

Turkey



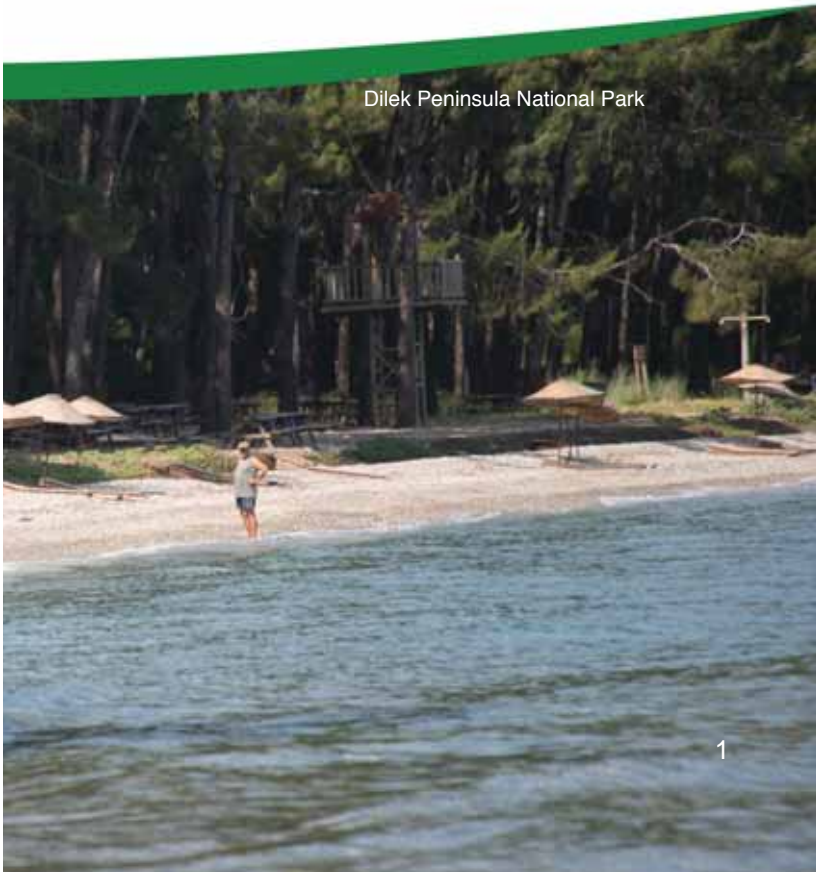
Turkey

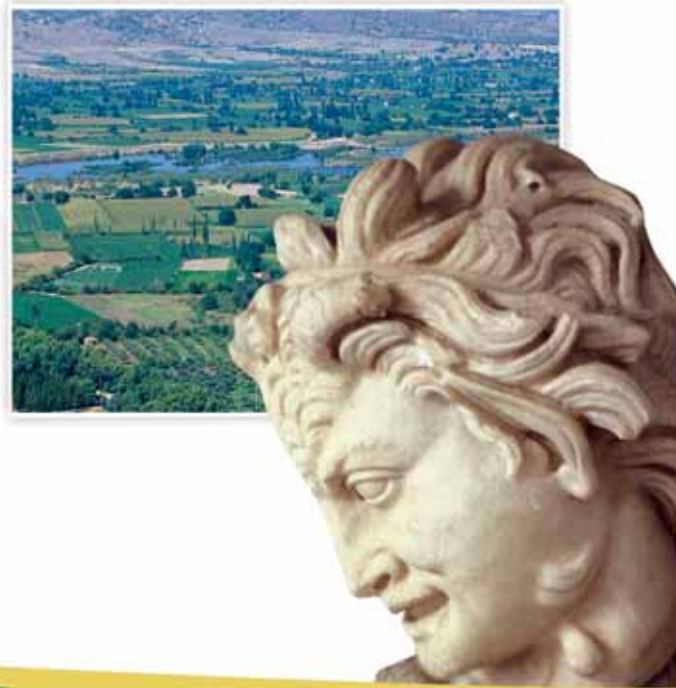


ANTALYA



Aydın is located in Turkey's Aegean Region and is surrounded by the provinces of Denizli to the east, İzmir and Manisa to the north, Muğla to the south and the Aegean Sea to the west. The city is 64 m above sea level and spreads over an area of 8.007 km². It is bordered by the Aydın Mountains to the north and the Menteşe Mountains to the south. The Büyük Menderes Basin lies between these mountains and forms a rich agricultural area covered by silt deposits washed down over thousands of years by the Büyük Menderes River. This large basin includes the Aydın, Koçarlı, Söke and Balat Plains.





History

Present-day Aydın is situated on the site of the ancient city of 'Tralleis', which was founded by Thracian tribes who settled along the Western Anatolian coast in the 13th century B.C. The city was destroyed by an earthquake in 26 B.C. and reconstructed with the efforts of Emperor Augustus. It was then named Caesareia in his honour. During the reign of the Seljuks, Tralleis was known as 'Aydın Güzelhisarı', while the Ottomans named it 'Nefs-i Kaza-i Güzelhisar der Liva-i Aydın'. Since the 19th century the city has been known as Aydın.

The first human settlement in Aydın region stretches back to the Chalcolithic Age. It is also thought that the Hittite domination of Anatolia expanded to the area. Following the decline of the Hittite Empire and the Dorian invasions, the Carians founded the cities of Aphrodisias and Kindya and renovated Alabanda and Alinda in the 12th century B.C. Then, the Phrygians founded the cities of Nysa and Magnesia and restored Tralleis in the 8th century B.C. During the Ionic domination, cities such as Miletos, Didyma and Priene became the centres of Ionian Civilization and home to the philosophers Thales, Anaximandros and Anaximenes and to the architect Hippodamos. Until the Persian invasion of 546 B.C., the region was under the rule of the Lydians. It had an important position on the King's Road, which starting from Miletos and crossing Central Anatolia via Tralleis. In the Persian Period, the city's temples and works of art were destroyed or plundered due to economic and social problems.

The Hellenistic Period started in the region after the victory of Alexander the Great over the Persians in 334 B.C. After Alexander's death, his generals quarrelled over the spoils of his great empire, but the Seleucids gained control over the area and established their sovereignty in 281 B.C. Approximately one hundred years later, Aydın came under the rule of the Kingdom of

Pergamon, which lasted until Roman sovereignty was established in 129 B.C.

Christianity achieved great political power during the Byzantine Period, and the Aydın region was ruled by the Anatolian Patriarchate.

Miletos and Priene became bishoprics. Following the end of Byzantine domination, Aydın was ruled by



the Seljuks (1186), the Mentēseoğulları Principality (1288) and the Aydınoğulları Principality (1308-90) respectively. It was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire by Yıldırım Bayezid in 1426. Having been occupied during the First World War, Aydın was rescued on September 7, 1922 and granted city status in 1923.

During its long history the area has experienced sparkling periods in terms of art, philosophy, social services, agriculture and architecture, and Aydın is now the proud owner of many historic and cultural treasures.

The province of Aydın has 16 districts:

Bozdoğın

Nestled at the foot of the Madran Mountains in the southern part of the Büyük Menderes Basin, Bozdoğın district is 76 km from Aydın.

The district is home to many historic sights. Among these are the relics of the Roman, Byzantine and Seljuk periods, such as cisterns in the villages of Örtülü and Konaklı, the single arched Kemer Bridge spanning the Akçay Creek between the villages of Bozdoğın and Akhisar, Armutalan Bridge on the Bozdoğın-Altıntaş highway, Körteke Castle on a hill between the villages of Körteke and Örencik and the ancient city of Piginda. In addition to these historic treasures, there are many areas of great

Temple of Apollo



natural beauty, such as the environs of the Kemer Dam Reservoir on the Akçay Creek and the Madran Mountains, which are famous for the spring water bubbling up from their foothills.

Buharkent

86 km east of Aydın, the Buharkent district is in the northern part of the Büyük Menderes valley. A predominantly agricultural area, the district is home to the Kızıldere Hot Springs.

Çine

In the southern part of the Büyük Menderes Basin, 38 km from Aydın, Çine district lies at the foot of Madran Mountains overlooking the green fields watered by the Çine Creek. Lending its name to the district, the Çine Creek is a tributary of the Büyük Menderes River. It flows through a dream-like valley which is carpeted with lilies. Legend has it that Athena was wandering along the creek and playing her flute. When she

Alabanda



looked at her reflection in the water, she threw the flute away because it made her cheeks look puffy when she played it. Marsyas found the flute and learned to play it so well that he challenged Apollo to a music contest. King Midas was appointed as judge and although Marsyas made prettier music, Apollo won the contest. Despite winning the contest, Apollo wanted to punish Marsyas because he thought Marsyas played better than him. Apollo cut off Marsyas' skin and changed Midas' ears into ass' ears. Marsyas' blood flowed into the river, which is known today as the Çine Creek.

Çine was an old and important settlement. It boasts the ancient

Temple of Apollo



Carian cities of Alabanda and Gerga. The Ahmed Gazi Mosque and the Ahi Bayram Tomb, belonging to the Menteşeoğulları Principality, and the Ottoman Çiftlik Tomb, built for the body of Cihanzade Safiye Sultan, are also worth visiting.

Didim

106 km southwest of Aydın, Didim is one of the most beautiful holiday resorts on the Aegean Coast. Located on a peninsula, where the Büyük Menderes River reaches the sea, the resort has secluded coves, golden sand beaches, natural harbours and nearby Lake Bafa is a haven of tranquility. The important Ionian towns of Miletos and Didyma, home of the famous prophet in ancient times, are also near Didim.





Magnesia ad Meandrum



Germencik

In the northwest of the Büyük Menderes Basin, 25 km from Aydın, Germencik was founded by Hıdır Bey, an heir of the Aydınoğulları Principality. Figs are a very important local crop, and fig trees are grown widely on the fertile land surrounding Germencik. The district has two hot-springs, Alangüllü and Germencik, and great potential for further geothermal development.

The ancient city of Magnesia in Tekin village is the most notable historic site in the district. The only Islamic structure among the ruins of this ancient city is the Çerkes Musa Mosque which dates from the 15th century.

İncirliova

İncirliova is located on the flat and fertile land of the Büyük Menderes Basin, 10 km west of Aydın. It has an active economy based on produce from local agriculture and related industries. Cotton, figs and citrus fruit grown locally are marketed across the country and abroad.

Karacasu

Karacasu is located in a 40 km long valley between Babadağ and the Karıncalı Mountains. 87 km east of Aydın, the district is mountainous and rugged. It is reached through olive, citrus



Aphrodisias



Aphrodisias

fruit and pine trees growing along the Dandalas Creek, which originates from Dedeler village and feeds into the Büyük Menderes River. The area has many beautiful natural sights, such as the Görle canyons and the Sırtlanini Cave, which is an interesting geographical formation near Çamarası village.

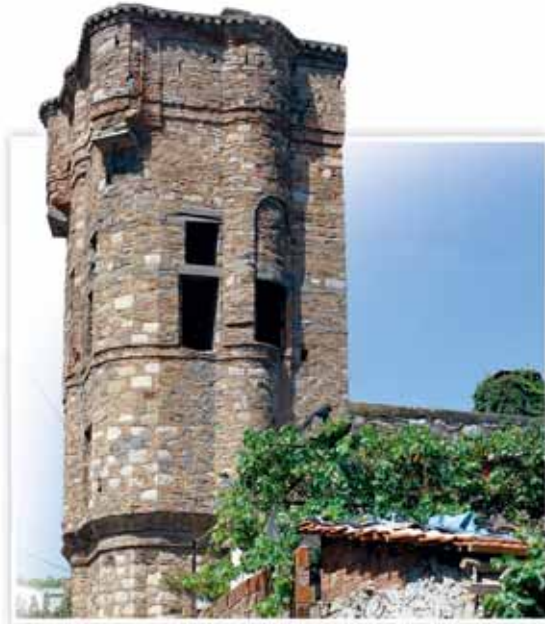
The district also boasts the magnificent ancient city of Aphrodisias. It is also home to Ottoman architectural treasures, such as the Hacı Ali Ağa (Çarşı) Mosque dating from the 16th century, the Cumaönü Mosque built by Hacı Ali Çavuş in 1768 and the Şeyh Süleyman Rüştü Tomb, which dates from 1834, and where the famous Sheikh Süleyman Rüştü, his son Mustafa Nuri and Sheikh Seyyit Ali el-Filzi of the Uşşaki sect are all buried.

Karpuzlu

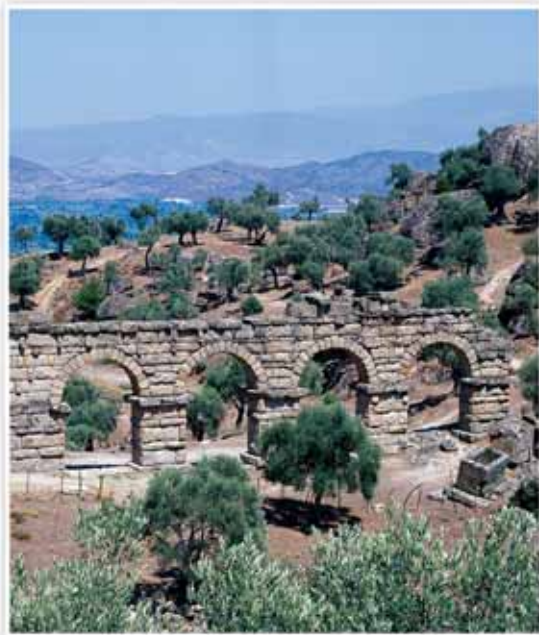
Karpuzlu district is located in the Çine basin, 56 km south of Aydın. The ruins of Alinda and the city of the Carian Queen Ada are the most frequently visited tourist attractions in the district.

Koçarlı

Nestled on the banks of the Koçarlı Creek in the Büyük Menderes Basin, Koçarlı district is 22 km from Aydın. As an old settlement, the district is known for its historic attractions such as Amyzon Castle from the Carian period, the Cihanzade Mustafa Bey Mosque or 'Çarşı Mosque' and its tower, which were built by Mustafa Bey in the 18th



Cihanzade Mustafa Bey Tower



Aqueduct, Alinda

century, and an 18th century castle in Cin Cin village.

Köşk

Köşk district is on the Aydın-Denizli highway, 18 km east of Aydın. A lot of agricultural products especially citrus fruits, chestnuts, figs and olives are grown here, and there are local festivals dedicated to these fruits. The largest chestnut market of the region is in the district.

Among the interesting historic sights in Köşk are a small section of the city walls belonging to the ancient city of Euhippe, which is on the southern banks of the Büyük Menderes River. The name of the city was revealed by inscriptions on the walls. The square-plan Ahmet Şemsi Paşa Mosque with its single dome is another local relic that was built in the 18th century in Yavuzköy.

Kuşadası

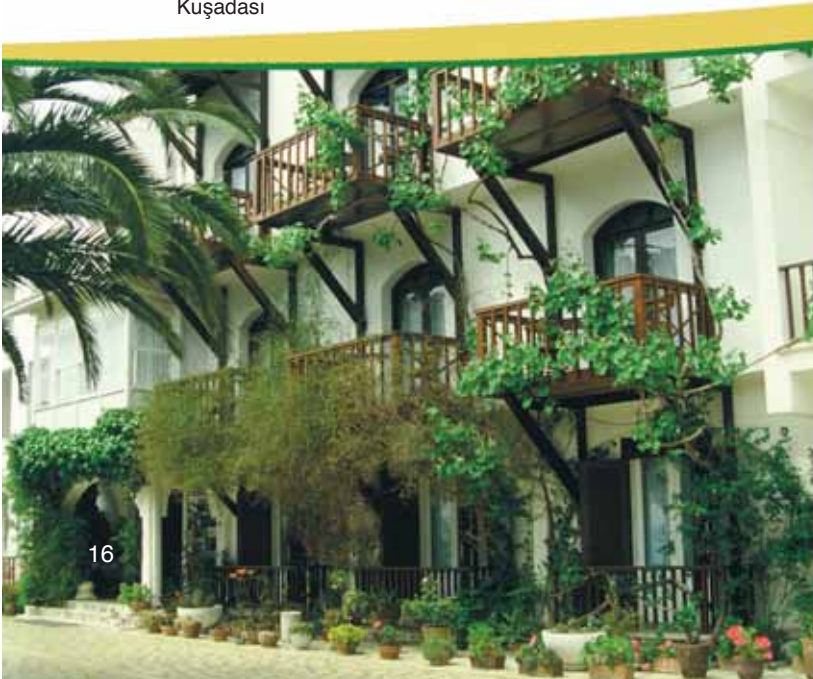
Kuşadası (lit. Bird Island) spreads over the coastal plain, and a low plateau behind, on the east and southeast of Kuşadası Bay. Surrounded by mountains to the east and southeast, it is 71 km from Aydın. The district gets its name from the Güvercin (Dove) Island facing it. Kuşadası is one of the most celebrated holiday resorts in Turkey. Bordered by Selçuk and Pamucak to the north and the Dilek Peninsula to the south, it is near fascinating tourist attractions such as



Kuşadası Harbour



Kuşadası



Ephesus, the Virgin Mary's House, Miletos, Didim, Pamukkale, Marmaris and Bodrum. Kuşadası offers vivacious and colourful moments in summer with its beaches, hotels, motels, camping sites, holiday villages, yacht harbour and entertainment facilities.

Çıban (Yavansu), Venüs, Güzelçamlı and Davutlar hot springs, Aslanlı and Zeus caves, the Dilek Peninsula National Park, with its coves and mineral springs, draw a lot of Turkish and foreign tourists in every season except winter. Tavşan, Su and Sandal Islands are picturesque spots on yacht excursions around the Dilek Peninsula.

Neopolis was the first settlement in the Kuşadası region and it was founded by the Ionians at 'Yılancı Burnu'. An area called the 'Andız Tower' at the foot of Pilav Hill was inhabited in the Middle Age, but because of the difficulties of sea transportation from this site, the medieval settlement was later moved to a place known as 'Scala Nova' (New Pier), which is today's Kuşadası.

The Panionion, the annual meeting place of the Ionian League, can be visited at the foot of the Dilek Hill on the north side of the Dilek Peninsula National Park. However, only the ramparts and the assembly building have survived to the present.

A Venetian castle (Kadı Castle) and the ancient city of Anaia, which is 2 km southeast of the castle, can

also be visited near Dilek Hill. The ancient city of Pygela to the north of Kuşadası is another historic attraction. Güvercin Island, home of a Byzantine castle carved into the rock, and the 19th century Küçük Ada Castle were important defence points against pirate raids during the Ottoman Period. The Kale Mosque, the oldest in Kuşadası, the caravanserai and the city walls are other important remains from the Ottoman Period.

Kuyucak

Kuyucak is a typical Turkish settlement in the foothills of the Aydın Mountains, 59 km east of Aydın. The ruins of the ancient city of Antiokheia, located on Asartepe Hill, are among the significant historic sights in Kuyucak. With the

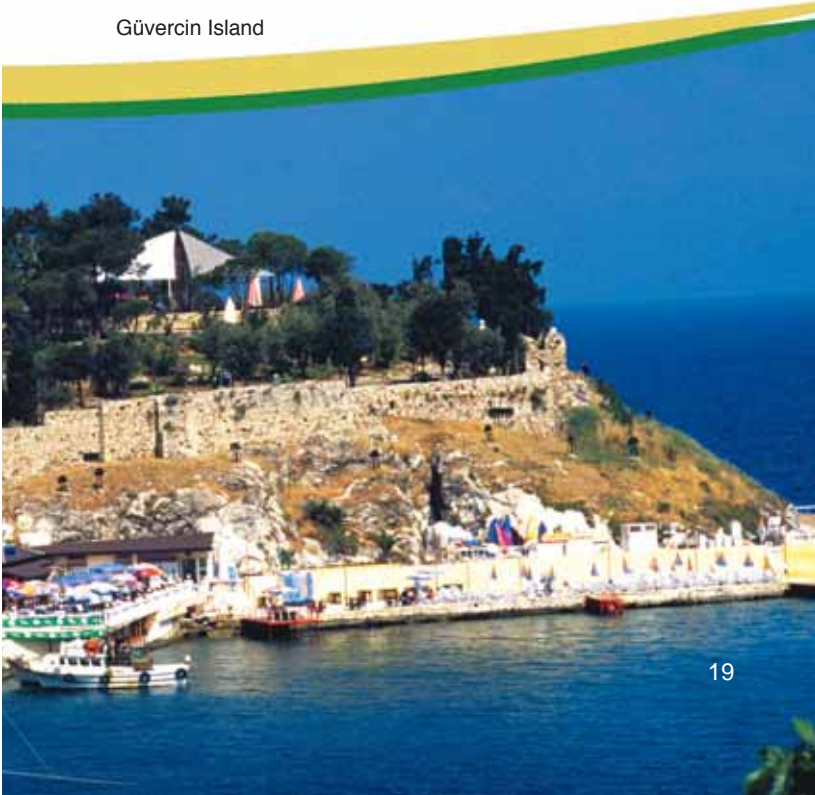


unification of two city-states, namely Symaithis and Kranaos, Antiokheia was founded on the banks of the Dandalos Creek during the reign of Seleucid King Antiokhos Soter I (281-261 B.C.). Thanks to its location on the route between Ephesus and Aphrodisias, the city had been a stopover for both merchants and military troops over the centuries. The only Ottoman remain in the district is the 19th century Çarşı Mosque with a fountain.

Nazilli

Nazilli is 47 km east of Aydın on the Denizli highway and the İzmir-Afyonkarahisar railway. The oldest settlement in the Nazilli region is Mastaura, which was founded by the

Güvercin Island



Prienne



Lydians between the Bozkurt and Eycelli plateaus on the banks of the Büyük Menderes River. The ancient city gained importance due to its location on the trade routes between the Aegean Sea and Mesopotamia. It was granted the right to mint coins. The city ruins include the remains of the city walls, theatre, aqueduct and various buildings. Another ancient settlement in the district is the Harpasa in Esenköy village. This city was built on terraces on Asartepe Hill. The northern section of the city walls are still standing to a large extent. The city theatre displays architectural characteristics of the Hellenistic Period. The tumuli on the hills lying to the north were built as a result of Lydian influence.

The 19th century Apaz Castle, the 18th century Ağa Mosque, built by Yahya Pasha, the Koca Mosque, the 19th century Yeşil (Green) Tomb and the Sinandede Tomb are also among the most important historic buildings in Nazilli. The Yeşil (Green) Tomb includes the graves of Uşşaki Sheikh Mehmed Zühtü Efendi and his family, and derives its name from the colour of the building's exterior.

Söke

Full of historic and natural sights, the district of Söke is 59 km west of Aydın, where the Büyük Menderes River pours into the Aegean Sea. Nearby is Lake Bafa, a natural wonder caused by



the silt deposits brought down by the Büyük Menderes River. In the lake are two islets on which monasteries and churches were built. The ceilings and walls of some of them are decorated with frescoes. On the lake shores are the ruins of the ancient city of Myus. Another ancient city founded in the Söke region was Priene. Its ruins are on the slopes of Samson (Mykale) Mountain.

Doğanbey (formerly called Domaçya), commanding a view of the Dilek Peninsula National Park, is a lovely village which was settled by Greeks who held Turkish citizenship until 1924. The village's architecture has both Greek and Turkish elements. Among the remarkable examples of civil Greek architecture are houses, shops, a chapel and a hospital built of stone. The

narrow streets paved with cobblestones are the work of Turkish craftsmen.

In Söke, the mosque built by the local notable Hacı Ziya Bey in 1896 and the İlyas Ağa Mosque or Koca Mosque, which was renovated by İlyaszade İlyas Ağa in 1821, are Turkish works of art.



Sultanhisar

Sultanhisar is in the Büyük Menderes Basin, 32 km east of Aydın. The ancient city of Nysa, on the picturesque slopes of the Aydın Mountains, is among the tourist attractions of the district. Near Salavatlı village is Akharaka which retains a mysterious atmosphere and the Temple of Pluto (the god of the underworld), which was used in ancient times to get news from the underworld by sacrificing bulls.

The Kharon Cave in Akharaka has been used for therapeutic purposes thanks to the sulphuric gases and the curative waters that bubble up from the ground inside.

Yenipazar

Yenipazar, on the southern banks of Büyük Menderes River, is 41 km east of Aydın. The ruins of the ancient city of Orthasia can be visited in the district.

Historic and Cultural Sights

Aydın Museum

Founded in 1959, Aydın Museum was moved to its current building in 1973. Sarcophagi, tombstones, column capitals, steles with inscription and various architectural objects that were collected in the province of Aydın are on display in the museum garden. The artefacts are divided into archaeological and ethnographic exhibits and are organised in chronological order from the Prehistoric Age to the Ottoman Period.



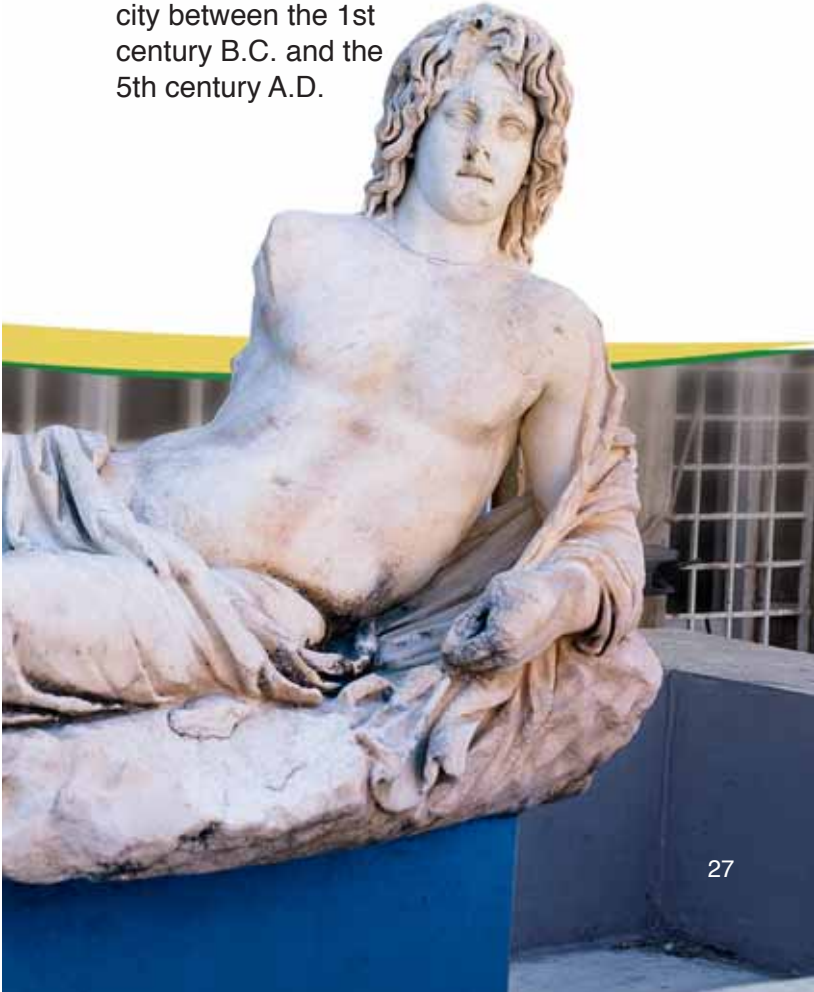


Aphrodisias Museum

Opened in 1979, Aphrodisias Museum houses one of the largest collections of any local museum in Turkey. It is located within the ancient city of Aphrodisias, 12 km from Karacasu. The museum has on display a dazzling collection of artefacts unearthed during the archaeological



excavations in the ancient city. The collection is housed in 8 exhibition halls, an inner courtyard and the garden and most of the artefacts were found in the Acropolis, Pekmeztepe Mound and around the Temple of Aphrodite. They are mainly from 6 periods: the Ancient, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic. They include Lydian ceramics, statues and other artefacts. But the Aphrodisias Museum is mainly a statue museum boasting precious works of art carved by the Aphrodisias school of sculpture, which was active in the city between the 1st century B.C. and the 5th century A.D.



Tetrapylon, Aphrodisias





Milet Museum

The Milet Museum is in the ancient city of Miletos, 22 km from Didim. It remained open to visitors between 1973 and 2000. Fossils, ceramics, geometrical objects, floor mosaics, amphora, theatre masks, oil lamps, metal and glass items, statuettes, coins and tombstones are all on display in chronological order in the museum's three exhibition halls. All these artefacts were brought to light during the excavations at Miletos and nearby Didyma. Milet Museum is currently closed to visitors, but there are plans to reopen it in the near future. Lion statues,

Yörük Ali Efe Museum



architectural components bearing reliefs, column capitals, sarcophagi and huge statues are exhibited in the museum garden.

Yörük Ali Efe Museum

Located in the Yenipazar district, this two-storey museum-house displays the personal belongings of Yörük Ali Efe, who died in 1951 and who was a hero of the War of Independence. The museum consists of bedrooms on the upper floors and a living room and kitchen on the ground floor. At the entrance of the garden, the statue of Yörük Ali Efe and his assistant 'Kızan', carved by the sculptor Professor Doctor Tankut Ekrem, welcomes visitors.

Alabanda

Alabanda is a Carian city in Doğanyurt (Araphisar) village, 10 km west of Çine. The Byzantine Stephanos recorded that in honour of King Kar's son Alabandos' victory in a horse race, the city was called Alabanda, which is a combination of the Carian words for horse (ala) and race (banda). In early times Alabanda minted coins bearing the base relief of the God Alabandos on one side and a winged horse, the symbol of the city, on the other. The city joined the Carian Union in the 3rd century B.C. It was colonized by the Seleucid King Antiochos III and named Anthiokheia Khrysaor later in the same century. Following the Battle of Magnesia, Alabanda became independent until Roman rule was established.

The ruins of Alabanda that can be visited today include two temples, a theatre with two diazoma (walkway, passage), a bouleuterion (the building of the city council), the city gate and an agora. The memorial tombs, an aqueduct and ramparts are also reminders of past that are well worth seeing. All of the ruins belong to the Hellenistic and Roman Periods. The items unearthed during the archaeological excavations in the city are exhibited in archaeological museums of İstanbul and İzmir.

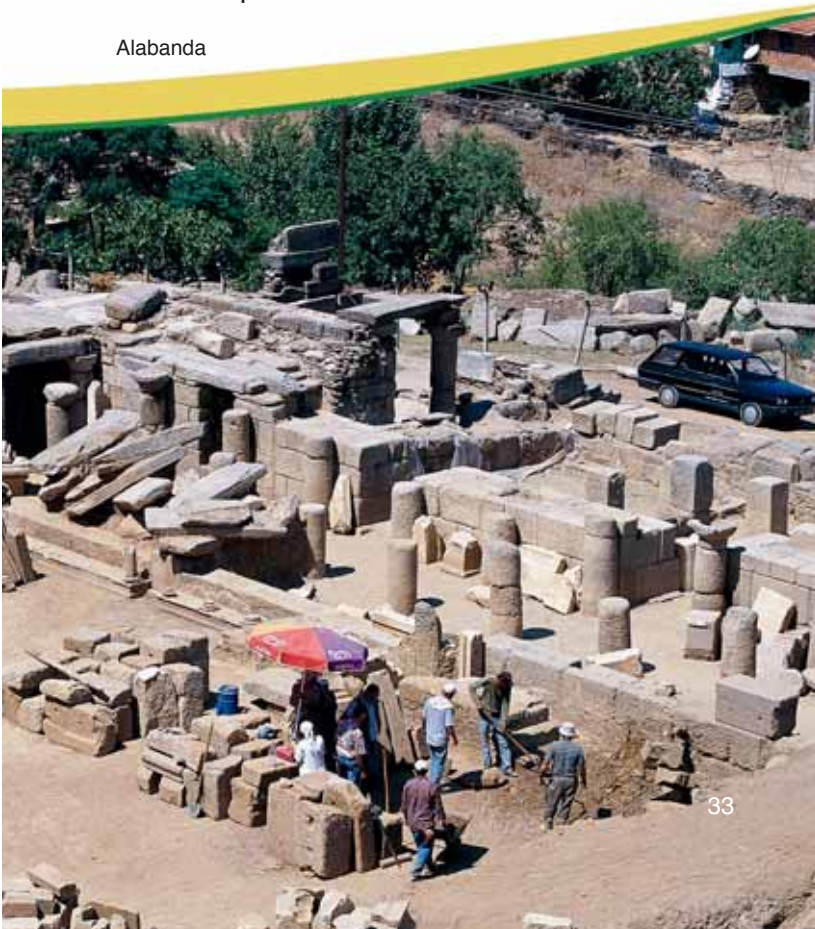
Alinda

Alinda is located on a hill in Karpuzlu district. Hekatomnos' daughter Ada withdrew to Alinda in 340 B.C. after



she was expelled from Halicarnassos by her brother. She made it her capital city and negotiated with Alexander the Great to become the Queen of Caria. Known as the most fortified of the Carian cities, Alinda minted coins bearing the likeness of Heracles. After the death of Alexander the Great, Alinda was incorporated into the borders of the Kingdom of Pergamon. Then, it became subject to Roman rule, but it maintained the right to mint coins in its own name. It is revealed in historical sources that Alinda became a bishopric during the Byzantine Period but it gradually lost its former importance.

Alabanda



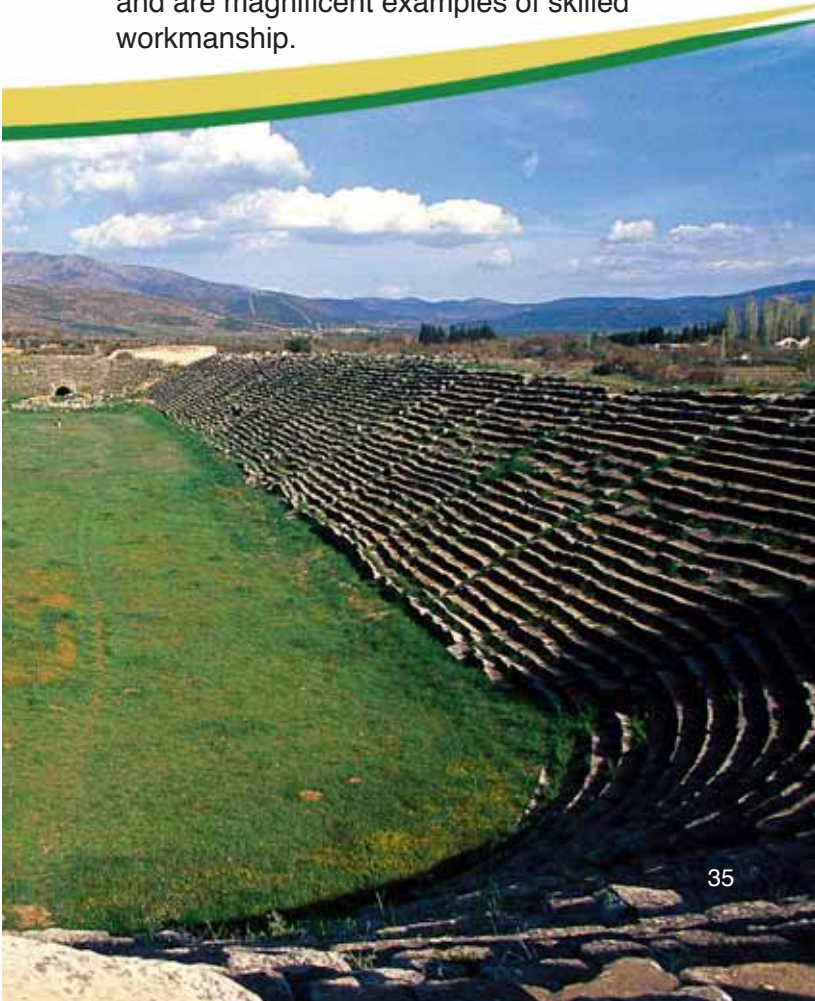
One of the most impressive structures in Alinda is the 100 m long agora. The city walls are built of rectangular stone blocks and are mostly undamaged. On the south-western side of the acropolis hill is a theatre with 35 rows of seats and a seating capacity of 5,000. The remains of an aqueduct can be seen on the north-western slope of the acropolis. The palace, sarcophagi and a two-storied tower are also among the best-preserved ruins. The magnificent guest room, sarcophagus and jewels of Queen Ada are on display in the museum in Bodrum Castle.

Stadium, Aphrodisias



Amyzon (Mazın)

Amyzon known as 'Mazın Castle' is located in Akmescit village, 30 km south of Koçarlı. It served as an advance post for three large Carian cities namely Herakleia, Euromaos and Khalketor. The most striking ruins in the city belong to the temple which is supposed to have been built in honour of Apollo and Artemis. On the acropolis are the remains of a theatre, an agora and a fountain. The stone ramparts of the acropolis date from the 3rd century B.C. and are magnificent examples of skilled workmanship.





Aphrodisias



Aphrodisias

The ancient city of Aphrodisias is located at the foot of Babadağ Mountain, near the village of Geyre. The magnificent ancient city is 600 m above sea level and 12 km southeast of Karacasu district.

According to the Byzantine Stephanos, Aphrodisias was founded in the 13th century B.C. and was called 'Ninoe' (a word derived from Ninus, the King of Babylonia). However, archaeological excavations started in 1904 revealed that the first settlement in Aphrodisias stretched far back to the Chalcolithic Age, around 4000 B.C.

The clearest information about the city is from the 11th century B.C. historian Appian, who recorded that Aphrodisias minted silver and bronze coins together with the neighbouring city of Plarasa (Bingeç). Aphrodisias reached its heyday under Roman rule. The city's artisans carved wonderful statues and construction elements from the marble from the quarries at the foot of Babadağ Mountain. They sent their beautiful works all around the Roman Empire and founded an art school famous for its 'Aphrodisias style'. As a result of intensive settlement during the Roman Period, which lasted for five hundred years, the city is dotted with architectural feats of brilliance. During the Byzantine Period, Aphrodisias gradually left its sparkling days behind due to religious and political reasons. Destroyed by

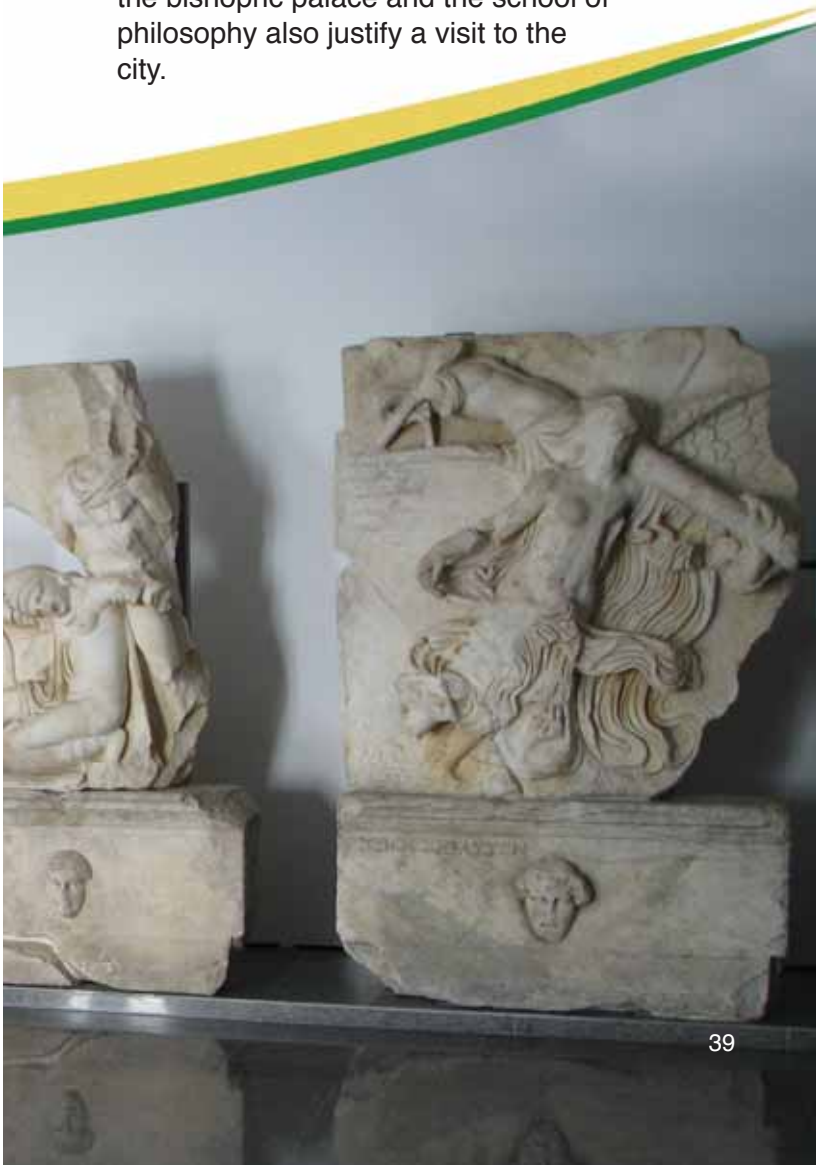
fires, earthquakes and Sassanid and Arab raids, the city was eventually abandoned.

Aphrodisias was famous for the rituals in honour of Aphrodite, goddess of love and fertility. It became an important centre of architecture, art and worship in Antiquity. Scientific research confirmed that Aphrodisias also played host to major studies performed in the fields of medicine, mathematics and astronomy. Medical scientist **Xenocrates**, novelist **Chariton** and philosopher **Alexander** were all from Aphrodisias.

Aphrodisias Museum



The ruins of interest in the city include the 2nd century bath complex built during the reign of Emperor Hadrian, the agora which has a large pool, a temple erected in honour of the Goddess Aphrodite in the first century B.C. and a stadium for 30,000 people. The theatre with a seating capacity of 10,000, the city walls, the acropolis, the odeon, the bishopric palace and the school of philosophy also justify a visit to the city.



Temple of Apollo



Didyma

Didyma is 18 km south of Miletos in the district of Didim. In ancient times a marble paved sacred road connected Didyma with Miletos, which had a reputation as the city of oracles. Statues depicting sitting men and lying lions were lined up on both sides of the road. In the same period, Didyma had a harbour named Panormos. It was navigable by large ships but it is now 4 km inland. It is thought that Didyma, which means 'twins' or 'twin hills', took its name in honour of Apollo and Artemis whose enchanting temples stood in the city.

The Temple of Apollo: The building was first constructed at the end of the 8th century B.C. and was enlarged into a huge temple for Branchid oracles in 560 B.C., when it was dedicated to Apollo, son of Zeus. The Temple of Apollo was very famous in Antiquity but was finally destroyed by the Persians in 494 B.C. After the victory of Alexander the Great against the Persians in 334 B.C., Didyma became independent and the Temple was rebuilt. The construction continued during the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C., but by 250 A.D. the Temple began to lose its importance and during the reign of Theodosius I it was completely lost. When Christianity spread into the region, a church was built near the site of the Temple.

The ancient historian Herodotus narrates that around 600 B.C. Egyptian

King Nekho II and Lydian King Croesus made offerings in the Temple of Apollo. Merchants and departing soldiers, young brides-to-be and emperors all wanted to be informed about the future and made offerings to the gods in the Temple. Strabo states that the Temple was decorated with the most expensive offerings. The statue that was worshipped in the Temple was carved by the famous artist Karnakhos, however, the other statues and the architraves

Temple of Apollo



bearing the famous reliefs of Medusa and bull's head were carved by the talented craftsmen of Aphrodisias. One marble block, erected between the doors leading to the sacred courtyard, is regarded as the biggest architectural component in the world. It weighs 70 tons and is surrounded by 124 columns standing in two rows on a stepped platform - evidence of the former grandeur of the city.





Temple of Apollo

Head of Medusa, Didyma





Tetrapylon, Aphrodisias



Gerga

East of the ancient city of Alabanda, near the village of Ovacık, are the ruins of Gerga. The settlement is defined by a piece of rock nearly 1 m high which is inscribed with the word "Gerga". It is also scattered with the remains of buildings, statues, statue pedestals, monuments, tombs and temples. Among these remnants, which wonderfully exemplify typical Carian art, the most attractive ones are the fragments of huge human statues which have slid off their pedestals and the small stone structures with open facades bearing the term 'Gerga'. One important structure built from huge hewn blocks, which is thought to be a temple because of its architectural characteristics, remains standing. It is thought that the statue under this structure belongs to the goddess Cybele.

Magnesia ad Meandrum

(Magnesia of Menderes)

The ancient city of Magnesia is located in the Ortaklar area of Germencik district. According to legend and historic sources, the city was founded by a tribe called the Magnets from Thessaly. The first site of the city is not known exactly, but it has been inferred from ancient sources that upon the prophecy of Apollo, the Magnets, under the leadership of Leukippos, landed at the bay of Bafa, which is a lake today, and settled on the banks of the Büyük Menderes River. The Magnets rebuilt the

city in today's location near Gümüşçay around 400 B.C. because they needed a more fortified city, which they could defend against the Persians. They also wanted to distance themselves from the problems caused by the Menderes River changing its course and overflowing its banks. In the Hellenistic Period the city was ruled by the Seleucids and the Kingdom of Pergamon respectively. It maintained its importance during the Roman Period and became a bishopric under Byzantine rule.

Magnesia was the home of the famous architect Hermogenes. The ancient writer Vitruvius states that the masterpieces of Hermogenes were its temple and the Altar of Artemis Leukophryene in Magnesia. The temple was built on the ruins of an ancient temple of Artemis (6th century B.C.) in the Hellenistic Period (3rd or 2nd centuries B.C.). The Ionic style temple has 8 columns on the short side and 15 columns on the long side.

Magnesia





Miletos



The agora and the Temple of Zeus, which are supposed to have been built by Hermogenes, are also among the best-preserved ruins in the city. The other remains belong to the Roman and subsequent periods. These are a gymnasium, the baths, which are like a small copy of Faustina Baths in Miletos, an odeon between the theatre and the Artemision, a stadium with a seating capacity of 25,000, an aqueduct, a basilica and the city walls surrounding the Artemision (the temple built in honour of Goddess Artemis in the Byzantine Period).

Miletos

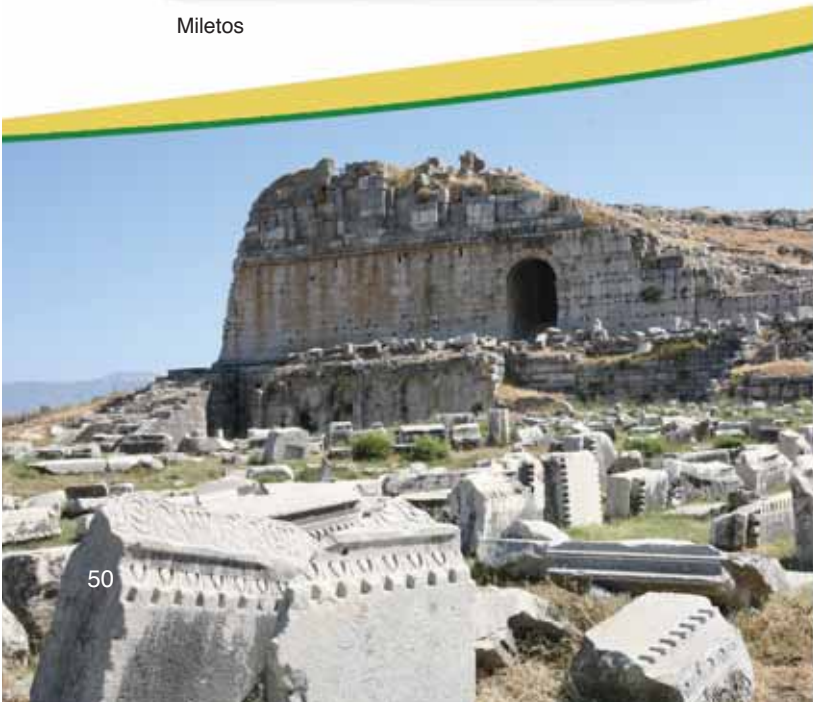
The first settlement near Balat village in Didim district was founded as a Mycenaean colony in 2000 B.C.

According to the ancient geographer Strabo, the Minoans founded the settlement while Homer's Iliad states that the Ionians under the leadership of Neleus, son of Athenian King Kodros, were the founders of Miletos. With its four harbours and connected by a 24 km sacred road to Didyma, Miletos was one of the most important ports in Ionia.

Miletos became an important Aegean centre of trade, culture, art and science from the 7th century B.C. It was occupied and totally destroyed by the Persians in 546 B.C. With the end of Persian rule in 479 BC, the city was rebuilt according to the geometric plan of Hippodamos, the first city planner



Miletos



in history. After the rule of Alexander the Great, the Seleucids and the Kingdom of Pergamon, Miletos gained independence in the Roman Period. At that time the city was dotted with monumental structures. Miletos was also home to the famous philosophers **Thales, Anaximandros** and **Anaximenes**, the historian **Hekataios** and one of the architects of Hagia Sophia, **Isidoros**. However, it was turned into marsh land and its connection with sea was cut by sedimentation from the Büyük Menderes River in the Middle Age. It lost its former importance, but the settlement continued with the arrival of the Turks, existing as Plataia (Balat) until the 18th century. Balat harbour became important for the export of products brought from Anatolia and Asia.

Miletos is a marvellous site with its Delphinion (the open air temple of Apollo Delphinus), a 140 m wide, 30 m high 15,000 seat amphitheatre, and the well-preserved Faustina Baths with its palaestra (training and wrestling school). The ancient city also boasts the temple of Serapis, a bishopric church and the remnants of tombs, an agora, a 100 m long ceremonial road and the harbour gates at the eastern end of this road. Two temples dedicated to Demeter, the goddess of fertility and to her daughter Kora, the monumental fountain (nymphaion), gymnasium, bath, stadium, temenos of Olympian Zeus, bouleuterion and temenos of Egyptian



Library, Nysa



Nysa



Gods are also among the ruins. On the hill to the south of the agora, the striking columns of the Temple of Athena are the most distinguished structure in the city.

Myus

The ancient city of Myus is 18 km south of Söke on the shores of Lake Bafa.

It is 15 km east of Miletos, near Avşar village. According to Strabo, the city was founded by Kydrellos, son of an Athenian King, Kodros, and was an important coastal city in Panionian.

The archaeological excavations in the ancient city brought to the light a white marble temple of Dionysus, which was mentioned in the ancient sources.

Today, the remnants of the temple, city walls and a Byzantine castle can be seen.

Nysa

The ancient city of Nysa is nestled on the slopes of the Aydın Mountains in the northern part of the Sultanhisar district.

Historian Stephanus recorded that Nysa was established by Antiochos Soter I, son of Seleukos in the first half of the 3rd century B.C. in the name of his wife.

According to the geographer Strabo, the city was composed of three villages founded by brothers called Athymbros, Athymbrados and Hydreleos.

Founded on the slopes of a sharp valley, Nysa is divided into two cities joined by three bridges. On the west side of the water course are the remains of a gymnasium, a stadium, a Byzantine

Agora, Nysa







building and a library. A theatre to the northeast of the library is distinguished by friezes and reliefs carved into the stage and it has a seating capacity of approximately 10,000. The agora, a bouleuterion and a Roman bath complex are on the east side of the watercourse. The necropolis is on the road to Akharaka (Salavatlı), the sacred western part of the city.

Orthasia

Orthasia, in the village of Dorduran, is 5 km east of Yenipazar. Strabo recorded Orthasia as being a Carian settlement. In the 7th century B.C. the city was dominated by the Lydians after the victory of King Alyattes over the Kimmers. It joined the Ionian League in the 6th century B.C. before coming under the sovereignty of the Persians like many other Anatolian cities. Among the most notable structures in the city

are the theatre and a Byzantine building. Expert workmanship can be observed on the sarcophagi and tomb rooms in the necropolis.

Piginda

Founded as a small Carian settlement, Piginda is located 7 km north of Çamlıdere village in the Bozdoğan district. It was composed of three acropolises and the ramparts from the Hellenistic Period can be easily seen today. The theatre and the sacred building which is supposed to be a Heraion (temple of Hera) are among the notable structures in the city. It is inferred from the inscriptions found in this sacred building that the cult of Zeus Pigindenos was practiced and a Temple of Zeus was standing in the city.

Priene

One of the most fascinating ancient cities in Aydın, Priene is founded on a natural platform on the southern slopes of Samson (Mykale) Mountain near Güllübahçe town. It is 12 km from the town of Söke.

The first settlement in Priene was probably on the peninsula jutting into Latmos Bay and had two harbours. Electron coins minted in 500 B.C. and bearing the head of Athena have been preserved until the present day. The city of Priene was founded in its present location in 350 B.C. and was surrounded by well-built walls. Today, attractive rustic workmanship can be observed on some parts of the walls.

Temple of Athena



Built to a grid-like plan introduced by the architect Hippodamos of Miletos, the city was set on four terraces with the buildings built of grey-blue marble unique to the region. The councils of the Panionian, which was formed by the 12 Ionian cities of Miletos, Priene, Myus, Ephesus, Colophon, Erythrae, Clazomenae, Phocaea, Samos, Chios, Teos and Lebedus were held in Priene and conducted by the people of Priene.

Priene had a harbour called 'Naulocho' but silt deposits brought down by the Büyük Menderes eventually cut it off from the sea. The city then lost its importance towards the end of Roman Period. It became an important bishopric centre in the Byzantine Period but was totally abandoned in the 13th century. Surrounded by ramparts, the city has three big entrance gates.

Priene boasts one of the most beautiful ancient theatres. Built in the 4th century B.C., the theatre had a capacity of 5,000. The city also has wonderful temples dedicated to the Egyptian Gods Anubis and Serapis. The ruins of Priene also include the agora, a sacred stoa, the temenos of Zeus Olympios, the temenos of Demeter, a bouleuterion with a capacity of 640, a church, a stadium, Alexander the Great's house and a prytaneioum (guest house) where prominent guests were hosted. An Ionic Temple of Athena was standing at a location commanding the city. It had 6 columns on the front and 11 columns on two sides. There was a

gold and ivory statue of Athena in the cella of the temple, which was built by Pytheos, the architect of the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Only part of the temple's altar has survived to the present-day.

Pygela

Pygela is located to the north of Kuşadası. Legend has it that the city was founded by soldiers from Agamemnon's army, who were abandoned here because of illness. According to the records of Strabo, there

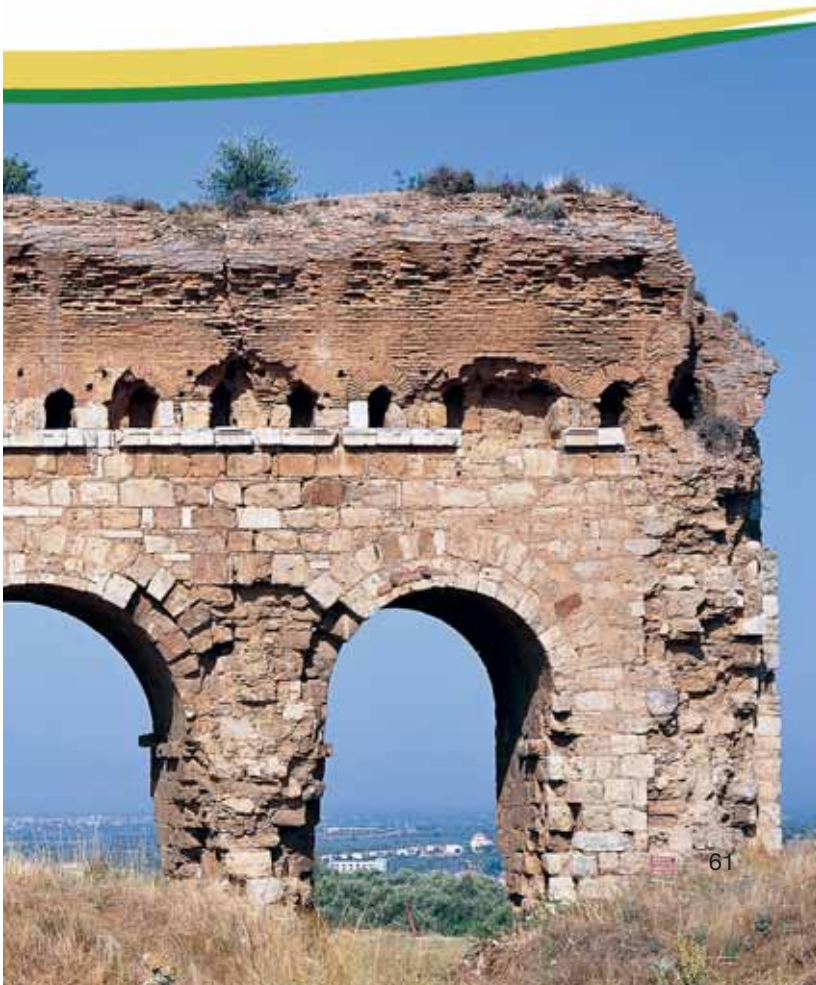
Tralleis



was a temple of Artemis Mynykhia in the city. It is also one of the settlements where Mycenaean ceramics have been found by archaeologists.

Tralleis

Tralleis, 1 km from Aydın, was founded by the Argians and the Thracians. It was handed back and forth frequently between the Hellenistic kingdoms following the conquest of Alexander the Great in 334 B.C. It reached its zenith in sculpture and the arts under the rule of the Kingdom of Pergamon. Two great sculptors, Apollonios and Tauriskos, who



were charged with the construction of the famous altar of Zeus in Pergamon, were trained in Tralleis. Strabo mentioned the richness of the people in the city. The ruins of the 2nd century gymnasium, called 'three eyes' by the populace, and the baths, the agora, theatre and a stadium from the Roman Period can be seen today. Tralleis was famous for its leather products and red pottery, 'terra sigillata'. Statues of the Farnese Bull and the Young Athlete (Ephesos) carved by two world famous sculptors, Apollonios and Tauriskos, were unearthed in Tralleis.

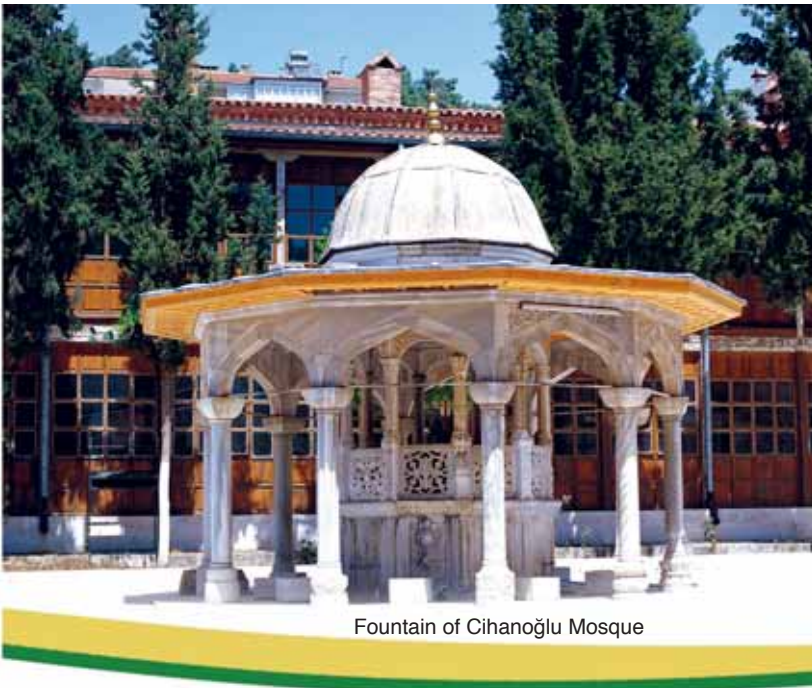
Ahmed Gazi Mosque and

Ahi Bayram Tomb

Located in the village of Eski Çine in Çine district, the Ahmet Gazi Mosque was built by Ahmed Gazi Bey, son of İbrahim Bey from the Menteşeoğulları Principality. This mosque and the Ahi Bayram (İbrahim) Tomb in the back courtyard are both from the 14th century. The small and simple prayer niche decorated with honeycomb carvings and the pulpit, which exemplifies the beautiful woodcarving of the period, are worth seeing. The lower parts of walls of the tomb, which is covered by a pyramidal roof, are made of marble, whereas the upper parts are built of bricks.

Cihanoğlu Külliye (Building complex adjacent to a mosque)

The Cihanoğlu Külliye is situated in Aydın's city centre in the Köprülü



Fountain of Cihanoğlu Mosque

quarter. In 1756 it was built by Cihanzade Abdulaziz Efendi, who was a teacher in a medrese. The Külliye consists of a mosque, medrese (theological school), tomb, bazaar and fountain. It is one of the best examples of Turkish architecture with baroque and rococo decoration.

Eski-Yeni (Hasan Çelebi) Mosque

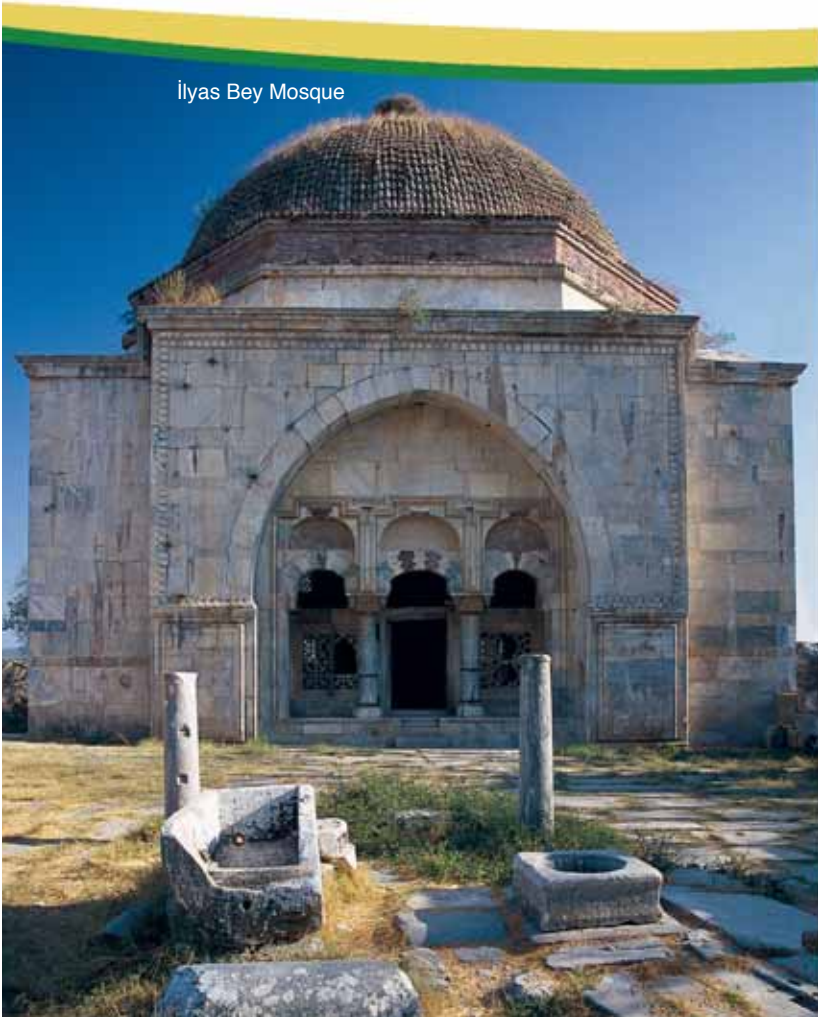
The Eski-Yeni (Hasan Çelebi) Mosque is located in Aydın's city centre in the Hasan Efendi quarter. It was constructed by Hasan Pasha, son of Muhittin Efendi Beylerbeyi of Egypt (a kind of governor). Its carved marble prayer niche and pulpit are well worth seeing.

İlyas Bey Külliye

The İlyas Bey Külliye in Didim includes a mosque, tomb, dervish lodge, caravanserai and baths. It was built by İlyas Bey of the Mentешеoğulları



Öküz Mehmet Paşa (Castle) Caravanserai



İlyas Bey Mosque

Principality between 1403 and 1404. It is near the ruins of Miletos. It is a magnificent work of art which has survived to the present with its original architectural characteristics and decoration intact. Marble pieces gathered from the ruins of Miletos were used in its construction. The attractive northern facade is one of the most distinctive features of the Külliye. The portal has three parts surrounded by a big arch like an iwan. Colourful inlaid stones and marble surfaces reflect the unique architectural style that was introduced in the period of the Turkish principalities. A marble prayer niche decorated with geometrical motifs splendidly exemplifies the early Turkish art of stone decoration.

The medrese and soup kitchen surround the courtyard and the tomb of İlyas Bey is in front of the mosque. A two story, rectangular caravanserai is composed of a courtyard, rooms and a stable. Covered by a barrel roof, the rooms and stable surround the courtyard.

Öküz Mehmet Paşa Mosque and Caravanserai

The oldest mosque in Kuşadası, the Öküz Mehmet Paşa Mosque was built with a caravanserai and a bath complex by Grand Vizier Mehmet Pasha in 1618. Topped by a lead dome, the mosque was designed in accordance with Ottoman architectural traditions and includes wood carving and geometrical joints. These joints were decorated with beautiful silver, mother-of-pearl and ivory inlays. The two-story caravanserai is centred on a courtyard and serves



Şemsi Paşa Mosque



Süleyman Çelebi (Bey) Mosque

as a hotel today. Its exterior walls are high like castle walls and topped with battlements for protection against attack by pirates.

Şemsi Paşa Mosque

Located in Aydın's city centre in the Güzelhisar quarter, the Şemsi Paşa Mosque is also known as 'Ağaçlararası' (between the trees) or 'Kırmızı Minare' (Red Minaret). It was built by Ahmet Şemsi Pasha in 1759.

Süleyman Çelebi Mosque

Located in Aydın's city centre in İstasyon Square, the Süleyman Çelebi Mosque reflects the characteristics of classical Ottoman architecture. Built of hewn stone by Süleyman Bey in 1683, the square mosque has a polygonal minaret with a single balcony. It is topped by a dome on a tambour with 16 edges and 16 windows. The interior of the dome is embellished with engravings. The prayer niche is simple, while beautiful carvings decorate the marble pulpit.

Nasuh Paşa Külliye

The Nasuh Paşa Külliye is situated in Aydın's city centre in the Köprülü quarter. It was built by Nasuh Pasha from Aydın in 1708 and contains a bath complex, a masjid, a medrese named 'Osmanağa' and an inn called the 'Zincirlihan'.

Üveys Paşa Mosque

The Üveys Paşa Mosque is situated in Aydın's city centre in the Köprülü quarter. It was built by Üveys Pasha, Beylerbeyi of Egypt in 1568. The square mosque is topped by a dome standing

Ramazan Paşa Mosque



on a high tambour. It has an inscription above the marble entrance.

Ramazan Paşa Mosque

The Ramazan Paşa Mosque is located in Aydın's city centre in the Ramazan Paşa quarter. It was built by Ramazan Pasha, brother of Üveys Pasha, in 1595. A square building of hewn stone, the Mosque is covered by a single dome. Its wooden entrance is decorated with intaglios, while 10 long windows and small drop-shaped windows let the light in. Wood carvings, plaster reliefs and colourful glass work are all attractive features of the Mosque.

Kurşunlu Monastery

It is thought that the Kurşunlu Monastery, 10 km from Davutlar in the district of Kuşadası, was constructed by the Byzantines in the 11th century. Inside the Monastery were a dining hall, a larder, a kitchen, rooms for the monks, an infirmary, a chapel, a cemetery and ramparts with a cellar and defence rooms. The ceiling of the chapel was decorated with frescoes depicting symbols and geometric motifs from the Iconoclastic Period. In the second half of the 9th century, when the Iconoclasm ended, religious stories, images and idols were also portrayed in the frescoes.

Arpaz Castle (Arpaz Beyleri Mansion)

This complex is located in Esenköy village near Nazilli and is built on the lower part of the Carian Harpasa Castle. Arpazlı Hacı Hasan Bey, the owner of a large farm on the Akçay Creek, had the building constructed in the 19th century.



He brought workmen from Rhodes for the construction. With a mansion, security tower, granary, stables and auxiliary buildings, the complex is like a chateau.

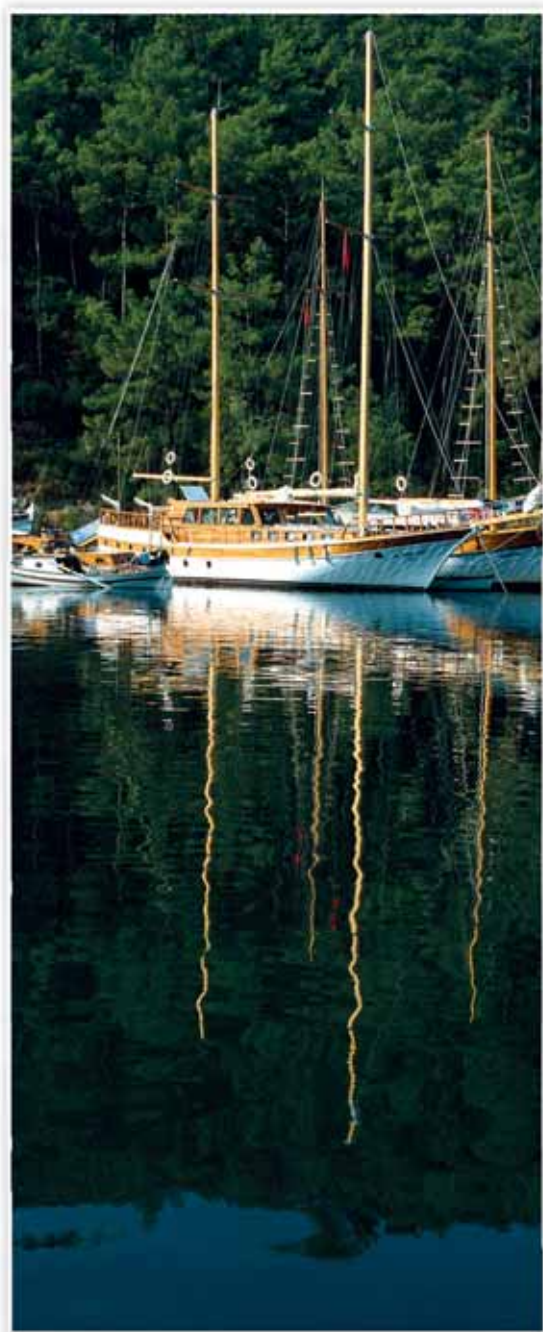
Among the 18th century structures in Aydın's city centre are the Alihan Baba Tomb, built for İsmail bin Alihan from Khorasan; a fountain and tomb built in 1774 by Atike Hanım, daughter of Abdullah Pasha; the Hacı Ömer Dede Masjid; the Fatma Hanım Sübyan Mektebi (Primary School) and fountain; the 'Bey Bath' or 'Cemal Bey Bath' and the Eğri Kümbet, which was damaged by an earthquake in 1899.

Nature and Activity

Sea Tourism

Aydın is an excellent place to enjoy the sea because of its great climate and long tourist season. Sea temperatures between May and October are ideal for water sports such as diving, sailing, surfing, parasailing and water skiing. Beside water sports, the area's pristine beaches offer endless hours of relaxation. Easy transportation to the public beaches makes them accessible for day or weekend trips. The most popular beaches are Tusan, Pigale, Kadınlardenizi, Güvercinada, Yavansu, Aslanburnu and Güzelçamlı in Kuşadası and Altınkum, Tavşanburnu, Gevrek and Akbük in Didim.





Yacht Tourism

Kuşadası offers endless shopping and accommodation opportunities for visitors. With its marina and wonderful harbour, it is also the perfect place for yachts and cruise ships. As the second most important port of entry for cruise ships, Kuşadası has two piers and a yacht harbour which accommodates approximately 350 yachts. There are daily boats from the harbour to the Greek Island of Sisam (Samos) and to other places all year-round. Charter boats are waiting in the harbour to take visitors on a Blue Voyage - an unforgettable experience on the crystal clear and chilly waters.

Thermal Tourism

Aydın is rich in hot springs. The Alangüllü Hot Springs, the Germencik Hot Springs and the Gümüş Hot Springs in Germencik district; the Davutlar Hot Springs in Kuşadası district; the İmamköy Hot Springs and the Kızıldere Hot Springs in Buharkent district and the Salavatlı Hot Springs in Sultanhisar district all offer health and beauty treatments.

The sulphuric waters of these hot springs are known to be effective in the treatment of rheumatoid diseases, sciatica, back pain, kidney stones, calcification, polyneuritis, stress, atherosclerosis, arthritis, osteoporosis, vitiligo, eczema, hair loss, impotency, infertility, haemorrhoids and ulcers. The waters also help people lose weight in a healthy way.

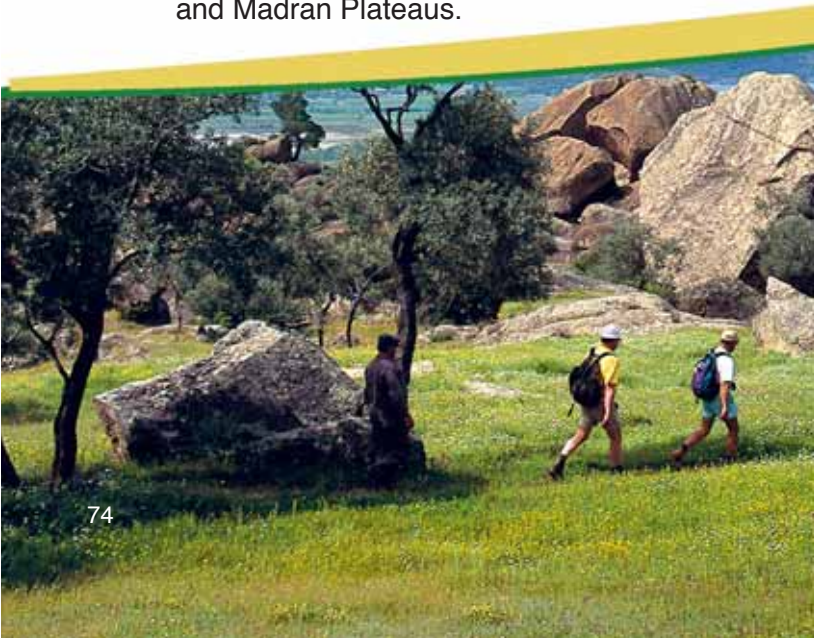
Plateau Tourism

The most popular plateaus are Kahvedere in Karacasu, Bulgur in Bozdoğın, Sarıcaova and Ömür in Kuyucak, Madran in Çine, and Paşa which is 22 km from Aydın.

Mountain and Nature Walking

There are walking routes which pass through areas of great natural beauty and historic interest. The region lying between the Dilek Peninsula, Karina, the Büyük Menderes River and Lake Bafa offers exceptional opportunities for adventure and discovery.

The route from Aphrodisias to Baba Mountain (2380m); Büyük Menderes River Delta National Park and the Çine Valley are perfect routes with historic remains amidst unique natural landscapes. Another alternative for nature-lovers is the route along the Dandalas River in Karacasu on the Paşa and Madran Plateaus.

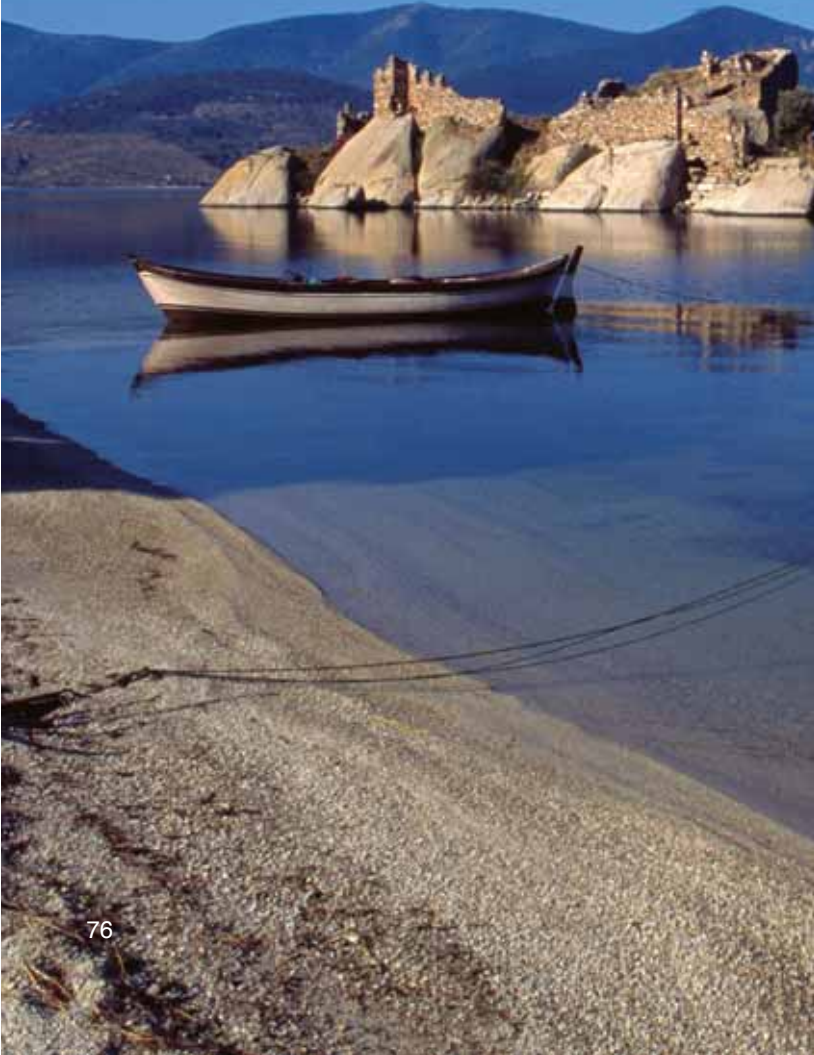


Nature-Walking in the Beşparmak Mountains: A short distance from Bafa Town, the village of Gölyaka (Bucak) is the best point from which to start trekking into the Beşparmak Mountains (1367 m). A 45-minute walk from the village is a cave with wall paintings dating from the 7th or 8th millennium B.C. In ancient times, this path was used for walking to the sacred site of the air and rain god on the mountain's summit. Today it is used by people walking to other villages or to their olive farms. Those seeking adventure can also follow the path to several Byzantine monasteries. Another 45-minutes walk from the cave takes you to the so-called Yediler Monastery, which includes caves and shelters that belonged to the monks.



Lake Bafa

Nature Walking in the Dilek Peninsula National Park: The road between Söke and Güllübahçe passes the village of Doğanbey, which is 2 or 3 km from the Büyük Menderes River Delta. At an altitude of nearly 70 m above sea level, the village commands a wonderful view of the surrounding area. A mesmerizing landscape awaits visitors on the slopes of the mountains that loom above the Büyük Menderes River Delta, with Bafa and Azap Lakes, Beşparmak Mountains



Lake Bafa

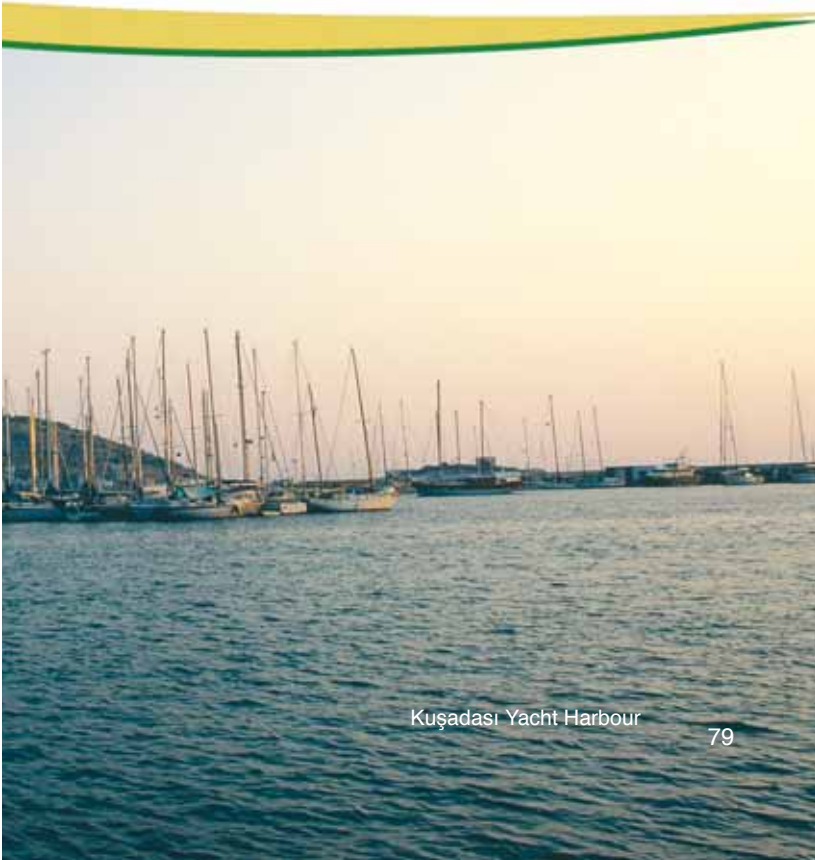




Doğanbey Village



and the ancient cities of Miletos and Myus all visible on a clear day. The southern slopes of the mountain are wooded. A 2 or 3 hour climb can be enjoyed along a path amid a wide range of plants such as pine, laurel, redbud, olive and carob trees, wild strawberry and ryegrass. The route back passes through a wonderful canyon, a natural cypress forest (one of two in Turkey), splashing fountains and Anatolian plane trees and reaches a road in the Dilek Peninsula National Park.



Kuşadası Yacht Harbour



Kuşadası



Mountain Biking

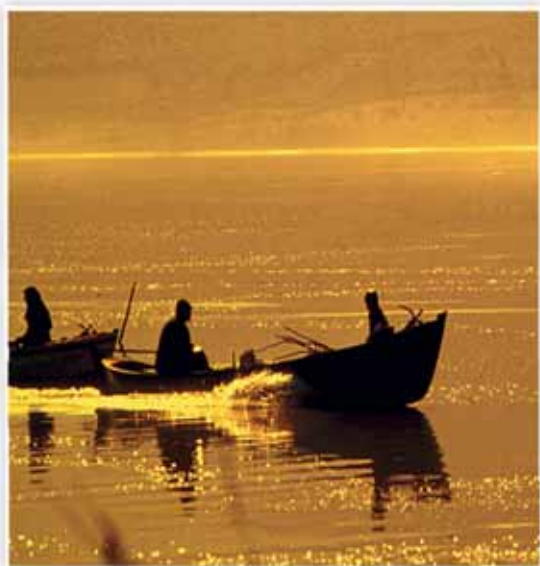
There are great trails for mountain biking between the Dilek Peninsula Büyük Menderes Delta National Park and between Didim-Akbük. These trails are stabilized and slightly sloping.

Caving

With its spectacular caves, Aydın is an ideal spot for caving and pot-holing. It takes 45 minutes to walk to the Sırtlanini Cave from Yukarı Çamarası village near Karacasu. The cave has a very narrow entrance but after 4-5 meters the main cave hall is reached. This hall is divided into 5 or 6 sections by columns standing side-by-side. All of the chambers opening off the hall are full of stalactites, stalagmites and pillars. When the outside temperature is 28 °C and the relative humidity is measured as 44%, the temperature inside is 17 °C and the relative humidity remains at 85%. The cave is 348 m long and 32 m deep. On the road to the Dilek Peninsula National Park, the Zeus Cave is another great cave to explore. It is very impressive on account of its sinkhole carved by underground waters. The Arslanlı Cave or 'Yaren Cave' is reached by a 30 minute walk along a 3 km dirt track from Dereboğazi, on the Kuşadası road. The cave is 110 m in length and 36 m in depth.

Camping and Caravanning

The region is an ideal setting for camping and caravanning in natural



Lake Bafa



surroundings. The area is especially popular with young people.

Sport Line Fishing

Lake Bafa, with its slightly salty water, is excellent for sport line fishing. The waters are rich in fish species due to the high levels of zooplankton and water plants. Besides Lake Bafa, fishing can be enjoyed in Lake Azap, which is surrounded by an idyllic landscape. 35 km from Söke, the lake is surrounded by trees and the Beşparmak Mountains. Between the foothills of the Samson Mountains and the Büyük Menderes River Delta, Lake Karina is another ideal spot for fishing with many different fish species. The lake has every possible shade of blue and is surrounded by beautiful scenery. With a total area of 4 km², the lake has both hot and cold water springs. Grey mullet, bass and lidaki (little gilt headed bream) exist in abundance in the water. Kemer, Topçam, Karpuzlu, Yaylaova Dam Lakes and Avşar, Yatır, Karacahayıt, Kocagöl and Karagöl Lakes are all suitable for sport line fishing.

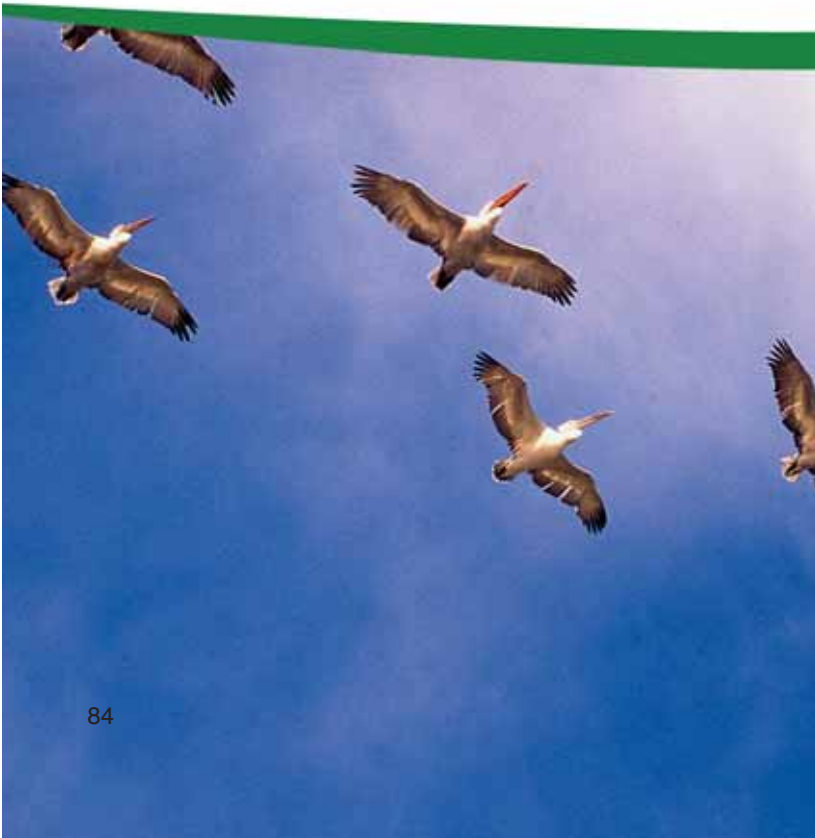
Windsurfing

The Dilek Peninsula has excellent conditions for windsurfing and is famous among enthusiasts.



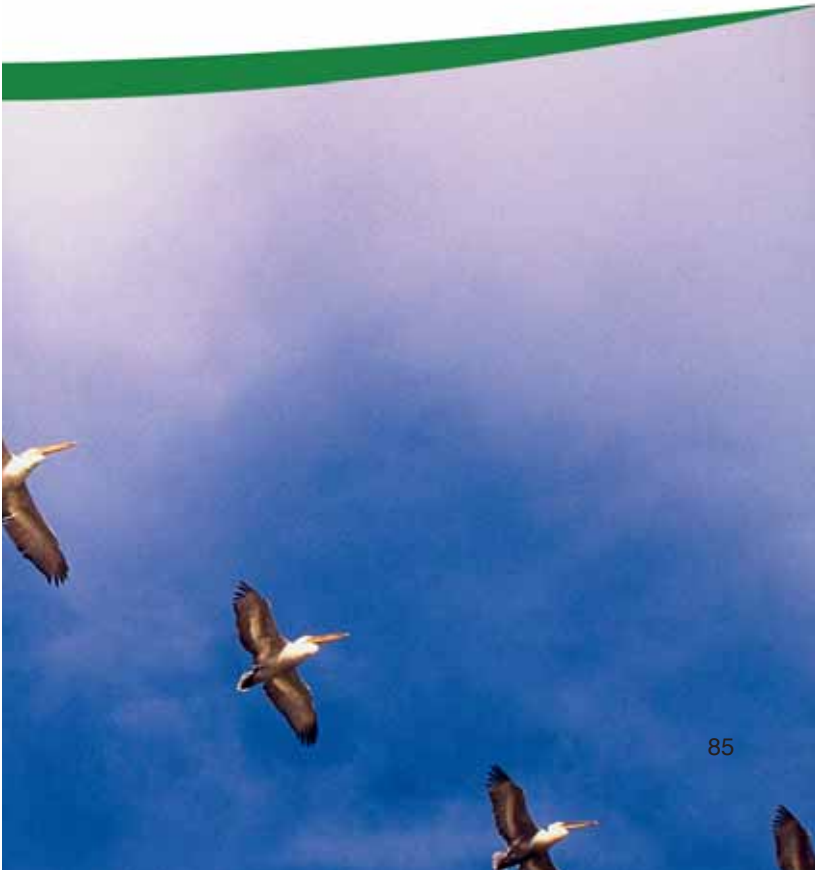
Bird Watching

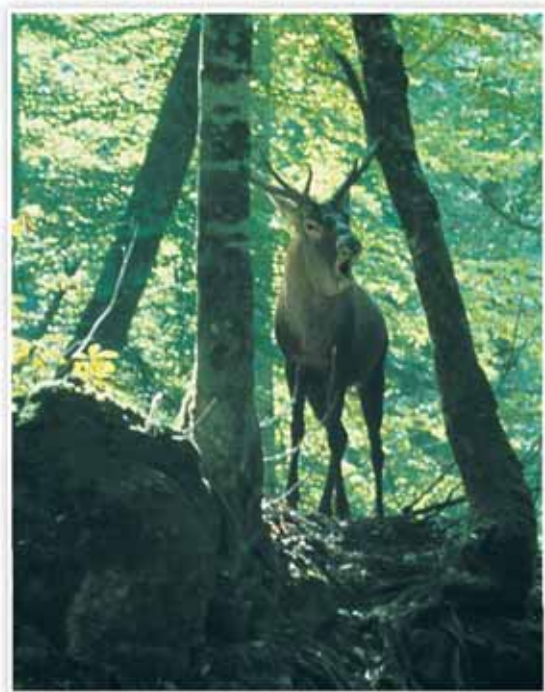
The Büyük Menderes Delta has a large biological diversity, and provides a suitable habitat for 250 bird species, 70 of which nest in the area. The region is an important nesting area for endangered dalmatian pelicans (*pelecanus crispus*) and pygmy cormorants (*phalacrocorax pygmeus*). 5 types of duck have populations of over 30,000, and there are over 6,000 flamingos in the area. Little egrets (*egretta garzetta*), white-tailed eagles (*haliaeetus albicilla*), short-toed eagles (*circaetus gallicus*) and long-legged buzzards (*buteo rufinus*) breed in the region during the winter months. The National Park Centre for Visitors and



Information offers exiting and informative bird watching tours.

The Lake Bafa Nature Area is an important bird area (ÖKA), which shelters collared pranticole (*glareola pratincola*) and spur-winged plovers. Some of the species over-winter in the area include the white-tailed eagle (*haliaeetus albicilla*), little grebe (*tachybaptus ruficollis*), black-necked grebe (*podiceps nigricollis*), cormorant (*phalacrocorax carbo*), gadwall (*anas strepera*), pochard (*aythya ferina*) and coot (*fulica atra*). Dalmatian pelican (*pelecanus crispus*) and pygmy cormorant (*phalacrocorax pygmeus*) from the Büyük Menderes River Delta can also be seen in the area throughout the year.





Plant Observation

The rich flora of the province provides significant opportunities for plant observation by botanists and enthusiasts. On the northern side of the Büyük Menderes Delta National Park there is a rich vegetation cover which is very rarely seen these days in the Mediterranean. The peninsula boasts nearly all the plant species typically found in the Mediterranean maquis as well as daphne and chestnut trees. Grown in the forested areas of northern Anatolia, chestnuts (*castanea sativa*) can also be grown in the province. The guelder rose (*viburnum tinus*) is a rare plant that can be seen growing in Aydın. The province also has the following tree species: holm oak (*quercus ilex*), Phoenician juniper (*juniperus phoenica*) and the Mediterranean cypress (*cupressus sempervirens*).

Wildlife and Hunting Tourism

The heavily forested areas of Aydın provide suitable habitats for numerous wild animal species. Commonly found bird species include the kestrel, black kite, little bustard, great bustard, snipe, and sea eagle, while the pochard and coot are the most common water birds. Wild animals of the region include the bear, wild boar, jackal, lynx, wolf, wildcat, hyena, and rodents such as rabbit, lesser weasel, otter, and marten. Herbivorous animals include wild goats, fallow deer and roe deer. The Büyük



Dilek Peninsula National Park



Menderes Delta National Park is a natural habitat for mammals such as wild ox, wild boar, lynx, fox, marten, jackal, wolf, wild horse and rabbit, and predatory bird species such as eagle, sparrow hawk, falcon, and the vulture which has recently become extinct. The National Park is the only habitat of the endangered Anatolian Leopard in Western Anatolia. It also provides nesting and breeding areas for a wide range of animals such as sea turtles and Mediterranean monk seals, in addition to plenty of reptiles, mammals, birds and fish species.

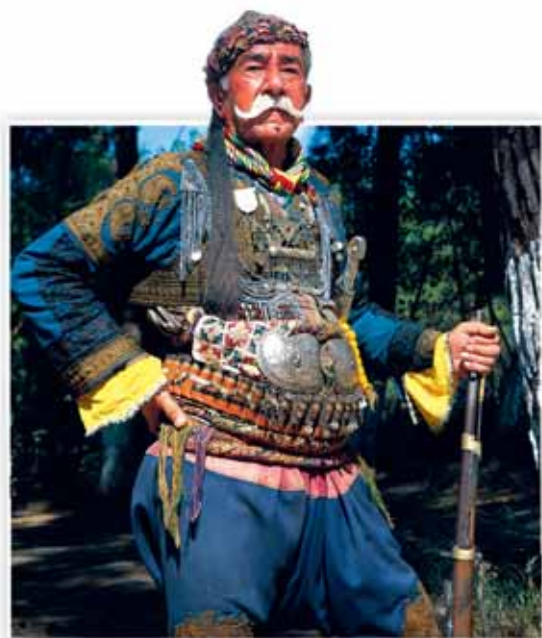
Conservation Areas

Lake Bafa Natural Park

The Lake Bafa Natural Park is situated 25 km from Söke. Surrounded by mountainous terrain, the lake has a jagged, rocky coastline. Lake Bafa covers an area of 65 km², 26 km² of which are within the borders of the province of Aydın, while the rest is in Muğla. Declared a National Park in 1994, the lake is now a protected conservation area. Olive groves, pine trees and tamarisk trees surround the park, which shelters plenty of bird species.

The Dilek Peninsula - Büyük Menderes Delta National Park

The National Park is 28 km from Kuşadası and 34 km from Söke, and is reached by the Kuşadası-Söke highway. The Dilek Peninsula is formed by an



extension of the Samson Mountains into the Aegean Sea. Its geological structure includes Paleozoic schists, Mezozoic limestones and marbles, and Neogene sedimentaries. The National Park can be discovered with the accompaniment of a tour guide by visitors who can also enjoy jeep safari tours organized in Kuşadası.

Regional Characteristics

Aydın is identified with the ‘Zeybek’, who are historic heroes of Western Anatolia. The head of the Zeybek was called an ‘Efe’. These Zeybeks became rebels against the Ottoman government during the deterioration of central administration at the end of 16th century and in the mid 17th century. They organized themselves to fight against injustice and were identified with Aydın at this time. They also fought voluntarily in the Turkish Independence War. Some of the famous Zeybek were Yörük Ali Efe, Gökçen Efe, Cafer Efe, Kınalı Dokuz Efe and Mestan Efe.

Handcrafts and Souvenirs

Displaying exceptional motifs and colours, the hand-woven carpets, rugs and shoulder bags of the region, especially in Turkmen and Yörük designs, are eye-catching and make excellent souvenirs. Yörük sacks woven with a special technique, known as sumak, are also commonly found in the region. Another living tradition in Aydın is the weaving of goat hair tents, which can be used under all climatic conditions.



Local costumes, such as headscarfs, skullcaps, fezes, shirts made of silk or cotton crepe, cepken made of broadcloth (a short embroidered jacket with full sleeves) and şalvars (loose trousers which are tight around the ankles), üçetek (a dress worn over the flalvar), and woven belts, are colourful and dazzling.

Wood carving is another common local handicraft in the province. Cigarette holders, cradles, small ornaments and toys are some of the popular locally produced wooden items. Turkmen and Yörük cradles draw the attention of visitors with their designs and beautifully carved motifs. The Karacasu district is known for its red coloured earthenware items, such as jugs and bowls.

Regional Cuisine

The province has a rich regional cuisine. Dishes cooked in olive oil; fish species such as gilt-head bream, grey mullet, red sea bream and red mullet; citrus fruits, figs, grapes, sour orange jam and the local wine are all worth tasting. Among the traditional dishes of Aydın are tarhana çorbası (a traditional soup made from a mixture of sundried yoghurt, tomato and pimento peppers), kulak çorbası (soup), acılı güveç (meat and vegetable stew with hot peppers), zeytinyağlı kırlı kızartma (fried vegetables in olive oil), zeytinyağlı taze and kuru börülce (fresh or dried black-eye peas cooked in olive oil), patlıcan kavurma (braised eggplant), sarmaşık and kedirgen kavurma, yaprak sarma



(meat and rice wrapped in vine leaves), etli nohut yahnisi (meat stew with chickpea), nohutlu kereviz (celery with chickpea), arap saçı, ciğer sote (liver sauté), keşkek (lamb with cracked wheat), cilav-ayran böreği (pastry), patlıcan biber taratoru-turşusu (pickled eggplant and green pepper), börülce taratoru (black-eyed pea salad with a sauce of flour, onion, olive oil and garlic), turp otu salatası (radish salad), semizotu salatası (purslane salad), and çingene pilavı (pilaf). Sweets and desserts of the region include irmik helvası (semolina helva), zerde (saffron rice dessert), muhallebi (pudding with rice flour and rosewater), sütlaç (rice pudding), aşure (dessert with wheat grains, nuts and dried fruit- known as Noah's Pudding), lokma (fried batter dipped in syrup) and pelvize tatlısı. The most delicious figs are grown in the Aydın region thanks to suitable climatic and geographic conditions. The most famous fig types are 'sarıtop', 'bardacık', 'göklop', 'morgül' and 'karayaprak'.



Local Activities

Local activities, especially camel wrestling, bull-fighting and cockfights are very popular among local and foreign visitors.

Average Water Temperatures in Kuşadası

Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June
15,3	14,8	15,0	16,3	19,2	22,4
July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23,8	23,2	22,3	20,0	17,7	16,3

Year Average 18,8

Average Air Temperatures in Aydın

Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June
7,9	8,9	11,2	15,2	19,9	24,5
July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27,4	26,6	22,5	17,8	13,0	9,3

Year Average 17,0

Kuşadası Harbour



Climate

The local climate is Mediterranean, with hot and dry summers, and mild and rainy winters. Snowfall is rare. The prevailing winds in Aydın are from the east and southeast, but winds from the west and the southwest are also experienced in the province.

Transportation

By Road: The city of Aydın is on the E-24 Denizli - İzmir highway. Aydın's city centre is situated at a distance of 100 km from İzmir, 930 km from İstanbul, and 530 km from Ankara. Kuşadası, one of the main tourist attractions in the province, is linked to the surrounding districts and cities by three main roads: Kuşadası-Selçuk, Kuşadası-Söke and Kuşadası-Söke-Davutlar.

By Rail: The extension of the Söke railroad was the first railway line in Turkey, and it passes through the province in an east-west direction. Söke, Ortaklar, Germencik, İncirliova, Aydın's city centre, Köşk, Sultanhisar, Nazilli, Kuyucak and Buharkent are along the railway's route.

By Sea: It is possible to reach Aydın by sea and Kuşadası's harbour is the busiest harbour in Turkey. Daily ferries are available from Didim to Bodrum during the summer season. Visiting the surrounding coves and islands by tour yachts is also possible. There are regular ferry services from Kuşadası to Samos besides the cruise ships that bring foreign tourists to Ephesus for daily excursions.



Don't Leave Without

Visiting the ancient city of Aphrodisias
and the Temple of Apollo in Didyma,

Watching the Kuşadası Golden
Dove Music Contest,

Tasting dishes cooked
in olive oil, which are a
speciality of the Aegean
Region, as well as figs,
grapes, citrus fruits and
the wine produced with
local grapes,

Buying some sour orange
jam,

Eating delicious local
fish such as gilt-headed
bream, gray mullet, red sea
bream and red mullet,

Enjoying the elegant shops
that sell carpets, rugs, leather
clothes, jewellery and souvenirs,

Going swimming at Didim,

Tasting the delicious kar helvası
(snow helva)...



Useful Phone Numbers

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(+90-256) 213 01 66

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(+90-256) 614 11 03

Didim Tourism Information Office
(+90-256) 811 57 07

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Municipality (+90-256) 226 63 80

Hospital (+90-256) 213 90 00

Police (+90-256) 219 61 20

Gendarmerie (+90-256) 231 01 06

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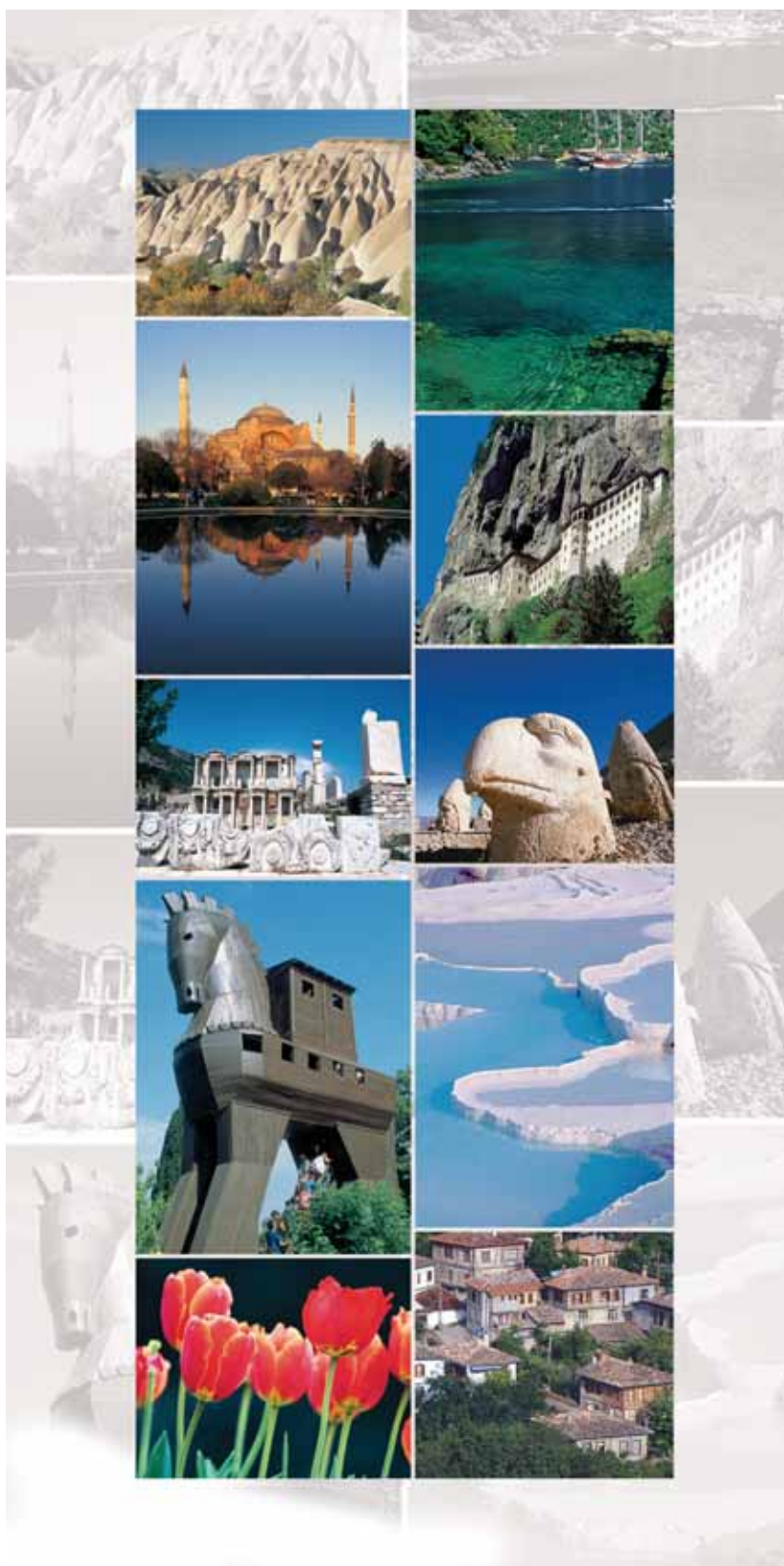
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Cultural Heritage is Fragile

The world's cultural heritage is like a big puzzle. Each monument, each object, is an irreplaceable part of the overall picture which gives us insight into our origins, our development and our lives today. It helps us to understand and appreciate other cultures. Each discovery, each new interpretation adds to the puzzle and makes the picture clearer. We must ensure the protection of every single piece today, so that future generations may have the opportunities to enjoy the puzzle.

Many people are not aware that our cultural heritage is under stress from natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and from slower acting processes such as pollution or human actions. Even the most innocent gestures such as collecting ancient pieces of pottery or mosaics as souvenirs have a destructive impact if repeated by thousands. Touching an object of stone, metal or textile leaves traces of grease, acid or sweat on its surface. Climbing a monument wears down the structure underneath and can dismantle it. Writing or engraving names inflicts permanent damage. Strolling around narrow crowded places with bulky bags or backpacks might knock over an object or scratch a mural painting and ruin it. There are countless ways in which one can unknowingly contribute to the destruction of cultural heritage.

In 2020 there will be 1.6 billion visitors per year worldwide. Let us raise awareness of this issue so that we may join together to protect and enjoy the diversity and richness of our cultural heritage.

**International Organization for
Conservation of Cultural Heritage
(ICCROM)**





Nestling at the foot of green mountains with magnificent views of the turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea, Aydın bears witness to a rich and fascinating past.

