



datça





DATÇA, WHERE THE
AEGEAN MEETS THE
MEDITERRANEAN, IS ONE OF
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
LOCATIONS IN TURKEY.
WITH ITS PRISTINE AIR,
SEAFOOD RESTAURANTS,
ANCIENT RUINS AND NATURAL
BEAUTY, DATÇA IS READY TO
OFFER YOU A HOLIDAY THAT
YOU WILL NEVER FORGET.

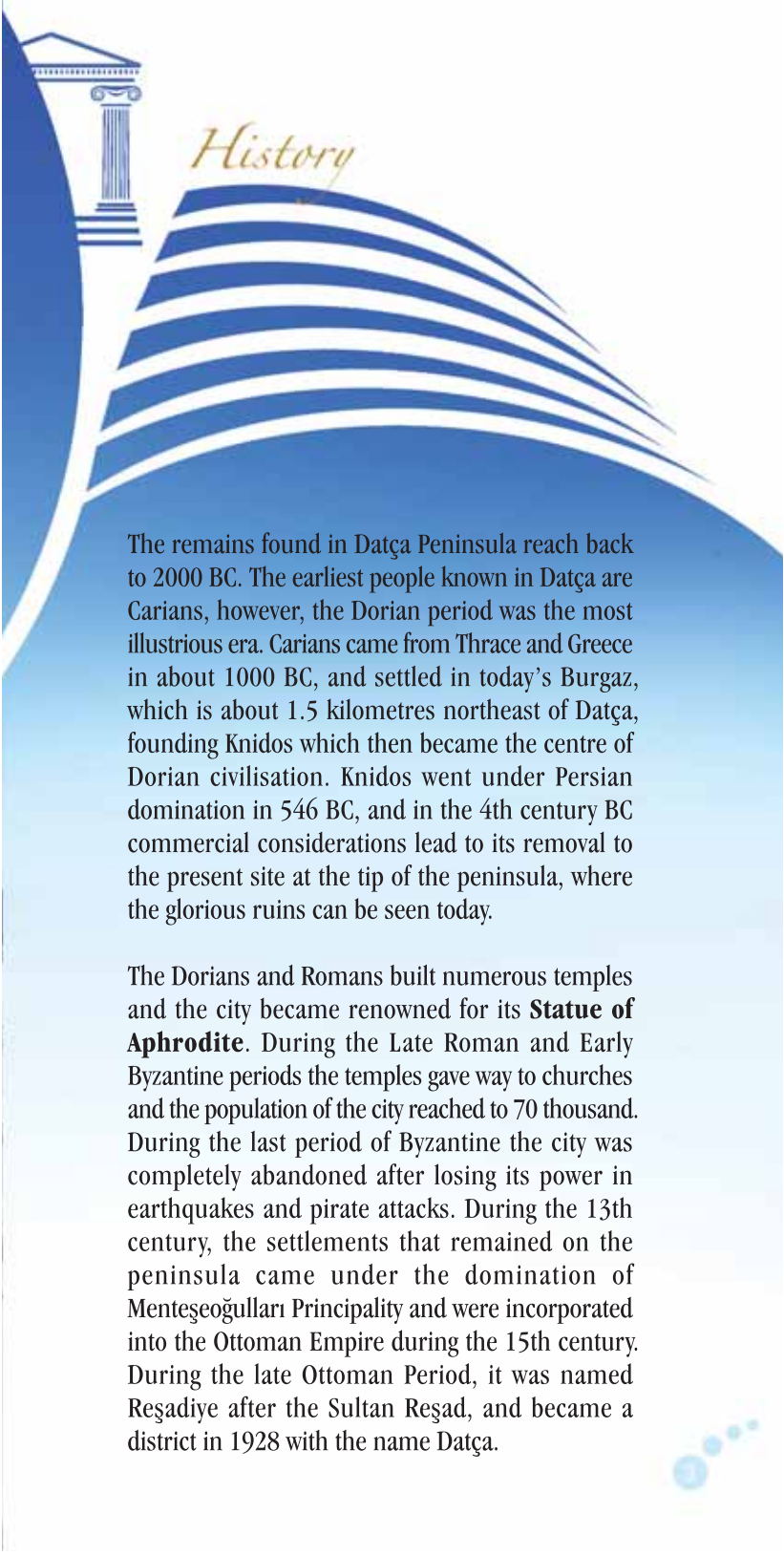
THE PENINSULA JUTS
70 KILOMETRES WESTWARD
INTO THE SEA. ON ITS
NORTHERN SHORES LAYS THE
GÖKOVA GULF AND ON ITS
SOUTHERN SHORES LAYS THE
HİSARÖNÜ GULF.

RUNNING FROM BENCİK COVE
TO KNIDOS AT THE TIP OF THE
PENINSULA, THE UNIQUE
REGION WAS DECLARED
AN ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION ZONE.

WITH ITS CALM SEAS, QUALITY
HOTELS AND RESORTS,
RUSTIC SEAFOOD RESTAURANTS,
ANCIENT RUINS, AND VIRGIN
NATURE, DATÇA IS THE
PREFERRED SPOT FOR THOSE
WHO WANT TO GET AWAY FROM
THE CROWDS AND METROPOLISES.
AIR IN DATÇA REGION HAS THE
HIGHEST OXYGEN CONTENT
IN TURKEY, AND ONE OF THE
RICHEST AROUND THE GLOBE.







History

The remains found in Datça Peninsula reach back to 2000 BC. The earliest people known in Datça are Carians, however, the Dorian period was the most illustrious era. Carians came from Thrace and Greece in about 1000 BC, and settled in today's Burgaz, which is about 1.5 kilometres northeast of Datça, founding Knidos which then became the centre of Dorian civilisation. Knidos went under Persian domination in 546 BC, and in the 4th century BC commercial considerations lead to its removal to the present site at the tip of the peninsula, where the glorious ruins can be seen today.

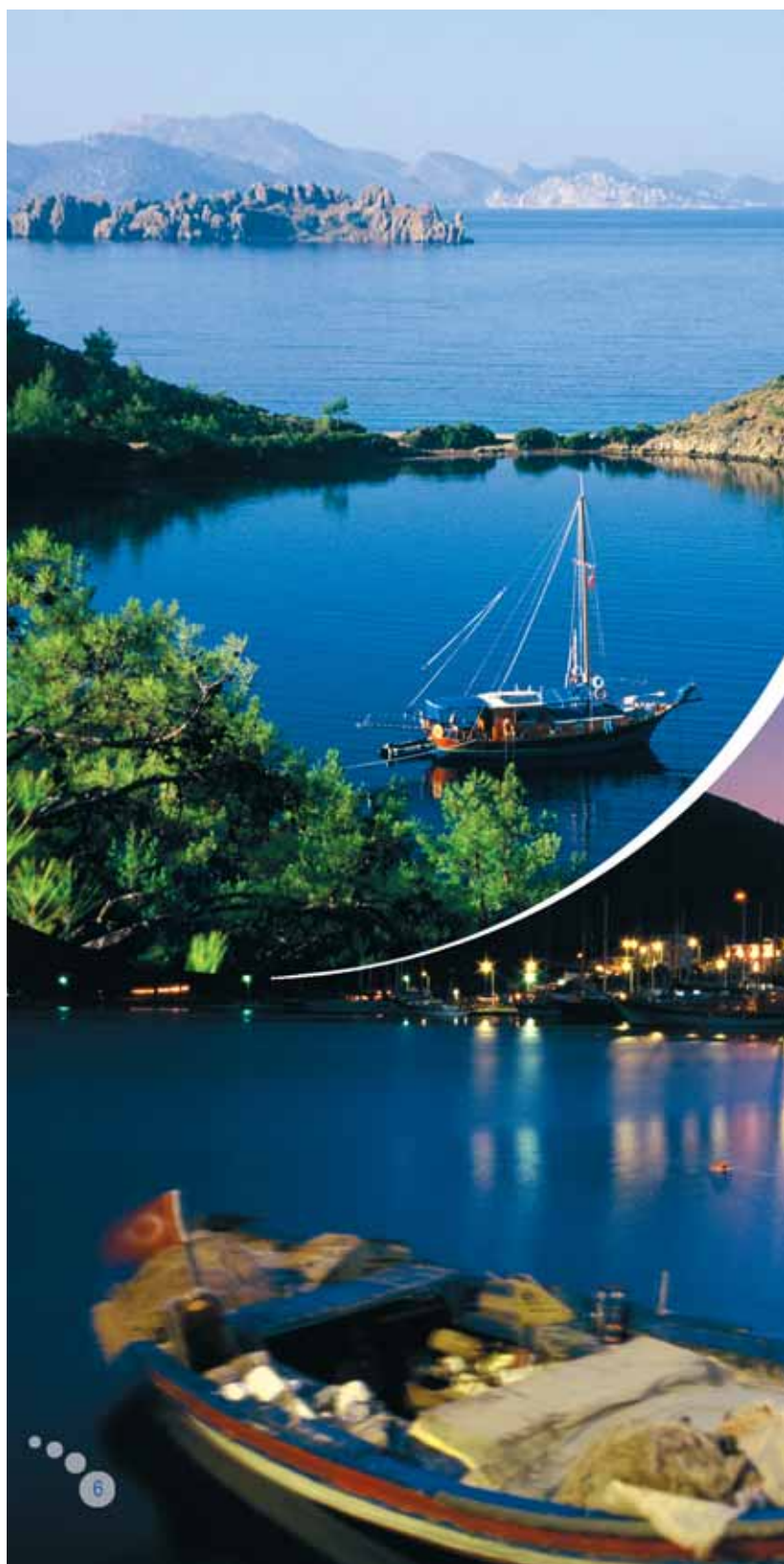
The Dorians and Romans built numerous temples and the city became renowned for its **Statue of Aphrodite**. During the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods the temples gave way to churches and the population of the city reached to 70 thousand. During the last period of Byzantine the city was completely abandoned after losing its power in earthquakes and pirate attacks. During the 13th century, the settlements that remained on the peninsula came under the domination of Menteşeoğulları Principality and were incorporated into the Ottoman Empire during the 15th century. During the late Ottoman Period, it was named Reşadiye after the Sultan Reşad, and became a district in 1928 with the name Datça.





Datça has a typical Mediterranean climate with hot and dry summers and temperate and rainy winters. During summers a continuous cool north wind eases the effect of scorching heat. The air with low humidity and high oxygen content is believed to be beneficial for those who have health problems such as cardiovascular disorders, nervousness, high blood pressure, asthma and rheumatism. While the sun shines 300 days every year, and the average temperature is 35°C, the heat never becomes unbearable. The rich oxygen content is due to the dual influence of the Aegean and Mediterranean climates over the region.

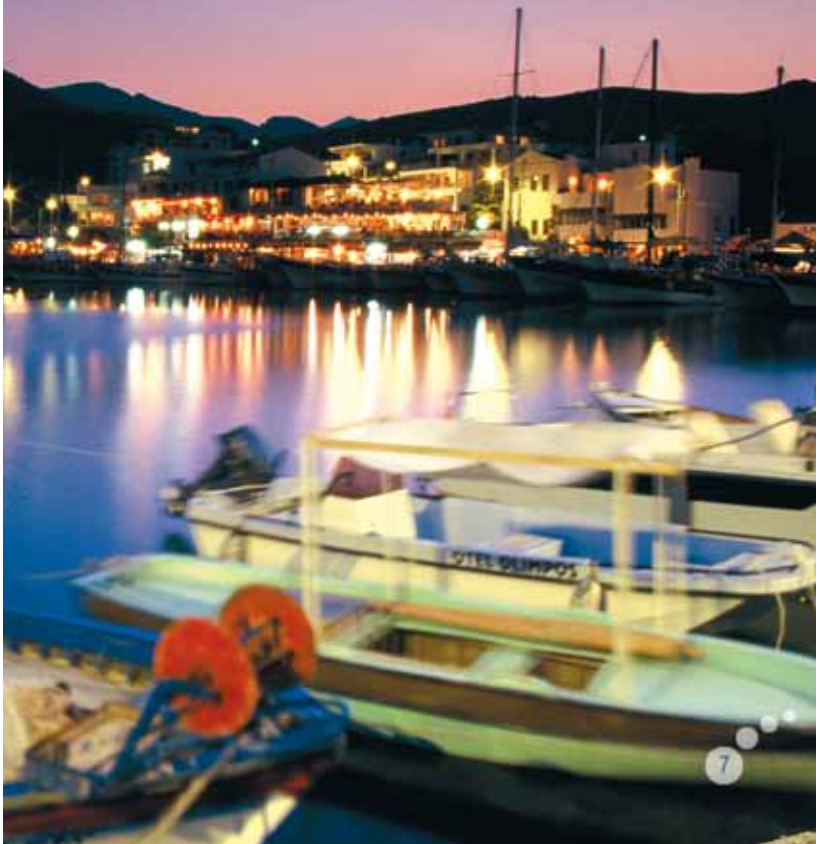


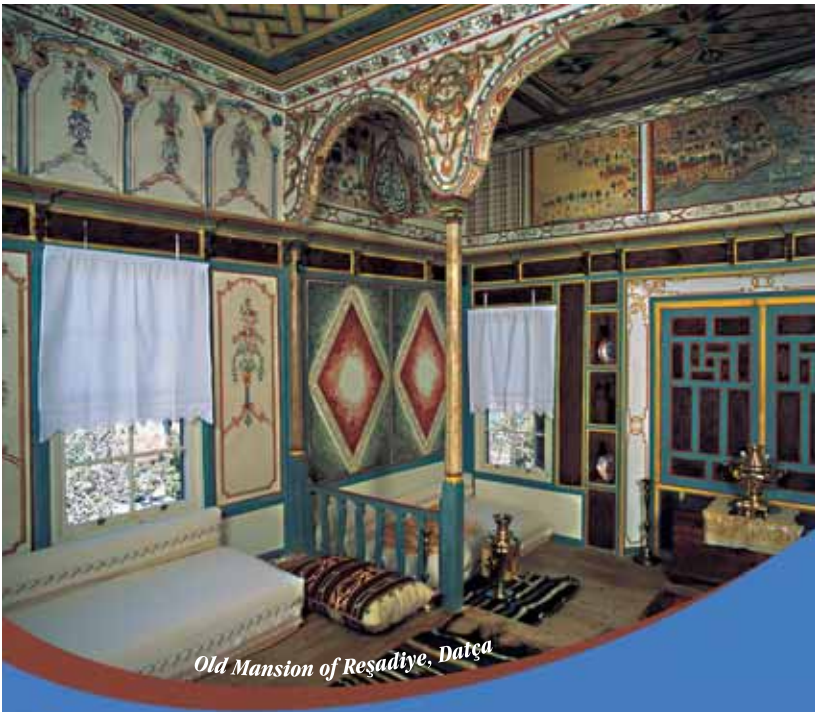




Datça and Environs

The peninsula starts at **Bencik**, which may be seen as a narrow isthmus on a map, and the deep inlet is a preferred anchoring spot for yachts. The 800 metres wide isthmus separates the Gökova





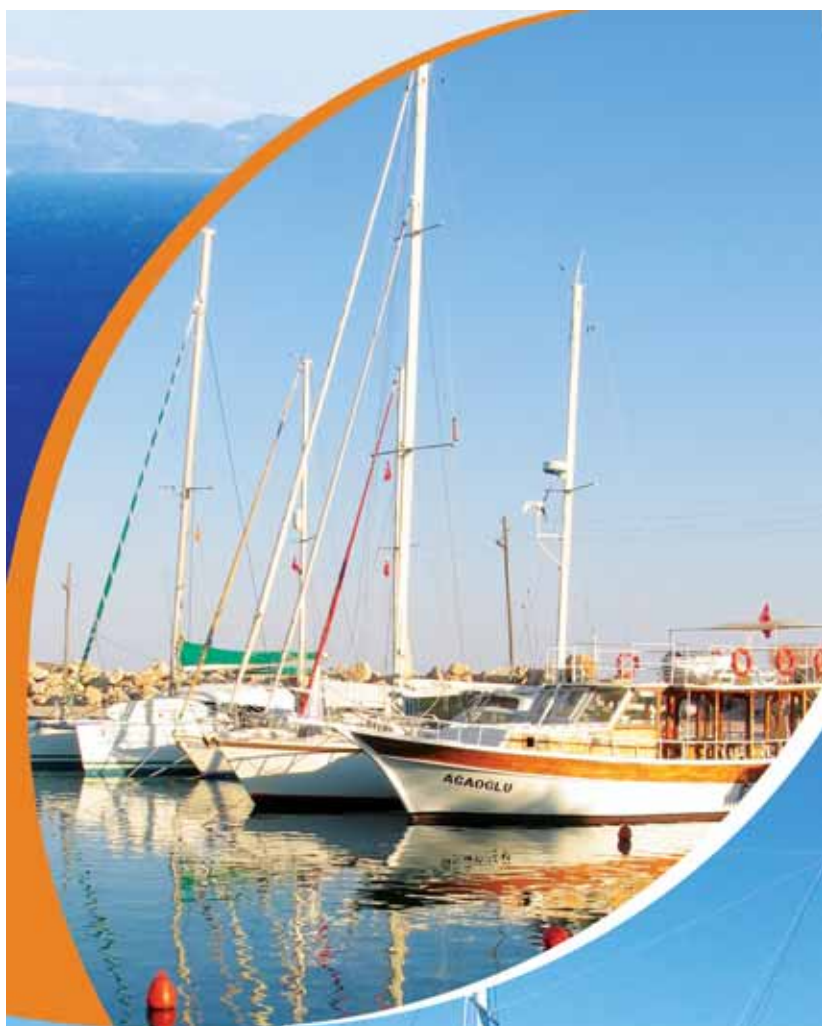
Old Mansion of Reşadiye, Dedea

and Hisarönü gulfs, and is the narrowest section of the peninsula. It is also known as **Balıkaşran**, and is the only spot on the earth where you can walk **from one sea to another**. During the annual festivities, the water brought from one sea is poured into the other in order to wish lasting peace and friendship.



The narrow streets of Datça opening to the Port and its environs are the liveliest places where you can find high quality restaurants and bars. The Old Datça, in other words, **Reşadiye Neighbourhood**, which is renowned for its old masonry houses, is about 3 kilometres from the centre. **Hızırşah Village** with its mosque from Seljuk Period, and **Kızlan Village** with its windmills and pottery workshops, are places of interest. The **Old Mansion of Reşadiye** has very attractive internal painted decorations and wooden ceiling decorations, although it is in private hands. The **Gebekum Beach** which attracts lovers of sun and sea is about 4 kilometres from Datça. The 7 kilometre-long beach has dunes moving with the wind and is constantly changing and expanding.

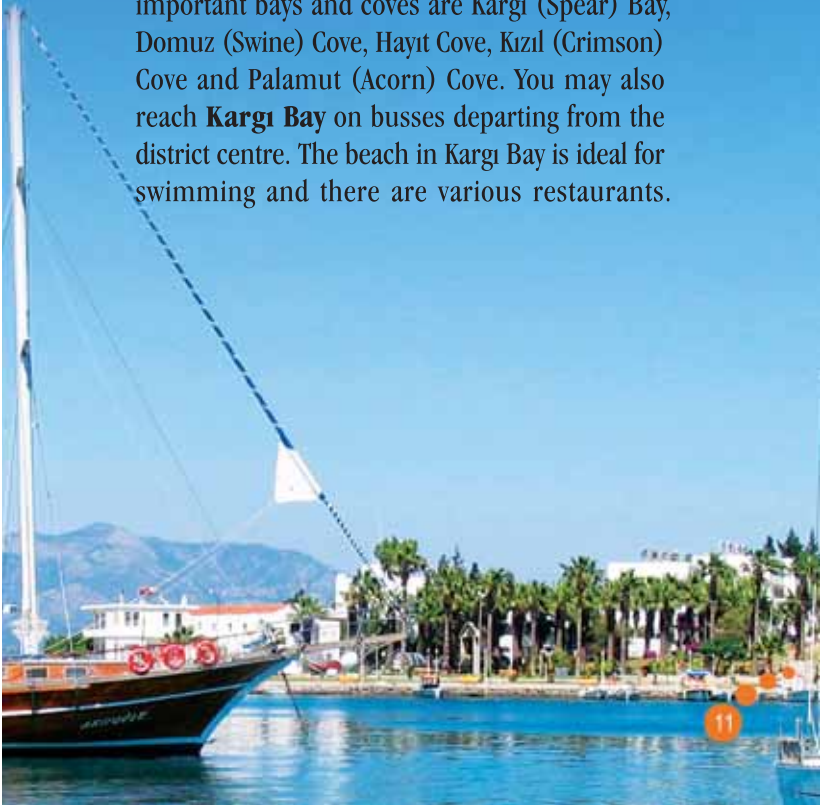


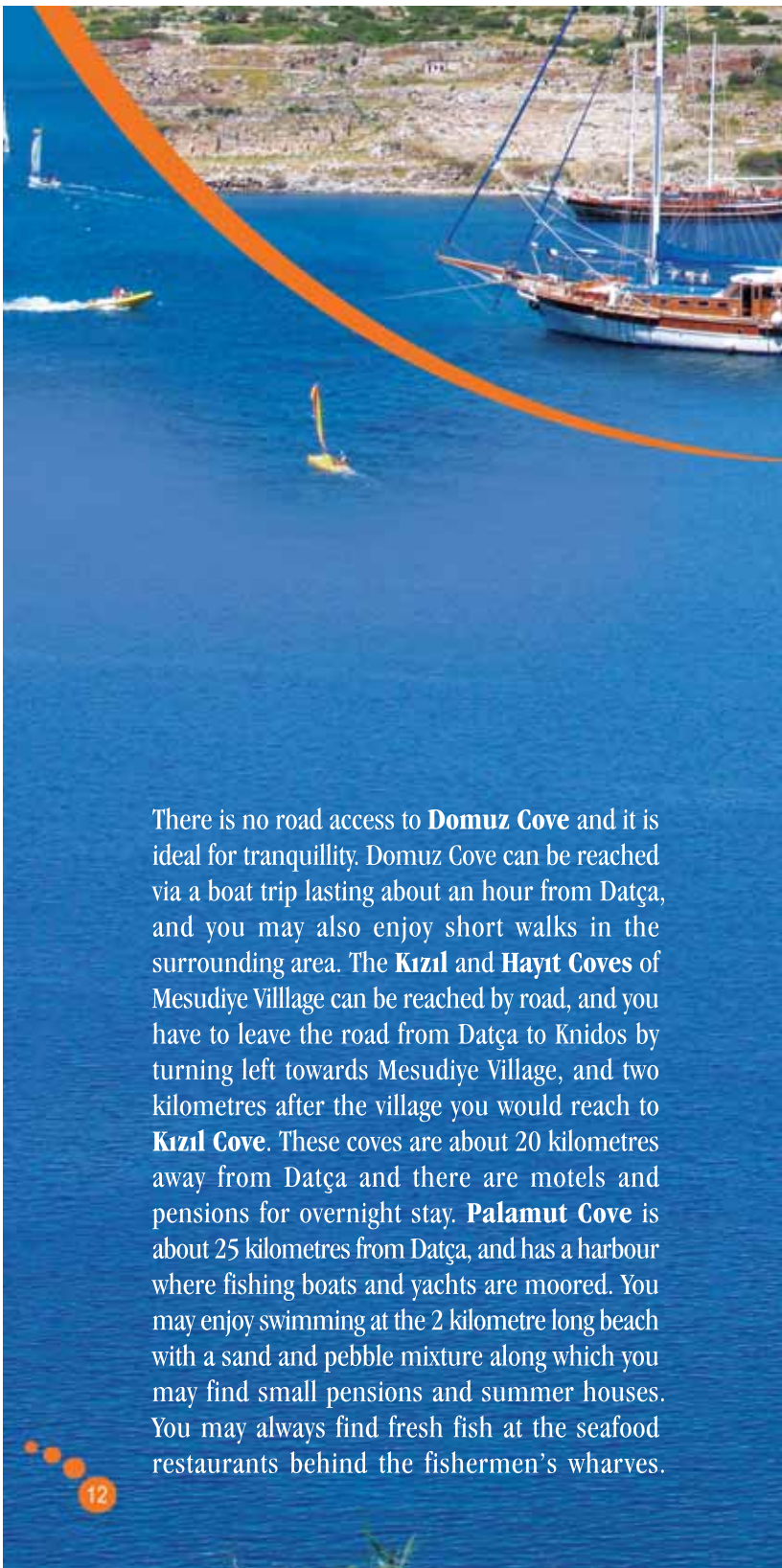




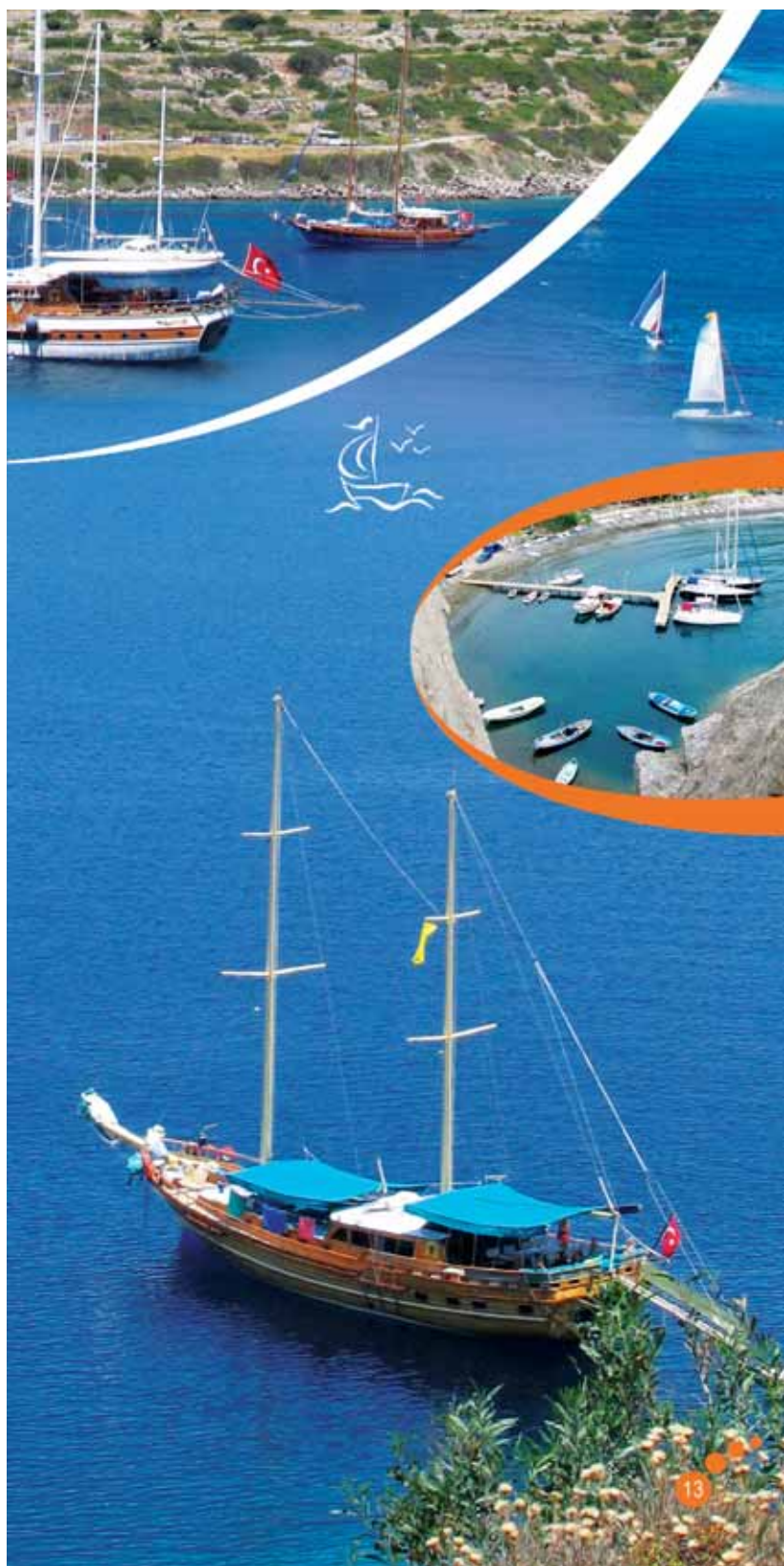
Daily Boat Tours

Boats depart Datça Harbour every morning for full day or half day tours to nearby coves and bays. The half a day tours generally go up the coves near **Mesudiye Village**, and return. The destination of full day tours is generally **Knidos**. On outbound and return legs of the voyage there are stopovers at suitable coves for swimming and dining. The important bays and coves are Kargı (Spear) Bay, Domuz (Swine) Cove, Hayıt Cove, Kızıl (Crimson) Cove and Palamut (Acorn) Cove. You may also reach **Kargı Bay** on busses departing from the district centre. The beach in Kargı Bay is ideal for swimming and there are various restaurants.





There is no road access to **Domuz Cove** and it is ideal for tranquillity. Domuz Cove can be reached via a boat trip lasting about an hour from Datça, and you may also enjoy short walks in the surrounding area. The **Kızıl** and **Hayit Coves** of Mesudiye Village can be reached by road, and you have to leave the road from Datça to Knidos by turning left towards Mesudiye Village, and two kilometres after the village you would reach to **Kızıl Cove**. These coves are about 20 kilometres away from Datça and there are motels and pensions for overnight stay. **Palamut Cove** is about 25 kilometres from Datça, and has a harbour where fishing boats and yachts are moored. You may enjoy swimming at the 2 kilometre long beach with a sand and pebble mixture along which you may find small pensions and summer houses. You may always find fresh fish at the seafood restaurants behind the fishermen's wharves.





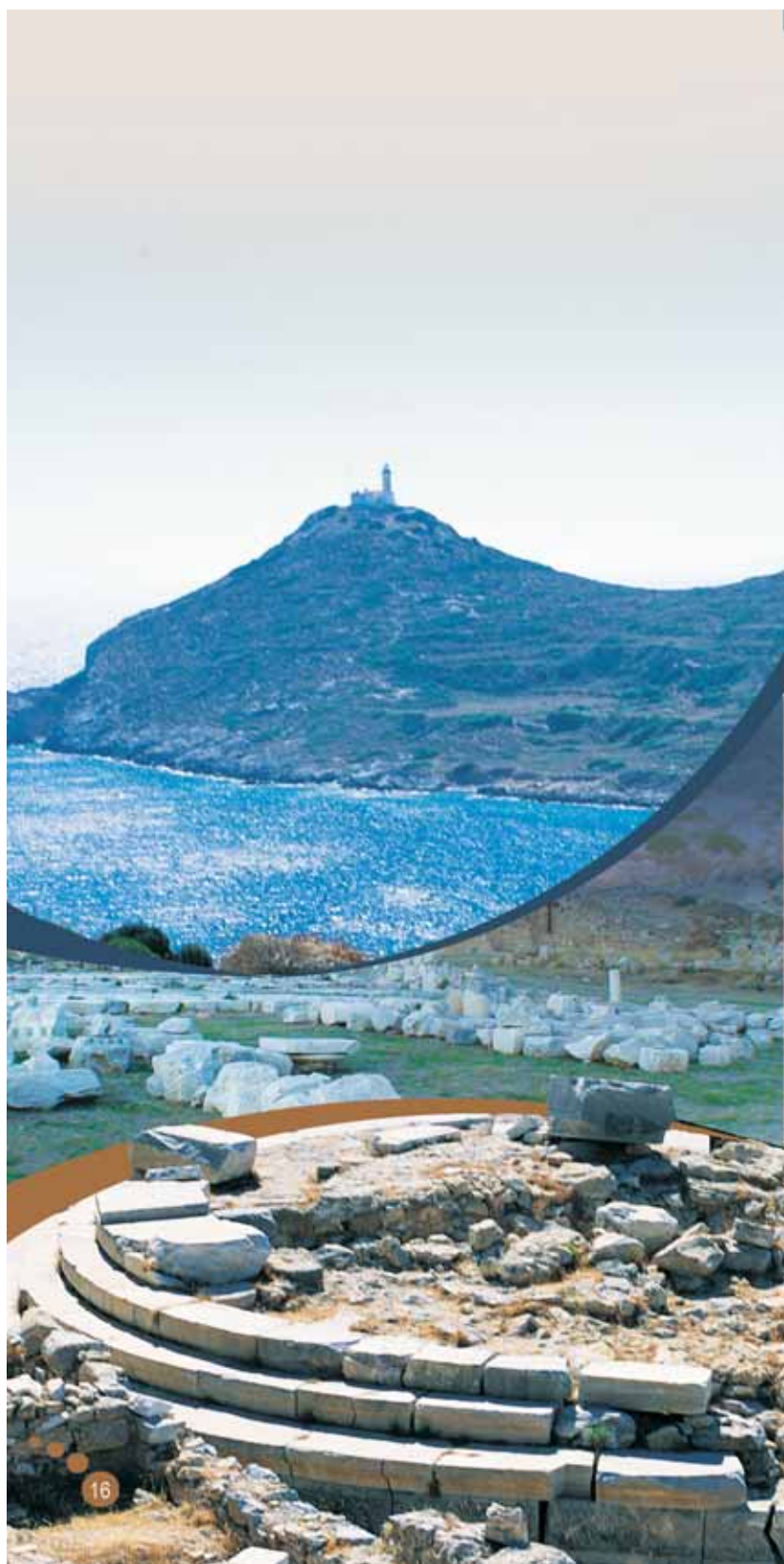
Yassıcalar

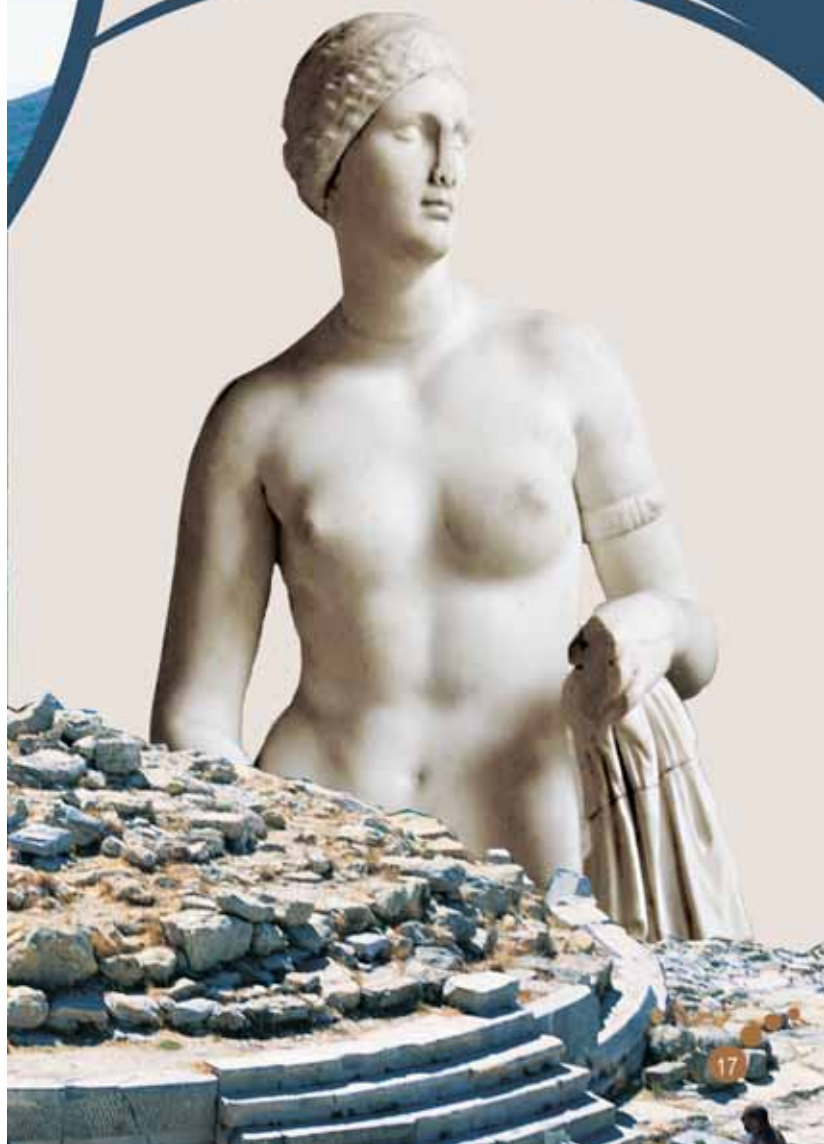


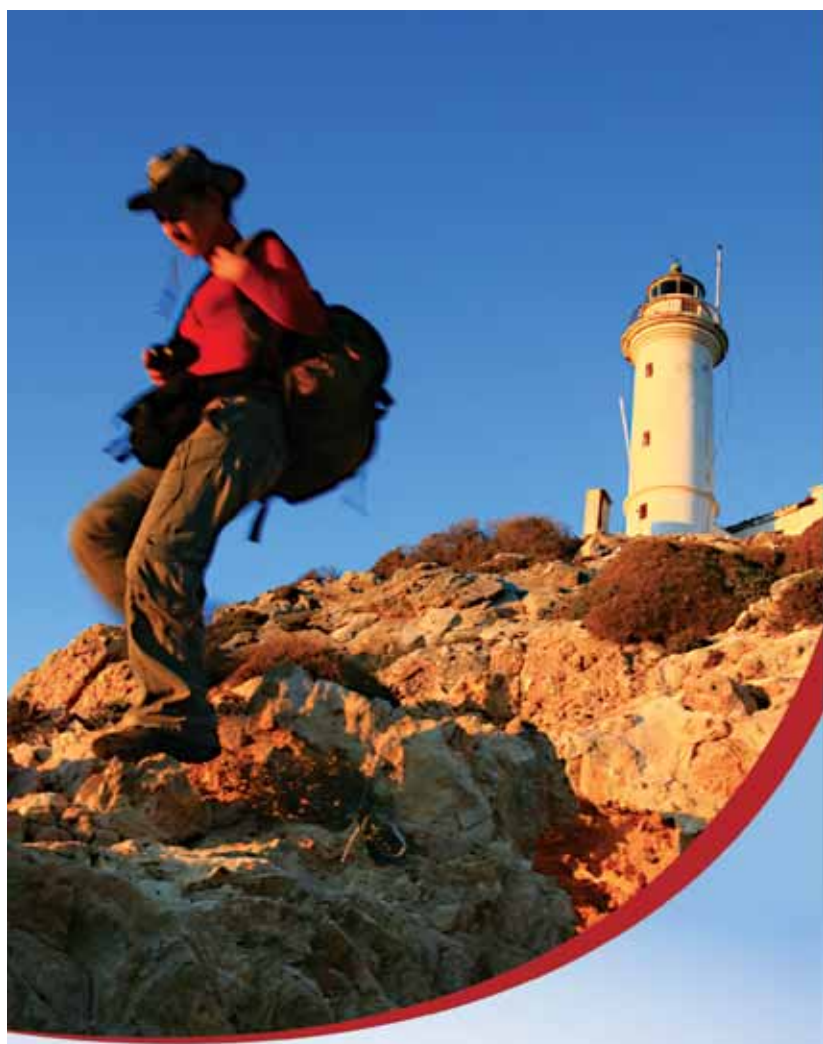
Beaches

The closest beaches to the centre are Hastanealtı, Kumluk, Taşlık and Azganlı. If you choose to leave the centre, you may swim at any spot along the 13 kilometres of coastline up to Perili Köşk Beach, towards Marmaris. You may also enjoy water sports at the Perili Köşk Hotel facilities.









The first excavation of Knidos, which was dated to the 7th century BC, was undertaken by an English explorer, Charles Newton, between 1856 and 1858. Knidos was an important trading centre during antiquity as well as a city of science, culture and arts. Praxiteles, the famous sculptor of the 4th century BC created **Aphrodite of Knidos** for the Temple of Aphrodite at Knidos. The Aphrodite of Knidos is considered to be one of the most important archaeological finds. It is believed to be the first naked **statue** of a goddess, and the city was swamped with those who wished to see the naked statue of Aphrodite. In Knidos you can enjoy city walls, theatres, acropolis, the sundial indicating the time and seasons, the hill top Temples of Apollo and Aphrodite, as well as the church and a small museum. The famous astronomer Eudoxus, and the architect Sostratus, who built the Lighthouse of Alexandria, are from Knidos.

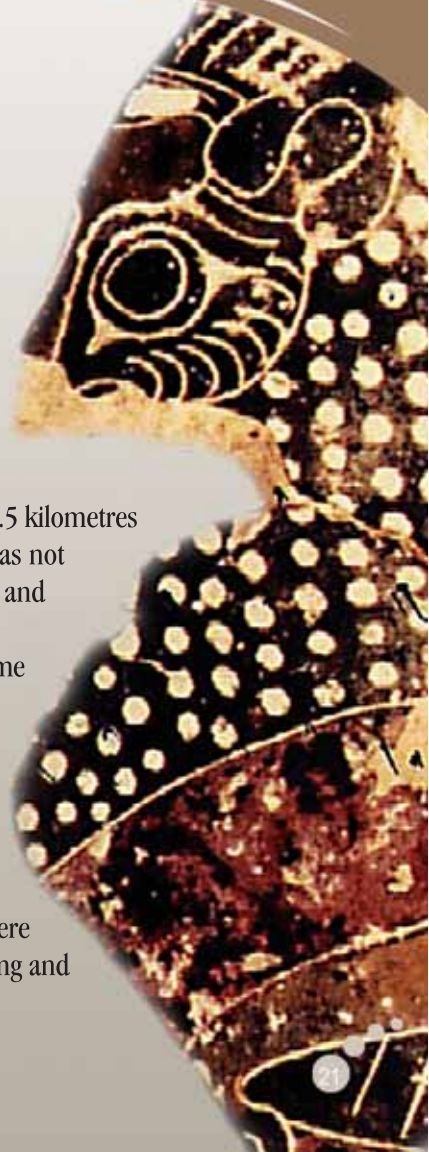
If you prefer the sea route to Knidos you may take a shared boat ride departing from Datça. There are minibus services that take you within seven kilometres of the ruins.

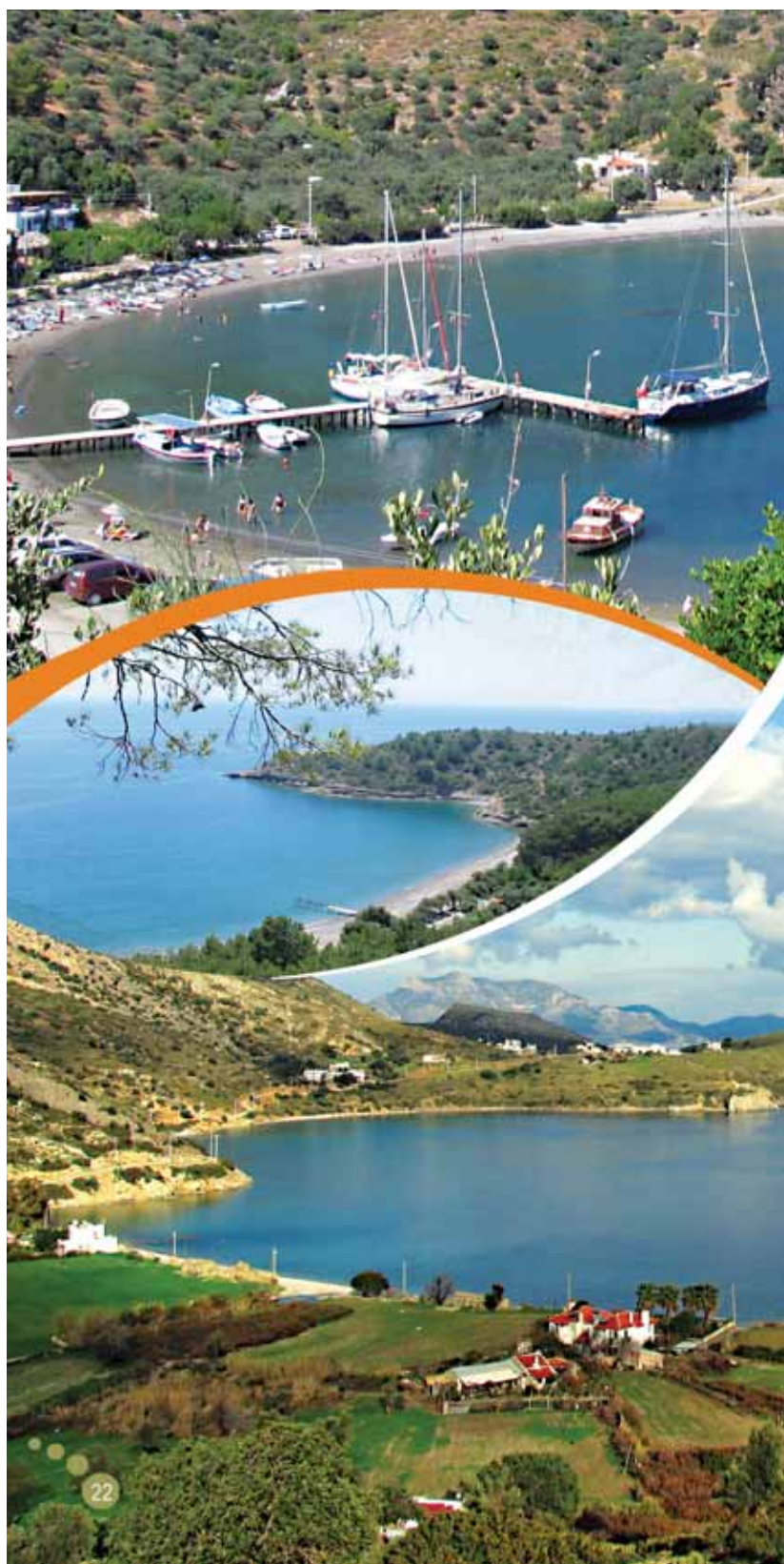




Old Knidos: Burgaz

Old Knidos was founded by Dorians in the locale of **Burgaz**. Following the attacks of the Persians it was moved to the present site at the Tekir Point. Burgaz which is about 1.5 kilometres removed from Datça, was not completely abandoned, and continued to exist as a settlement under the name of Stadia, and later grew together with present day Datça. Among the ruins of Burgaz, which was found over a peninsula at an altitude of 12 metres, there are traces of wine making and storage facilities.







Coves and Bays

There are 52 coves and bays along the coast of the peninsula. On the northern shore facing Aegean Sea the important ones are Gökçeler, Küçük Çatı, Çatı, Kızılağaç, Alavara, Çakal, Damlacık, Mersincik, Murdala, and İskandil. All of those are choice stopover spots for Blue Cruise boats. Along the shore of Mediterranean the important coves and bays are Knidos commercial harbour and Palamut, Akvaryum, Hayıt, Kızıl, Domuz, Kargı, Datça Harbour, Güllük, Karaincir, Sarı Liman, Kara, Çiftlik (Aktur), Kuruca, Günlücek and Lindos. The eastern shores of the bay of Bencik, the prime harbour of the Gulf of Hisarönü, belong to Datça, and the opposite shore belongs to Marmaris.

Gastronomy



Among the traditional dishes of Datça, *keşkek* (paste of boiled wheat mixed with well cooked and boned lamb or chicken) comes first and is the unchanging dish of the traditional wedding banquets. *Yaprak sarma* (roll of wine leaves stuffed with a spicy rice mix, cooked in olive oil) and *kısır* (cold served mix of vegetables, herbs and cracked wheat) are frequently prepared by local women. Among the herbal teas of Datça are *elmasçık* (salvia), *narpız*, *garağan*, *sepsuyu* and *ısrıgan* (nettles). One dish that always appears on the table is *bademli incir* (baked dried figs stuffed with almonds) prepared with the renowned **almonds of Datça**. Almost all dishes typical of Turkish cuisine are served in Datça, but some have a special place. Among them are stuffed courgette flowers, *karavilla* (an escargot dish), sweet and sour *tarhana* (dried mix of fermented yoghurt, flour, herbs and vegetables) soup and *bulgur* (cracked wheat) pilaf. Local herbs and greens are used as pastry fillers or as salad ingredients. Also important are the winter dishes prepared with sundried vegetables such as peppers, aubergines, and okra. A local speciality is the *damat tatlısı* (lit. bridegroom's dessert) (filo-pastry stuffed with chopped almonds). *Yağlı çörek* (fried sweet brioche with sesame seeds) is only made on important days.

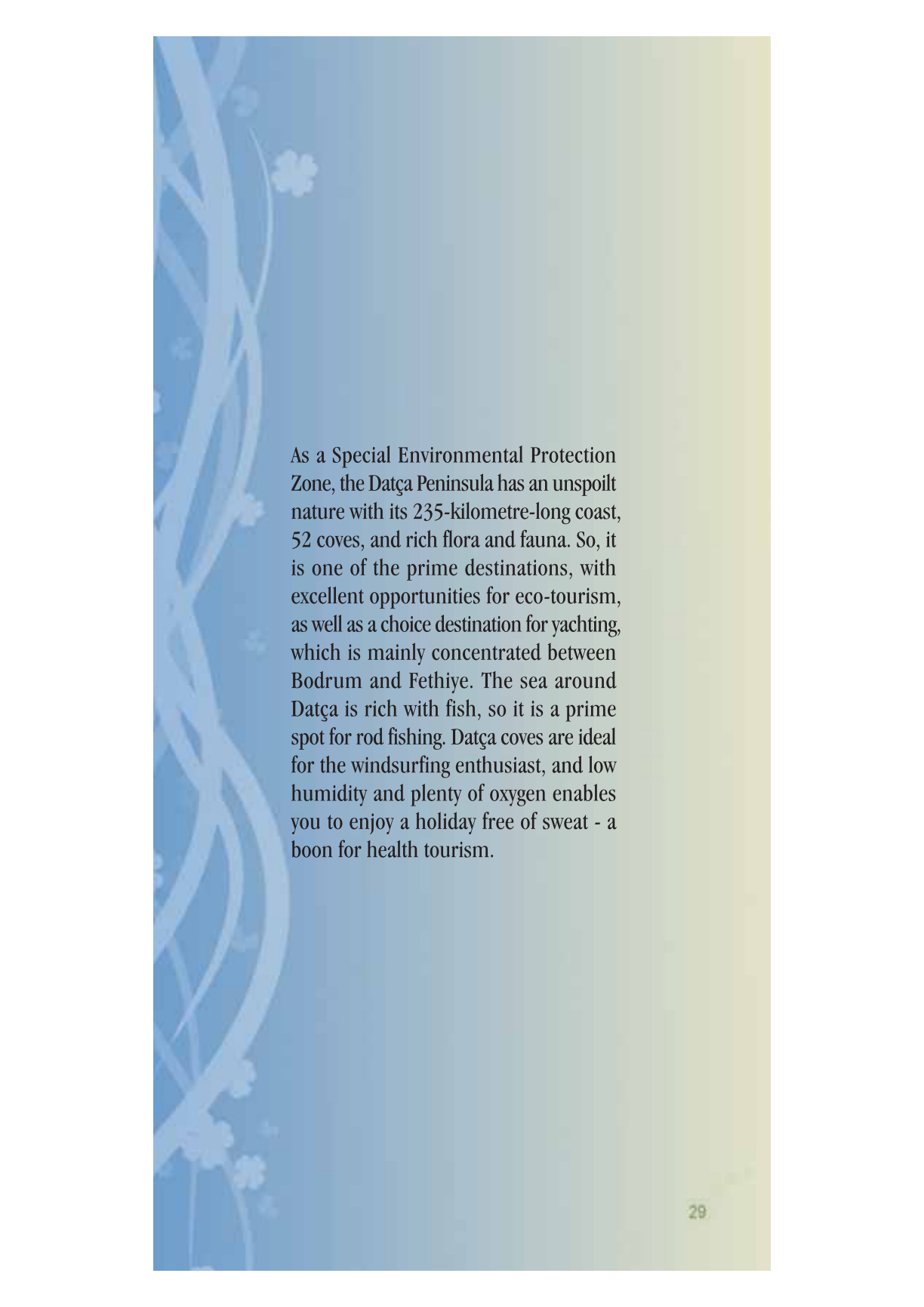


Datça Almonds: The tastiest and choicest almonds are grown in Datça. There are several varieties such as *nurlu*, *ak*, *kababağ*, *dedebağ*, *sıra* and *diş*, and while the variety most commonly used in the confectionary industry is *nurlu*, the easiest consumed is *diş* (lit. teeth) – so called because its thin shell may be cracked open with a squeeze of your teeth. The early green fruit of the almond tree is called *çağla*, which is eaten for its flesh. When the fruit is ripened in May and June the fresh kernel is separated and sold on ice slabs (*buzlu badem*) at bars or from the trays of peddlers. When the flesh is totally dried and split under the sun the kernel is called *badem* (almond) or *kuru badem* (dry almond). People of Datça love to stuff one or two almonds into a dried fig and bake it. Almonds are also mixed with honey and sold in jars as *ballı badem* (almond in honey).

Datça Date Palm: The date palm (*Phoenix theophrasti Greuter*), which was thought to be endemic species of Crete, has been lately found on Datça Peninsula. The Date Palm grows at Eksera Valley on the eastern part of the peninsula and on the valleys and coves between the Lindos Point and Bozan Point along the south eastern shores. The Date Palm may grow to 10-12 metres, occasionally up to 15 metres tall and your only chance to see one is to endure a challenging trek with a local guide.

Alternative Tourism





As a Special Environmental Protection Zone, the Datça Peninsula has an unspoilt nature with its 235-kilometre-long coast, 52 coves, and rich flora and fauna. So, it is one of the prime destinations, with excellent opportunities for eco-tourism, as well as a choice destination for yachting, which is mainly concentrated between Bodrum and Fethiye. The sea around Datça is rich with fish, so it is a prime spot for rod fishing. Datça coves are ideal for the windsurfing enthusiast, and low humidity and plenty of oxygen enables you to enjoy a holiday free of sweat - a boon for health tourism.

Handicrafts



The most valued handicraft in Datça is **ıġne oyası** (needle lace). The silk used for this lace is generally produced domestically by rearing silkworms, and the filaments are spun to the preferred yarn thickness. The silk yarn is then worked with needles to produce various types of lace, ranging from borders for headscarves to large cloths to cover beds or tables. Lace covers can be purchased at the Saturday market or at gift shops; however, you may also obtain them directly from homes in the villages. Besides needle lace, women working out of their homes weave wool, linen or cotton fabrics and kilims on hand looms. With the support of local administration, a new type of handicraft is taking hold in Datça: small fabric amulets. If you are interested in handicrafts you can find them at the gift shops or buy directly from villages of Datça.



Transport



By Road: You may find intercity coaches directly linking Datça to major cities such as Ankara, İstanbul and İzmir. There is regular *dolmuş* (shared minibus) service to and from principal sites such as Mesudiye, Palamut Bükü, Karaincir, Aktur and Kargı.

Distance of Datça to Other Provinces and Districts

Marmaris	: 71 km
Dalaman	: 156 km
Muğla	: 121 km
İzmir	: 352 km
Ankara	: 745 km
İstanbul	: 907 km



By Sea: There is a ferry boat service between Bodrum and Datça. During summer season it operates a twice daily service, mornings and evenings. In winters it has





a reduced service daily or on certain days of the week. The voyage is about two hours. There is a service bus for ferry passengers between Datça and Körmen. Ferry boats accommodate foot passengers as well as bicycles, motorcycles, cars and caravans. However, if you have a vehicle you must make an advanced booking. There are Greek sea bus services between Datça and Rhodes with a stopover at Simi Island during the summer season on certain days of the week.



By Air: As there is no airport at Datça, domestic and international passengers arrive at Dalaman or Milas-Bodrum Airports. You can take a taxi from the airport or hire a car. The distance between Datça and Dalaman is approximately 156 kilometres and the distance between Datça and Milas-Bodrum Airport is about 201 kilometres.





Do not return without

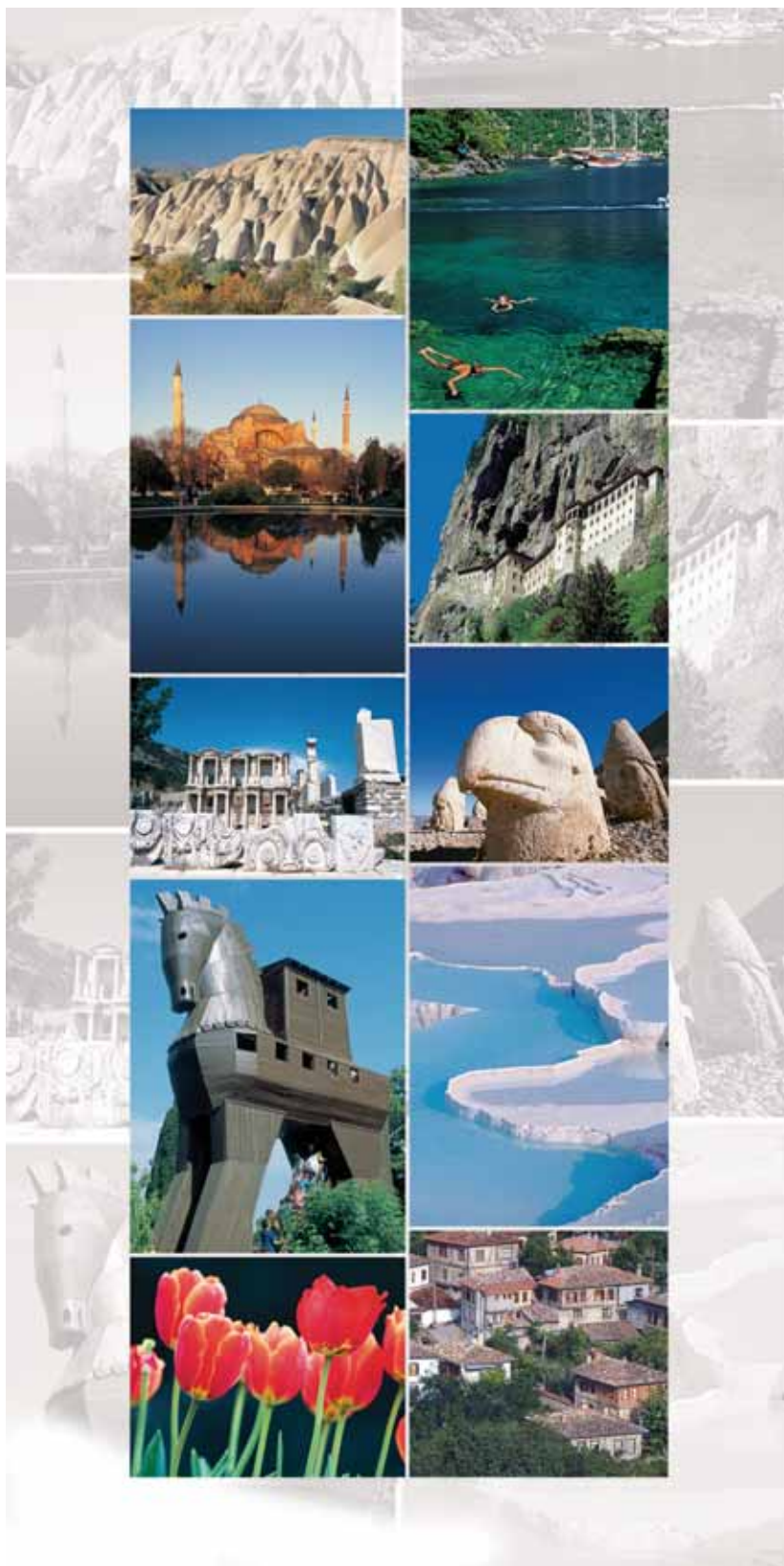
- Tasting honey, almonds and palm dates of Datça,
- Visiting the Ancient City of Knidos,
- Having a boat tour,
- Strolling at Datça centre,
- Swimming in one of the coves,
- Buying handicraft souvenirs from the local markets...

Important Telephone Numbers

Fire Brigade	: 110
Emergency (Ambulance)	: 112
Police Helpline	: 155
Forest Fire	: 177
Tourist Information	: (+90 252) 712 35 46–712 31 63
Port Authority	: (+90 252) 712 22 26
Customs Directorate	: (+90 252) 712 30 13
District Governor's Office	: (+90 252) 712 30 01
Municipality	: (+90 252) 712 30 98
District Security Headquarters	: (+90 252) 712 33 57
District Gendarmerie H.Q.	: (+90 252) 712 46 46
Border Police Station	: (+90 252) 712 30 11
State Hospital	: (+90 252) 712 30 82







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)



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