

THE AEGEAN COAST

The Aegean shores of Turkey are among the loveliest landscapes in the country. The magnificent coastline, lapped by the clear water of the Aegean Sea, abounds in vast and pristine beaches surrounded by olive groves, rocky crags and pine woods.

Whether you prefer idyllic fishing harbours, popular holiday villages or the remains of ancient civilizations attesting to more than 5,000 years of history, culture and mythology, this region offers a holiday with something for everyone -



Bird Paradise, Izmir

nature lovers, sun worshippers, photographers, sports enthusiasts, sailors and archeologists. Along the whole length of the coast, accommodation to suit every taste and price range can be found.



Yachting in Fethiye - Muğla

İZMİR - HOMETOWN OF HOMER

Known in Turkish as "Beautiful İzmir" the city lies at the head of a long and narrow gulf furrowed by ships and yachts. The climate is mild and in the summer the constant and refreshing sea breezes temper the sun's heat. Behind the palm-lined promenades and avenues which follow the shoreline, the city, in horizontal terraces, gently ascends the slopes of the surrounding mountains. İzmir is the third largest city in Turkey and its port is second only to Istanbul. A cosmopolitan and lively city all year round, İzmir bursts with an added vibrancy during the International Arts Festival (June/July) and the International Fair (August/Sept).

The original city was established in the third millennium B.C. (at present day Bayraklı), at which time it shared with Troy the most advanced culture in Western Anatolia. By 1500 B.C. it had fallen under the influence of the Central



Folk Dancer in Regional Dress

Anatolian Hittite Empire. In the first millennium B.C. İzmir, then known as Smyrna, ranked as one of the most important cities of the Ionian Federation. During this period, one of the city's most brilliant, it is believed that Homer resided here. Lydian conquest of the city, around 600 B.C., brought this period to an end. İzmir remained little more than a village throughout the Lydian and subsequent sixth-century B.C. Persian rule. In the fourth century B.C. a new city was built on the slopes of Mt. Pagos (Kadifekale) during the reign of Alexander the Great. İzmir's Roman period, beginning in the first century B.C., was its second great era. Byzantine rule followed in the fourth century and lasted until the Seljuk conquest in the 11th century. In 1415, under Sultan Mehmet Çelebi, İzmir became part of the Ottoman Empire.

PLACES OF INTEREST

MUSEUMS

The **Archeological Museum**, near Konak Square, houses a superb collection of antiquities including the statues of Poseidon and Demeter which, in ancient times, stood in the Agora. (Closed on Mondays)

Next to the Archeology Museum, the **Ethnography Museum** contains folkloric



Poseidon and Demeter
İzmir Archeology Museum

artifacts, which include a fine collection of Bergama and Gördes carpets, traditional costumes and camel bridles. (Closed on Mondays)

The **Atatürk Museum** is situated on Atatürk Caddesi in an old İzmir house used by the founder of the Turkish Republic. It



Izmir Clock Tower



Kızlarağası Inn, İzmir

exhibits photographs of the leader as well as some of his personal effects. (Closed on Mondays)

The **Fine Arts Museum**, located in Konak, displays the works of famous Turkish painters. (Closed on Mondays)

The Selçuk Yaşar Art Museum is a private museum on Cumhuriyet Bulvarı with a collection of 20th-century Turkish art. (Closed on Sundays)



River god, Kaistros
Izmir Archeology Museum

The **Natural History Museum** in Bornova acts as a natural reserve of the Aegean Region landscapes' historical preservation. (Closed on Sundays)

The **Ödemiş Archeological Museum** is about 60 km east of Izmir and displays regional artifacts. (Closed on weekends)

The **Tire Archeological Museum** is about 50 km east of Izmir. (Closed on weekends)

HISTORICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS

The excavations at **Bayraklı** have unearthed a temple dedicated to Athena and the wall of the Ionian city which flourished there between the seventh and fifth centuries B.C. Pottery dating back to the third millennium B.C. has also been uncovered.

On **Kadifekale (Mt. Pagos)** stands the impressive ruins of a castle and its walls which were built by Lysimachus in the reign of Alexander the Great, and which still dominate Izmir today. The castle offers an excellent vantage point to enjoy a magnificent view of the Gulf of Izmir.

The **Agora**, or marketplace, in the Namazgah Quarter was originally constructed during the rule of Alexander the Great. What remains today, however, dates from the rebuilding under Marcus Aurelius after a devastating earthquake in 178 A.D.



Atatürk Memorial in
Cumhuriyet Square, Izmir

The **Şirinyer and Yeşildere Aqueducts**, two examples of Roman engineering spanning the Meles River, supplied Izmir's water throughout the Byzantine and Ottoman eras.

The **Saint Polycarp Church** is the oldest church in Izmir and symbolizes the Seven Churches of the Apocalypse. Saint Polycarp was martyred at age 86 in A.D. 155 at Kadifekale by the Romans. According to tradition, when they tried to burn him at the stake the flames wouldn't touch him so they finally stabbed him to death. The church was reconstructed in 1620.

The **Kızlaragaşı Han (Inn)**, a fine example of 18th-century Ottoman architecture of the period, is being restored to its former glory.

The symbol of Izmir, the **Saat Kulesi**, or Clock Tower, stands in the heart of the city



MOSQUES

Dario Moreno Street

at Konak Square. It was a gift from Sultan Abdülhamid, and was built in 1901 in an elaborately decorated late-Ottoman style.

The old **Asansör quarter**, filled with old restored houses, is also known as the Jewish quarter. **Dario Moreno Sokağı** is the main pedestrian street to the **Asansör** itself, which is an elevator that was built in the 19th century. At fifty-one meters in height, it provides access between the lower and upper streets. Situated on the upper side, the Asansör restaurant offers a beautiful view of Izmir.

If you find yourself on **Havra Sokak** in **Kemeraltı**, be sure to notice the old buildings and synagogues. **Alsancak (Punta)**, with traditionally restored houses, has been converted into a pedestrian promenade with bars, cafes and restaurants.

In the center of Cumhuriyet Meydanı, or Republic

Square, is the **Atatürk Monument**, an impressive statue of Atatürk sitting on a horse and facing the sea. Erected in 1933, the monument commemorates the liberation of the city by Turkish forces.

The Flying Dolphins, in Karşıyaka, is a monument that symbolizes friendship and brotherhood.

MOSQUES

Hisar Mosque is the largest and oldest in Izmir. Built in the 16th century, and restored in the 19th century, it has a delightful interior with an interesting mimber (pulpit) and mihrab (niche showing the direction to Mecca).

Other mosques in Izmir are **Salepçioğlu** (20th-century), **Şadırvan** (17th-century with 19th-century restorations) and **Kemeraltı** (17th-century). All these are situated close to the Kemeraltı Quarter.



Yalı Mosque in Konak



Asansör Terrace, İzmir



Horse-drawn Carriage Tour, Kordon, Izmir

PARKS

Kültürpark, the main park of the city, offers a variety of activities. It is the site for the International Izmir Fair and contains an amusement park, zoo, restaurant and quiet gardens.

Olof Palme Park, situated in Karşıyaka, is a relaxing place to stop. It also has sports facilities. Karşıyaka is ancient Cordelia.

Next door, the **Adnan Saygun Park**, a center for artistic activities, contains an amphitheatre for concerts and theatrical

productions, as well as the Open-Air Museum Park, which has statues scattered throughout the grounds.

İnsan Hakları (Human Rights) Park has lovely modern statues, including the huge Flying Dolphins Monument.

Muammer Aksoy Park is a lovely sea-side park with a nice view of Izmir Bay. Turgut Özal Recreation Park, located in Bayraklı, offers a number of recreational and sports activities.

ART, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT



For many years Izmir has enjoyed a reputation as a cosmopolitan city of culture. The **Izmir Cultural Center** hosts opera and ballet performances as well as musical concerts. The city is home to the **Aegean Philharmonic Orchestra** and boasts a thriving theatrical community. During the annual Izmir International Festival, inter-



national and local artists perform at various venues in the city and surrounding area, including the theatre at Ephesus. Take a horse-drawn carriage along the promenade during the day and afterwards spend the evening in the lively atmosphere of the bars and cafes around **Kordonboyu**, **Passport Pier** and **Karşıyaka**.

SHOPPING

In the streets of the **Kemeraltı Market** area, it is possible to find fascinating antiques, both fine and fun jewelry, a great variety of clothing, and the dried figs and raisins for which Izmir is famous. The fish restaurants in this colorful area



serve up the local specialities of *trança* and *çipura*, two types of sea bream. The best modern and most elegant shops are lined on the Kordon Promenades in **Alsancak** and **Karşıyaka** and on **Cumhuriyet Avenue** and in **Passport**.

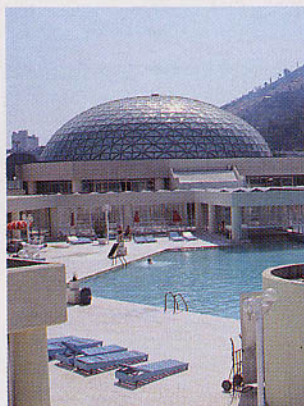
PLACES OUTSIDE İZMİR

Balçova, on the road to Çeşme, is one of Turkey's largest thermal spas, with excellent facilities for guests.

Çamaltı, 15 km west of Karşıyaka, is an area of coastal marshes and salt fields that is preserved as an important bird sanctuary - the **Izmir Bird Paradise**. Enthusiasts can spot many species, including flamingoes and pelicans.

The **Yamanlar Çamlığı**, a pine forest near the lovely Lake **Karagöl** 40 km northeast of Karşıyaka, is a popular picnic spot that also has restaurants and a swimming pool.

A Hittite bas-relief is carved into the rock at **Kemalpaşa** (20 km from Izmir) in the **Karabel Pass**.



Hot Spring, Balçova, Izmir

Belkahve, the highest point above Izmir, overlooks the Gulf of Izmir and is a relaxing spot to enjoy a cup of Turkish coffee. Formerly a favorite haunt of Atatürk's, it is now the site of the largest statue in his honor. In the village of **Birgi** is the Çakır Ağa Mansion, a fine example of traditional Turkish architecture.

The cities of the **Seven Churches of the Apocalypse**, mentioned by St. John in the Book of Revelation, are all found in Turkey: **Efes** (Ephesus), **Izmir** (Smyrna), **Bergama** (Pergamum), **Akhisar** (Thyatira), **Sart** (Sardis), **Alaşehir** (Philadelphia), and **Eskihisar** (Laodicea). Tours of one to four days can be arranged to see several or all of the churches.



Celsus Library, Ephesus, İzmir



Çeşme Castle, Izmir

The **Çeşme Peninsula**, lapped by the waters of the Aegean Sea, lies west of İzmir. The name "Çeşme" meaning fountain, refers to the many springs found in the area during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is one of Turkey's most beautiful coastal stretches surrounded by clear blue sea, with a landscape of aniseed, sesame and artichoke fields dotted with fig and gum trees. In the unspoiled bays you can swim in absolute peace. Visitors will find excellent holiday accommodation, restaurants, and sports and entertainment facilities. A 14th-century Genoese fortress, restored and enlarged by the Ottomans in the 16th century, dominates the small port of Çeşme, 80 km from İzmir. Today the town is a popular holiday resort with excellent accommodation and restaurants. The 16th-century caravanserai near the fortress, built by Süleyman the Magnificent, has been converted into a hotel, while the 19th-century Church of Hagios Haralambos has been restored as the Emir Çaka Art Gallery. Thermal baths offer a health-oriented escape from modern life. Excellent shopping for the finest quality carpets, leather goods, as well as souvenir items is also possible. At night, a lively, fun atmosphere pervades the town, especially in the restaurants, cafes, bars and discos along the promenade. Çeşme hosts an annual International Song Contest in the summer. Yachts can be hired to explore the peninsula's splendid coastline. Also, ferries make the run from Çeşme to Venice on a weekly basis.

The very popular holiday center of **İlica** boasts an excellent white sandy beach and the outstanding facilities of the **Altın Yunus Marina and Holiday Complex**. The bay here is ideal for water sports,



Altın Yunus Facilities, İzmir



Çeşme Beach, İzmir

especially windsurfing and sailing. The thermal baths around İlica are very popular, the best being located on **Şifne Bay. Paşa Limanı (Pasha Harbor)** also has a campsite which offers comfortable facilities. In İlica Bay, the colorful International Çakabey Optimist Yacht race is held every year in July.

İldırı, a quiet seaside village 20 km northeast of Çeşme, was ancient **Erythrai**. Those who climb up to the Acropolis at dusk are rewarded with a beautiful sunset over the bay and islands. Nearby **Gerence Gulf** is a pristine inlet northeast of the Çeşme Peninsula which can be reached by yacht or car. The natural surroundings are relaxing while the bay is ideal for water sports. In **Dalyan**, a fishing village built on a sheltered deep water inlet just north of Çeşme, some of the region's best fish restaurants border the quay of the lively marina.

Tourists are attracted by the variety of accommodations at **Çiftlik** and by a long, sandy beach (**Pırlanta Plaj**), just outside the town to the southwest. Tursite camping facilities are available to the south, and nearby is one of the area's best beaches, the **Altınkum Plaj** (Golden Sand Beach).

Windmills, some of which have been converted into attractive restaurants, dot the hill above **Alaçatı**, a delightful and typical Aegean town. Alaçatı lies to the south inland from İlica and the coast. A couple kilometers to the south is a good beach. Many lovely bays along the coast south-east of the town are accessible only by yacht, ensuring peaceful and relaxing anchorage in this popular sailing region. Known in ancient times as **Clazomenae**,

Urla İskelesi offers a marina as well as plentiful accommodation in all price ranges. Restaurants on the top of **Güvendik** hill afford a marvelous view of the bay and its islands.

The prosperous little fishing village of **Çeşmealtı** is notable for its simple yet excellent fish restaurants.

As you drive along the panoramic coastal road of Karaburun Peninsula you pass several peaceful bays and quaint fishing villages: **Balıkhova**, **Mordoğan** and **Karaburun** among others. At Karaburun, pleasant hotels, tea gardens and fish restaurants sit between the beautiful mountain backdrop and the clear, clean water. From Manastır Mountain, you can enjoy an unforgettable view of the Karaburun coast, the Foça coastline opposite, and the entrance to the Gulf of İzmir. On the southern side of the Çeşme Peninsula, near the town of **Seferihisar**,



Siren Boulders
Foça, İzmir

is the small picturesque marina of **Sığacık**. This important yachting center is surrounded by fortifications dating from the Genoese period and is a good point from which to visit the Temple of Dionysus at the ancient site of **Teos** as well as lovely **Akkum beach**.

South of Akkum, the New Neptune Holiday Village has windsurfing and diving schools and it is the best area for these sports. Also in the Torbalı area, between the villages of Özbeyköy and Yeniköy lie the ruins of an ancient metropolis.

Gümüldür has excellent tourist facilities - beautiful beaches, restaurants and hotels. Near **Ahmetbeyli (Claros)** to the east, stands the Apollo Temple and the remains of the colossal statue of Apollo. Here you can also enjoy a good fish dinner or a swim at the town's wide beach. A winding panoramic coastal road leads from Ahmetbeyli south to **Pamucak** beach.

THE NORTH AEGEAN

The ancient **Phocaea**, **Foça**, once formed part of the Ionian Federation. Today it is a modern lively holiday town on two deep bays. The pleasant accommodations, clean beaches and inviting restaurants make it an attractive holiday spot. Those seeking the perfect tan can find it on the natural rock terraces of the **Siren Islands**.

Bergama (Pergamum or Pergamon), once a great center of culture, survives as one of Turkey's finest archeological sites. In the Acropolis, above the modern town, are the remains of the celebrated library, a steep and



Serapis Temple
Pergamum, İzmir

impressive theatre, the temples of Trajan and Dionysus, the monumental altar of Zeus, the sanctuary of Demeter, a gymnasium laid out on three terraces and the Agora. The Asclepion, located to the southwest of the lower city, was a sanctuary dedicated to the god of health, Asclepius. In town is the Archeological and Ethnographical Museum and nearby is the site of a temple dedicated to Serapis, the god of the lower world who was also worshiped in Egypt as Osiris. The temple was subsequently converted by the Byzantines into a basilica.

Dikili, frequented by cruise liners bringing visitors to Pergamon, is Bergama's harbor town set in a relaxing atmosphere with many pleasant restaurants lining the Kordon Promenade. Stop at the little port of **Çandarlı**, the ancient **Pitane**, to see the Genoese fortress there, one of the best preserved in Turkey.

Ayvalık is a charming port, situated amid beautiful pine woods. Nearby, the **Şeytan Sofrası (Devil's Table)** offers a splendid panorama of the archipelago along the **Gulf of Ayvalık** and the little island of **Alibey (Cunda)**, where there are pleasant seafood restaurants. **Sarmisaklı Beach** is one of the most beautiful beaches in the area.

The **Gulf of Edremit**, also known as the



Fish Restaurant in Ayvalık

Olive Riviera, has a number of charming seaside resorts: **Küçükkuyu**, **Altınoluk**, **Akçay** (a thermal center with numerous springs), **Edremit** and **Ören**. All have beautiful beaches, together ringing the Gulf of Edremit and offering visitors a wide choice of hotels and guest houses with views of the sea. Here also is situated the beautiful **Kaz Dağı National Park**, with magnificent landscapes, restful green areas and several hot springs. According to mythology it was in this area that the world's first beauty contest was held. Under the shadow of **Kaz Dağı** (Mt. Ida, 1774 meters) in **Pınarbaşı**, west of Akçay, Paris gave the golden apple to Aphrodite in the famous "Judgement of Paris."

BEHRAMKALE (ASSOS)

Assos, the famous teaching center of antiquity is 87 km south of Çanakkale in Ayvacık County. Aristotle, Plato's most famous student, was invited to Assos and spent over three years living and teaching there. He married the niece of Hermeia, founded a school of philosophy and conducted his early exploratory work in zoology, biology and botany.

The acropolis of **Assos (Behramkale)** is 238 meters above sea level. The Temple of Athena was constructed on this site in the 6th century B.C. This Doric temple is being restored to its former glory and role as guardian of the **Biga Peninsula** and **Gulf of Edremit**. Linger to see the moonlight scattered through the temple ruins, or rise early for the gently awakening dawn over the acropolis. From the top you can take in the magnificent vista of the **Gulf of Edremit** and appreciate why this



Assos (Behramkale),
Çanakkale

heavenly location was chosen. On the terraces descending to the sea are agoras, a gymnasium and a theatre. From the northern corner of the acropolis, you can see a mosque, a bridge and a fortress, all built in the 14th century by the Ottoman Sultan Murat I. Down below lies a tiny and idyllic ancient harbor. Assos has gained the reputation of being the center of the Turkish art community with its lively, friendly and bohemian atmosphere. This may be the holiday you will remember for years to come. Twenty-five km west of Behramkale, in the village of **Gülpınar** is the ancient city of **Chryse** where the 2nd-century B.C. temple of Apollon Smintheus is located. **Babakale**, a scenic village of houses terraced on a cliff which drops to the sea is 15 km west of **Gülpınar** on an unmarked road that follows the jagged coastline.

ÇANAKKALE

The city of **Çanakkale** lies at the narrow, 1,200 meter entrance to the Çanakkale Strait (the **Dardanelles**) that connects the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean. Passenger and car ferries run daily between **Çanakkale** on the Asian side and **Eceabat** and **Kilitbahir** on the European side. Yachts navigating the straits stop at the well-equipped Çanakkale Marina to allow tourists more time in the area. Hotels, restaurants and cafes along the promenade offer a place to enjoy the traffic in the harbor, as well as a view of the Kilitbahir Fortress and the Çanakkale Archeological Museum.

In 1451, Sultan Mehmet II, later the conqueror of Istanbul, built one fortress on the European side of the Çanakkale Strait at Kilitbahir and one on the opposite shore at **Çimenlik** to control the passage of ships through the strait. Today the Çimenlik fortress serves as a military museum dedicated to the World War I Battle of Çanakkale.

Gelibolu Peninsula Historical National Park was established to honor the 500,000 soldiers who gave their lives on **Gelibolu**, also known as Gallipoli. In 1915, Mustafa Kemal, commander of the Turkish army, led a successful campaign to drive out allied powers from the area. The park includes memorials, monuments, cemeteries, the natural beauty of the **Arıburnu Cliffs** and **Tuz Gölü** (Salt Lake). The beauty of the green hills, sandy beaches and blue waters provides an hon-



Veterans' Memorial
Gelibolu National Park



Çanakkale Harbor



orable resting place for the soldiers who bravely fought and died in this historic battle. You cannot help but sense the heart of the Turkish nation in the patriotic spirit of the place.

Homer immortalized **Truva (Troy)** in his stories of King Priam, Hector, Paris and the beautiful Helen. Archeological excavations have revealed nine separate periods of settlement including ruins of city walls, house foundations, a temple and a theatre. A symbolic wooden Trojan horse commemorates the legendary war. The ancient harbor of **Alexandria-Troas** was built in the 3rd century B.C. St. Paul passed through twice, and then on his third missionary journey, he continued on to Assos. As you approach **Bozcaada Island**, the Venetian castle commands your attention. Then your eyes are drawn to the glistening white houses and the restaurants and cafes which line the promenade. Wine seems as plentiful as water on this island; a tour reveals many vineyards and wine cellars. There are good, sandy beaches at **Ayazma, Poyraz and İğdelik**.

The largest of the Turkish islands, **Gökçeada** is ringed with pristine bays. Its hills, covered with the greens of pine and olive trees, are dotted with sacred springs and monasteries. Regularly scheduled ferry boats make the trip from Çanakkale and **Kabatepe**. In August, islanders and tourists gather for colorful local fairs.



Legendary Trojan Horse, Çanakkale

THE AEGEAN INTERIOR

Inland from the Aegean sea, the fertile soil has endured the passage of many important early civilizations. Today the remains of these cultures can still be seen in the countryside as well as in the cities, towns and villages. The more recent legacy of Ottoman rule is apparent in the



Ionian Capitals, Sardis, Manisa

well-preserved, traditional, domestic Turkish architecture and Ottoman Mosques. Leisure-resorts have been built around the region's hot springs, and can accommodate those seeking the pleasurable and beneficial effects of the thermal springs.

MANİSA

The attractive Aegean city of **Manisa** preserves several splendid examples of Seljuk and Ottoman architecture. Endowed by Ayşe Sultan, mother of Süleyman the Magnificent, the Sultan Mosque was built early in the 16th century. Every year in April, on the grounds of this mosque, a festival is held celebrating Mesir Macunu, a sticky elixir that reputedly cured the sultan's ailing mother. The 16th-century Muradiye Mosque was designed by the great architect Sinan.



Kula, Manisa

The adjacent medrese, or theological college, today houses the Archeological Museum. The annual Harvest Festival begins in September when the fruits of the vineyards are brought in amid great celebration. The region's numerous vineyards produce grapes that are then dried for export. South of the city lies the **Sipil Dağı National Park**, home of the famous "crying rock" of Niobe. If you travel to the northeast you come to **Gördes**, a pleasant town particularly known for its fine carpets.



Sardis, Manisa



Manisa

The ruins of ancient **Sart (Sardis)**, once the capital of the Lydian realm of Croesus, lie on the **Sart Çayı (Pactole River)** plain. The world's first coins were minted here. The Temple of Artemis and a



Sultan Mosque, Manisa

UŞAK

Historically, Uşak was an important carpet weaving center, a role it continues to play today. Tourists find the Archeology Museum informative and interesting. The



Uşak carpet design

AFYON

The 226-meter-high Afyon citadel dates back to 1350 B.C. and is ascended by means of stairs carved out of rock. It was used by Hittites and Phrygians. There are remains of a temple dedicated to the goddess Cybele near the citadel. The Archeological Museum and the War of



Lokum (Turkish Delight)

restored gymnasium testify to the city's past splendor, as does the important third-century A.D. synagogue. On the south side of Sardis, **Mt. Boz** (ancient Mt. Tmolus) is good for hiking and other mountain sports.

Kaftancı House Museum, together with the Atatürk Ethnography Museum, displays wonderful Uşak carpets and kilims in Atatürk's former residence.

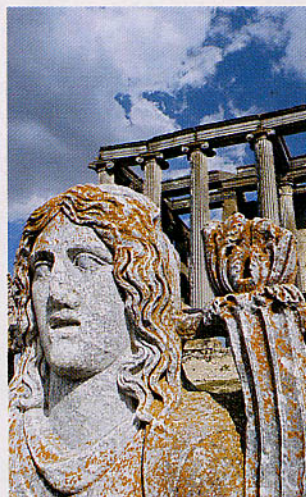
Independence Memorial underline Afyon's place in history. Monumental bas-reliefs, a legacy of the Phrygian Kingdom, are carved into rock faces on hills north of the city. **Aslantaş** is the largest. At Aslankaya, lion reliefs are engraved into the sides of the rock.

The Açık Hava Müzesi (Open-Air Museum) is near the north entrance of the town of Dinar, 100 km south of Afyon. This is the site of the mythical music

contest between Apollo and Marsyas (Pan). Byzantine and Roman gravestones, inscriptions and statues can be seen here.

KÜTAHYA

Kütahya is one of the oldest Turkish cities, with many old Turkish traditions still being practiced today. It is home to important Ottoman architectural monuments, including a castle, mosques, medreses, baths, complexes, mausoleums, and mansions. One of the finest mosques is the 14th-century Ulu Mosque. Kütahya Castle offers a wonderful, panoramic view of the old town on the western side of the city. The Kütahya Archeology Museum was a medrese in the 14th century that now displays ethnographia, Roman and Byzantine relics, and Iznik and Kütahya tiles from Ottoman times. Lajos Kossuth, the 19th-century Hungarian hero, lived with his family in what is now the Kossuth House Museum where relics and



Aizanoi, Temple of Zeus

documents related to Kossuth are now displayed.

The kilns of **Kütahya** produced exquisite ceramics in the 16th and 17th centuries, a craft which lives on today. You can visit the workshops where skilled artisans produce tiles, plates and bowls renowned for their cobalt blue patterns on a milky white background.

Southwest of Kütahya, is the Roman town of **Çavdarhisar (Aizanoi)** where a theater, stadium and the Temple of Zeus remain. In the same direction, **Murat Mountain** offers camping facilities and hot springs amid delightful scenery. Near **Dumlupınar** are the **Başkomutan National Park** and the War of Independence memorials.



Ceramic Fountain, Kütahya

THE SOUTH AEGEAN



Temple of Hadrian
Ephesus, Izmir

A visit to **Efes (Ephesus)**, once the commercial center of the ancient world, is a highlight of any visit to Turkey. 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 and rebuilt several times, in its latest form dates from the third century B.C. The ruins also include a theater, gymnasium, agora and baths, as well as the Library of Celsus.

The nearby town of Selçuk is dominated by a Byzantine citadel which stands close to the 6th-century basilica of St. John, supposedly built on 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 at Ephesus. The nearby Turkish Bath Museum, in a building from the 16th cen-



Virgin Mary,
Ephesus, Izmir



St. John's Church
Selçuk, Izmir

tury, shows Turkish life at the hamam (bath). The Ephesus International Festival of Culture and Tourism is held annually in May.

Tradition has it that, after the death of Christ, John brought the Virgin Mary to Ephesus where she is said to have spent her last days in a small house (Meryemana Evi) built for her on **Bülbüldağı (Mt. Koressos)**. Now a place of pilgrimage for Roman Catholics and a popular touristic site for all, the house has received the official sanction of the Vatican, and a commemoration ceremony is held every year on August 15th. Near Selçuk is a TCDD Open-air Steam Locomotives Museum displaying historical train cars in **Çamlık**. Şirince, is 9 km east of Selçuk. It is known for its traditional 19th-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. Eighteen km from Selçuk are wine-houses, for tasting the wines.

AYDIN

The province's capital, also called **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 A.D. 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. The terraced town overlooks the most beautiful inlet of the Aegean and seems to have been created purely for the delight of the holiday-maker. Be sure to visit the famous and popular Kuş shopping center in the Kaleiçi quarter, where there is also night-long entertainment. A large, modern marina facilitates life for visiting yachters. The Tusan-Kuştur Beach, north of Kuşadası is one of the cleanest beaches. Twenty-three 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**, a must for those with the time. Here amidst incredibly beautiful surroundings are some of the most wonderful views and some of the rarest wild animals in Turkey,



Kuşadası

including the Anatolian cheetah and some of the 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 **Lake Çamiçi (Bafa)** is a lovely place for a stop. Tourists can choose between guest-houses or campsites. To the east of the lake rise the five peaks of the **Beşparmak Mountains (Latmos)**. The Iconoclastic priests who came here from Constantinople to live built monasteries, churches, and chapels around the base of the mountains and on the lake's islands. 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 Beşparmak Mountains. The valley has witnessed the rise and fall of several great cities, notably Priene, Miletus, Didyma, Aphrodisias, and Hierapolis. This peaceful national reserve is an excellent place for bird-watchers, hikers, nature-lovers and photographers.

Güllübahçe (Priene) was one of the most active ports of the Ionian Federation. The grid-like system of

streets introduced in the fourth century B.C. by Hippodamos of Miletus is a superb and early example of town planning.

Milet (Miletus), like Priene, was a great Ionian port as well as the birthplace of several philosophers and sages. The theater itself justifies a visit. Also be sure to see the well-preserved ruins of the Faustina baths and the Archeological Museum.

Although **Didim (Didyma)** can only boast of 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 beauty. A double-colonnade portico surrounds the colossal temple. Not far from the archeological site, the beautiful beach of **Altinkum** tempts visitors with its many guest houses. **Akbük** is another holiday resort in the region with nice beach hotels.

Although the history of **Geyre (Aphrodisias)** stretches far back in time, the city, which was dedicated to Aphrodite, goddess of love and fertility, only rose to prominence in the first century B.C. Some of the richest treasures of ancient times were uncovered in the excavation of this city. The public buildings are handsomely adorned with



Kuşadası, Aydın

marble that was carved with astonishing skill, producing remarkable temples, monuments, baths, a theater and a magnificent stadium. As the reputation of the city's craftsmen for the exquisite finesse of their statuary and marble sculpting spread through the civilized world, Aphrodisias became the center of the greatest sculpting school of antiquity. Many of its marvelous works of art are



Temple of Athena, Priene.

DENİZLİ

Nestled in the high mountains near the **Büyük Menderes (Meander) River is Denizli.** Surrounded by the natural beauty of a verdant valley, the area is also rich in culture and history. The Luvians were the first inhabitants, followed centuries later by the Hittites. Throughout time the fertile plain nourished other civilizations: The Phrygians, Lydians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks, and the Ottomans. Modern Denizli is a city of wide streets with 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,



Pamukkale

now housed in the local museum. The theater and bouleuterion are among the city's best-preserved ruins.

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

towels and silk blouses. You can choose among nearby **Çamlık, İncilipınar or Gökpınar Parks** for a rest, a picnic, or simply a walk through the forest in the shade of pine trees. 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 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 used since Roman times for their therapeutic powers. Both the thermal center with its motels and thermal pools, as well

as the ruins of the ancient city of Hierapolis, are situated on the plateau. Another thermal center northwest of Pamukkale is Karahayit, known for its water's high iron content. **Honaz Dağı National Park** is 20 km east of Denizli, near the town of **Honaz**. **Mt. Honaz** is



Hot Spring, Pamukkale

MUĞLA

The province of Muğla includes the popular 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 holiday-makers plenty of choice. **Muğla**, the province's capital, lies inland and is known for its traditional architecture. In the village of Özlüce, a veritable open-air museum east of Muğla, is **Turolian Park**, where you can find fossils that geologists claim are from 5 - 9 million years old.

An impressive medieval castle built by the Knights of Rhodes guards the entrance to the dazzling blue bay of **Bodrum**, where the Aegean and the Mediterranean Seas meet. This charming town attracts a diverse population 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, especially, will want to explore the numerous reefs, caves and majestic rock formations. The waters offer



Bodrum

one of the most beautiful and highest peaks (2528 m) in the Aegean region. It is covered with a gorgeous alpine forest. The remains of ancient Colossae, a site of early Christian activity, can be seen on the northern slope.

up multicolored sponges of all shapes and sizes, and an immense variety of other aquatic life, including octopus.

The reputation of Bodrum's boat yards dates back to ancient times. Today, craftsmen still build traditional boats: the *tirhandil* with a pointed bow and stern, and the *gulette* with a broad beam and rounded stern. The latter are especially used for excursions and pleasure trips, and 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 fabric.

Bodrum has gained the reputation as the center of the Turkish art community with its lively, friendly and Bohemian atmosphere and many small galleries. This community has encouraged an informal day time life

style and a night time of excitement. The evenings in Bodrum are for sitting idly in one of the many restaurants, dining on fresh seafood and other Aegean specialties. Afterwards night clubs (some with cabaret) and superb discos keep you going until dawn.

Bodrum, known in ancient times as **Halicarnassus**, was the birthplace of Herodotus and the site of the tomb of King Mausolus (4th century B.C.), which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. In the harbor, the Bodrum Castle, or the medieval castle of St. Peter, is a fine example of 15th-century Crusader architecture. It has been converted into the Museum of Underwater Archeology, with remains dating as far back as the Bronze Age. The stunning panoramic view from **Göktepe**, nearby, is much photographed by those who visit the second-century theater there.

The beautiful **Bodrum Peninsula** suits holiday makers interested in a subdued and relaxing atmosphere. Enchanting villages, with guest-houses and small hotels on quiet bays, dot the peninsula. On the southern coast, Bardakçı, Gümbet, Bitez, Aktur, Ortakent Yalı, 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 active days by the sea and relaxed evenings with local villagers. Finally,



Yacht Race, Bodrum



Bodrum Museum
"Amphora Collections"

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. In **Turgutreis**, the birthplace of a great Turkish admiral for whom it is named, you will find a monument honoring him. In the ancient port of **Myndos** (**Gümüşlük**) you can easily make many friends from among the hospitable and outgoing local populace.

In **Yalıkavak**, white-washed houses with cascading bougainvillea line narrow streets. Small cafes and the occasional windmill make it a picturesque setting.

The north coast of the peninsula - **Torba**, **Türkbükü**, **Gölköy** and **Gündoğan** - can be seen by road or, even better, hire a boat and crew to explore the quiet coves, citrus groves and wooded islands. Little windmills which are still used to grind grain crown the surrounding hills covered in 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.

After a boat trip to **Karaada**, half an hour from Bodrum, you can bathe in the grotto where warm mineral waters flowing out of the rocks are believed to beautify the complexion.

The translucent and deep waters of the **Gulf of Gökova**, off the southern shore of the Bodrum peninsula vary from the darkest blue to the palest turquoise, and the coastline is thickly wooded 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 a two, three or seven-day tour of the gulf.

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** (lassos). South of Güllük, **Varvil**, ancient **Bargilya**, sits at the end of a deep narrow inlet surrounded by hillsides covered in olive trees.

Inland from Güllük is **Milas**, ancient **Mylasa**, known for its beautiful carpets - a century old tradition which continues today. 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 local architectural style. **Gümüşkesen**, a memorial tomb, thought to be a small copy of the famous Halicarnassus Mausoleum, stands west of the city.

The ancients built Labranda high in the



Gümüşkesen Memorial, Milas, Muğla



Bodrum Castle

mountains as a sanctuary dedicated to Zeus. 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 yachts' 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..

In Marmaris, sample the typical Turkish cuisine in one of the marina restaurants and drink rakı, 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 excellent leather and suede





Marmaris, Muğla

goods, copper and brassware, and jewelry and other objects carved of onyx. Turkish carpets, textiles and embroidery make good handcrafted souvenirs, and the locally produced pine-scented honey called *çambalı* 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 on a hill, 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 blue 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 also one of the few places in the world where you can delight in



Marmaris

the heady aroma of the frankincense tree. Weekly ferry lines run between Marmaris and Venice during the summer season.

Near Marmaris at İçmeler, 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. There are some excellent accommodations here, in which you can prolong your experience of nature. As you drive down from the high mountains into the village of Turunç, 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.

Kumlubük, a turquoise paradise, lies on the southern side of the bay. On the northern side, above the water, is the ancient Rhodian city of **Amos. Loryma**, at the tip of the **Bozburun Peninsula**, where the ruins of the ancient harbor and castle remain, can only be reached by boat. Quiet, natural 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, was the ancient **Cedrai**. Its old city walls, theater and temples can be visited by driving from Marmaris north to **Gelibolu Bay** and then crossing over 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 houses seem to cascade down the Mt. Kiran mountainside. Restaurants built over bubbling, fresh-water streams that fall from the highlands create an unforgettable setting. The towering pines and cooling breezes of Gökova Park are often a welcome respite from the hot sun.

The **Datça Peninsula** provides a natural boundary between the **Gulf of Gökova** in the Aegean Sea to the north, and the **Gulf of Hisarönü** in the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Along the 75 km from Marmaris to **Datça**, the road winds among trees and hills, opening onto lovely views over the blue expanse. Campers have many wonderful settings to choose from. Those who are less adventurous can stay in one of the many comfortable holiday villages. The beautiful blue-flag **Aktur** beach is 25 km from Datça. In Datça white-washed buildings hung with bougainvillea decorate the town. The marina is on the southern bay and swimmers prefer the northern bay. Around the marina bars, cafes and a wide selection of shops keep the tourist's interest.



Lycian Rock Tombs, Fethiye

Some shops remain open well into the evening. Relaxing over a pre-dinner drink and then a delicious meal in a friendly 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 hours until the early morning. The **Körmen Harbor**, 10 km north of Datça, is connected to Bodrum by a daily ferry line.

As you travel out of Datça, either by road or by boat, you will find unspoiled bays and golden sandy beaches. **Kargı** 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." Famous as a center of art and



Dalyan, Muğla

culture in the fourth century B.C. the city 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 harbours. The arcaded walkway was built of white marble in heart-shaped columns. Praxiteles' legendary statue, Aphrodite, one of the most beautiful sculptures of antiquity, once graced this temple.

The town of **Köyceğiz** lies at the northern end of the lake by the same name and is joined to the Mediterranean by a natural channel. This unique environment is being preserved as 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 immerse yourself in this tranquil dream world. The restaurants which line the waterways specialize in delicious fresh fish.



Knidos, Datça-Muğla



Ölüdeniz, Fethiye



Harpy and Semerdam Monuments, Xanthos, Antalya

Magnificent tombs were carved into the rock high on the cliff face, at a bend in the river, above the fascinating ancient harbor city of Caunos. The **Dalyan Delta**, with the long, golden, sandy Iztuzu 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 some of the breathtaking beauty of this area. Only a half hour's drive from **Dalaman** Airport, **Sarıgerme** has wonderful sandy beaches, and a pleasant holiday village discreetly situated in a pine forest. The **Dalaman River** is the best place for rafting, the best time for it being between May and October.

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 best sailing spots on the Mediterranean. Dotted with islands and sculpted by 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 water. Opposite, on **Tersane Island**, stand Byzantine ruins, including those of the ancient shipyards.

The popular resort **Fethiye**, 135 km southeast of Marmaris, boasts an important marina at the head of a beautiful bay strewn with islands. A hill crowned by the ruins of the crusader fortress built by the Knights of Rhodes overlooks the little port. Above the town, (called Telmessos in antiquity), 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 B.C., 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 the mountains where cozy guest houses cater to those seeking mountain scenery.

Öcakköy is a mountain village that is a must to see. Stay in one of the lovely guest houses and enjoy the numerous hiking possibilities. **Hisarönü**, also in the mountains, has very nice hotels. **Kayaköy** 4 km from Hisarönü, is a picturesque ghost town of old houses and churches. Explore the bay and the beautiful **Blue Lagoon (Ölü 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 but soak up the sun amid stunning natural surroundings. From **Mt. Baba** (1,969 m), you can paraglide into the Blue Lagoon. For those seeking accommodation, **Belceğiz** beach is highly recommended. Intoxicating scenery surrounds the beach and shady park at **Kıdırak**. On **Gemiler Island (St. Nicholas Island)**, Byzantine ruins lie tucked amid 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 intrepid explorer. High in the mountains above Fethiye a rushing torrent cuts a narrow gorge through the mountains, creating **Saklıkent (Hidden City) Canyon** 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. **Yakaköy (Tlos)** 36 km south of Fethiye, is the oldest city in the Lycian region and the home of the Lycian Hero Bellerophon. Visitors can see the remains of



a castle, the agora, the necropolis, the theatre, Roman baths and a good view of Eşen Valley. Two km east is **Tlos Park**, ideal for picnicking.

Pınara, 49 km south of Fethiye, is another ancient mountain city. It is ideal for hiking and visitors can see the remains of a theatre, an agora, a rock tomb, and baths.

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



Fethiye

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