

Turkey



ÇEŞME

İZMİR



Turkey



HISTORY

Çeşme, which was called Cysus during antiquity, was known to be the port that served Erythrai (İldırı), one of the 12 Ionian cities. For this reason, Çeşme has always been referred to together with İldırı. The early history of İldırı region goes back to the Bronze Age. It came under the dominance of the Lydian State in 560 BC, but in 546 BC it fell to the Persian Empire. Trade flourished, due to its sheltered port, good farm land, and close proximity to Chios. Çeşme maintained its commercial importance throughout the ages. In 334 BC Alexander the Great captured the region. After the death of King Attalus III, in 133 BC, the Pergamum Kingdom was annexed to the Roman Empire, and İldırı and its environs became an independent city in the Asian province of the Romans. The name “Çeşme” dates to the time of Ottoman rule, and derives from the cool spring waters and famous fountains that exist to the present day -the word means “faucet” or “font” in Turkish.

With the development of port of İzmir, Çeşme has lost its importance as a trading port. However, it has gained a second life as one of the most important tourism centres of the whole Aegean Region. Its natural beaches and modern resorts are visited by the tens of thousands of holidaymakers who flock to its magnificent coast every year.





Alaçatı

HISTORICAL HERITAGE

Fortress of Çeşme

The fortress was built in 1508 during the reign of Sultan Bayezid II. It is based on a rectangular plan with a citadel, and outer walls strengthened with six towers. It was built to defend the port, sitting right at the sea's edge. Later land reclamation efforts, however, have pushed back the waters. Today the fortress hosts the annual Çeşme International Festival, which is held between 2 and 7 July, and other cultural and artistic activities, including musical contests.



Çeşme Museum

The Fortress of Çeşme houses the Archaeological Museum which exhibits many archaeological and ethnographic objects recovered from Ildırı (Erythrai), Çeşme and Alaçatı. Objects on display include the finds of the underwater archaeological survey of the sites of the naval battles as well as reproduction paintings and archival documents related with these wars. The museum has also two separate exhibition halls for marble objects and smaller ceramic and earthenware artefacts.





Çeşme Museum



Caravanserai

The Caravanserai, built by the Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent in 1528, served as a secure staging post for traders, especially foreign traders, during the Ottoman Period. At present it is a fine hotel. While the hotel provides overnight accommodation, it also serves as a venue of entertainment and shopping including every kind of product from hand woven carpets to leather clothes.





Mosques

All of the mosques in Çeşme were built during the 19th century. They display common architectural features and all of them are still functioning. The oldest one is **Hadji Memiş Aga Mosque** which was built in 1827. The mosque has a rectangular plan and solid stone walls. Its roof is covered with terracotta tiles, and its cut stone minaret has a single gallery. Its carved wooden pulpit carries geometrical and plant motifs. The **Hadji Mehmet Aga Mosque**, which was built in 1842, has a similar architectural plan.

The **Osman Aga Mosque** was constructed by Osman Aga in 1835 as a two storey building with rough stone walls. The **Memiş Aga Mosque** in Alaçatı was dated to the 19th century through the headstones found in its graveyard. The mosque has an octagonal plan and differs from other mosques. Its cut stone minaret has a single gallery.

Haralambos Church

The church, believed to have been built in the 19th century, has a basilica plan with three aisles and two storeys. It was built of solid stone, and today it serves as a cultural centre exhibiting various artistic activities.







Fountains

Fountains have adorned the streets and paths of Anatolian villages and towns for centuries. They are distinctive and attractive features of the Anatolian architectural history. The fountains in Çeşme were built and dedicated to the public use by wealthy citizens in the 1800s. These fountains lend their name to the region. Besides bearing classical features of Ottoman architecture, several street corner fountains of Çeşme are simple structures. Kabadayı Fountain, Maraş Fountain, Kandıra Fountain and many other fountains reflect the historical texture of Çeşme with their authentic architectural styles.













Traditional Çeşme Houses

Traditional Çeşme houses, well known for their aesthetically pleasing designs, were built side by side without front gardens. Their entrance doors open directly to the road and are sided by ground floor windows with shutters. The front walls of first floors are extended on cantilevers. Generally a yellow coloured stone (Köste stone) is used for building. The front elevations end with shallow gables. Another feature of Çeşme houses is two-dimensional plaster adornment technique called “sgraffito.” In this technique, layers of different coloured plaster are applied on top of each other while the lower is wet. The outlines of a design are created by scratching through layers.





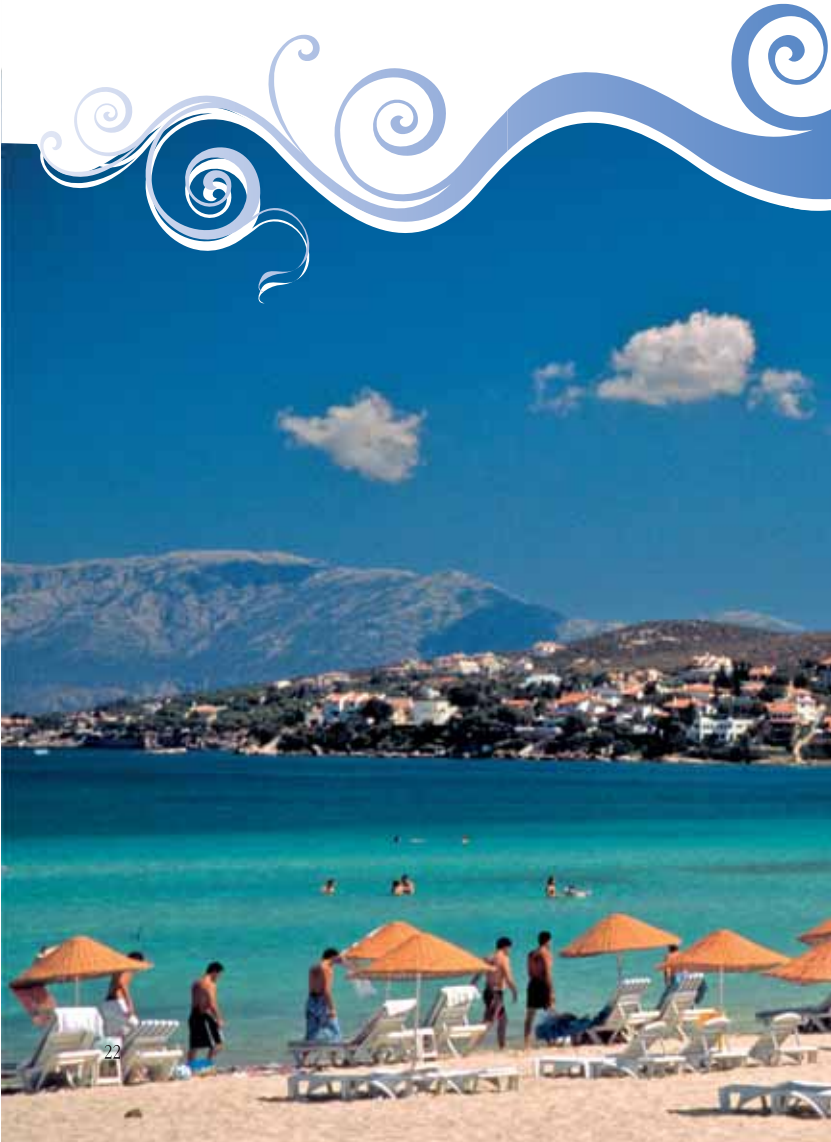






ÇEŞME BEACHES

Çeşme, with its 29-kilometre-long shoreline, crystal clear waters, beautiful vistas, and natural beaches, is an excellent spot to enjoy sea, sun and sand. Çeşme is among the prime locations in the whole Aegean for swimming, sunbathing, surfing and diving at Blue Flag beaches, or for day trips to the islands.



Ilica

Ilica is about three kilometres east of Çeşme, and has a two-kilometre-long beach of fine white sands. Its beautiful holiday resorts, and thermal water springs seeping from the sea bed make Ilica the most popular tourism area of Çeşme. The shallows, fed by thermal waters, are ideal for learner swimmers and children. Most of the resorts have capacity to meet the intensive demand of high season, and have access to the natural thermal spa waters.



Boyalık Bay

The five-kilometre-long seashore of Boyalık Bay is dotted with fine beaches. It has the same features of İlica beach, and it is the fastest growing tourism area of Çeşme. A modern holiday resort and a marina are situated at Kalem Point in the central part of bay.

Ayayorgi

Ayayorgi (Hagios Georgios) is a crescent shaped bay between Dalyan Village and Çeşme. It is sheltered from the north winds and renowned for its turquoise, clear water. With these natural aspects the Ayayorgi Bay is an ideal stop for visiting yachts as well as shore based visitors.

Dalyan Village and Sakızlı Bay

Reflecting the life and nature in the Aegean region, these tourist attractions are situated on the northern shores of the Çeşme peninsula. Dalyan village is about four kilometres away from the centre of Çeşme, and has many good quality hotels and pensions.







Çiftlikköy

This area is situated on the south-western shores of Çeşme. It is sheltered from the northerly winds and its calm seas are quite suitable for swimming. Next to the popular beaches such as Altinkum, Pırlanta and Tursite, several high quality resorts and pensions are aggregated.

Şifne- Büyük Liman - Paşa Limanı

From İlica Beach, the seashore, stretching north east and reaching Şifne, is enchanting with its beautiful beaches and spas. Büyük Liman (Great Harbour) and Paşa Limanı (Pasha Harbour) bays are home to tourist resorts, camping sites and summer houses. Transportation to this area runs from İlica centre, about five kilometres away.

İldırı

İldırı and its environs, site of the ancient city of Erythrai, is an attractive centre for holiday makers, with its natural beaches and fish restaurants. This site of outstanding history and natural beauty is about 27 kilometres from centre of Çeşme and 15 kilometres away from İlica.



Yıldız Point

Ovacık - Çatalazmak Beach

This beach, situated at Güvercinlik, is in the south of Çeşme and is famous for the travertine outcrops. The shore is pock-marked by sea-formed caves.

Donkey Island

The coves of Donkey Island that can be reached with an hour's boat ride from Çeşme, are heaven for day trippers. Due to their natural lie those coves are sheltered from north wind and very suitable for water sports. The island is almost covered with small shrubs, and there is a wind operated fresh water well to provide water to the donkeys which gave name to the island. Being a National Park area the island well serves to the needs of tourists. There is no overnight stay accommodation and the only option available is taking part in one of the day trips. The adjacent Kara Island is a very attractive place with its Blue Cove which is almost a natural aquarium.





TOURS

Apart from ferry services, the day trips on board motorboats and sailing craft departing from Çeşme attract a large number of visitors. Among the attractive destinations are Donkey Island, Blue Cove and hot water spas. If you prefer a longer trip, you may opt to take part in trips between the harbours of Çeşme and Kuşadası. These longer tours visit Kuşadası, Sığacık, Alaçatı, Çeşme, Karaburun, Foça, Bademli (Dikili), Ayvalık, Altınoluk, Behramkale, Lesbos and Chios harbours. These tours contain ample opportunity for sunbathing and swimming. Besides, there are ferry trips crossing from Çeşme to Chios Island within an hour which operate six times a week during the winter months, and daily during the summer season.









MARINA

The route between Çeşme and Kuşadası is one of the prime yachting and sailing regions on the Aegean coastline. Due to its central position and suitable natural lie, the Çeşme Marina is an important destination for local and international sailing yachts. Top quality 24-hour service includes slippage, winching in and out, winter storage over hard surface, cleaning as well as maintaining batteries charged, ventilation, periodical engine running, winterising and various repair services are provided at the marina. Besides serving the needs of the yachting and sailing communities, the Çeşme Marina provides a meeting place to them with its shopping areas as well as cafe, bar and restaurants.

Furthermore, Altınyunus Marina and Alaçatı Pier are prime locations with ideal facilities for stop over, wintering and maintenance of yachts.





SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Wind Surf at Alaçatı

Alaçatı is a cosy settlement with cobble stone roads, centuries old wind mills and orchards of gum trees, and it is about 7 kilometres away from the centre of Çeşme. The natural harbour of Alaçatı is one of the famous locations of the world for wind surfing, with its constant hard winds, but a calmer sea with smaller waves. During the windy season lasting between May and October you may see windsurfers across the globe. If you don't have any surfing experience you can take courses from the windsurfing schools serving beginners in Alaçatı.

Alaçatı is also an ideal centre for sailors, and every year surfing and sailing competitions are organised with the participation of internationally renowned sailors or surfers. It will certainly be a great experience to live this atmosphere.





Diving

Çeşme coastline is rich in features that attract diving fans, who enjoy abundant opportunities to explore new areas and discover different aspects of the sport. There are many suitable sites for advanced divers as well as beginners.

• Fener Island

The island is an ideal location for those who enjoy diving in a current. There are two diving sites where the depth reaches 18 metres. You may find all kinds of sponges and corals and there are a couple of old seal caves. Occasionally divers are accompanied by Mediterranean Monk Seals and schools of fish swimming above the amazing background of shapes and colours of the seabed.

• Yatak Island

The seabed reaches 40 metres deep around the island and it is renowned for the magnificent sea cave at about 8-10 metres depth. Generally it is chosen for the last dive of the day. The two cave entrances on the west coast of the island and the seabed covered with sponges provide ample opportunities for macro and wide angle photography. Looking from inside, the cave entrance provides a dark framed turquoise water expanding into unknown.

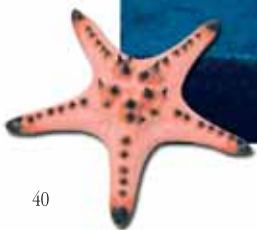
• Donkey Island

While there are many diving sites in the island, Yarık Kaya (Cracked Rock) is the best. The depth reaches 50-60 metres. The east wall that starts at about 20 metres and reaches 40 metres is a must see place for every diver.

• İldırı Bay

İldırı Bay is one of the excellent sites for diving at Çeşme, and it is very attractive with its coral rocks and caves.







THERMAL WATERS

Rich in tourist attractions, Çeşme is also endowed with natural hot springs abundantly. İlica, Şifne and Yıldız Point are among the best known spas. The thermal waters of these spas are thought to be beneficial for those complaining from gynaecological disorders, rheumatism, skin and digestive system disorders, as well as metabolism problems.







Ilca



Ilıca Spa

Ilıca Spa is on the road connecting Çeşme to İzmir, and it is about 5 kilometres to Çeşme. Its seashore location makes it almost unique in the world. The thermal waters of 50-60°C seep from the seabed. Easily accessible from İzmir and Çeşme, Ilıca Spa and Beach provides hotel facilities to thousands of visitors each year.

Şifne Spa

Şifne Spa is situated on a small peninsula thrusting into the Şifne Bay, about 10 kilometres to Çeşme. It is famous for its mud baths and thermal waters of 42-52°C. With its open-air and covered pools, Şifne Spa provides service both in summer and winter and there are many hotels and restaurants in the vicinity. The location of the spa is advantageous since it is near to the beaches and camping sites such as Reisdere and Paşa Limanı.



LOCAL CUISINE

Çeşme has a sea food rich cuisine. Typical dishes include grilled gilt-head sea bream (çipura), steamed sea bass (levrek), and various dishes with lobster (istakoz), mussels (midye), and octopus (ahtapot). Seafood is outstandingly fresh and the establishment is sure to provide attentive service and a pleasant authenticity. You may also enjoy special sandwiches called **İzmir kumrusu**, as well as specialities such as **şeker işi**, a sweet pastry served with local fig marmalade; **kuru sıkma köfte**, dry and squeezed meatballs; **enginar**, artichokes prepared in olive oil; **kaz budu**, goose legs; **bademli süt**, almond milk. We must also mention **sakız reçeli**, mastic gum jam prepared with the resin of local gum mastic trees, and local melons which are famous for taste.





İzmir Kumrusu



Alaçati Beach









Ilica Beach



Alaçatı



Altinkum
Beach

FESTIVALS, CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS

April

- Celebration of Tourism Week

June

- Peninsular Sports Games
- Alaçatı International Festival of Children and Youth Theatre

July

- Celebration of Cabotage Holiday and Water Sports Festival
- Çeşme Music Days
- Painting Exhibitions at the Çeşme Kale Burcu Çakabey Cultural Centre and Altın Yunus Holiday Resort

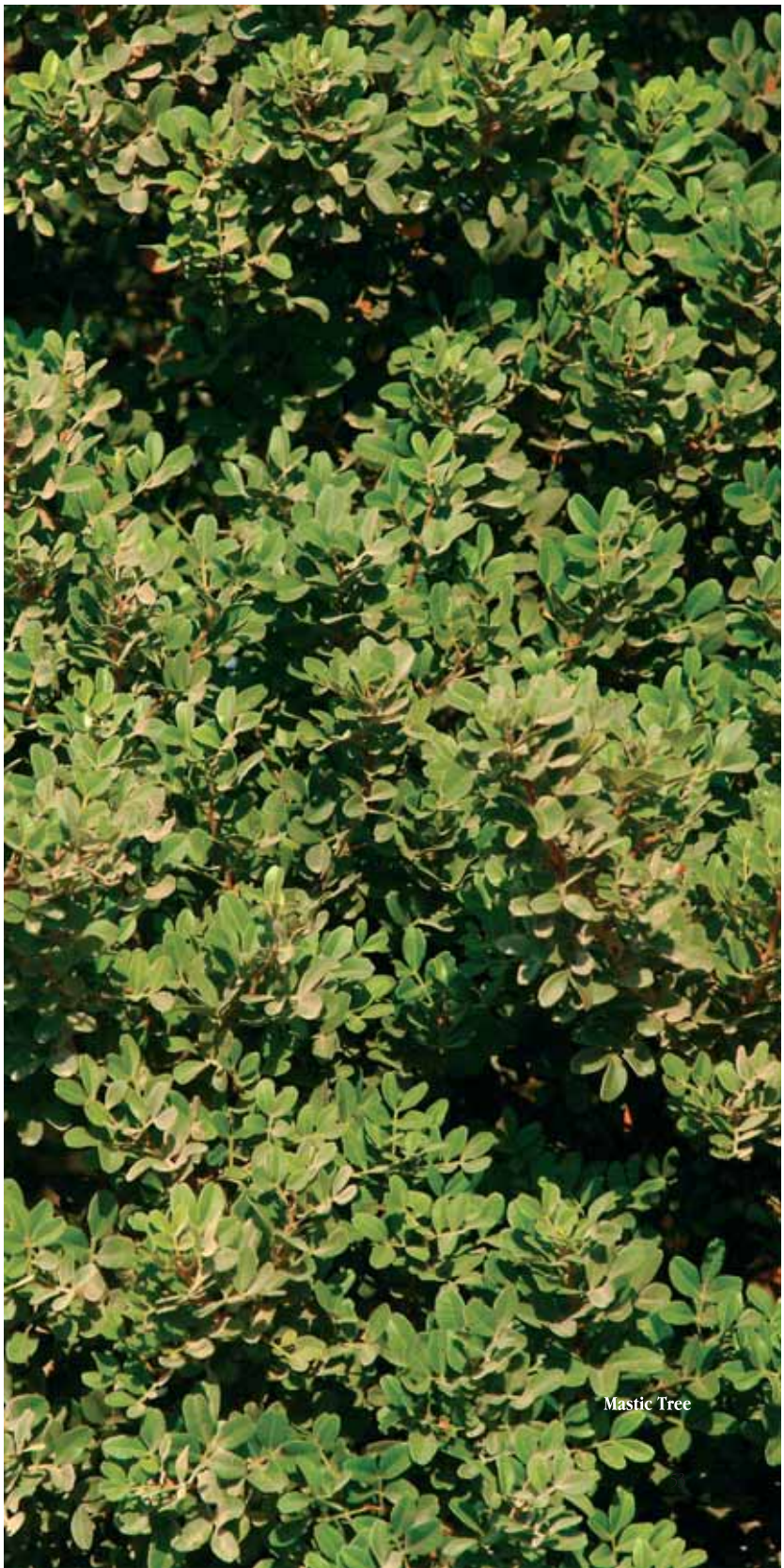
August

- International Surfing Competition at Alaçatı
- Çeşme International Triathlon Games
- Çeşme International Cinema Days
- Boat Show
- Book Fair

September

- Agricultural Produce and Çeşme Melon Festival
- Sea Food and Çeşme Chios Sheep Festival





Mastic Tree

TRANSPORT

You may use road, air or sea transport to reach Çeşme, the pearl of Aegean. Those who want to use road transport may take busses to Çeşme from the Intercity Bus Terminal of İzmir or from Üçkuyular Terminal. Those arriving at İzmir Adnan Menderes Airport may take service busses to Çeşme - the journey take about 45 minutes. Regular minibus services depart from Çeşme centre to beaches such as **Altınkum Dalyan, Alaçatı, Ovacık, Ilca, Reisdere**. Ferries sailing between İzmir, Kuşadası, Chios Island, and Greece and Italy regularly stop over at the Port of Çeşme.

CLIMATE

Çeşme has typical Mediterranean climate and has a long swimming season. Sea and sun bathing can be enjoyed between May and September. The *İmbat* breeze, which comes from sea, and drives down the shore temperatures to a pleasant level, is a typical feature of the Aegean climate. Çeşme enjoys stable and warm weather throughout the winter - ideal for those escaping colder climes.

	Average Ambient Temperature	Average Sea Temperature
January	7	11
April	14	15
July	26	26
October	17	21

Don't leave without having...

- Enjoyed the thermal waters of Ilica and Şifne,
- Swum at the natural beaches of fine sands,
- Windsurfed at Alaçatı,
- Visited the famous Fortress and Çeşme Museum,
- Seen the fountains and mosques that reflect the Ottoman Period, and
- Tasted the seafood, İzmir kumrusu, and gum mastic jam...







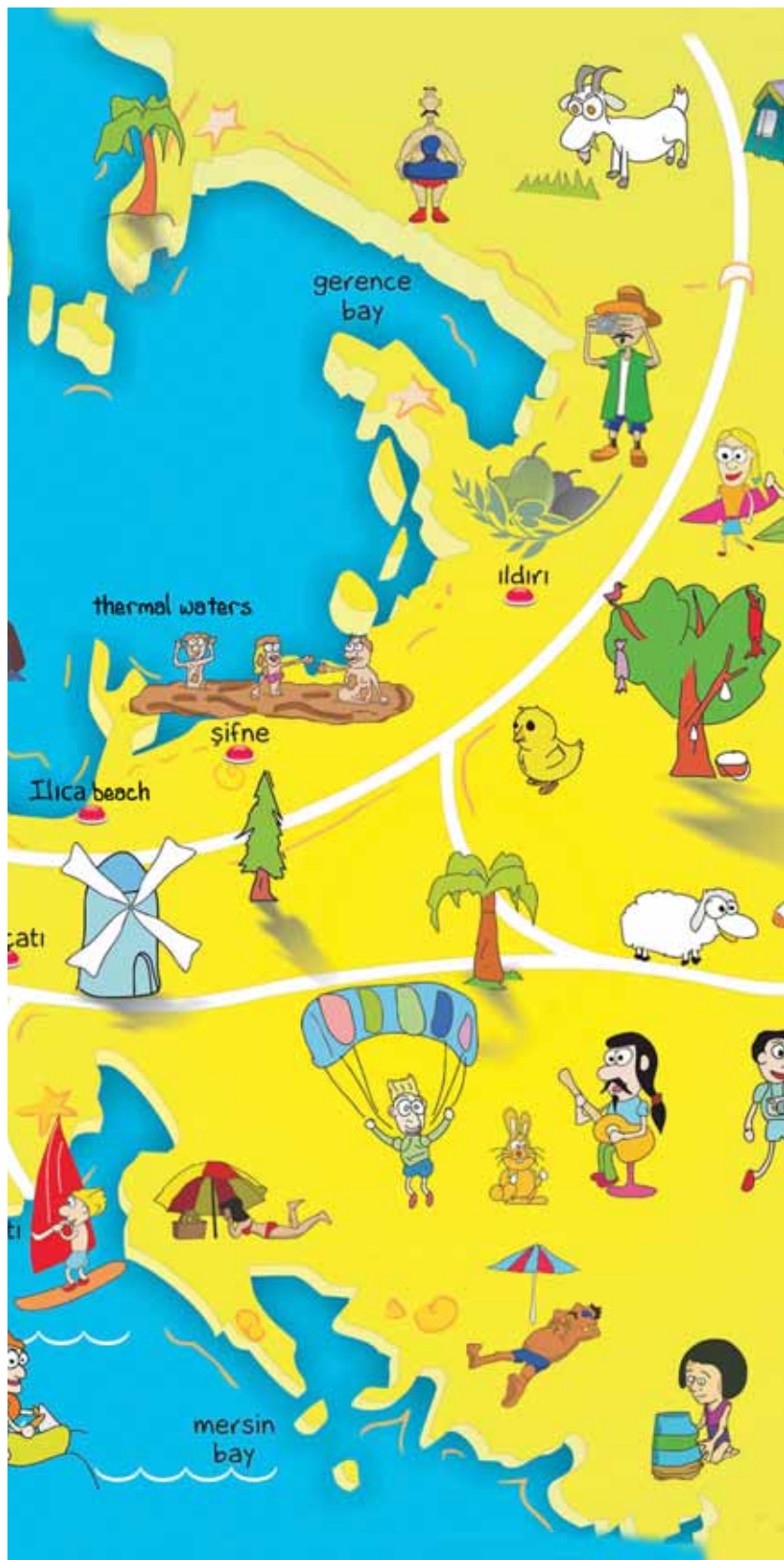
USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

District Governorship of Çeşme	Tel: (+90 232) 712 68 41 712 66 15
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Çeşme Municipality	Tel: (+90 232) 712 66 32 712 67 29
	Fax: (+90 232) 712 64 57
Tourist Information Office	Tel: (+90 232) 712 66 53 Fax: (+90 232) 712 66 53
Çeşme Touristic Hoteliers Association	Tel: (+90 232) 712 13 62 Fax: (+90 232) 712 23 04
Courthouse	Tel: (+90 232) 712 65 62
Police Station	Tel: (+90 232) 712 60 93 712 66 27
	Fax: (+90 232) 712 60 93
Gendarmerie Station	Tel: (+90 232) 712 04 04
State Hospital	Tel: (+90 232) 712 07 77 712 07 78
	Fax: (+90 232) 712 07 79
Clinic	Tel: (+90 232) 712 68 78 712 68 28
	Fax: (+90 232) 712 68 68
Dispensary	Tel: (+90 232) 712 04 20
Coast Guard	Tel: (+90 232) 712 21 61 Fax: (+90 232) 712 21 61
Çeşme Museum	Tel: (+90 232) 712 66 09 Fax: (+90 232) 712 66 09
Customs	Tel: (+90 232) 712 04 28 712 04 29
	Fax: (+90 232) 712 66 26
Harbour Master	Tel: (+90 232) 712 60 05 Fax: (+90 232) 712 86 95
Post Office	Tel: (+90 232) 712 63 48 712 66 20
	Fax: (+90 232) 712 90 00
Çeşme Bus Station	Tel: (+90 232) 712 64 99
Alaçatı Bus Station	Tel: (+90 232) 716 82 99
Medical Emergency	112
Fire Brigade	110
Police	155
Gendarmerie	156



Fortress of Çeşme







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)



T.R. MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

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Archive of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism,
Archive of Çeşme Touristic Hoteliers Association,
Archive of Meteksan Ltd. Co.

Print

Başak Matbaacılık ve Tanıtım Hiz. Ltd. Şti.
Tel: 0312 397 16 17 Fax: 0312 397 03 07

Ankara 2011
For Free Distribution





Çeşme, 80 kilometres away from the metropolitan centre of İzmir, is the westernmost point of the Anatolian peninsula. Çeşme County is bordered to the north by Karaburun County, and to the east by Urla County. To its west and south lies the Aegean Sea and across the sea, the island of Chios. Its 29-kilometre-long seashore, from Ildırı (Erythrai) to Alaçatı, is a perfect holiday destination. With hospitality options including hotels, motels, pensions and summer houses, Çeşme provides you with a unique geography where human life intertwines with nature.

