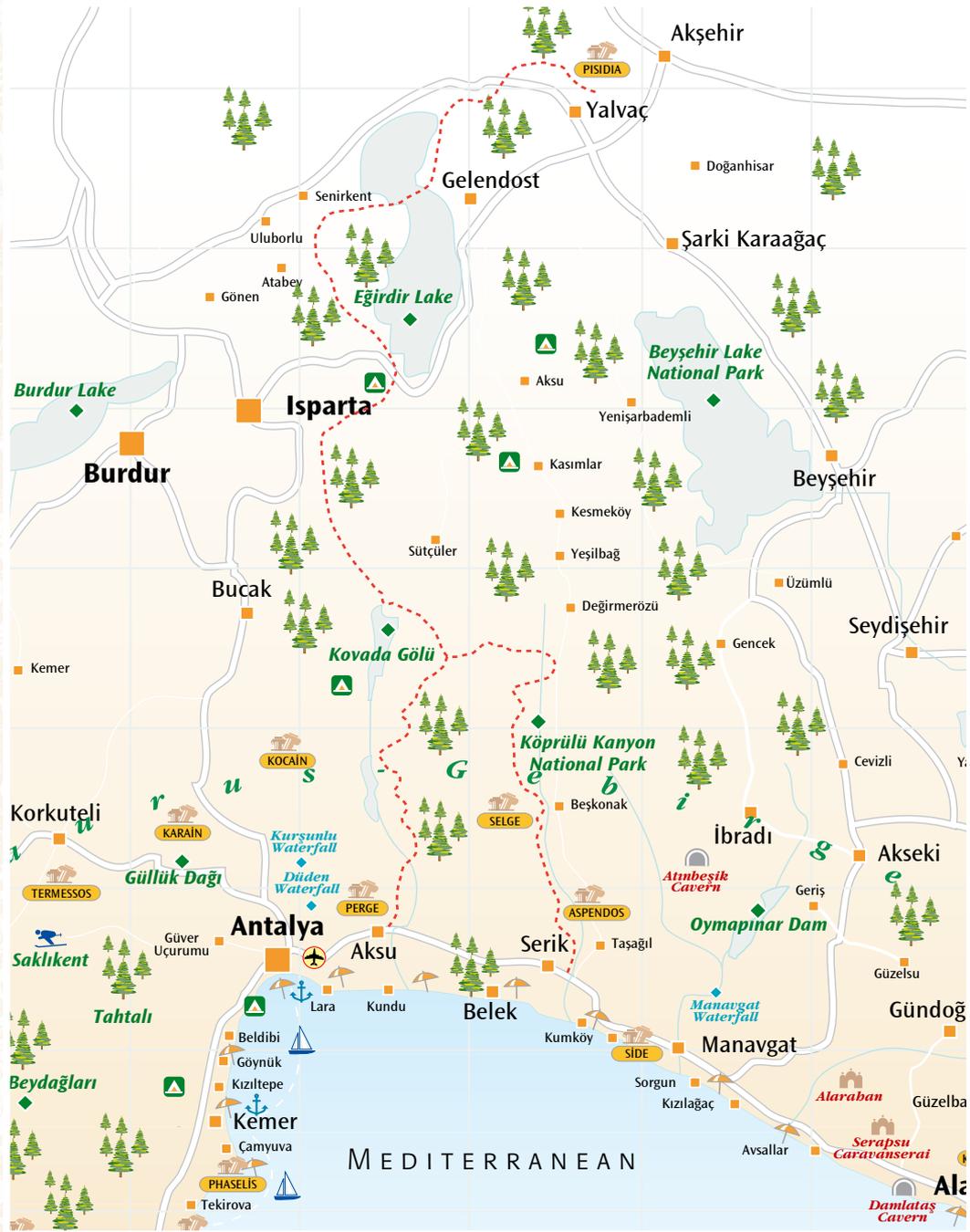
ST. PAUL TRAIL



The St Paul Trail is a way-marked footpath from Perge, 10 km east of Antalya, to Yalvac, northeast of Lake Egirdir. There is a second branch starting at Aspendos, 40km east of Antalya and joining the first route at the Roman site of Adada. The route totals about 500km. This project partly follows the route walked by St Paul on his first missionary journey in Asia Minor. It's a wilder route than the Lycian Way, starting at sea level and climbing up to 2200m, with two optional peaks at around 2800m. At the moment there are no signposts on the route but the way-marking is complete.

Highlights of the route are:

- The Aksu river crossing and the waterfalls at Ucansu*
- The huge pines and firs on the route above Oren.*
- The views from the route above the Candir canyon.*
- The Roman road at Adada*
- Staying on the island in Lake Egirdir*
- The medieval paved road around Sarp peak*
- The beautiful village of Beydili*
- Crossing lake Egirdir by fishing boat*
- Following a Roman aqueduct into Yalvac*
- And the ruins of Roman cities, the hospitality of the villagers, the quaint old houses in deserted corners, the deep forests and white waters of the canyons*



For more information please visit <http://cultureroutesinturkey.com/st-paul-trail/>





KEMER

THIS IMPORTANT TOURISM REGION IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST OF TURKEY, 42 KM SOUTH OF ANTALYA. THIS REGION HAS GROWN VERY FAST IN THIS FIELD, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE LAST 15 YEARS AND HAS ADDED NEW 5 STAR HOTELS AND VACATION VILLAGES INTO ITS STRUCTURE. BESIDES THE GREAT HOLIDAY VILLAGES AROUND THE DISTRICT, MANY BIG AND LITTLE HOTELS ARE IN A POSITION TO ANSWER ALL KINDS OF ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS. THE REGION IS STILL POPULAR FOR ITS ORANGES ORCHARDS AND IN THE SPRING, WHICH ALWAYS COMES EARLY TO THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION, THE SCENT OF ORANGE BLOSSOM EVEN TODAY LINGERS IN THE AIR.



During the trip from Antalya to Kemer, which takes 40 minutes, pine trees will accompany you. On one side are the Toros Mountains and on the sea side are many impressive panoramas worthwhile to see.

At Kemer the blue of the Mediterranean seems to mix up with the green of the Toros pine trees. Many bays and small natural harbors are present in its indented coast line and the sea is bright blue and clear.

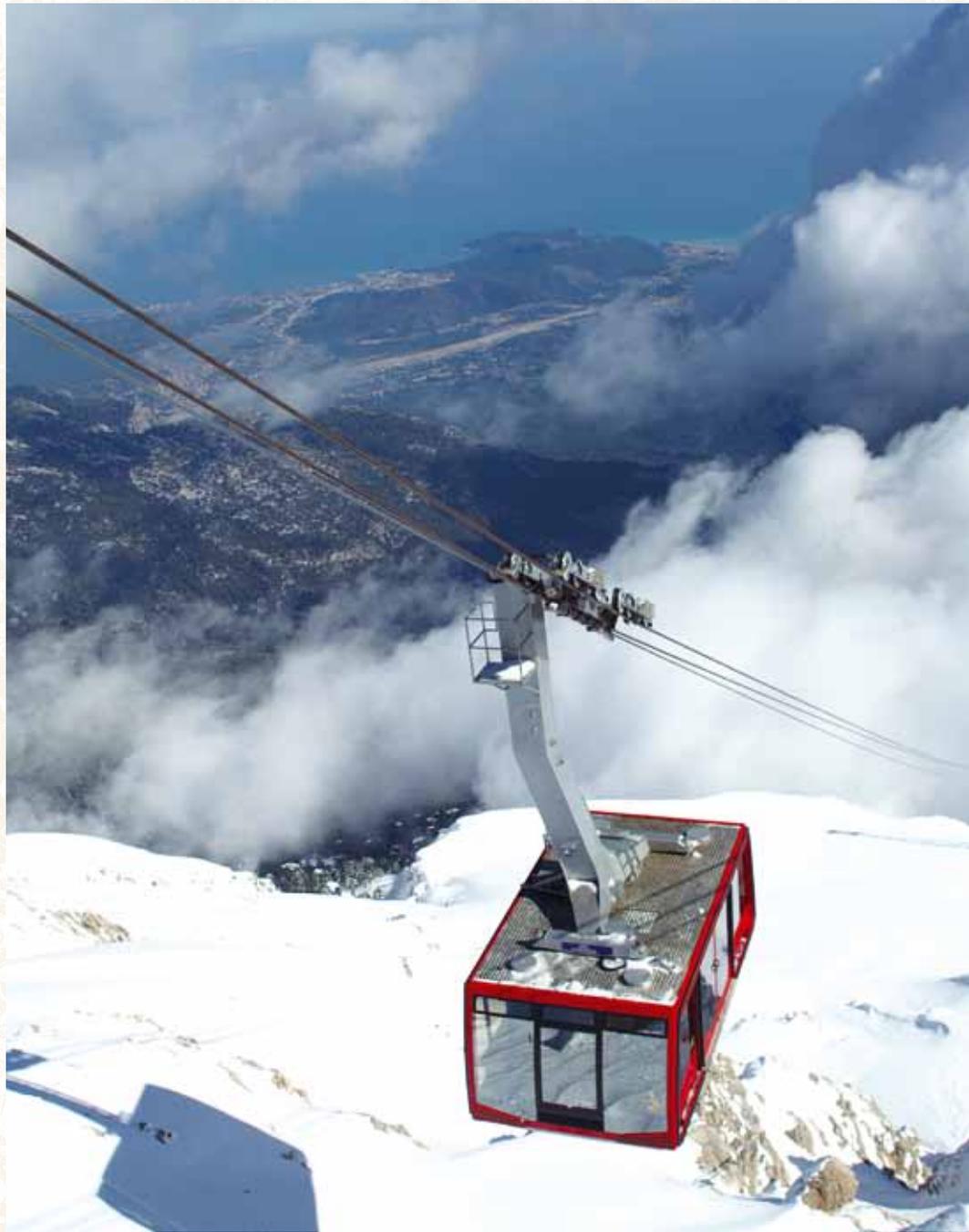




The International Kemer Underwater Days are taking place here in the month of May and Kemer is also an important starting point for weekly boat cruises along the coast - the Blue Voyage. The summit of the 2,365 metre high mountain, in ancient times known as Mount Olympus, today is connected with the Mount Tahtalı Aerial Cableway to the sandy beaches of the Tekirova region.

Another attraction in the surroundings of Kemer is Ekopark, Turkey's first reptile park, which was founded by Professor Selami Tomruk, an international expert on herpetology, who has devoted a lot of time to the realization of this project.

The name of the town in ancient times was Idyropolis. The ancient city was founded in the 3rd century BC in the area where the current Ayışığı (Moonlight) Park is located. Kemer's current name, meaning Belt, originates from the 23 kilometre long walls built in 1916-17 to protect it from floodwaters coming from the mountains. The main historical sites of the town centre are to the north of the marina and on the east flank of a high hill, where there are two towers, and to north east where there is another tower. On the right hand side of the forest area in the entrance to the town from the Antalya direction, there is the Seljuk era Av Köşkü (Hunting residence). It has been standing for 700 years, due to the fact that it is hidden in the forest.



NIGHTLIFE AND
ENTERTAINMENT IN
KEMER







OLYMPOS

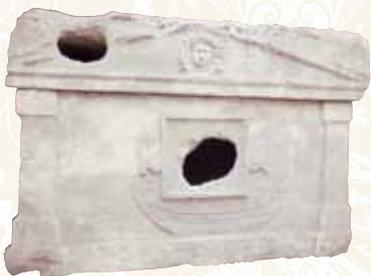
The entrance to the ancient city of Olympos on the cove of Adrasan can be reached by car. This area is a National Park. The city was built on both sides of the Akçay Stream and at the time there were bridges connecting the two sides to each other. In order to see the ruins such as the theatre, bath facilities and basilica you have to cross the stream. In summer this is easy since the water levels drop.



Olympos was also a member of the Lycian Union. Olympos used to be a maritime trading city, just like its neighbour Phaselis. And again like its neighbour, it was saved by the Roman Commander Isauricus, after falling in the hands of pirates.

Where the ancient city is spread there are numerous springs that have cold, drinkable water. These waters have caused the area to be covered in many types of herbs. However, this overgrown vegetation can cause one to miss some of the historical sites in the area. On the opposite side of the streamlet there was a Byzantine basilica and a theatre that seated 3,000 people, though now only its gate is visible. At the entrance there used to be a statue of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius but nothing is left to us other than the inscribed base of the statue and the Roman temple. During the visit you can see tombs, a temple, the ruins of churches, parts of an ancient aqueduct and tombs hewn into the rocks.

The ancient site should not only be viewed in respect to the historical remains but also should be seen in respect to its rich variety of vegetation. The view from the 50 metre high acropolis is very beautiful, on the side the ancient city of Olympos in green and on the other the kilometres long Çıralı coastline, a visual feast that is presented both by sea and land. There is also a theatre that you can visit.



Via the Akçay river ships could get all the way from the city to the sea and the port. During the time of Roman rule the city became affluent and this era of prosperity lasted until the end of the 3rd century. Later, the city came under the rule of Genovese and Venetian pirates. A memorial tomb, which was unearthed in 1992, belongs to Captain Eudomos and on it there is the figure of ship and an inscription in the memory of the good captain.





CHIMERA

The seaside village of Çıralı (meaning kindling wood), 35 kilometres from Kemer, got its name from the constantly burning fires on Mount Olympos, fuelled by the gases released from underground. On the side of the road that leads into the village there is a nice streamlet.

There are small pensions and motels at Çıralı and nature continues to hold absolute sovereignty. The waterfront is covered with orange and citrus trees, the beach is of small white stones, and the cove absolutely blue and extremely clean. At least for now, it is not very crowded.

A slowly climbing walking path leads to Yanartaş and the ancient site of the “Khimera” in mythology. The entrance to the historical site is under the shade of pine trees. Here there is a public tap with drinkable water and villagers sitting under makeshift shades selling various food and drinks.

You can walk from the same path that the people of Yanartaş use to climb the slight slope in about half an hour. As you rise you should stop at times and not to forget to look at the valley below, the shores of Çıralı and the sea. Khimera, just like Phaselis, was a member of the Lycian Union. There is not much information on the date of the foundation of the city.

A 5th century church can be seen at Khimera's entrance.



ADRASAN

Adrasan is a cove with a beautiful beach two kilometres long that is four kilometres beyond Çavuşköy. Its surrounding area is covered with pine trees. The protected cove, as well being a shelter for fisherman, is an essential stop for touring boats.

There are also cruising boats from here. These tours go to the small islands and the coves in the area, including the coves of Suluada, Sazak and Ceneviz at one hour distance and also go to the ancient city of Olympos.

The most interesting stop of the tour is Suluada (water island). The belief that the water on this island helps reduce kidney stone is widespread among locals. The port of Sazak is also a closed cove with a beautiful beach and a setting like a natural pool.

It is a popular destination of those who love diving. The clarity of the water, allowing visibility of 25 metres, is very suitable for those spear fishing. The fish are plentiful and very varied. At the entrance of the opening at Gelidonya Point there is an ancient wreck, some 3,500 years old. The ancient amphorae recovered from here are on display on the Bodrum Underwater Museum.

The shipwreck is still there and in order to protect ancient items diving with oxygen tanks are not allowed. A popular region for scuba diving would be Üçadalar, at least 90 minutes off the coast. There are two coves within walking distance of Karagöz, these being Papaz and Korsan Coves.



PHASELIS

This port city, founded in 693 BC, though overgrown with pine and cedar trees, is easily visited. Phaselis in history was an important port city. Unlike many others cities of the time, the founders of Phaselis did not come from sea. The people were of the local Anatolians called the Solym. The city had three ports, one of which was right at the entrance in the north. To its right there is small port, the middle of the three, which was known as the port of Savaş or Korunmuş (War or Protected Port).



At the end of the Port Street comes the port of Güneş (Sun). Now the cruising boats for the Blue Voyage make a stop or anchor for the night at this port. Phaselis was the oldest settlement in the region and, through its trading activities, the port rapidly developed and prospered.

It joined the Lycian Union and became one of its important cities. With the weakening of the league it shared the same fate as all other port cities and fell under the control of pirates. The reign of the pirates in the area ended with the Roman Empire coming to dominate the region. In the Byzantine period it became a bishopric. It retained its importance until the 3rd century AD and declined after that.

LYCIAN WAY



The Route

The Lycian way is a 509 km way-marked footpath around the coast of Lycia, from Antalya to Fethiye. The route is graded medium to hard, it is not level walking, but has many ascents and descents as it approaches and veers away from the sea. It is easier at the start near Fethiye and gets more difficult as it progresses.

We recommend walking the route in spring or autumn; February-May or September-November. Summer in Lycia is hot, although you could walk short, shady sections. The route is mainly over footpaths and mule trails; it is mostly over limestone and often hard and stony underfoot. On the last part of the route, and in Patara, Kalkan, Kas, Myra, Finike, Adrasan, Olympos, Cirali and Tekirova, you can stay in pensions or small hotels. On other nights, you may stay in a village house, or camp out. There are plenty of camping places with nearby water mentioned in the book; you do not have to ask permission to camp out.

For more information please visit www.lycianway.gov.tr





FINİKE

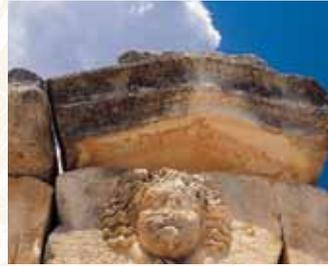
FINİKE IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTH OF THE TEKE PENINSULA, AND THE COAST HERE IS A POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATION. HOWEVER, FINİKE IS BEST-KNOWN FOR ITS ORANGES, THE SYMBOL OF THE TOWN.

FOR CENTURIES FINİKE, THEN NAMED PHOENICUS WAS A TRADING PORT, THE MAIN PORT OF LIMYRA, THE CAPITAL CITY OF LYCIA. THE AREA HAS BEEN INHABITED FOR MUCH LONGER THAN THAT, ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE FOUND EVIDENCE NEAR THE TOWN OF ELMALI SHOWING THAT THE TEKE PENINSULA HAS BEEN SETTLED SINCE 3000 BC.

TODAY FINİKE IS A QUIET DISTRICT ATTRACTING PEOPLE IN SEARCH OF RELAXATION. THE PORT OF FINİKE IS NOW AN IMPORTANT YACHT MARINA, AND HAS A SMALL FISHING FLEET. AROUND THE HARBOUR ARE MANY RESTAURANTS OFFERING FRESH DELICIOUS FISH. LOCAL SPECIALITIES ARE GROUPEL (EPINEPHELUS) AND LEERFISH (CARANGIDAE) AND NATURALLY WIDESPREAD MEDITERRANEAN VARIETIES SUCH AS SEA BREAM AND SEA BASS, SWORDFISH AND SARDINES ARE FOUND FURTHER OUT TO SEA.

ARYKANDA

It is believed that Arykanda was founded in 2000 BC. However, items unearthed in the area, such as bowls and coins have been dated to the 5th century BC. No remains from earlier periods have been found. The ancient city was a member of the Lycian Union, holding a single vote.

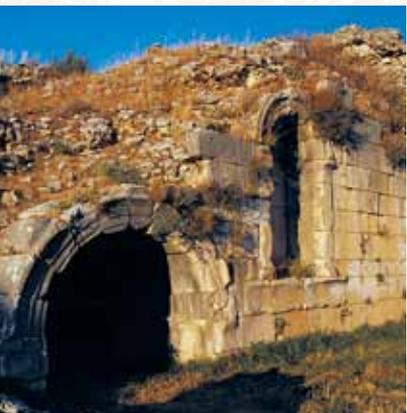
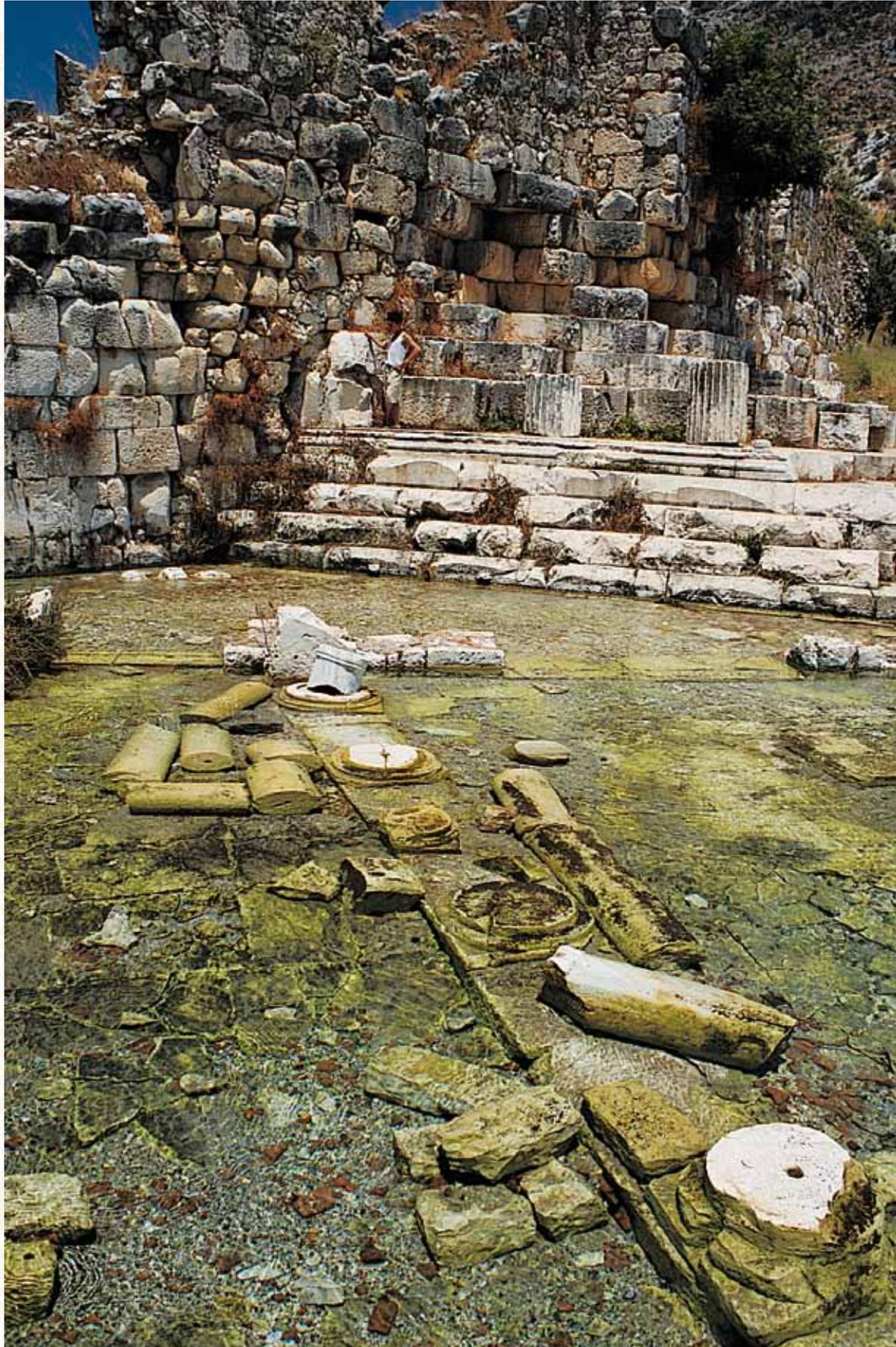


The city was damaged in an earthquake in 141 and later restored with the help of Opramoas of Rhadopis. From the 4th century onwards, the people of Arykanda began coming under the influence of Christianity. However, the place was again destroyed in the 5th century, its people moving near to where the current village of Çatallar is. In the 7th and 8th centuries, with the waves of Arab invaders attacking these areas, the residents sought protection and moved to higher grounds on the mountains. Arykanda was discovered in 1838 by a British explorer. The excavations that began in 1971 are still continuing

LIMYRA

If you follow the road from Finike direction Elmalı, you come to Turunçova and the village of Yuvalılar. On the outskirts of this village there is the ancient city of Limyra. Excavations of the site, which began in 1969, have moved slowly and the houses in the region have not been fully excavated.

The ancient city of Limyra was founded in the 5th century BC. During the reign of Pericles it was the capital of the Lycian Union and was one of the six cities in the league that held three votes. In the Byzantine period, it was a religious centre and a bishopric.



ELMALI

Elmalı is like a high plateau town located at an elevation of 1,050 metres and is popular for its cool climate, even on the hottest of days. Its history goes back to antiquity and a cache of ancient artifacts, the Elmalı coins, which were found near the village Bayındır in 1984 and smuggled out of the country the same year, were returned to Turkey in 1999. Known as the 'Treasure of the Century,' the coins can now be seen at the Antalya Archaeology Museum. The collection includes 1,900 silver coins. There are a number of mosques, prayer schools and other buildings from the Beylik of Teke and the Ottoman periods.

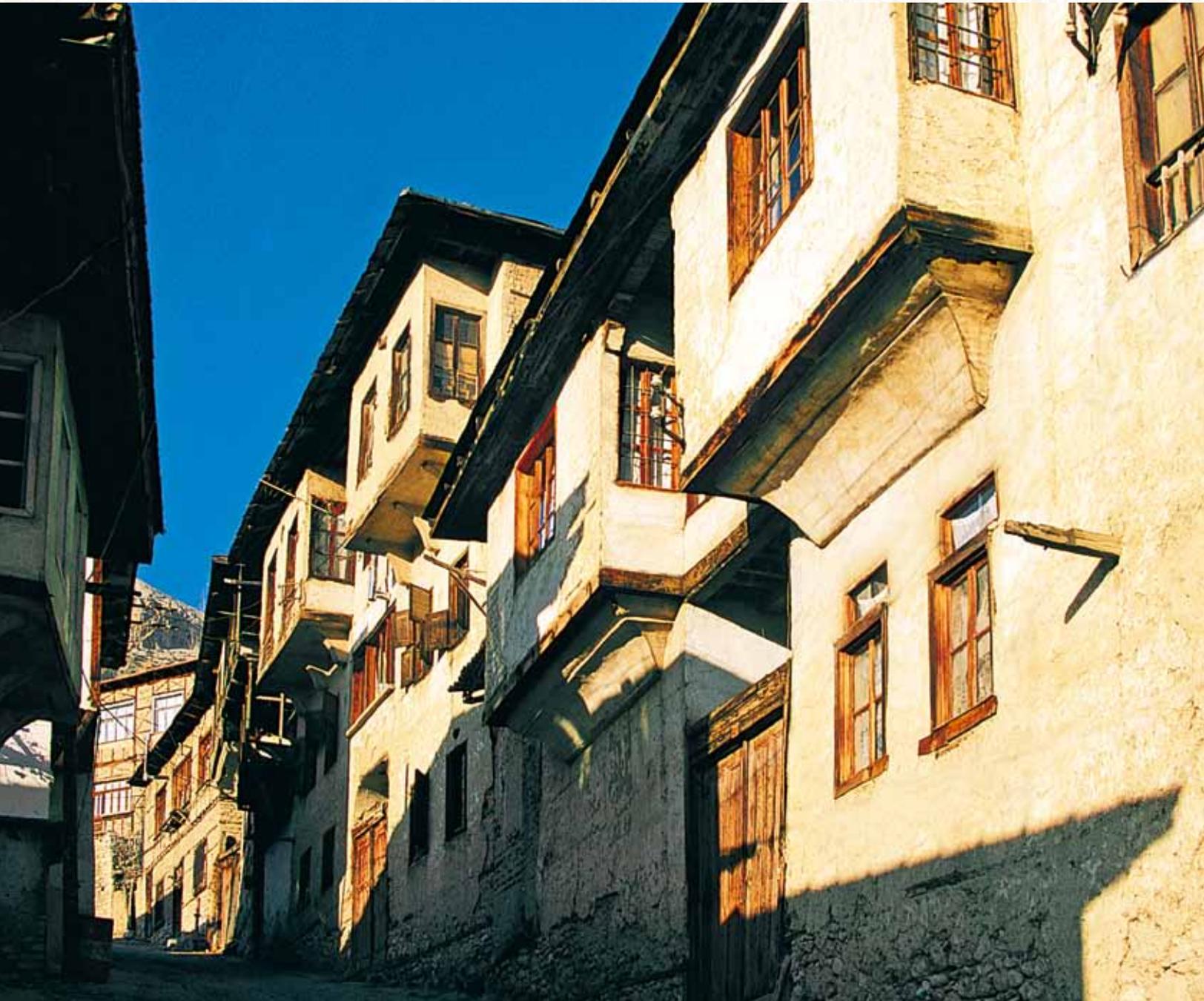


Of particular interest are the library containing a collection of Ottoman writings and the mosque and medrese (prayer school) of Ömer Paşa, (1608), student of the great Ottoman architect, Mimar Sinan. There is an earlier, Seljuk period minaret opposite the mosque.

The civilian residential structures of Elmalı have been protected to a great degree. In the higher part of the town the old streets are full of houses with the traditional double bay windows. Some of these houses have been restored. To the northwest is Karaburun and the Boztepe tumuli, where many tomb chambers were unearthed. In all the chambers the walls are decorated with colourful paintings. Excavation and restoration work is continuing.



Elmalı Coins,
"The Treasure of the Century"







DEMRE • KALE • MYRA

DEMRE, QUITE APART FROM BEING A TOURISM CENTRE, IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL REGION. GREENHOUSES ARE WIDELY USED AND MANY VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES ARE GROWN.

IN TERMS OF TOURISM, IT HAS ITS REPUTATION AS THE HOME OF ST. NICHOLAS, ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST-KNOWN FIGURES WHO LIVED AND SERVED AS BISHOP HERE. HE WAS BORN IN NEARBY PATARA TO A RICH FAMILY. IN HIS YOUTH ST. NICHOLAS FREQUENTLY TRAVELED TO PALESTINE AND EGYPT AND RECEIVED A VERY GOOD EDUCATION. HOWEVER, DURING ONE OF HIS VOYAGES THE SHIP WAS CAUGHT IN A STORM. AS IT WAS ON VERGE OF SINKING A PRAYER BY ST. NICOLAS SAVED THE VESSEL AND ITS CREW FROM DEATH.

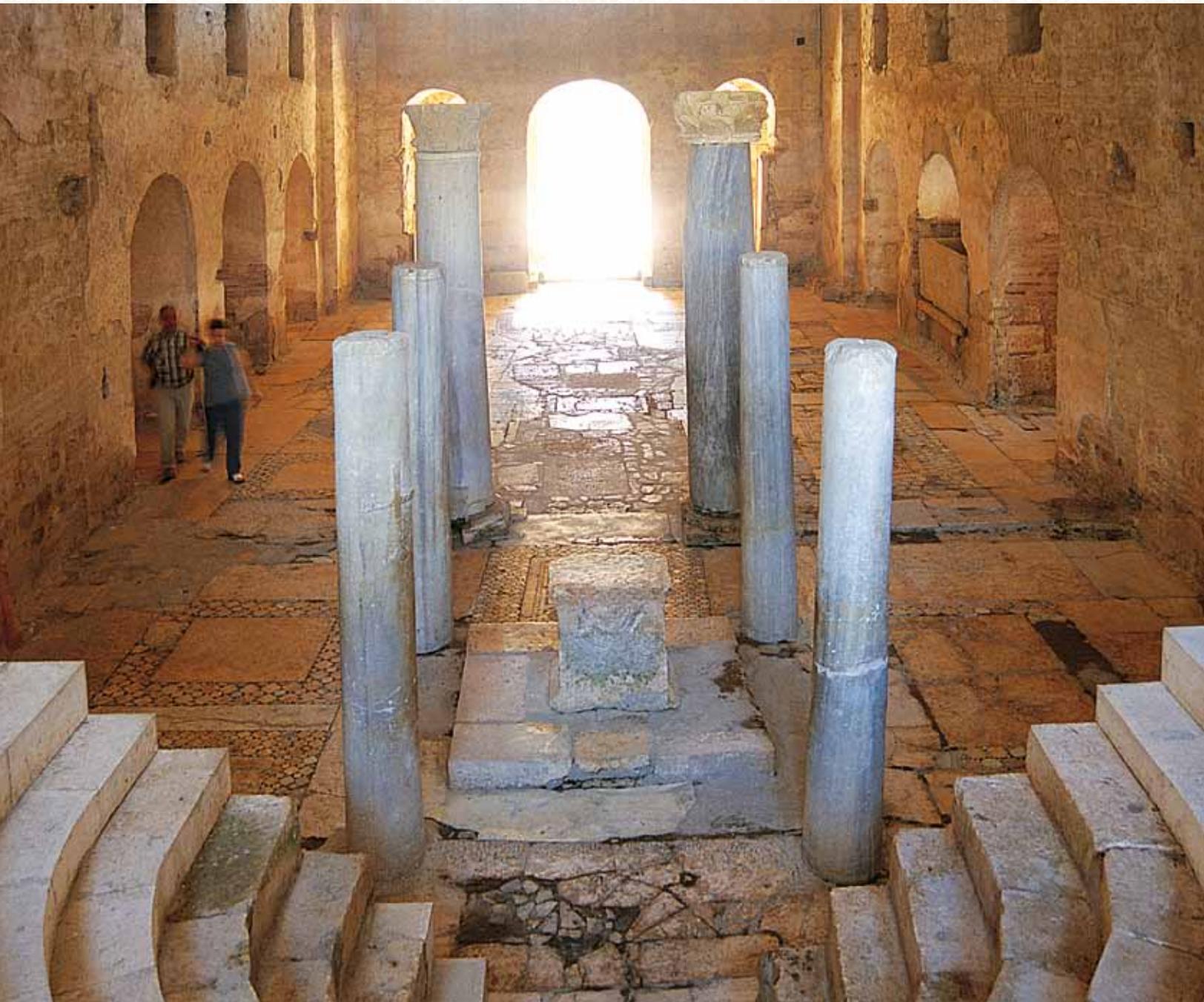


St. Nicholas, who devoted his life helping the poor and orphaned children, died on 6 December 343 AD. He was buried in a sarcophagus in a church built in his name.

In 1087 a group of Italian seafarers came to Demre, opened the sarcophagus of the Saint and took most of his remains to the Italian town of Bari, only few of the Saint's relics nowadays are on display in the Antalya Museum.

The St. Nicholas Museum today is visited by tourists from all over the world and the St. Nicholas Symposium is held here every year in the month of December.







THE ANCIENT CITY MYRA

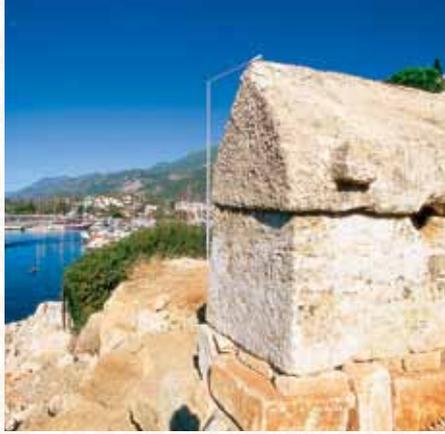
When you look at the hill to the north of the Church of St. Nicholas you see rock-hewn tombs carved by master craftsmen. These monumental tombs are of the ancient city of Myra, one of the most powerful cities of the Lycian Union holding three votes in the league. The history of the city goes back as far as the 5th century BC. In the days of the spreading of the Christian faith one of the Apostles of Jesus Christ, St. Paul came to Myra.



As one enters the ancient city one of the first things you see is the theatre, which has 35 rows of seats and is in a good condition. The site of the city was decorated with statues, columns and reliefs, some of which have survived to our time. Some of the rock-hewn tombs are near the theatre. On the west side of the historical site, at the river necropolis area, there are even more rock-hewn tombs than there are in the theatre side. One of the tombs in this area has two Ionic columns and reliefs on the top of the gate and is the one that attracts the most attention. Not all of the remains of this ancient city have been uncovered, with some still lying under the ground, waiting to be brought to light.







KAŞ-ANTIPHELLOS & ANCIENT CITIES

KAŞ – WHICH MEANS EYEBROW – IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LITTLE TOWNS OF THE TURKISH RIVIERA. IT IS LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE TEKE PENINSULA AND COMING INTO KAŞ FROM ANTALYA THE VIEW DOWN ON THE TOWN, THE PENINSULA, THE BAY OF LİMANAĞZI, THE GREEK ISLAND OF MEIS, İNCE AND ULU BURUN IS MAGNIFICANT.

THE MODERN MAIN STREET WITH SHOPS AND LITTLE RESTAURANTS LEADS RIGHT DOWN TO THE MARINA WITH FISHING BOATS AND YACHTS. FROM THE SQUARE THE FAMOUS UZUN ÇARŞI, A PICTURESQUE STREET OF THE OLD TOWN CENTRE, LEADS UP TO KAŞ'S LANDMARK, THE LION SARCOFAGUS.

The Hellenistic theatre on the west of Kaş is on the way to the Çukurbağ Peninsula and is in good condition. To the north east of the theatre there is the necropolis of the city. A large part of it was built by carving into the rocks. At its Doric style gate the tombs that have female figures carved on them are interesting.







THE BEACHES

In central Kaş, which is built on rocky outcrops, there are no sand beaches. However, you can plunge into the sea from terraces made on the rocks. Even when there are waves the sea is extremely clean. You'll find sandy beaches in the cove to the west or at Küçük and Büyük Çakıl (small and big gravel stone) Beaches. Also you could go to the port of Bayındır, some 1.2 sea miles to the south east of Kaş. A very famous beach and fine sand beach is Kaputaş Beach between Kaş and Kalkan, about 20 kilometres from Kaş. There is also the Mavi (Blue) Cave, a cavern worth seeing.



THE PORT OF BAYINDIR AND ITS CAVE

The port of Bayındır is 1.2 sea miles to the south east of Kaş. However, access by land is very difficult so the best way is to get there is by boat. On the east side of the port the land rises sharply. Here you have many rock-hewn Lycian tombs. As for the Bayındır Cave it is at the mouth of the port and can be entered via a narrow gate.

In the 60 metre long cave there is running water and right in the middle there are the ruins of a small church believed to be dated from the early Christian era.



THE ANCIENT CITIES

Between Kaş and Demre there are numerous ancient cities that can be reached by land or sea. It is possible to visit these by renting a car or on touring boats. There are significant sites that have survived to our time from the rich past.



THE ÇUKURBAĞ PENINSULA

A road that goes all around the peninsula of Kaş, which juts out into the sea, begins from the port area in central Kaş. There is an ancient theatre on the right hand side of this road. The surroundings of the peninsula are rocky but you can get to the sea for a swim via steps put in place by some of the hotels and pensions on the waterfront.

SIMENA (KALEKÖY)

Kaleköy (Simena) is one of the most beautiful places of the region, one that can be reached by boat from Kaş, Demre or Üçağiz. Once there, one has to climb up to its fortress that overlooks all of the small and large coves in the area and Kekova Island. The houses made of piled stones within the city walls are in harmony with the environment. When you approach the region by boat or view the areas from the top of one of the hills one of the things that catches your eye the most is the Lycian type sarcophagi in the sea.

THE ISLAND OF KEKOVA

The Sunken City and the Tersane (shipyard) Kekova Island, which gave its name to this region, is opposite Kaleköy. In the front of the island facing Kaleköy, you can see the streets and buildings of the Sunken City under the water. It is believed that an earthquake destroyed this ancient city in 2 AD, slipping under the waters, as was the case of the cities of Aperlai and Simena. On the west of the island, there is Tersane Bay. Boats stop in the bay, where there are the remains of a basilica and a small, stony beach, allowing passengers to have a break and a swim. While wandering among the bays a Turkish flag marked out on a slope of a hill may take your attention.

The bay below this flagged hill served as a natural harbour for the Ottoman Navy's cruiser Hamidiye during the Balkan Wars.



The Tersane Cove in the west of Kekova Island is suitable for boats anchoring there and for swimming breaks. On the seaside little remains except the ruins of a basilica.





K A L K A N

KALKAN IS A TOWN THAT LIES ON THE BORDERS BETWEEN THE PROVINCES OF ANTALYA AND MUĞLA. THE TOWN, ONCE A TYPICAL MEDITERRANEAN FISHING VILLAGE WITH ITS NARROW STREETS, WHITE WASH COATED HOUSES AND COLOURFUL FLOWERS IN POTS PLACED ON THEIR WINDOW FRAME, HAS BEEN DISCOVERED BY TOURISM. MANY OF THE OLD STONE HOUSES ARE ALSO COVERED WITH BOUGAINVILLEA.



The Kocakaya Mosque in the centre of the town was in the past a church, being converted after 1922. Apart from its being a place for fishermen and tourism, Kalkan is also a popular destination of Turkish intellectuals escaping the big cities. Kaputaş Beach and the Mavi (Blue) Cave are about 7 kilometres from Kalkan in the Kaş direction. The beautiful Kaputaş Beach, which is at a point where a canyon meets the sea, has golden sand and turquoise water.







P A T A R A

PATARA, NOT ONLY FAMOUS FOR ITS RUINS BUT ALSO FOR ITS LONG AND SANDY BEACH, IS SITUATED CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE OF GELEMIŞ. IN THE LYCIAN LANGUAGE THE EXISTENCE OF THE CITY OF PATARA IS REFERRED TO IN THE 5TH CENTURY BC. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, PATARUS, THE SON OF THE WATER NYMPH LYCIA AND THE GOD APOLLO, BUILT THE CITY OF PATARA.

THE CITY WAS VERY IMPORTANT DURING THE ROMAN PERIOD AS WELL. IT WAS SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS PORT, ITS WHEAT WAREHOUSES AND FOR TRANSPORT. THE CHRISTIANS SAW THE CITY, WHICH MAINTAINED ITS DEVELOPMENT UNDER BYZANTINE RULE, AS SIGNIFICANT AS IT WAS KNOWN AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF ST. NICHOLAS.

THE CITY GRADUALLY LOST ITS IMPORTANCE WITH THE PORT FILLING UP WITH SAND AND VESSELS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO BERTH.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE RUINS FROM PATARA IS THE ROMAN VICTORY GATE, DATED TO THE END OF THE 1ST CENTURY AD.



Among the other remains that can be seen towards the hill are the baths, a Byzantine basilica, a Corinthian style temple and the theatre. On the top of the hill there is the Temple of Athena.

Patara was a member of the Lycian Union, one of the six cities that held the right to three votes and was possibly the most important of all. It is known that most of the meetings of the Lycian Union were held at Patara.

Recently the remains of the world's first parliamentary building were found in Patara. It is estimated to have belonged to the Lycians, dating back to 3200 BC.

There was also unearthed a 2000 year old lighthouse at the ancient Roman port of Patara, discovering probably the oldest such structure that managed to remain intact.

According to Professor Havva İşkan Işık, the head of the excavation team, the 12-meter-high lighthouse was built under the reign of Emperor Nero who ruled from 54 to 68.





PATARA BEACH

The beach is 18 kilometres long and extends inland as much as 200 to 300 metres. The sand is very fine, just like flour, while the water is shallow for a long way out.

The area is suitable for windsurfing since the breeze never stops. The beach is subject to an environmental protection order as rare sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) lay their eggs in the sand.







XANTHOS

THE FIRST RECORDED WAR IN HISTORY WAS THE TEN-YEAR STRUGGLE OF THE TROJAN WAR. AS A RESULT OF A BEAUTY PAGEANT, A BLOODY TEN-YEAR CONFLICT BEGAN BETWEEN THE TWO CITY-STATES OF TROY AND ACHAIA, VICTIMS OF THE JEALOUSY, SPITE AND AMBITION OF THE OLYMPIAN GODS AND GODDESSES. HELP FOR THE TROJANS AGAINST THE ARMY OF 100,000 STRONG BROUGHT FROM GREECE BY THE ACHAIAN AGGRESSORS CAME FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF ANATOLIA IN THE YEAR 1200 BC. AMONG THOSE WHO CAME TO THE AID OF TROY WAS SARPEDON, WHO LED THE LYCIAN ARMY FROM XANTHOS, PERHAPS THE BRAVEST, MOST HEROIC AND HONORABLE OF ALL THE CITIES OF LYCIA. THE XANTHIANS ARE REMEMBERED THROUGHOUT HISTORY FOR THEIR HONOR AND COURAGE. THEY WERE FIERCELY PROUD OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR ONLY ANXIETY WAS OF BECOMING ENSLAVED. THEY DREADED THIS SO MUCH THAT THEY WENT TO THE INCREDIBLE LENGTHS OF SENDING A SMALL GROUP OF CITIZENS SELECTED FROM THE PRINCIPAL FAMILIES OF THE CITY TO LIVE IN OTHER CITIES. THEY WERE TO STAY PUT UNTIL WORD OF "MASS DEATHS" ARRIVED.



Then, when destruction had overtaken the inhabitants of Xanthos, due to their becoming enslaved or because of mass suicide, this small group would return to re-establish the city. In fact, the city was resurrected twice after such total destruction. The Persians began to conquer the cities of Anatolia one after the other in the mid 6th century BC. When it came time to attack Xanthos, they encountered fierce resistance, but in the end the Xanthians chose to commit mass suicide rather than accept defeat. Those Xanthians in exile reestablished their city some years later. However misfortune struck once more years later as their city was burned to the ground in a dreadful fire, and the inhabitants again chose mass suicide when they were attacked by the Roman Emperor, Brutus. Through the determined efforts of another Roman General, Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony), the city was resurrected and Xanthos came to life once more. Just like it was so poetically stated so many years ago: Home... the sacred roof in the life of an ordinary mortal. The Lycians displayed painstaking care in their homes and this was preserved in the way they





built tombs like homes in order to protect the lonely soul from cold and fear on its journey after death. Both their rock-tombs and sarcophagi were just like copies of their wooden dwellings. They believed the closer the tomb approached the sky, the higher it was the closer the deceased would be to the Gods. Consequently, their tombs were not only monumental and impressively decorated they were also built high up on hills.



ENDEMIC FLOWERS & PLANTS

Endemic plants are native, rare and very rare species exclusively specific to a certain country or region. The word comes from Latin "endemos" (indigenous) and means "native to the place". Some endemic plants of our country are cultivated plants, and some uncultivated wild plants can also be used as food ingredients along with cultivated plants. These plants have a huge significance in connection with the diversity of the Turkish cuisine.

The total number of plant species growing in Turkey is very close to the number of species found on the European continent, although the surface of the European continent is approximately 15 times larger than Turkey.

Reasons of the species richness can be listed as follows: Anatolia's functioning as a bridge between Southern European and Southwestern Asian floras, location at the point of intersection of three phytogeographical regions (Mediterranean, Irano-Turanean and Euro-Siberian), significant versatility in climatic and geomorphologic terms, serving as a gene center for a large number of species, being a region with high species endemism and growing of fruit bearing species of a large number of cultivated plants in Anatolia and its surroundings.

From 9,160 botanical species growing in Turkey about 3,300 are endemic, meaning that every third plant species in Turkey is exclusively specific to Turkey and cannot be found anywhere else. 630 of these 3,300 endemic plants grow only in the Mediterranean Region and 500 of those only grow in the province of Antalya, 200 of it exclusively in the district of Antalya. When compared to the number of endemic species of neighboring countries such as Bulgaria and Iraq, the magnificent variety of the province of Antalya unfolds once more.

Anatolia owes the variety in flora and vegetation species to its diverse structure in terms of geological processes, wavy topography and climatic diversity. The area where Turkey is located is the site that has demonstrated the highest activity during all geological periods in the world.

Starting from the Paleozoic era up until the Quaternary period, Anatolia had experienced many formations. Relief shapes seen in Turkey emerged in the Pleistocene epoch, which is the fourth period in the geologic timescale. As a result of Alpine movements that took place during this period, the entire Anatolian Block extruded and lava plateaus and volcanic cones have formed as a consequence of fractures, basin formations and volcanisms that happened in some areas along with foldings.

Moreover, Europe had experienced a very long tundra period during the glacial era and, as a result, existing flora and fauna took refuge in Anatolia and it became a shelter for plant and animal species.

Particularly species, which fled South during the glacial periods, had speciation within the habitat diversity of the Mediterranean Region and Taurus Mountains during the post-glacial period. For this reason the Taurus Mountains are extremely rich in terms of species diversity.



BUTTERFLIES OF ANTALYA

In Antalya you can observe butterflies almost throughout the year, because here three seasons are spring and the other is summer. Even in comparison to European countries only the Antalya region is remarkably rich in endemic plants and flowers. Another wealth of Antalya is the species diversity of butterflies. In total, we recorded 182 species, three of which are endemic. With this Antalya exceeds in species richness many European countries.

Of course it is not sufficient to document Antalya's butterflies only scientifically, or to just report on this wealth of nature. Their protection is also of great importance. The protection of our natural values and the sensitivity about it, have to be considered as a challenge for all of us. We may esteem butterflies as a kind of environmental barometer - and diminishing butterfly populations as an indicator of lessened environmental values in a region.

The protection and preservation of our natural values are a prerequisite for sustainable tourism.



KÖPRÜLÜ KANYON & RAFTING

The road through the Köprülü Canyon starts 53 km east from Antalya. After a further 43 km along the road direction Selge-Taşağıl-Beşkonak, much of it narrow and winding through the green pine forests of the Toros Mountains, you come to the Köprülü Canyon, a natural wonder. After Beşkonak, there are restaurants offering grilled meat or trout and rafting facilities located by the stream. These rustic facilities continue all the way to the entrance of the Köprülü Canyon.



The canyon, formed by the flow of the Köprüçay over a period of hundreds of thousand of years, has a Roman bridge at its mouth. So well preserved is the Oluk Bridge, which has become the symbol of the Köprülü Canyon that trucks can pass over it. The 27 metre high bridge, which spans the canyon, dates to the 2nd century AD and was built of overlapping hewn stone. You can swim in the clean waters of the Köprüçay during the summer months. However, be prepared for a cold dip as the water temperature is below 15° C.



JEEP SAFARI

A Jeep safari is one of the most popular tourist activities. The tours head towards the Toros Mountains and breaks are taken in the high plateau. History and nature intertwines here.



DIVING

If you are interested in diving you will find plenty of suitable places along Antalya's coastline. Main factors making diving a pleasant activity in Antalya are the cleanness of the seawater and good visibility. There are also a large number of wrecks where diving is permitted.

It is possible to learn to dive quickly from CMAS and PADI certified divers conducting courses and those who wish to take advance courses can also have their needs met.

ANTALYA CUISINE

Antalya is blessed with all the beauty and distinctive features for which the Mediterranean is well known; behind it stand the pine and cedar clad Toros Mountains and stretched out before it are cliffs, bays, rocks and beaches. The sea teems with diverse sea life, fresh fruit and vegetables, wild herbs making infusions or to use in cooking, they all flourish here on the fertile soil. Anatolian cooking has remained unchanged for generations, leaving a visible mark in many settlements around the Toros Mountains.





The province of Antalya is indeed a collage, a melting pot of different cultures and traditions, reflected in the ancient name of the region, Pamphylia – Land of all tribes and Lycia – Land of the light.

The traditional Antalya cuisine brings it all together, the scent of Oregano from the Toros Mountains mixed with a breeze from the Mediterranean, the Yörük nomads cooking tradition and the influence of the Arab cuisine united with that of the Mediterranean.



The cooking book FROM THE TOROS MOUNTAINS TO THE MEDITERRANEAN -TASTES OF ANTALYA contains recipes from the region. Further information at the homepage of the Antalya Promotion Foundation (ATAV) www.antalyaguide.org or email us at antalya@antalyaguide.org

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FESTIVALS

Antalya is proud to host many international events throughout the year. National and international congresses, arts and culture festivals, sport events such as golf championships and triathlons or marathons take place in Antalya.



FESTIVALS, FAIRS & SHOWS

- Antalya International Golden Orange Film Festival (October)
- Antalya International Piano Festival (November)
- Antalya International Sand Sculpture Festival Sandland (May-October)
- Antalya International Theatre Festival (May)
- Antalya Runatolia Marathon (March)
- Aspendos International Opera & Ballet Festival (August-September)
- Elmalı Oil Wrestling Festival (September)
- Exhibitions & Fashion Shows at Antalya Expo Center AEC
- İbradı Grape Festival (September)
- İbradı Snowdrop Festival (April)
- Kaş Lycia Culture & Art Festival (June)
- Kemer Extreme Enduro Race Red Bull Sea to Sky (October)
- Kemer International Underwater Days (May)
- Myra St Nicholas Celebrations (December)
- Phaselis Art Days (September)
- Side International Culture & Art Festival (September)
- Championships and other Sports Events
- Alanya ITU Triathlon
- Archery Championships
- Billiards Championships
- Chess Championships
- Golf Championships like Turkish Airlines Challenge
- Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey
- Taekwondo Championships
- Tennis Championships



Within the wide boundaries of Antalya there is history, natural beauty and a rich variety of local life style to be discovered. But it is in the heart of the city, where the old harbor and the surrounding Kaleiçi are situated, that you will experience the spirit, smell, fragrances and the beauty of the past coming alive all around you.



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