



Oceanus Mosaic, Antakya Archeology Museum

TURKISH RIVIERA

In Antalya, the pine-clad Toros (Taurus) Mountains sweep down to the sparkling clear sea resulting in an irregular coastline of rocky headlands and secluded coves.



Alanya Castle and Red Tower, Antalya

The region, bathed in sunshine for 300 days of the year, is a paradise for sunbathing, swimming, and sports activities like wind surfing, water skiing, sailing, mountain climbing and spelunking. If you come to Antalya in March or April, you can ski in the mornings and in the afternoons swim in the warm waters of the Mediterranean. Awaiting your discovery are important historical sites



set in a landscape of pine forests, olive and citrus groves and palm, avocado and banana plantations.

The Turkish Riviera is the tourism capital of Turkey. Its full range of accommodation, from tourist class to deluxe hotels, and the hospitable people of Antalya will make your holiday comfortable and enjoyable.

ANTALYA

Surrounded by amazing scenery of sharp contrasts, Antalya, Turkey's principal holiday resort, is an attractive city with shady palm-lined boulevards and a prize-winning marina. In the picturesque old quarter of Kaleiçi, narrow, winding streets and old wooden houses abut the ancient city walls.



Hadrian's Gate, Antalya

Antalya has been continuously inhabited since its founding in 159 BC by Attalos II, a king of Pergamum, who named the city **Attaleia** after himself. The Romans, Byzantines and Seljuks successively occupied the city before it came under Ottoman rule. The elegant, fluted minaret of the Yivli Minareli Mosque in the center of the city, built by the Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubat in the 13th century, has become Antalya's symbol. The Karatay Medrese (theological college) in the Kaleiçi district, from the same period, exemplifies the best of Seljuk stone carving. The two most important Ottoman mosques in the city are the 16th-century Murat Paşa Mosque, remarkable for its tile decoration, and the 18th-century Tekeli Mehmet Paşa Mosque. Neighboring the marina, the attractive late 19th-century Iskele Mosque is built of cut stone and set on four pillars over a natural spring. The Hıdırlık Kulesi (tower) was

probably constructed as a lighthouse in the second century. The Kesik Minaret Mosque, which was previously a church, attests to the city's long history in its succession of Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman renovations.

When Emperor Hadrian visited Phaselis in Antalya province in 130 AD a beautifully decorated three-arched gate with Corinthian columns was built into the city walls in his honor. It was the only entrance through the city walls. The two towers flanking the gate as well as other sections of the walls are still standing near the marina. The clock tower in Kalekapısı Square was also part of the old city's fortifications.



In the Atatürk and Karaalioglu Parks, the colorful exotic flowers and the shimmering water in the bay with the mountains behind demonstrate why Antalya has become such a popular resort. At Aqua Park, on the eastern coast, every kind of water sport is available, including exciting water slides.

The award-winning Antalya Kaleiçi Marina



Yivli Minare (Fluted Minaret), Antalya



Icon in the Antalya Archeology Museum

and Leisure Center is considered one of the loveliest marinas in Turkey with its many souvenir shops, friendly cafes and restaurants as well as yacht moorings and services. Sail in the morning and enjoy the restful peace of the marina in the afternoon. The old city walls, lit up at night, lend an atmosphere of serenity and timelessness.

The **Archeological Museum**, with artifacts from the Paleolithic Age to Ottoman times, offers a glimpse of the area's rich history. Two-colored ceramics dated at 5400 - 8500 BC are worth seeing. The **Atatürk Museum** displays objects used by the founder of the



Aquapark, Antalya

Turkish Republic. (Both open weekdays except Monday)

The Antalya **Altın Portakal** (Golden Orange) Film and Art Festival, held in the autumn, attracts many participants and visitors. The ancient theater in Aspendos makes an impressive setting for some of the festival's plays and concerts. Antalya also hosts annual jewelry fairs.

A Culture, Exhibition and Congress Center was opened in 1996 in the Konyaaltı Quarter. The Congress hall itself is in a glass pyramid.



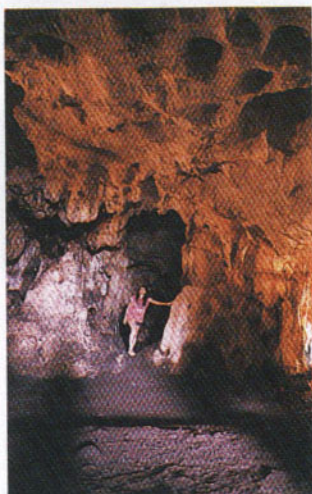
Kaleiçi Yacht Harbor, Antalya

DAILY EXCURSIONS

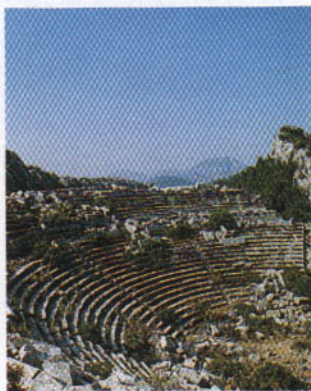
What could be more appealing than dream-like landscapes, a rich variety of flora, grand mountains, and the magnificent colors of the sea? Add to that the lively holiday life with the quiet of ancient ruins and you have a perfect vacation. From Antalya there are many possibilities for day-trips:

At the **Upper Düden Waterfalls**, 14 km northeast of Antalya, you can walk behind the rushing cascade for a thrilling experience. On the way to Lara Beach, the **Lower Düden Waterfalls** plunge straight into the sea. The nearby rest area offers an excellent view of the falls and the view is even more spectacular from the sea. **Kurşunlu Waterfalls** and **Nilüfer Lake**, both 18 km from Antalya, are two more places of superb natural beauty.

The sandy **Lara Beach** lies about 12 km to the east. Closer to Antalya, but to the west, the long, pebbled **Konyaaltı Beach** offers a view of the breathtaking mountain range. A little farther along, the **Bey Dağları (Olympus) National Park** and **Topçam Beach** provide more splendid vistas. **Sıçan** is a lovely nature island. There are camping grounds at the north end of the park, should you decide to linger amid the natural beauty. For a panoramic view of the area drive to the holiday complex and revolving restaurant on top of **Tünektepe Hill**.



Karain Cave, Antalya



Termessos Amphitheater,
Antalya

Saklıkent, 50 km from Antalya, is an ideal winter sports resort on the northern slopes of **Bakırlı Mountain** at an altitude of 1,750 to 1,900 meters. In March and April you can ski in the morning, eat a delicious lunch of fresh fish at Antalya's marina and sunbathe, swim or wind surf in the afternoon. You can see wildlife - deer and mountain goat - that are under a conservation program in **Düzlerçamı Park**, north of Antalya. On the way, you can stop at the astonishing 115-meter deep **Güver Canyon**.

On the eastern side of **Çan Mountain**, 30 km from Antalya, the **Karain Cave**, which dates from the Paleolithic Age, is the site of the oldest settlement in Turkey. A single entrance, lit by the morning sun, opens onto three large interconnecting chambers. Although the little museum at the entrance displays some of the finds, most of the artifacts are housed in various museums throughout Turkey. Some of them are dated at 160,000 BC.

The ruins of the city of **Termessos** are perched on a 1,050-meter high plateau on the west face of **Güllük Mountain (Solymos)** found in **Mt. Güllük National Park** northwest of Antalya. A wild and splendid landscape surrounds the monumental traces of this city. A nature and wildlife museum is found at the park entrance.



Kurşunlu Waterfall, Antalya

NORTH OF ANTALYA

Renowned for its unspoiled landscape, flora, and fauna, the **Göller Bölgesi (Lake District)** lies in a mountainous area 150 km north of Antalya. The city of **Burdur** is known throughout Turkey for its beautiful lakes, as well as for its carpets and kilims. The **Bakırcılar Çarşısı** is a shopping area where you can find fine hand crafted copper. This city also preserves excellent examples of Ottoman regional architecture, in particular the **Taşoda**, **Kocaoda** (also known as **Çelikbaş**), and **Mısırlılar Konaks**, or mansions, dating back to the 17th century. Both the interior and exterior decorations reveal much of the Ottoman aesthetic. (Open everyday except Monday). The **Burdur Archeological Museum** houses some very important artifacts from around the region. (Open everyday except Monday)

Burdur Lake, with nice beaches for swimming, is a superb location for water sports. A climb to the top of **Susamlık Hill** gives you a panoramic view over the city and lake. The **İnsuyu Cave**, 10 km south on the road to Antalya, is 597 meters long, with nine distinct pools, and chambers filled with stalactites and stalagmites. **Kremna (Çamlık)** is 60 km from Burdur and 15 km from Bucak near **Çamlık** village in Bucak County. It was an important Pisidian city and contains Roman and Byzantine era ruins. The **İncirhan**



Isparta



Eğirdir Lake, Isparta

Caravanserai is located 7 km west of Bucak in **İncirdere (Dereköy)**. It was built in the 13th century by the Seljuk ruler **Giyasettin Keykubat**.

A hundred kilometers southwest of Burdur, in **Gölkisar (Cibyra)**, are ruins, mostly from Roman times, of an important ancient north Lycian city with a stadium, lower and upper agora, theater, necropolis and large aqueducts. Also in the region, trapped in the mountains 1,050 meters above sea level, is beautiful **Lake Salda**, an ideal location for relaxation and cooling off on the sandy beaches or in the lake side cafes, hotels and restaurants. Also in the region is **Hacılar Höyük** (Hacılar mound) containing ceramics dating from 5400 to 8500 BC. It was excavated in 1950.

The ancient site of **Sagalassos** is 33 km east of Burdur and 7 km south of the town of **Ağlasun**. It was the Pisidian capital city and has ruins from Roman times that included a memorial entrance gate, colonnaded street, lower and upper agoras, temple and magnificent theater.

High in the Taurus Mountains is **Isparta**, a city of lakes and lovely coastal areas overgrown in the spring and summer with an exuberance of wild flowers. In the city you

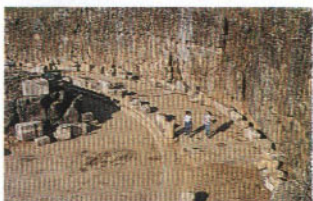
should stop at the Ulu Mosque built in 1417 by the Seljuks. The Bedesten, or covered bazaar, dates from 1561. Firdevs Paşa Mosque, also called Mimar Sinan Mosque was also built in 1561 by the great Ottoman architect Sinan. Be sure to see the 14th-century Isparta Castle. Rose gardens that produce rose oil for the cosmetic industry surround the city and fill it with their sweet scent. Other souvenirs include a thickly piled Isparta carpet. In the nearby hills, the districts of **Kirazlıdere** and **Sidre** are popular with visitors who want to relax and enjoy the view. South of Isparta, **Gölcük Lake**, encircled by aromatic pine forests, rests at an impressive 1,405 meters above sea level.

Eğirdir, at the southern end of **Lake Eğirdir**, is set in idyllic natural surroundings. Among the man-made monuments, Eğirdir Castle built by the Lydian King Croesus shows additions and renovations made by Romans, Byzantines and Seljuks. The Seljuk Kemerli Minare has felt the changes of the modern world - today it stands in the middle of a road. At lake side restaurants you can sample white bass, the local speciality. A boardwalk connects the shore to **Eğirdir Island** where weavers erect their looms and work outside their houses.

Up in the hills, on the western side of the lake, guest-houses in **Barla** provide a wonderful opportunity for relaxation. **Kovada National Park**, 30 km south of Lake Eğirdir, surrounds Kovada Lake, a pristine and cool mountain getaway.



Ağlasun (Sagalassos), Burdur



**Pisidian Antioch
Yalvaç, Isparta**



Incirhan, Burdur

Northeast of Isparta, **Yalvaç** stands near the ancient city of **Pisidian Antioch**. The actual time it was founded under the Seleucids is unknown, but it was probably a colony of King Antiochus (281 - 261 BC) of Magnesia on the Meander. Antioch then passed under the control of the Galatian kingdom (39 - 36 BC) and then became "Colonia Caesarea" of the Roman Empire in 25 BC and remained so for about 200 years. This is attested to by numerous Latin inscriptions still extant. Under Rome the city was made to resemble the capital on the seven hills. At the end of the third century the city was a metropolis of Pisidia and continued to be under the Byzantines, who increased the number of sacred sites.

This area was visited by Paul and Barnabas around 46 AD. Among the ruins be sure to see St. Paul's Basilica, the aqueducts, the Temple to Augustus, the theater and public baths as you walk along the city's marble streets, all of which was destroyed by Arabs in AD 713. In the middle of the 13th century most of the inhabitants left the ancient site and founded nearby Yalvaç. The Archeological Museum in Yalvaç itself displays several important regional artifacts. Tourists will find not only articles of leather clothing but many other interesting traditional souvenirs made of animal hide. East of Yalvaç, atop **Karakuyu Hill**, is the sanctuary to the moon god (called Men), and the view from it is breathtaking. Giant cedar trees grow in **Kızıldağ National Park**, south of Yalvaç, amid one of Turkey's most splendid landscapes.

WEST OF ANTALYA

The mountains of the **Toros (Taurus) Range** rise up immediately behind the coast. The entire length from **Konyaaltı Beach** to the **Kırlangıç Peninsula** is a national preserve, the **Bey Dağları (Olympos) National Park**. The history of this ancient Lycian Peninsula can be traced back to the Neolithic Age to the settlements at Beldibi.

The 42 km of road from Antalya to **Kemer** pass through spectacular mountain scenery. This resort town has been carefully designed to blend in with the surrounding scenery and offers an ideal environment for a wonderful holiday. The fully-equipped Kemer marina allows yachtsmen to enjoy the unspoiled bays and beaches south of the town. Shoppers will delight in the wonderful range of high quality souvenirs for sale. A beach promenade north of the marina has steps down from its cafes and shops leading directly to the beach. **Kemer Beach** is a Blue Flag beach. (The term "Blue Flag" coined by the European Union signifies especially clean beaches). In the **Yörük (Nomad) Theme Park** you can watch traditional crafts people at work. The adjoining bay is a charming and delightful spot with many sports and daily entertainment facilities discreetly hidden among the pines. April is the month for the colorful Kemer Carnival. Also in the spring are the yacht races between Kemer and Girne in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and between other locations.



**Kemer Marina,
Antalya**



Kızıltepe, Göynük (Blue Flag) and **Beldibi (Blue Flag)** north of Kemer and **Çamyuva** and **Tekirova (Blue Flag)** to the south, are tourist centers that offer various activities. The holiday villages are all designed to blend into the forest that encircles them. At the foot of 2575 meter high **Mt. Tahtalı (Olympos)**, 15 km south of Kemer, the three harbors of **Phaselis** were once a major commercial center. The ruins of aqueducts, agoras, baths, a theater, Hadrian's Gate and an acropolis reveal the city's historical importance. From the south harbor, look up to Mt. Tahtalı for a spectacular view. The sheltered sandy beaches make a superb playground, and the waters are calm and safe for swimmers.

The ancient city of **Olympos** is situated on the southern side of Mt. Tahtalı. Oleander and laurel bushes shade the Olympos Valley, which can be approached by land or sea. The light playing on the quiet pools of water enhance the mosaics in the bath. A temple gate possibly built during the reign of Marcus Aurelius (161-180 AD), part of a bridge, and a Roman theater also remain from antiquity. The outer walls and towers around the bay date from the Middle Ages.

North of Olympos up from **Çıralı Beach** is **Yanartaş** (at a height of 300 meters) where Greek mythology tells us the Lycian hero Bellerophon mounted his winged horse Pe-



Phaselis, Antalya

gasus and slew the fire-breathing Chimaera. Gas which seeps from the earth burns brightly at night at this site, which the Byzantines also considered a religious area.

South of Olympus, tranquil waters and sandy beaches line the **Bay of Çavuş** where you can water ski on calm waters, discover the colorful marine life or explore the incredible sea caves on the northern shore.

Finike, an entry port west of Olympus, is surrounded by citrus trees and gardens. A sandy beach stretches to the east, and to the west are rocky bays and coves.

Limyra, an ancient Lycian city, is 10 km inland from Finike, via **Turunçova**. The fourth-century BC Pericles mausoleum, decorated with caryatids, is a magnificent example of ancient art. The city walls, necropolis, and Roman theater are also of interest.

Farther along this road is the Lycian city of **Arikanda**. It was inhabited at least by 500 BC and was destroyed several times by fire or earthquake. It was called Akalanda by the Byzantines. Set high on the mountain overlooking one of Turkey's most beautiful valleys, the extensive ruins include an agora, a theater with seven sections, a stadium, a





Myra Rock Tombs, Demre - Antalya

bouleuterion, a water system, a gymnasium, baths and scattered sarcophagi. The baths are still in good condition.

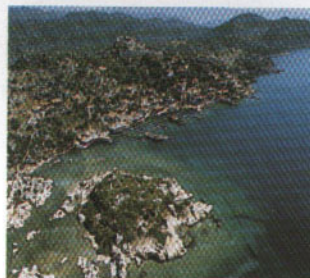
The ancient city of **Myra**, now called **Demre** or **Kale**, is 25 km west of Finike. It was inhabited as early as 500 BC. Many splendidly carved rock tombs dating from the 4th century BC overlook the magnificent Roman theater. St. Nicholas, who was born in Patara, was the bishop of Myra during the 4th century AD, and died there in 345. Every year in December the St. Nicholas Commemoration Ceremony attracts many tourists who spend their Christmas holidays on the sunny Mediterranean coast of ancient Lycia.

Çayağzı, the ancient harbor of **Andriace**, west of Demre, has a good beach for swimming and sunbathing. Notice the busts of Faustina and Hadrian next to an ancient storage shed.

Kekova, an island an hour from Dalyan by sea, gives its name to a whole ensemble of picturesque islands, numerous bays and ancient cities. These bays provide natural harbors in all seasons, and yachtsmen particularly enjoy exploring the unspoiled landscape. Along the northern shore of **Kekova Island** at **Apollonia**, earthquakes have disturbed the land causing some of the ancient houses to sink under the clear water, thus creating a sunken city. **Kaleköy Castle (Simena)** offers a bird's-eye view of the bays, inlets, islands and colorful yachts sailing peacefully over the glassy water.



**St. Nicholas,
Myra-Antalya**



Kaleköy (Simena), Antalya

Continuing west out of Kekova, you come to **Kaş**, a lovely spot surrounded on three sides by mountains. The friendly local fishermen are happy to run a water-taxi service to take you to a favorite bay, cove or beach along the coast. The swimming and diving are excellent in the clear cool water around Kaş.

Kaş was founded in the 4th century BC as **Antiphellos**. Now only the Lycian rock tombs, sarcophagi and a theater are left. But the charm of the town remains, and it is a pleasure to wander through the streets, stopping to examine souvenir shops that offer Turkish handicrafts, leather goods, copper and silver items, cotton clothing and the inevitable handmade carpet.

After shopping stroll along the flower-lined Akdeniz Promenade or relax under the shade of a palm tree. The mountains that surround the town provide their share of activities and sights while the bars and restaurants offer plenty of night life. You can walk through forested hills to visit remote villages and ancient ruins. The energetic may want to attempt the highest peak in the area, **Mt. Kızlar Sivrisi** (3,086 meters), or the second highest, **Mt. Akdağ** (3,030 meters).

Along the scenic Kalkan road, **Kaputaş** has a beautiful beach, at one end of which is the Turquoise Grotto. A little distance to the west is **Kalkan**, a lovely small hilltop town that overlooks a tiny bay. Its quaint, traditional, white-washed houses, shuttered windows and balconies with brilliant flowers that cascade to the streets below, make it the



Kalkan-Antalya

ultimate in a peaceful holiday town. Narrow winding streets lined with souvenir shops lead down to the charming marina. Every morning boats are busy taking tourists to one of the nearby beaches or small bays. As the sun sets it is Kalkan style to meet on the roof terraces for a drink before dinner and enjoy the comings and goings of the yachts, the business of the marina and the panoramic view.

Once a principal harbor of ancient Lycia, **Patara** is now reached by following a winding mountain road before descending to the site. According to Greek mythology Apollo was born here. More concrete history reveals that this town was the birthplace of St. Nicholas. The ruins are, of course, numerous and interesting. A second century AD theater has been partially excavated, and there is a gate with three arches built in 100 AD. But Patara is also a place for beach lovers. Its 22 km of pure white sand stretches as far as the eye can see, making it a natural choice for all types of beach sports. The remoteness of this undiscovered corner makes it feel like a private getaway.

The ancient Lycian capital of **Xanthos**, today in the Turkish village **Kınık**, lies 18 km north of Patara. The theater, Tomb of the Harpies, Nereid Monument, agora, and Inscribed Pillar, among a mixture of ruins from Lycian, Roman and Byzantine times, create a special atmosphere at this site. At the Lycian cultic center of **Letoon**, six km farther, three temples dedicated to Leto, Apollo and Artemis, familiar gods of mythology, await the exploring tourist.



Harpy and Semerdam Memorials, Xanthos-Antalya



Belek-Antalya

EAST OF ANTALYA

Wide, fertile plains parallel the endless sandy beaches east of Antalya until you come to Alanya. Abundant modern tourist facilities and well-preserved historical sites give you a number of options for a day's activities.

Perge (18 km from Antalya) was an important city of ancient **Pamphylia**, originally settled by the Hittites around 1500 BC. St. Paul visited this city on his first missionary journey. The theater stage has finely carved marble reliefs, and other carvings from around the city are displayed in the stadium. Amateur archeologists will want to see the handsome city gate flanked by two lofty towers, a long colonnaded road once paved with mosaics and lined with shops, a large agora, the public baths and a gymnasium.

Swimmers and sunbathers alike enjoy **Belek**, a modern luxurious holiday center and golfer's paradise, 40 km from Antalya. The **National Golf Club** located in Belek features a wide variety of water sports as well as a championship 18-hole golf course and 9-hole academy course. Visitors may sample some of Turkey's finest cuisine and enjoy open air discos for evening entertainment.



**Aspendos Amphitheater,
Antalya**



A photogenic Seljuk bridge crosses the **Köprü River** from the road to **Aspendos**. The road continues past the Aspendos Jewelry Center to the Aspendos Theatre, the best-preserved theater of antiquity, with seating for 15,000. Still used today, the theater's galleries, stage decorations and acoustics all testify to the architect's success. Nearby stand the remains of a basilica, an agora and one of the largest aqueducts in Anatolia.

And if you have ever wondered how gold dust becomes a fine piece of art or how precious stones are engraved, be sure to visit the Aspendos Jewelry Center, where jewelry making can be observed at every stage in the large workshop.

Northeast of Antalya, at the turn off for **Taşağöl** and **Beşkonak**, is the scenic route that leads to the 14-km-long **Köprü Canyon National Park**. The twisting road winds over mountain streams and passes through virgin cedar forest. It is often a slow drive because the view at every turn is more beautiful than the last. The park, 92 km from Antalya, is a valley of wild beauty rich in flora and fauna. The canyon stretches for 14 km along the Köprü River and is 400 meters



Side Amphitheater, Antalya

deep in some places. Fish restaurants dot the rest areas. The Roman **Oluk Bridge**, which spans the canyon, and the **Büğrüm Bridge** over the **Kocadere** stream, are engineering feats of antiquity. From this park you can take two possible excursions - to the ancient city of **Selge** or to the **Dedegöl Mountains**. Dedegöl, the highest peak in this mountain range rises to 2,992 meters. An important city of ancient **Pisidia**, **Altinkaya (Selge)**, northwest of Köprülü Canyon National Park, is reached by a winding mountain road. The city walls, towers, cisterns, temple



Köprülü Canyon, Antalya

to Zeus, agora, stadium, theater carved into boulders, gymnasium and necropolis still remain from this commercial city that stood at an elevation of 950 meters. Historians verify that Selge had direct trade with Antalya, which brought it prosperity. Selge was ruled by Lydians and others.

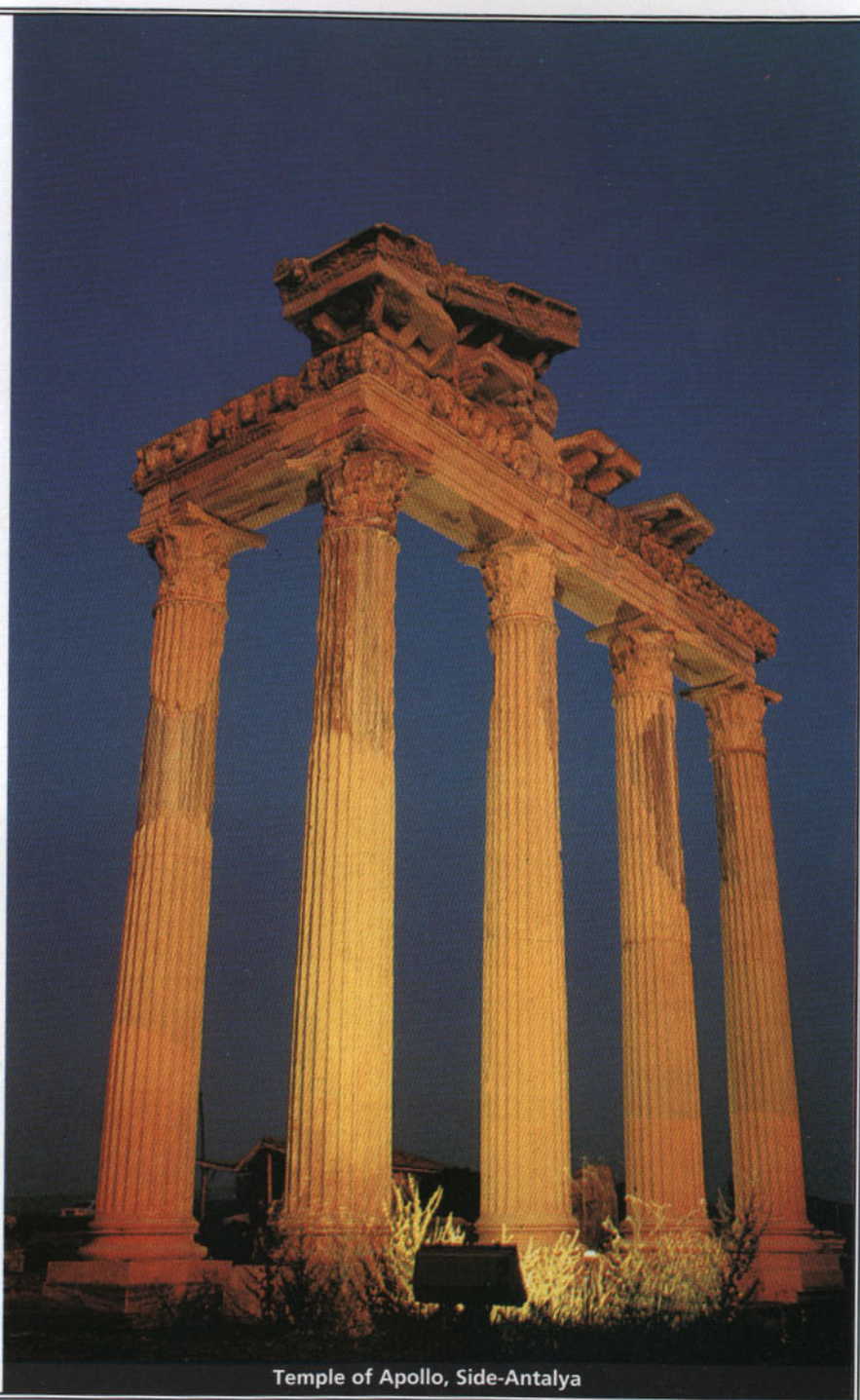
Although the **Manavgat Waterfalls** are not high, milky white, foaming water rushes powerfully over the rocks. Next to the waterfalls shady tea gardens and restaurants make the falls a pleasant, cool resting spot, especi-

ally welcome after a day of sightseeing. You can take a delightful boat trip up the Manavgat River to explore this lovely area further.

Side, one of the best-known classical sites in Turkey, was an ancient harbor whose name meant pomegranate. Today a pretty resort town, its ancient ruins, two sandy beaches, numerous shops and extensive tourist accommodation attract throngs of visitors. There are numerous cafes and restaurants with a view of the sea, and the shops that line the narrow streets sell typical Turkish handicrafts including leather goods and Turkey's famous beautiful gold jewelry. The magnificent theater of the ancient city, built on colonnaded arches, is the largest in the whole area. Other monuments include the agora, the Temple of Apollo, which is situated near the sea, a fountain and necropolis. The extensive Roman baths, now a museum, houses one of Turkey's finest archeological collections.

Tucked in pine forests east of Side, the holiday resorts of **Sorgun**, **Titreyen Göl** (Blue Flag) and **Kızılağaç** are popular for their sandy beaches and sparkling sea. The atmosphere is relaxed, the accommodation plentiful and the activities endless.

West of Side, the holiday centers of **Kumköy**, **Çolaklı** and **Kamelya** also offer sun and sea, in close proximity to ancient sites.



Temple of Apollo, Side-Antalya



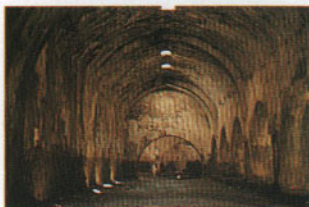
Alanya Castle, Antalya



Manavgat Waterfall, Antalya

At **Seleucia of Pamphlyia (Bucakşihlar)**, 15 km northeast of Side, are the remains (in good condition) of Roman baths, temples, churches, a mausoleum, theatre and agora. One of the most interesting and well known caves in Turkey is located in **Altınbeşik Cave National Park** situated 12 kilometers southeast of **Aydinkent (Ibradı)** and 55 kilometers north of Manavgat. Lakes and interesting rock formations within the cave area as well as travertines and streams make this area especially fascinating. Altınbeşik Cave is situated on the western slopes of the Manavgat River Valley and can be reached via the village of **Ürünlü**, which is an

authentic village and a must-see when travelling through this area.



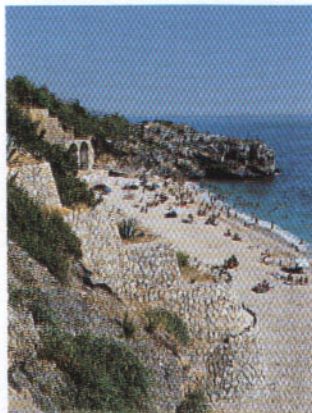
Alarahan, Alanya

The **Alarahan** caravanserai was built by Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubat in 1230 on the banks of the **Alara** River. On the top of a nearby hill the Alara Fortress commands a view of the whole area.

The large and popular resort center of **Alanya** lies at one end of a rocky promontory which juts out into the Mediterranean between two long sandy beaches. A fortress re-

paired by the Seljuks in 1231, one of the most magnificent sights on the coast, crowns the headland. Nearly 150 towers punctuate the walls of the well-preserved, double-walled citadel. Within the outer walls are ruins of mosques, a caravanserai and a covered bazaar, and within the inner walls are a ruined cistern and a Byzantine church. Although Alanya's history dates back to Roman times, it rose to prominence under the Seljuks, when in 1220, Alaeddin Keykubad made it his winter residence and naval base. The surviving buildings reflect the importance of the city in Seljuk times. Besides the impressive citadel, tourists should explore the unique dockyards and the octagonal Kızıl Kule (Red Tower).

Alanya itself is a beautiful holiday center of modern hotels and motels, as well as numerous fish restaurants, cafes and bars. The cafes that ring the harbor have become popular gathering places for tourists. There are also three blue flag beaches. From the town's lovely park, the road runs along the coast to the harbor, lined with countless boutiques that tempt tourists with handicrafts, leather, clothes, jewelry, handbags and the amusing painted gourds that are a symbol of the area. In August, when Alanya hosts a colorful International Folklore Festival the atmosphere is charged with vitality and gaiety.



Ulaş Beach, Alanya



Dim Çayı, Alanya

If you enjoy exploring you should visit the **Damlataş Cave** to see the eerie misshapen rock formations. Nearby is the Archeology and Ethnography Museum (Open weekdays except Monday). A boat can take you to three sea grottoes: **Fosforlu Mağara** with its phosphorescent rocks; the **Kızlar Mağarası**, where pirates imprisoned their female captives; and the **Aşıklar Mağarası**.

When the intense sun overpowers you, take a day trip to the **Dim Çayı Valley**, 15 km east of Alanya, where you can relax in the shade of this scenic valley and listen to the stream rushing by. Thirty km east of Alanya is **Aytap**, the historical harbor city of **Iotape** and a great excursion site with Roman ruins, secluded beaches and bays.

If you travel east from Alanya towards **Gazipaşa** you will discover and, no doubt, linger on the exceptional beaches. The attractive Gazipaşa County was awarded its name by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Near Gazipaşa is **Yalındünya Cave** with many natural water pools. Also discover the **Korsanlar Aşk Mağarası (Pirates' Love Cave)**. The royal graves at **Doğanma** on Mt. Adanda and Mt. Güney are also worth seeing. Near the ancient city of **Solinos** there is a comfortable vacation locale. Be sure not to miss the picturesque Turkish houses at **Hasdere**.

Avsallar (Incekum), about 25 km from Alanya to the west, is a holiday resort center with fine sandy beaches.



Iotape Ancient Harbor, Gazipaşa-Antalya

THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COAST



Kızkalesi, Mersin

Mark Antony gave the lovely Cilician shores between Alanya and the Syrian Border to Cleopatra as a wedding present. Also associated with the region's past is St. Paul, a native of **Tarsus**. Today the region is known for its fertile soil which produces abundant crops, and for the hospitality of the region's denizens.

Surrounded by densely cultivated market gardens, **Mersin**, the provincial center of **İçel**, lies midway on the eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey. Its shady palm-lined avenues, city park and modern hotels create a pleasant ambience from which to visit the nearby historical sites and numerous beaches. A rapidly developing city and the largest free-zone port on the Turkish Mediterranean, Mersin has a regular car ferry service to Gazimagosa (Famagusta) in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. In the fish market, sample the daily catch in one of the se-



veral inexpensive restaurants. Other local delicacies include *cezerye*, a local confection made of carrot rolled around a walnut center, and *biberli ekmek*, a small pizza topped with a spicy meatless sauce. Despite its very modern appearance, Mersin (ancient Zephyrium) occupies the site of an extremely ancient city. It was called Kizuwatna by the Hittites. At the **Yumuktepe** tumulus, three kilometers west of town, continuing excavations have unearthed several successive settlements dating back to 6000 BC to the Neolithic Age. It has also been learned from a letter from the Hittite queen, Puduhepa (1282-1275 BC), to the Ugarite king in Syria, Niqmepa, that the residents of Ura (Hyria) at the head of the Göksu (Calycadnos) River in İçel were engaged in sea trade with the Ugarites. There are remains of various civilizations throughout İçel, but the majority of remains are from the Roman, Byzantine, and Turkish eras.



Kings' Tombs, Mersin



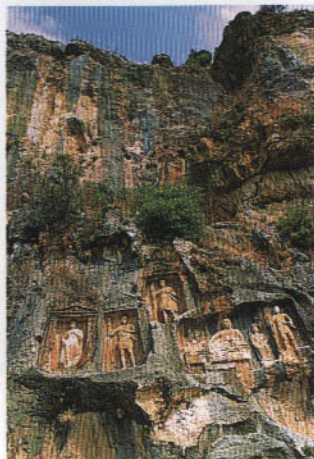
Three Beauties, Narlıkuyu Mosaic Museum, Mersin

FROM MERSİN TO ANAMUR

The road from Mersin to Silifke closely follows the coast, passing pine forests and orange groves. On one side lie the ruins of cities, basilicas and tombs, on the other a series of small secluded coves with sandy beaches. Eleven km west of Mersin is a row of Corinthian columns that once lined the main street of **Viranşehir** (ancient **Pompeiopolis** and **Soloi**), founded in 700 BC by Rhodians. At **Kanlıdivane** are the ruins of ancient **Kanytelis**, with tombs resembling small temples and churches, and sarcophagi dating from Roman and Byzantine times. The city itself and the ruins are all on the sides of a deep chasm.

Kızkalesi, 50 km southwest of Mersin, is a holiday resort and the ancient site of **Korykos**, with fine sandy beaches, motels and camp sites. The 12th century Castle of Korykos on shore faces another fort, Kızkalesi (Maiden's Castle), that stands on a tiny island 200 meters offshore. Formerly a sea wall joined the two fortresses.

Just beyond Kızkalesi, on a bay lined with fish restaurants at the little fishing village of **Narlıkuyu**, is a Roman mosaic called the Three Beauties. Farther on is a naturally formed cave known as **Cennet** (Heaven) 275 meters by 125 meters at the bottom of a



Adam Kayalar
(Human Boulders), Mersin



Chapel at the entrance to the
"Heaven" cave

valley, and a deep chasm called **Cehennem** (Hell). In the Vale of Heaven are the ruins of a temple converted into a Christian chapel in the fifth century. The chasm called hell is 50-75 m wide and 80-120 m deep. Nearby is the deep **Narlıkuyu Cave**, full of stalagmites and stalactites and calcium carbonate. The humid air in the cave reportedly helps those who suffer from respiratory diseases. The Romans carved stairs going down into the cave.

The **Mausoleum of the Fearless King** (**Mezgit Kalesi**) is 12 km north of **Susanöğ-lu Beach** and 2.5 km east of **Paslı Village**. The mausoleum facade is 8 meters high, with Corinthian columns and a 1-meter-high relief of Priapos on the base. It is the largest mausoleum and dates from Roman times.

Slightly inland is **Silifke** (90 km from Mersin) spreading out at the foot of a hill. This piece of high ground crowned with a citadel was formerly the acropolis of ancient **Cilician Seleucia**. In the town a Roman bridge dating to 77 or 78 AD crosses the ancient **Calycadnos River**, today known as the **Göksu**. Ruins of a Roman temple and a 200 AD theater can also be seen. Atatürk once stayed in a local turn-of-the-century house that has



Anamur Castle, Mersin

now been converted into the Ethnography Museum. The Silifke Archeology Museum, on the road to Taşucu, is filled with relics from all over the area. Also located in Silifke are the Aladdin Mosque and the Tevekkül Sultan Shrine. In the Göksu Delta, over 300 species of birds are protected.

In **Demircili** (the ancient **Imbriogon**), north of Silifke on the way to Uzuncaburç, there are well-preserved memorial tombs of the early Roman period.

The drive up the mountain road to the magnificent ancient site of **Diocaesarea (Uzuncaburç)** at 1200 meters is lined with large tombs. The remains of the impressive Temple of Zeus Olbius from the Hellenistic period, the Temple of Tyche, the god of luck, a monumental arch, a theater built between



161-180 AD, a Byzantine church, and a tower are outstanding. Four kilometers to the east are the ruins of **Olba (Ura)** where the Roman aqueducts, theater, and fountain make a quick tour well worthwhile.

Continuing along the coastal road south from Silifke you come to the 5th century **Meryemlik (Ayatekla)**, a Roman necropolis with the tomb and church of St. Thecla, the first female martyr / saint.

Taşucu, with good accommodation for tourists, is a resort town with sandy beaches and a harbor. A regular sea bus and ferry boat service connects the town with Girne in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Ovacık, 44 km west of Taşucu, is a quiet spot well-known for its fisherman's wharf

and beach. The **Peninsula** (ancient **Cavaliere**) of **Ovacık** is one of the natural highlights of Turkey, an ideal area for diving. If this sport interests you, visit **Kösrelik Bay** (**Afrodissias**) and **Kösrelik Island**. Eighteen km southeast of Ovacık off the coast of Kösrelik Bay, you will find Roman ruins and beautiful mosaics. Off **Aydıncık**, to the west of Ovacık, the surrounding sailing waters are clearly marked, ensuring yacht safety along this breathtaking stretch of coast. The shore road that clings to the pine-clad mountain slopes, which plunge steeply down to the sea, offers spectacular views of cliffs, coves and the brilliant turquoise waters of the Mediterranean.

Another 36 km to the west of Aydıncık, **Bozyazı** is a holiday center with clean and roomy camping sites along its wide beaches.

The fine, well-preserved **Anamur Castle**, set between two curving sandy beaches, commands a splendid view of the coastline. Originally built by the Crusaders in the Middle Ages, it later served as an Ottoman stronghold.

Thirteen km from Bozyazı and a few km inland, the town of **Anamur** is nestled in the mountains with banana plantations surrounding it. Just west of town on a beautiful beach are the ruins of ancient **Anamorium** with double ramparts, theater, odeon, bath and necropolis. Situated on terraces above the sea, it is perfect for a climb to the top which overlooks one of the cleanest and most pristine seashores in Turkey.



Uzuncaburç, Silifke, Mersin

TARSUS TO ANTAKYA

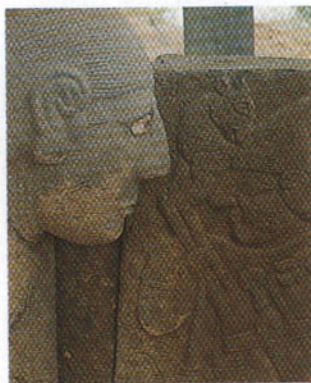
East of Mersin, on the edge of the fertile Çukurova Plain, is **Tarsus**, the birthplace of St. Paul. Of ancient origin, the city was invaded and destroyed on several occasions. In the past, it had served as a capital city. Archeological remains to be seen are some bronze weapons, the Cleopatra Gate through which Mark Antony and Cleopatra passed when they came to Tarsus to meet, a Hittite temple, an ancient church, the Ottoman Ulu Cami, and the Kubat Paşa theological school. Little streams, waterfalls and shady trees at the **Tarsus Falls** on the outskirts of town are an idyllic place to spend an afternoon. The **Karaburçak Park** is perfumed by its groves of eucalyptus trees.

Set in the heart of the **Çukurova (Cilician) Plain**, Turkey's fourth largest city, **Adana** is at the center of a rich agricultural region and a thriving textile industry. The 310-meter-long Taşköprü (Stone Bridge) built by Hadrian and repaired by Justinian spans the **Seyhan River** which bisects the town; only 14 of the bridge's original 21 arches still stand. Of interest in the city are the Ulu Mosque built in 1509, the Eski Mosque, the Hasan Ağa Mosque, the 19th-century clock tower and the old covered bazaar. To be included

in a tour of the city are three museums: the Archeological Museum, which displays locally excavated Hittite and Roman remains; the charming Ethnography Museum; and the Atatürk Culture Museum.

After a day of sightseeing you can sample Adana kebab, a sensational spicy kebab of ground meat. Local beverages include *shalgam*, a drink made from dark turnips, and *shıra*, a type of grape juice.

North of the city, at the **Seyhan Dam and Lake**, are shady walks, quaint tea gardens and restaurants set in a cool place to escape the heat. At sunset, look back toward the city to the peaceful, winding ruby river, lined with twinkling lights.



Karatepe - Aslantaş, Osmaniye

The nearest beaches with accommodation facilities are at **Yumurtalık**, where an ancient harbor castle dominates the picturesque fisherman's wharf, and at **Karataş**. Fishermen will enjoy the scene, and the catch, at **Çamlık Park**.

Off the road from Adana to Iskenderun, near **Yakapınar**, lies **Misis**, a city which derived its wealth from its position on the Silk



Cleopatra Gate, Tarsus



Iskenderun

Road. There are several Roman ruins at the site, including a beautiful fourth-century mosaic pavement depicting Noah's Ark and the animals. Further along the road are the impressive ruins of the **Yılanlıkale** (Şahmeran castle) atop a rocky peak that dominates the **Ceyhan River**. South of Yılanlıkale, in the **Sirkeli** region, a somewhat weathered Hittite relief marks Muvattalish's stop here on his way to Egypt. North of Ceyhan lies the village of **Dilekkaya**, (the ancient **Anavarza**), where you can view the ruins of a Roman-Byzantine city and an impressive castle. The small museum at the site has two particularly fine mosaics from Roman baths. **Osmaniye**, inland from the head of the Gulf of Iskenderun, is the turn-off for two more ancient sites. The road to **Karatepe** takes you to the ancient Roman city of **Castabala**, where a colonnaded street, theater, baths and a fortress on the hill evoke a bygone era. At the **Karatepe National Park**, (a neo-Hittite site), the remains of the summer residence of King Asitawada, tablets bearing Hittite and Phoenician inscriptions which were important in deciphering the Hittite language and an open-air museum with fine bas-reliefs reveal the importance and astonishing aesthetic of this ancient civilization. There are two statues of bulls, and one with a human body and lion's head.

This region was much fought over during the Crusades and the impressive fortress at



**Sokollu Mehmet Paşa
Complex, Payas, Iskenderun**



Anavarza Mosaics, Adana

Toprakale was for a time held by the European armies. Further back in history, Alexander the Great defeated Darius III and the Persian army in 333 BC at the **Plain of Issos (Dörtöyl)**. Today this area is covered with large citrus groves which supply the country with oranges, tangerines and lemons.

At **Yakacık (Payas)**, off the highway that outlines the coast of the Gulf of Iskenderun, the splendid 16th-century Sokollu Mehmet Paşa Complex includes mosque, bath, bazaar, caravanserai and medrese. Other monuments include the Cinkulesi (Tower of Jinns) and a castle.

Iskenderun, formerly **Alexandretta**, was founded by Alexander the Great after his victory over the Persians on the Plain of Issos. Today it is a busy commercial center and port with a fine harbor. Excellent hotels, restaurants and cafes line the sea front surrounded by parks and palm trees. The culinary speciality of Iskenderun is sumptuous prawns. Gourmets should also try both *künefe*, a hot dessert of sweetened shredded wheat filled with melted cheese, and humus, an appetizer of pureed chickpeas, garlic and paprika. Good souvenirs include hand carved wooden tables and chairs and other objects of wood.



St. Pierre (Peter's) Church, Antakya

On the coast south of Iskenderun, the holiday town of **Uluçınar (Arsuz)** has good beaches, hotels, guest-houses and restaurants.

On the way to Antakya, off the main road, is the mountain resort of **Sogukoluk** where you can retreat from the summer blazing sun. After you cross the **Belen Pass**, stop at **Bagras Castle**, which was held at various times by the Byzantines, Mamluks and Crusaders. The castle was originally built to control the route to Arabia. There is a chapel in the castle.



Titus Vespasianus Tunnel
Samandağ, Hatay

Antakya, the biblical city of Antioch, lies on the **Asi River (Orontes)** on a fertile plain surrounded by grand mountains. Once the capital of the Seleucid kings, it was notorious for its wealth and luxury. In Roman times, the city continued to thrive with commerce and culture. It featured prominently in early Christianity where the name "Christian" was first coined.

The Antakya Archeology Museum houses one of the richest collections of Roman mosaics in the world (Open weekdays except Monday). These fantastic mosaics in stone were

uncovered mostly at excavations in Antakya and nearby Daphne. Outside the town is the Grotto of Peter the apostle. In 1963 the church was declared a sacred site by the Vatican. Other places of interest include a bustling bazaar and the Mosque of Habib Neccar.

South of the grotto, the Iron Gate was one of the actual entrances of biblical Antioch. Strolling through the old part of town, you cannot help recalling that Paul, Peter, Barnabas, and others walked these streets, for little has changed since that time. The Castle of Antioch, set high above the city, offers a magnificent view over the city and the plain.

South of Antakya is **Harbiye**, the ancient **Daphne**, where, according to mythology, Apollo tried to make the wood nymph, Daphne, his lover. To escape him, she changed into a laurel tree. The city was a luxurious suburb in Roman times. Covered with orchards, gardens, laurel trees, and waterfalls, this is an excellent place for a good meal. In October, delicious Harbiye dates are in season. Wonderful laurel-scented soap can also be purchased here.

Samandağ, 25 km from Antakya, is a resort town with a pristine beach. **Seleucia Peria (Çevlik)**, north of town, was founded around 300 BC and by the time Paul and Barnabas started on their first missionary



journey from here it was a busy port. The most interesting monument to see is the Tunnel of Titus, built to divert rain water. Even by today's standards it is a tremendous engineering achievement. You should also drive to the Temple of Zeus at **Kapisuyu** village for a spectacular panorama of the ancient harbor, sandy beach and fertile plain.

Two roads lead from Antakya to Syria: the one to the east and Aleppo passes through the frontier town of **Reyhanlı**; the one to the south goes through **Yayladağ** towards Lazkiye, Tripoli and Beirut.



Mosaic, Antakya Archeology Museum



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