THE SOUTH AEGEAN REGION

A highlight to any trip to Turkey is a visit to Efes (Ephesus) once the commercial center of the ancient world.

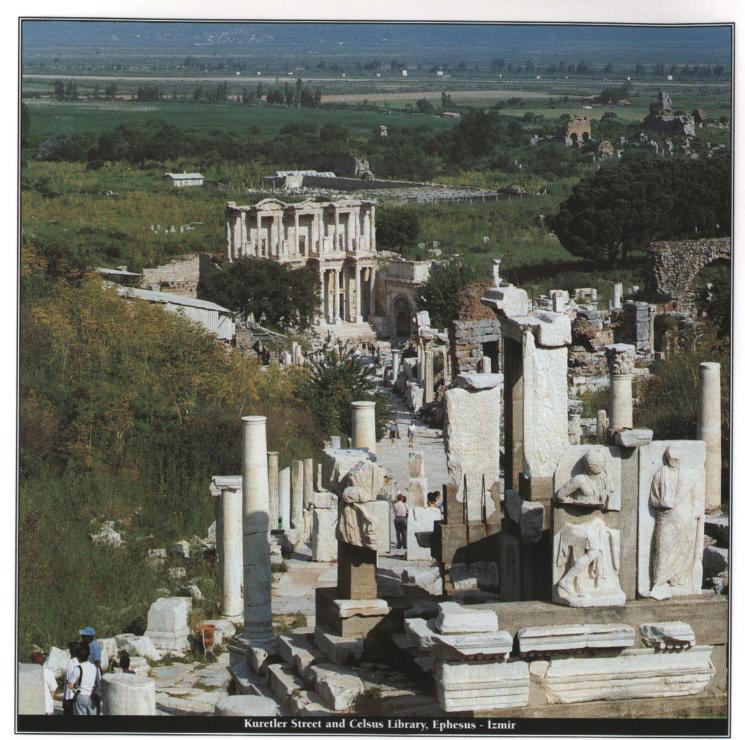
The city, whose wealth and patronage supported its splendid architectural program, was dedicated to the goddess Artemis. Her enormous temple, once considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, was rebuilt several times. The city ruins include a theater, a gymnasium, the agora and baths, as well as the Celsus Library. The earliest artifacts from Ephesus are dated at 3000 BC. After the early civilization of the Carians and Leleks was destroyed by the Kimmerians in the seventh century BC, the area was rebuilt by the Lydian King Croesus. The area was subsequently conquered by the Persian king, Cyrus, and later by the Romans. Ephesus was an important port



Virgin Mary Ephesus-İzmir

city until with the passing of time and erosion, the bay gradually filled with sand. Also, earthquakes damaged the city and by 527 AD it was deserted.

The nearby town of Selçuk is dominated by a Byzantine citadel which stands close to the 6th century basilica of St. John built on what some claim to be the site of the Apostle's tomb. The 14th century Isa Bey Mosque, next to the basilica is accessed through its typical Seljuk portal. The Archeological Museum houses an impressive collection of statues and other finds recovered during the excavations of Ephesus. The nearby Turkish Bath Museum, built in the 16th century, shows





Turkish life at the hamam (bath). The Ephesus International Festival including international singers are held annually.

Tradition has it that St. John brought St.Mary to Ephesus after the death of Christ and that she lived until the age of 101 in a small house (Meryemana Evi) built for her on Bülbüldağı (Mt. Koressos). Now a popular place of pilgrimage for Catholics and Muslims, the house has received the official sanction of the Vatican and a commemoration ceremony is held every year on August 15th. The third church council in 431 was held in the Basi-



St. John's Basilica, Selçuk - İzmir

lica of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus. The Seljuk Turks came to the Selçuk / Ephesus area in 1090. Near Selçuk in Çamlık is a TCDD Open-air Steam Locomotives Museum. Eight km east of Selçuk is Şirince, known for its traditional 19 th-century village houses, some of which have been converted into guest-houses. Wine is produced in this small hillside Turkish village, which itself resembles an open-air museum. Not to be missed are the handcrafts on sale in the village. Eighteen km from Selçuk are wine-houses for tasting the wines.

AYDIN

The city of Aydın enjoys a widespread reputation for its fine figs. Known as Tralleis in ancient times, it was at the center of a celebrated school of sculpture. The remains seen today date from the second century AD although there is evidence of civilization as early as the 14th century BC. After 1186 the town came under Seljuk rule. The local museum displays artifacts from the different periods of its history.

Back along the coast, Kuşadası, or Bird Island, is a lovely port built along the shores of a glittering bay. It's ancient name was Scalanova. The terraced town overlooks the most beautiful inlet of the Aegean and seems to have been created purely for the delight of vacationers. Be sure to visit the famous and popular Kuş shopping center in the Kaleiçi quarter, where there is also nightlong entertainment. And don't miss the Öküzbaşı Mehmetpaşa Caravanserai, now a hotel. The large, modern Setur Marina facilitates life for visiting yachtsmen.



Kuşadası - Aydın

Tusan-Kuştur Beach, north of Kuşadası is one of the cleanest beaches and 23 km south of Kuşadası is the charming holiday-resort town of Güzelçamlı. West of Güzelçamlı and 30 km from Kuşadası, is the Dilek Peninsula National Park, and a visit is a must for those with the time. Here amidst beautiful surroundings there are wonderful views but also some of the rarest wild animals in Turkey, including the Anatolian cheetah and some of Turkey's last wild horses. The park is a wildlife preserve and a haven for many species of animals and birds.

The exquisite Menderes River valley, known in the West as the Meander, has been the cradle of many civilizations. Set amidst pine, olive and oleander trees, the magnificent Çamiçi (Bafa or Latmos) Lake is a lovely place for a stopover. Tourists can choose between guest-houses or campsites. To the east of the lake rise the five peaks of the Beşparmak Mountains. The iconoclastic priests who came here from Constantinople to live built monasteries,



churches, and chapels around the base of the mountains and on the islands in the lake. The ruins of the ancient city of Heraklia lie close to the lake, while the remains of Alinda are found on the eastern slopes of the Besparmak Mountains. The valley has witnessed the rise and fall of several great cities, notably Priene, Miletos, Didyma, Aphrodisias, and Hierapolis. This peaceful national preserve is an excellent place for bird-watchers, hikers, nature-lovers and photographers.

Güllübahçe (Priene) was one of the busiest ports of the Ionian Federation. The grid-like system of streets introduced in the fourth century BC by Hippodamos of Miletos is a superb example of early town planning.

Milet (Miletos), like Priene, was a great Ionian port and the birthplace of several philosophers and sages. The theater justifies a visit as do the Archeology Museum and the well - preserved ruins of the Faustina baths.

Although Didim (Didyma) can only boast a single monument, it is nevertheless a marvelous site. The Temple of Apollo was one of antiquity's most sacred places. Many times looted and burned, the sanctuary still impresses with its elegant be-



Temple of Apollo Didyma - Aydın



Güllübahçe (Priene) Aydın

auty. A double - colonnaded portico surrounds the colossal temple. Not far from the archeological site is the beautiful beach of Altınkum with its many guest houses. Akbūk is another holiday resort in the region with nice beach hotels.

Although the history of Geyre (Aphrodisias) stretches farther back in time, this city dedicated to Aphrodite, the goddess of love and fertility, rose to prominence in the first century BC. Some of the richest treasures of ancient times were uncovered in the excavations here. The public buildings are handsomely adorned with marble that was carved with the skill that produced remarkable temples, monuments, baths, a theater and a magnificent stadium. The reputation of the city's craftsmen for the exquisite finesse of their statuary and marble sculpting spread through the civilized world, and Aphrodisias became the center of the greatest sculpting school of antiquity. Many of its marvelous works of art are now housed in the local museum. The theater and bouleuterion are among the city's best-preserved ruins.

About 35 kilometers east of Aydın is Sultanhisar, host to an Art and Culture Festival every spring. Nearby, in the quiet of the olive trees, are the ruins of ancient Nysa, famous in the second century AD as an educational center.

DENIZLI

Nestled against high mountains near the Büyük Menderes (Meander) River is Denizli. Surrounded by the natural beauty of a lush valley, the area is also rich in culture and history. The Luvians were the first inhabitants, followed centuries later by the Hittites. Throughout centuries, the

fertile plain nourished Phrygians, Lydians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks, and Ottomans. Modern Denizli is a city of wide streets, parks and hotels. The Atatürk Ethnography Museum in the city center displays folk art and ethnic artifacts.

While shopping in the Kaleiçi Çarşısı look for souvenirs of copper, jewelry, towels and silk blouses. You can choose among Çamlık, İncilipinar or Gökpinar Parks for relaxation, a picnic, or simply a walk in the shade of pine trees. The fresh water springs and thermal baths attract many visitors.

A magical and spectacular natural site, unique in the world, Pamukkale (Hierapolis) is a fairyland of dazzling white, calcified castles. Thermal spring waters laden with calcareous salts running off the plateau's edge have created this fantastic formation of stalactites, cataracts and basins. The hot springs have been



Thermal Pool, Pamukkale

used since Roman times for their therapeutic powers. Both the thermal center with its motels and thermal pools, and the ruins of the ancient city of Hierapolis, are situated on the plateau. The 2nd century Roman theater there seats 25,000. Northwest of Pamukkale is the thermal center of Karahayıt, known for the high iron content of its water. Honaz Dağı National Park is 20 km east of Denizli, near the town of Honaz. Mt. Honaz is one of the most beautiful and highest peaks (2528 m) in the Aegean region, covered with a gorgeous alpine forest. On the northern slope is the ancient site of Colossae, but with very few remains.

MUĞLA

The province of Muğla includes the famous holiday cities of Bodrum, Marmaris, Datça, Köyceğiz and Fethiye. Beautiful resorts, comfortable hotels and motels, cozy guest houses, impressive ruins of past civilizations and magnificent landscapes offer vacationers plenty to choose from. Muğla, the province's capital, lies inland and is known for its traditional local architecture. In the village of Özlüce, a veritable open-air museum east of Muğla, is Turolian Park, where you can find very ancient fossils.

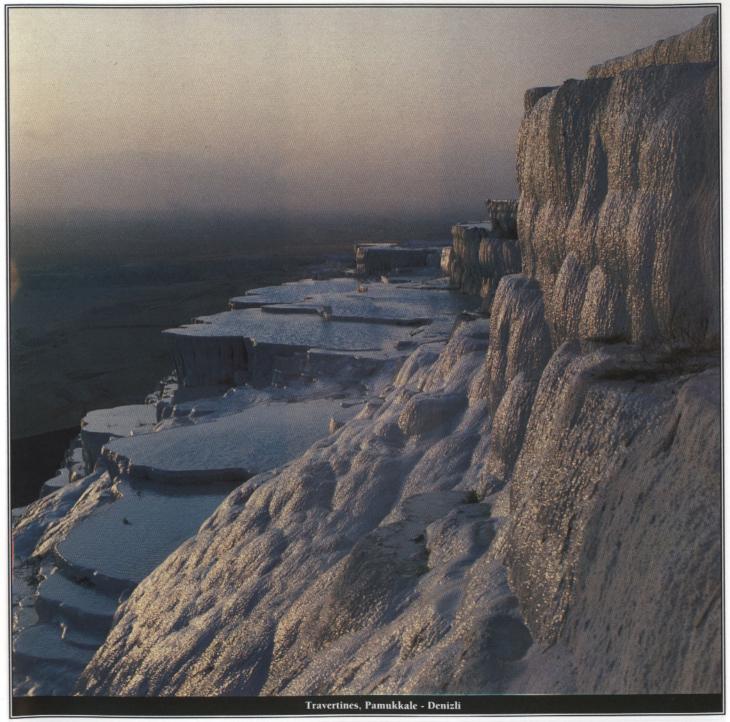
Bodrum, known in ancient times as Halicamassus, was the birthplace of Heredotus and the site of the Tomb of King Mausolus (4th century BC), one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.



Blue beads against evil eye

An impressive medieval castle built by the Knights of Rhodes guards the entrance to Bodrum's dazzling blue bay, where the Aegean and the Mediterranean Seas meet. This Bodrum Castle, or Castle of St. Peter in the harbor is a fine example of 15th-century crusader architecture, and has been converted into the Museum of Underwater Archeology, displaying artifacts dating as far back as the Bronze Age. Also displayed are vases from the 8th and 9th centuries BC. The stunning panoramic view from nearby Göktepe is much photographed by visitors to the Museum's second - century theater. There is also a hamam (Turkish bath) museum in Bodrum dating from the early 1900s.

The town's charm is well-known, attracting





a wide variety of vacationers who stroll along its long, palm-lined waterfront, while elegant yachts crowd the marina.

Not far from town, you can swim in absolutely clear, tideless, warm seas. Underwater divers will want to explore the numerous reefs, caves and majestic rock formations. The waters offer up multicolored sponges of all shapes and sizes, along with octopi and an immense variety of other aquatic life.

Although the reputation of Bodrum's boat yards dates back to ancient times, today craftsmen still build the traditional yachts: the *tirhandil* with a pointed bow and stern, and the *gulette* with a broad beam and rounded stern. The latter are frequently used on excursions and pleasure trips, as well as in the annual October Bodrum Cup Race.

The yearly throng of visitors has encouraged small entrepreneurs to make shopping in Bodrum a delight. Leather goods of all kinds, natural sponges and the local blue glass beads are among the bargains to be found in the friendly little shops along the narrow, white-walled streets. Charming boutiques offer kilims, carpets, sandals and embroidery as well as original fashions in soft cotton.

Bodrum has gained the reputation of being the center of the Turkish art community with its lively, friendly and Bohemian atmosphere and many small galleries. This community has encouraged an informal daytime lifestyle and a nighttime of excitement. The evenings in Bodrum are for sitting idly in one of the many restaurants, dining on fresh seafood and other Aegean specialties.



Windmill, Bodrum-Muğla



Yacht Races, Bodrum - Muğla

Afterwards, night clubs (some with cabaret) and superb discos keep you going until dawn. The beautiful Bodrum Peninsula suits holiday makers interested in a subdued and relaxing atmosphere. Enchanting villages, with guesthouses and small hotels on quiet bays, dot the peninsula. On the southern coast, Bardakçı, Gümbet, Bitez, Aktur, Ortakent Yalısı, Karaincir, Bağla and Akyarlar have fine, sandy beaches (Bitez, Ortakent and Aktur are blue-flag beaches). Campers and windsurfers enjoy Gümbet, and at Bitez colorful sailboards weave skillfully among the masts of yachts in the bay. On shore you can enjoy quiet walks through the orange and tangerine groves bordering the beach. Ortakent has one of the longest stretches of sandy beach in the area and offers an ideal place for relaxing in solitude. One of the most beautiful beaches on the Bodrum peninsula is Karaincir, ideal for lively active days by the sea and relaxed, leisurely evenings with local villagers. Finally, Akyarlar enjoys a well-deserved reputation for the fine, powdery sand of its beach.

Turgutreis, Gümüşlük and Yalıkavak, all with excellent beaches, lie on the western side of the peninsula and are ideal for swimming, sunbathing and water sports. Gümüşlük Beach is a blue-flag beach. Turgutreis was named for the great Turkish admiral who was born there. In the ancient port of Myndos (Gümüşlük) you can easily make many friends with the hospitable and outgoing local population. In Yalıkavak, white - washed houses with casçading bougainvillaea line narrow streets. Small cafes and the occasional windmill create





a picturesque setting.

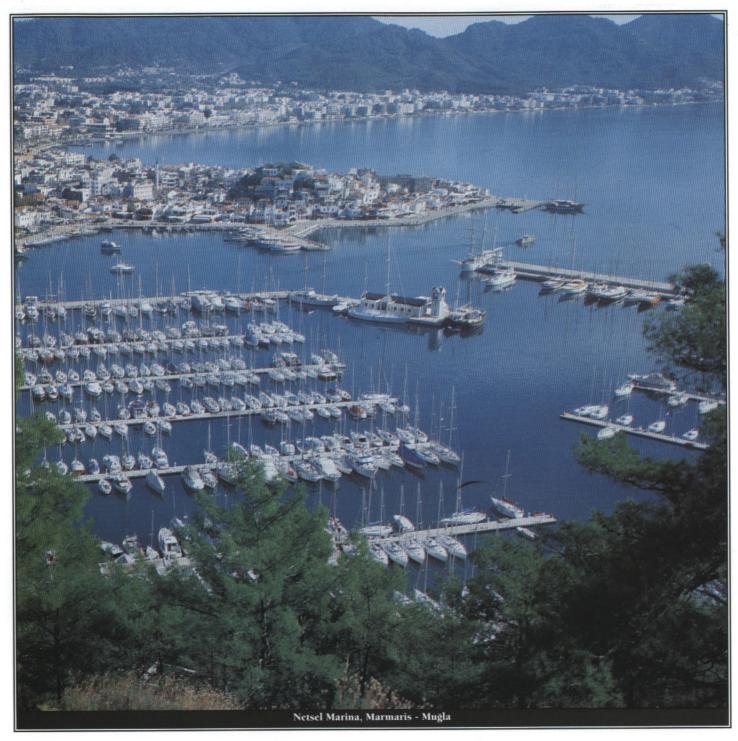
Though you can see the north coast of the peninsula and Torba, Türkbükü, Gölköy and Gündoğan by road, it is even better to hire a boat and crew to explore the quiet coves, citrus groves and wooded islands. Little windmills which still provide the energy to grind grain crown hills covered with olive trees. Torba, a modern village with holiday villas and a nice marina is located 8 km north of Bodrum. Gölköy and Türkbükü are small and simple fishing villages with a handful of taverns overlooking a lovely bay.

Half an hour from Bodrum by boat you can bathe in the grotto at Karaada where the warm mineral waters flowing out of the rocks are believed to beautify the complexion.

The deep, translucent waters of the Gulf of Gökova, off the southern shore of the Bodrum peninsula vary in color from the darkest blue to the palest turquoise, while the coastline is covered in every hue of green. In the evening, the sea reflects the mountains silhouetted against the setting sun, and at night it shimmers with phosphorescence. You can take a yacht tour or hire a boat from Bodrum for tour of the gulf lasting from two days to a week.

The Gulf of Güllük, and harbor of the same name, lie north of the Bodrum peninsula on the Aegean. The mythological Dolphin Boy is said to have been born a little farther to the north at Kıyıkışlacık (Iassos). South of Güllük, Varvil, ancient Bargilya, sits at the end of a deep narrow





inlet surrounded by olive-covered hillsides.

Inland from Güllük is Milas (Mylasa) known for its beautiful carpets with a century-old tradition. The weavers rarely mind a visitor watching them at work. Plenty of old Turkish houses with carved timbers and latticed windows provide examples of the architectural style. At Gümüşkesen, west of the city is a memorial tomb, thought to be a small replica of the famous Halicarnassus Mausoleum.

The ancients built Labranda, a sanctuary dedicated to Zeus, high in the mountains. Today tourists have rediscovered this mountain retreat and escape to its exhilarating air and breathtaking scenery.

Situated on a bay, backed by rugged pine-clad mountains, Marmaris is one of the most attractive maritime parklands, ideal for water sports and sailing. It makes an excellent starting point for the "Blue Voyage" tour of the Aegean coastline. In May, the Marmaris Yacht Charter Show provides an opportunity to meet the yacht captains and crews. With plenty of provisions aboard you set sail in the craft of your choice and languidly explore the spectacular beauty of southern Turkey. While in Marmaris, sample the typical Turkish cuisine in one of the marina restaurants and drink the national alcoholic beverage, rakı, made from anisette, the traditional Turkish way, over ice and diluted with water. Later stroll along the brightly lit and palm - lined promenade and indulge yourself at one of the ice cream vendors. Energetic entertainment at a lively bar or dancing until dawn at a sophisticated disco can end a perfect day.

There are many good buys in Marmaris boutiques, colorful bazaars and markets. You can find ex-



Milas Carpets Muğla

cellent leather and suede goods, copper and brassware, jewelry and objects carved of onyx. Turkish carpets, textiles and embroidery make good handcrafted souvenirs, and the locally produced pine-scented honey called *çam balı* is superb.

Ancient Marmaris, Physkos, was an important stage on the Anatolia-Rhodes-Egypt trade route. In the 16th century Süleyman the Magnificent had a citadel built there, the remains of which can still be seen today.

Swimmers should not miss Atatürk Park, to the east of Marmaris, where a shallow beach, extending to the bay leads to safe waters. The clear sea is warm enough for swimming from early May until late September. Marmaris also has horseback riding and tennis centers for the sports enthusiast. This is one of the few places in the world where you can delight in the heady aroma of the frankincense tree. Weekly ferry lines run between Marmaris and Venice during the summer season.



Marmaris Castle - Muğla

Near Marmaris, at Içmeler, the hazy mountains of the interior slope down to sandy beaches. Under blue skies, the clear sea is ideal for all types of water sports. Many find this area so irresistible that they stay longer than originally planned. And there are some excellent accommodations here, in which you can prolong your contact with nature. As you drive down from the high mountains into the village of Turunc, the scene opens out onto the spectacular blue waters beyond the natural harbor. The village itself is small and scattered around the bay. Most of the restaurants border the beach. A few bars and restaurants farther back from the water's edge offer fresh fish and superb views.

Kumlubūk, a turquoise paradise, lies on the southern side of the bay. On the northern side, above the water, stands the ancient Rhodian city of Amos. At the tip of the Bozburun Peninsula is Loryma, where the ruins of the ancient harbor and castle can only be reached by boat. Natural quiet bays and scattered islands punctuate the northern shore of the peninsula, ideal for those who want to get away from it all.

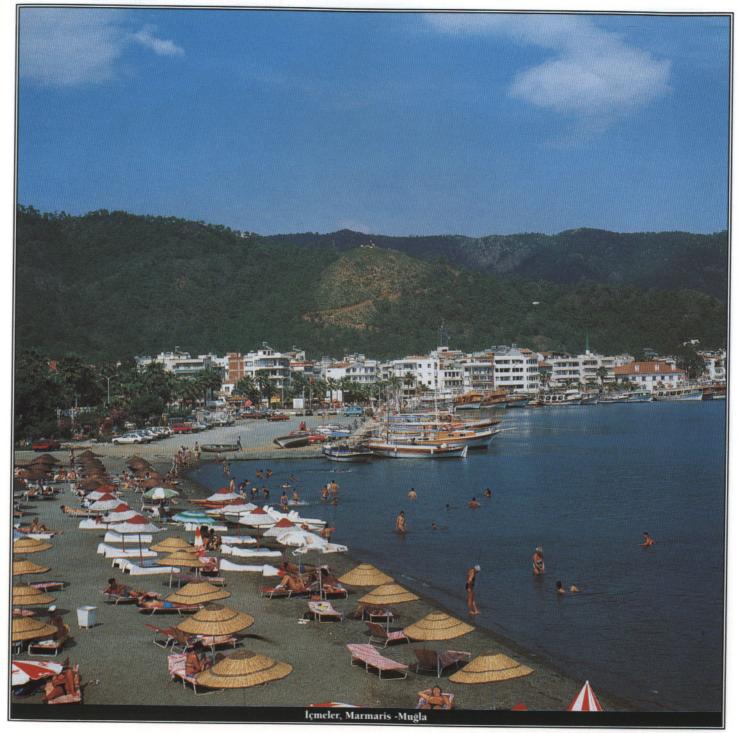
Sedir Island, in the Gulf of Gökova, is the ancient Cedrai. Its old city walls, theater and temples can be visited by driving from Marmaris north to Gelibolu Bay and then crossing by boat. This voyage also offers an unforgettable panoramic view of the mountain scenery across the bay. At the head of the gulf is the village of Gökova whose ho-

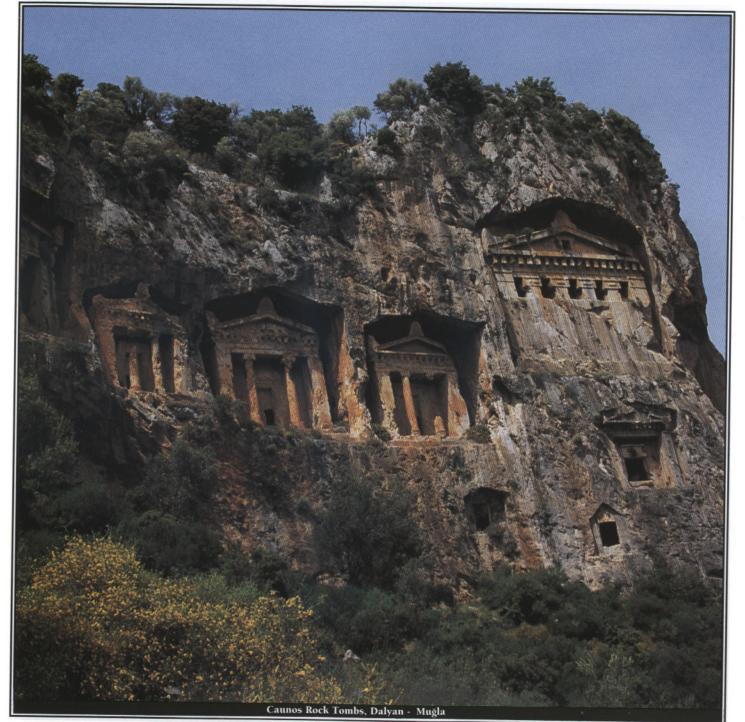




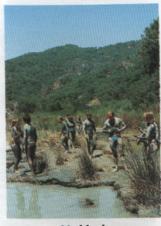
uses seem to cascade down the mountainside of Mt. Kıran. Restaurants built over bubbling, freshwater streams that fall from the highlands create an unforgettable setting. The towering pines and cooling breezes of Gökova Park are a welcome respite from the hot sun.

The Datça Peninsula provides a natural boundary between the Aegean Sea and the Gulf of Gökova to the north, and the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Hisaronii to the south. Along the 75 km from Marmaris to Datça, the road winds among trees and hills, permitting lovely views over the expanse of blue. Campers have many perfect settings to choose from and the less adventurous can stay in one of the many comfortable holiday villages. The beautiful blue-flag Aktur beach is 25 km from Datca. In Datça white-washed buildings hung with bougainvillaea decorate the town. The marina is on the southern bay, while swimmers prefer the northern bay. Around the marina bars, cases and a wide selection of shops keep the tourist from getting bored. Some shops remain open well into the evening. Relaxing over a pre-dinner drink and then a delicious meal in an inviting restaurant is a popular way to spend the evening hours. Of course, the local eateries offer both fresh fish and classical Turkish cuisine. With any remaining energy, take a stroll and find a disco to your liking to while away the time until the early morning hours. Ten km north of Paca, Körmen Harbor is connected to Bodrum by a daily ferry line.





As you travel out of Datça, either by road or by boat, you will find unspoilt bays and golden sandy beaches. Kargi is one of the most popular. At the end of the peninsula, 38 km from Datça, stands the ancient Carian city of Knidos, described by Strabo as "a city that was built for the most beautiful of goddesses, Aphrodite, on the most beautiful of peninsulas." (Earlier in history Datça itself was also called Knidos). The city which was famous as a center of art and culture in the fourth century BC had two harbors, one on the Aegean and the other on the Mediterranean. The remains of a circular temple dedicated to the goddess of love overlook the two harbors; the arcaded way was built of



Mud bath Dalyan - Muğla



Dalyan Channels, Mugia

white marble, heart - shaped columns. The legendary Aphrodite statue by Praxiteles was one of the most beautiful sculptures of antiquity and once graced this temple.

The town of Köyceğiz lies at the northern end of the lake of the same name and is joined to the Mediterranean by a natural channel. This unique environment is a nature and wildlife sanctuary. A road shaded with aromatic frankincense trees leads to the tiny village of Dalyan on the inland waterway. The maze of channels is easily explored by boat as you explore this tranquil dream world. The restaurants which line the waterways specialize in delicious fresh fish. High on the cliff face, above the fascinating ancient harbor city of Caunos, are magnificent tombs that were carved into the rock. The Dalyan Delta, with the long, golden Iztuzu sandy beach at its mouth, is a nature conservation area and a refuge for sea turtles (Caretta caretta) and blue crabs.

At Ekincik, a delightful yacht mooring, you can enjoy the breathtaking beauty of this area. Only a half hour's drive from Dalaman Airport, Sangerme has wonderful sandy beaches, and a pleasant holiday village discreetly situated in a pine forest. The Dalaman River is the best for rafting, the best time for rafting being from May to October.



Caretta Caretta

The road to Fethiye winds up and down hills through a heavily forested region that offers occasional glimpses of the sea and an islet or two basking in total seclusion. The Gulf of Göcek and its friendly marina is one of the Mediterranean's best sailing spots. Dotted with islands and indented with many coves, its land and seascapes are irresistible. The ruins of Arymaxa, an ancient city at the southern tip of the gulf, lie at the edge of the azure waters. Opposite, on Tersane Island, stand Byzantine ruins, including those of the ancient shipyards.

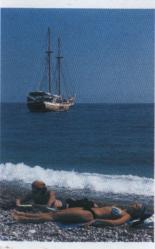
At the popular resort Fethiye, 135 km southeast of Marmaris, is a major marina at the head of a beautiful bay strewn with islands. A hill crowned by the ruins of a crusader fortress built by the Knights of Rhodes overlooks the little port. Above the ancient town of Telmessos, numerous Lycian rock tombs, reproducing the facades of ancient buildings, were cut into the cliff face. The Tomb of Amyntas, which probably dates from the fourth century BC is the most remarkable.

Swimmers head for the popular Çalış Beach, four kilometers west of town, or to Şövalye Island, opposite the harbor, which blazes with flowers in the spring.

The road to Belceğiz Bay takes you through mountains where cozy guest houses cater to those seeking mountain scenery. Ocakköy is the mountain village mat is a must see. Stay in one of the lovely guest houses and enjoy the numerous hiking possibilities. Hisarōnū, also in the mountains, has very nice hotels.



Harpy Monument and Xanthos Theatre, Antalya

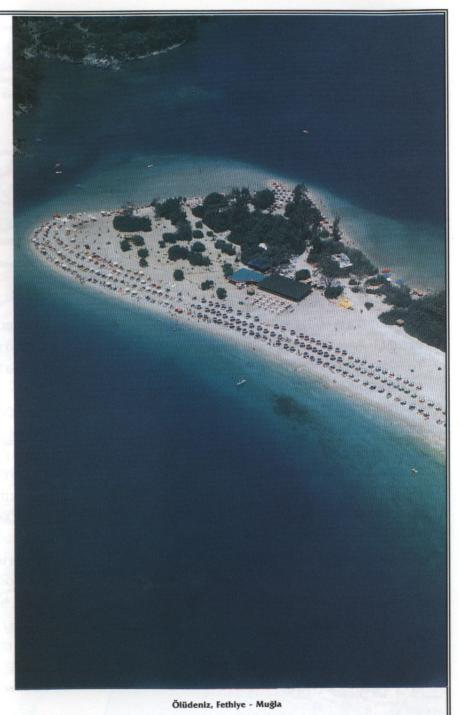


Relaxing at the coast

Four km from Hisarōnū, Kayaköy is a picturesque ghost town of old houses and churches. Explore the bay and the beautiful Blue Lagoon (Ölū Deniz) where the calm, crystal clear water is ideal for swimming and other water sports. The Blue Lagoon is one of the best places in the world to do absolutely nothing except soak up the sun amid stunning natural surroundings. At Mt. Baba (1,969 m), you can paraglide into the Lagoon. For those seeking accommodations or other facilities, Belceğiz beach is recommended. Intoxicating scenery surrounds the beach and shady park at Kıdırak.On Gemiler Island (St. Nicholas' Island), Byzantine ruins lie tucked among the pines.

South of Kıdırak beach, Kötürümsü Bay is reachable only by boat. Beyond the idyllic beach, a forest, waterfalls and a valley filled with hundreds of varieties of butterflies await the explorer. High in the mountains above Fethiye a rushing torrent cuts a narrow gorge through the mountains, creating Saklıkent (Hidden City) located 44 km south of Fethiye. A cool refuge on hot summer days, Saklıkent is a favorite picnic spot, with rustic restaurants serving delectable fresh trout. Yakakōy (Tlos), 36 km southeast of Fethiye, is the oldest city in the Lycian region and home of the Lycian hero Bellerophon. Visitors can see the remains of a castle, agora, necropolis, theater, Roman baths and a good view of Eşen Valley. Two km east of the villages is Tlos Park, ideal for picnicking. Pınara, 49 km south of Fethiye, is another ancient mountain city ideal for hiking where visitors can see the remains of a theater. agora, rock tomb, and baths.

About 65 km from Fethiye, to the southeast, near Kınık, are the ruins of Xanthos, an important Lycian capital in a splendid natural setting. Letoon, nearby, was formerly an important religious cult center where three temples dedicated to Leto, Artemis and Apollo stood in ancient times.



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