CAVERNS OF ANTALYA

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Caverns of Antalya

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Getting Started...

Caves should be protected without ignoring that they are real culture properties. In terms of protecting one of the most important beauties to be handed down to the next generations, unauthorized excavations and depredations should be prevented.

Caves are areas where life threatening situations may be at stake if not acted cautiously enough and when necessary precautions aren’t taken. Risks in the caves generally originate from the cave habitat. Yet, in addition to the dangers present in the cave itself, the basic faults to be committed by individuals pose risks as well. Insufficient or ragged equipments, ignorance of boundaries, uncontrolled actions rank among these basic faults which are absolutely never to be neglected. In order to minimize the risks in the cave, speleologists have to take the necessary precautions before entering the cave.

In the same manner, cave diving is a type of technical diving which requires competent and disciplined training and equipment gains much more importance compared to other types of diving because of the excess of risks it carries. As it has different standards in terms of equipment and technicality from open water diving, no matter how much experienced the individual may be, he/she has to have taken private training.

The most important element of cave diving is the diver to be able to mentally control him/herself, to have mental alertness during diving and to be able to handle pressure and deal with problems without getting into panic. Therefore, cave diving is not suitable for all.

One other important issue about caves is the seals. Mediterranean seal, Monachus monachus, is one the rarest sea mammals and they are critically on the verge of extinction. Mediterranean seals, being less than 400, are totally extinct on the west Mediterranean coast. They are trying to hold on to dear life away from human constraint in the caves and reefs on the Greek and Turkish coasts. Mediterranean seals are protected with the international agreements that are also signed by Turkey. There is a notification of Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock in Chapter 5 of Fisheries Circular stating that “It is forbidden to use lighting, dive with any equipment or fish any fisheries in caves where seals live.”

Sea caves located in Antalya Üç Adalar (Islands), sea caves surrounding Kekova Island, Mavi Cave near Kaş and other sheltered caves are actively being used by the Mediterranean seals. These caves in particular have the potential to become breeding caves for seals in winter. Unfortunately, during the summer season, some tour operators and some tourists insensibly enter these caves by diving or by vessels causing seals to abandon these caves for the summer. Some of the caves are still being abandoned in winter as they are still being considered as dangerous. Unfortunately, there aren’t many caves fit for seals to resort, hide or breed like the aforementioned ones and nuisances to these caves caused by people substantially harm the preservation works concerning the species and their future. Please don’t enter and warn people who enter these caves which are protected by the law.
Antalya

Clock Tower and Yivli Minaret
Antalya is named as “Earthly Heaven” owing to the archeological and natural beauties it possesses. Communing with enthralling cohesion of sea, sun, history and nature, Antalya possesses the most beautiful and clean coasts of the Mediterranean and there are ancient cities, ancient docks, mausoleums, bays like lace, beaches, verdant forestry and rivers along the 642 km. long coastline.

Altınbeşik Cave, Bey Mountains, Gülbject Mountain, Köprüülü Canyon National Park, Alacadağ, Çığlıkara and Dibek Nature Reserves are located in Antalya.

Due to its geographical position, four seasons can be experienced at the same time whereas one can swim in the sea on the beachside; it is possible for one to ski at Saklıkent just 50 km away from the city centre or to scuba dive at multiple spots on the beach line. Köprüçay which is within the boundaries of Köprüülü Canyon National Park is one of the most attractive rafting locations. Besides, Manavgat River has courses suitable for rafting. Düden Waterfalls are located 10 km. far from city centre. The main source of the falls spilling off 20 m. high is located at Kırkgöz. Lower Düden Falls are 8 km. from the city center on the Lara route. The waters of the Lower Düden Falls drop off a 40 m. high rocky cliff.

Only some dungeons in the city, Hadrian’s Gate and towers near it, the big tower facing the harbour and some parts of the city walls of the harbour have survived until today in the town centre. Kaleiçi, known as “The Historic Heart of The City” of Antalya, has become an attractive centre of tourism with its guesthouses, bars, shops and restaurants. Hadrian’s Gate (The Three Gates) is the only city gate that has sur-
Termessos is on a 1050 m. altitude plateau to the west of Güllük Mountain which is a National Park 34 km southwest of Antalya. The 4200-seat theatre, Agora, the heroic memorial of Hereon, a Corinthian-style temple, the Temple of Zeus, the Lesser and Greater Temples of Artemis, the gymnasium and the watch towers are the other important remains. In addition to this, there are more than 1200 rock tombs and other memorials.

Based on the excavations carried out in The Karain Cavern, which is one of the greatest natural caves of Turkey, it is concluded that the premises have been used as a living space 500,000 years ago. It is the biggest cave in which humans had dwelled. The cavern was continuously accommodated by early humans during the prehistoric and classic periods starting from lower Paleolithic, medium and high Paleolithic, Neolithic, Calcolithic and Ancient Bronze stages. Along with the oldest Anatolian human remains discovered in Karain, the portable artifacts obtained in the cave are the primary artistries embodying Anatolian art.

Yivli Minaret and Complex, Kesik Minaret Mosque, Balbey Mosque, Muratpaşa Mosque, Iskele Mosque, Karatay Madrasah, Ahi Yusuf Mosque and Shrine (Ahi Yusuf Mescidi ve Türbesi) are amongst the important monuments. With its boulevards decorated with palms at the town centre, international award-winning marina, Kaleiçi (Old Town); an adorable historical city with its vernacular architecture and with its modern sites; Turkey’s most attractive centre of tourism Antalya hosts the Aspendos Opera and Ballet Festival, international beach volleyball, triathlon and golf competitions, archery, tennis, skiing and etc. contests, and many cultural and artistic activities like the plastic arts, music, theatre and exhibitions thanks to Antalya Culture Centre inaugurated in 1995.
CAVE TOURISM IN ANTALYA

Caves constitute a great potential in terms of tourism variety. 40% of our country consists of bedrock suitable for karstic dissolution which is an important asset of cave formations. Based on the ratio of areas covered with soluble rocks to the number of caves discovered in these areas, it is projected that there may be an estimate of more than 20,000 caves in Turkey. 1500 of them have been examined by General Directorate of Mineral Research & Exploration and other chambers, societies, clubs and institutions related with speleology.

Turkey’s longest cave is Pınargözü Cave in Isparta which is longer than 15 km. and the deepest cave is Peynirlikönü Cave in Mersin which is 1429 m. deep. There are 30 caves in Turkey that have been opened to tourism and apart from these, there are many caves available for specialty groups, to be only entered with special equipment and under the provision of a guide. There are 13 caves that have been put to service by our ministry.

Antalya is a prosperous province with respect to cave formation and is located on the outskirts of the Taurus Mountains. Taurus Mountains are made of limestone in terms of its main frame. Most of the caves in the province have evolved with these limestone formations. Approximately 500 caves have been located in Antalya. Only a few of them have international importance. Karain Cavern in the boundaries of Yağca Village which is located in the central district, Damlataş and Dim Caves in Alanya district, Zeytintasi Cave in Serik district, Yalan Dünya Cave in Gazipaşa district and Altınbeşik Cave in Ibradi are caves open to touristic visits. Altınbeşik Cave is one of the caves which can be seen by professional visitors with equipments. There are a lot of caves waiting to be opened to visits. Kocain Cave, Beldibi Cave, Sırtlanini Cave, Geyikbayırı Cave and Konakaltı Cave are amongst the leading caves of these. Apart from these, Küçüküpsiz Cave, Yerköprü Cave, Gürleyik Cave, Derya Cave, Karataş Semahöyük Cave, Cimenici Cave, Mahrumçalı Cave, Peynirdeliği Cave, Tilkiler Cave, Mavi Cave, Dündensuyu Cave, Aslanlı (Yaren) Cave, Hasbahçe Cave, Kadiini Cave, Korsanlar Cave, Âşıklar Cave, Kekova Island Sea Cave, Asırlı Island Sea Cave, Güvercinlik Sea Cave, Güvercini Sea Cave, İncirli Sea Cave, Hidrellez Cave and İnbaş Cave are the caves that have been located and given a preliminary examination. Some of them are caves that have been opened by local means.
Caverns of Antalya

Chart 1 – Distribution of caves in Antalya by districts

Chart 2 – Distribution of caves by property
Akseki

Photo: Abdullah ÇATLI
Giden Gelmez Mountains

Photo: Abdullah ÇATLI
Galanthus Flower
The oldest district after Alanya, Akseki has a rugged and mountainous outlook pursuant to the disposition of Taurus Mountains. Domestic and foreign tourists visit the district to see the galanthus flower in winter. Giden Gelmez Mountains, chamois protection and hunting area— a paid area where hunters can continually hunt, Göktepe Plateau, Çimi Plateau, Irmak Valley, 340 m. deep Bucakalan Cave which is recently discovered and Ulu Mosque and Madrasah in the town center are places worth seeing.
Düdencik Cave
Land Cave

Düdencik Cave is located on the Bayseki- Akseki route, 3800 m. west of Cevizli and next to the forest road.

Water fills through the vertically descending mouth of the cave on rainy days. The water disappearing in the cave that is serving as a sinkhole which is filled in during winter months, pours via the karstic sources into the Manavgat River at the Upper Manavgat Basin.

It is found during the hydrogeological and karstic studies in 1996. A group of English, French and Turkish speleologists were the first people to go down the cave in August 1967. They reached -330 m. deep in the cave which starts with a 60 m. vertical shaft. The cave remained to be the deepest cave of Turkey until 1989. The cave has been explored and the depth was determined to be 325 m. in a joint activity of Spanish speleologists and Bogazici University Speleology Club (BÜMAK).
Sakaltutan Cave
Land Cave

Sakaltutan Cave is in Değirmenlik Village on the side of the road diverging with Cevizli burg from the Bayşehir route and passing Süleymanıye Village leading to Mortas Aluminum Mine.

Sakaltutan Cave which was first discovered by a French speleologist E. Gilli from Nice-Martel Speleology Club and is consisting of two 300 m. deep shafts opened as an upright cliff, has a structure attached to a 3 m. left adjacent cave vertically advancing and deepening. The sound of a stone drop can be heard after 22 seconds. It is one of the deepest caves after Düdencik Cave. Being a vertical cave, depth of Sakaltutan Cave is measured to be 303 m. according to MAD - Mağara Araştırma Derneği (Speleology Association).

The cave is named after a narrow passage on an old caravan route. It is rumoured that the bandits hiding in the passage executed the pillage by pulling the beards and frightening the people on the caravans.
Bucakalan Cave, located near Bucakalan Village, has a depth of 345 m. 300 m. of this is a single ditch. And there is also another branch descending 192 m. down. The Cave is considered to have “the longest ditch”. A team from France reached 305 m. depth in 1992. Hacettepe Speleology Society and Anatolia Speleology Group (Hacettepe Üniversitesi Mağara Arastırma Topluluğu ve Anadolu Speleoloji Grubu - ASPEG) went down the cave by means of a joint study in 2012.

Bats (Chiroptera), cave spiders (Aranea), cave butterflies (Lepidoptera), cave flies (Diptera) and cave grasshoppers (Rhapdihoporidae) were discovered when the fauna of the Bucakalan Cave was explored. There are a vast number of huge black gastropods around the entrance of the cave and cave grasshoppers down at 100 m.
Also known as Kartal Cave, the Bağırca Cave is located in Kuyucak town in Akseki district and it is has a width of 5-9 m. The ceiling height differs from 3 to 8 metres. The main gallery bedrock of the cave is covered with talus, thick culture and solutional tailing soil.

Stalactites, stalagmites and dripstones appear in different parts of the cave. Due to the fact that it has been used as a shelter and chapel, the stalactites and the stalagmites have blackened to a great extent. The cave has also been ruined to a great extent because of the unauthorized diggings of treasure hunters.

Archeologically distinctive and important Bağırca Cave belongs to Roman and Byzantine period. There are carvings and inscriptions at the entrance. It has been officially registered as archeologically protected area in the first degree by Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Regional Board of Antalya in 2004. Regardless of the transportation inconveniences, the 129 metre long cave draws attention by the structures in front of it as well. In history, the cave has been used as a church. There are two different church ruins belonging to Roman and Byzantine period.
Suini Cave
Land Cave

There is an underground stream in the Suini cave, located in Kuyucak town in Akseki district, that is forming ponds and waterfalls. And dripstone formations are also common in the cave. There are three ponds in the cave. These ponds are three metres wide and three metres long. The cave, drawing attention with its stalactites and stalagmites, is the starting point of Manavgat River and it is one of the main nourishing sources of the river. The length of the cave is between 390 and 400 m. The cave has been furnished with an 80 m. long electrical wiring, yet only the 50-60 m. portion at the entrance can be accessed. Under the circumstances, 40-50 visitors come every day and being a stamping ground of asthma patients, it is predicted to host much more visitors if the rest of the cave was to be illuminated.

The cave is like a cold storage house. In the old times, tulum cheese (bryndza) and oil were kept here. The cheese kept in the cave is tastier than the cheese kept in a cold storage room.
Alanya

Inner Castle

Alanya Castle
Alanya is a beautiful holiday centre with its beautiful sandy beaches, modern hotels and motels, as well as numerous fish restaurants, cafes, clubs and bars. On the peninsula stands Alanya Castle, a Seljuk era citadel dating from 1226. Apart from the remarkable castle, monumentally beautiful octagonal Red Tower and unique dockyard are worth seeing. The cafes that ring the harbour are popular gathering places for tourists and locals. From the town’s lovely park, the road runs along the coast to the harbour, lined with many small shops that offer handicrafts, leather clothes, jewelry, handbags and the amusing painted gourds that are unique to the area. You can also visit the Damlataş Cave. Near the cave is the Ethnography Museum. The sea all around Alanya is excellent for swimming. Alanya is a paradise of sun, sea and sand.
Damlataş Cave was discovered during quarrying for stone to be used at a harbour construction in 1948. The cave is on the west coast of the historical peninsula. There is a 50 m. long passage at the entrance of the cave. You come to a cylindrical room after this passage which has a height of 15 m. You can reach the bedrock from there. The stalactite and stalagmites of the cave which is situated in crystallized limestone, have formed in 15 thousand years. The cave is named Damlataş (dripstone) for the water drops that still continue to drip down the stalactites and stalagmites.

Besides its marvelous vision, the cave is extremely beneficial for asthmatic patients. There are patients who apply a 21 day treatment under the supervision of a doctor just by sitting for a certain period of time in the cave. The atmosphere of the cave doesn’t change throughout the year; it has 22°C of temperature, 95% humidity and constant pressure of 760mm. The air in the cave contains 71% nitrogen, 20.5% oxygen, 0.025% carbon dioxide and a little bit of radioactivity and some ions. Entrance is fee charged. There is a small bazaar near it and a beach in front of it.
**Dim Cavern**

*Land Cave*

It is located on the slopes of 1,649 m high Cebel-i Reis Mountain 12 km. east of Alanya. The height of the cave based from sea level is 232 m. It was opened to visit in 1998. It is the second biggest cave that is opened to visit. It is estimated to be 1 million years old. Advancing from two passages through the mountain, the length of the passages are 50 m. and 360 m. There is a small pond at the bottom of the cave which consists of stalactites and stalagmites. The ambiance of the cave that can be roamed with the help of ladders, resembles a fantastic movie decoration.

Likewise, you can hike up to the cave from the picnic areas near Dim Stream. There is panoramic scenery of Alanya Castle on the same slop. There are shuttles from the city centre to the cave. Entrance is fee charged.
Situated about 15 km north-east of Alanya, at a place called Çatak. There are stalagmites and stalactites three times bigger than the ones in Damlataş Cave. In the researches carried out in 1957 scientists found some human skeletons and fossils. They also discovered that these findings belonged to the time of 20 thousand years ago and the first settlement in Alanya had been here. There are picnic areas in the vicinity. The cave has not been introduced to visitors yet.
Hasbahçe Cave
Land Cave

Situated in İnışdibi, Hasbahçe, the cave is 4 km away from the city center. It’s four times bigger than Damlataş Cave. The cave can be descended down on a 60° or 70° slope by holding on to the side walls. The entrance is blocked at present because of the fillings in the gaps of the rocks. No study has been carried out as it hasn’t been open to visit. Due to the cool air inside the cave, it was desired to be used in preserving citrus fruits but the goods rotted in 1-2 months because of the sulphur. Again due to the sulphur density in the cave, it causes dizziness.

Depending on the narration of the explorers who have been to the cave, it is endowed with stalagmites and stalactites.
Korsanlar (Pirates) Cave
Sea Cave

It is a sea cave situated under the historical peninsula where Alanya Castle is present. You can go there by boat. It is the first stop to be seen on the sightseeing boat tours around the peninsula. It has an entrance 6 m. high and 10 m. wide. You can enter the cave by small boats.

It is a location suitable for both experienced divers and educative dives. Korsan cave is a spacious and big cave. There is no real danger. The entrance to the cave starts at 12 m. depth. There is a really old millstone with 1 m diameter right at the entrance. Starting from the entrance, all the stones in the cave resemble a riot of colours. At the inner spaces of the cave, divers can surface and see bats with the help of flashlights.

You can still swim to the cave during a sightseeing boat ride. According to a myth, there is a secret passage from inside the cave to the castle and that the pirates of the ancient times carried their booty up this passage. The scenery of the stones at the bottom of the sea, create a mysterious ambiance.
Aşıklar (Lovers’) Cave is 15 minutes away from the Alanya Harbour. It is on the slope of the historical peninsula close to the sea. You can enter the cave by climbing up the escarpment after a boat ride towards Cilvarda promontory. It takes a few steps to get to the lower entrance. The cave is 75 m. long.

You occasionally have to crouch due to the low ceiling of the cave. The opening of the cave in Damlatas’s way is 8 m. high and it is possible to jump into the water from here.

The depth of the place changes from 10 m. to 34m. It is suitable for professional divers and also for educative dives. The bottom surface is rocky. It is a rich place in terms of underwater living creatures. There is an old anchor of a ship 21 m. deep down.

According to myth, pirates of the ancient times used to hide their booty and women prisoners here.

It is presumed that the cave was named after the lovers who wanted to be alone together without being noticed.
Fosforlu Cave
Sea Cave

It is a cave on the Damlataş side slope of the historical peninsula. The distance to the harbour is 20 minutes boat ride. You can enter the cave with small boats. The depth is between 8 m. and 33 m. It is a rich place in terms of underwater living creatures. The place is available for licensed and trainee divers for all types of diving. It is also suitable for night diving. Resulting from the geological structure of the cave, the bedrock glares like phosphor thanks to the moonlight reflection. The glare can be noticed during day time too. The tour boats take a short break in front of the cave as well for swimming.
Rambo Cave

Rambo Cave is farthest to the harbour amongst the diving spots in Alanya. It is maybe the most beloved diving spot and it is close to Cleopatra Beach. It is 25 minutes boat ride from the harbour. You end up in the cave half filled with air after swimming through a passage wide enough for 4-5 divers to fit in that is 6-7 m. long and 13 m. deep. The height of the air space above the sea level is about 8-10 m. There are stalactites and stalagmites in the cave. It resembles the Damlatas Cave amongst the caves in Alanya.
Orta Cave is 12 minutes away from the Alanya Harbour. The entrance of the cave is 15 m deep. The place is suitable for experienced divers and deep-sea diving. The base structure is rocky. Grouper, octopus, meager, moray (eel), bream are amongst the fish that can be seen here.
Demre (Myra), also known as Kale, in Antalya, is famous for being the place where Santa Claus had lived and it is an important city in terms of faith tourism. Demre, 25 km. away from Finike and 48 km. far from Kas, is one of the 6 cities of Lycian civilization. Rock tombs, St. Nicholas Church and the theatre are places worth seeing.

Andriake harbour, which was built by Hadrian and has a granary inside, has a connection with Demre.

Widely known as Santa Claus, St. Nicholas had devoted his life to helping people, especially kids and sailors. This fame provided by his helpfulness became to be known as Santa Claus myth and has been kept up-to-date.
Situated in Kapaklı Village in Demre, Çamlıca Cave is a horizontal cave 80 m. wide and 25 m. high and it is 200 m. north of the sea, 25 m. above the sea level. Sea transportation is available and the cave can be reached after a short walk from the coast. It attracts few visitors as it is above the sea level and there is no land transportation. It generally draws attention of hikers and mountain climbers.

The cave diverges into several passages. Advancing downwards, the cave descends to the sea level and therefore there are two separate small ponds and the water of the ponds is salty. There has been a collapse above the pond on the right.

The water can only be seen through the rocks. The one on the left is much deeper when looked from outside. It has been determined that the passage to the left which is 3 m. wide and descending down may be suitable for cave diving.

The walls of the visually most appealing passage that is to the east, are covered with dripstones. Apart from the ponds, the cave is dry and available for touristic purposes.
Korsan (Pirate) Cave is situated in Üçağız Village which is a natural harbour for those on The Blue Voyage. It is a beautiful cave formed in limestone in the region between Çayağzı Marina - Demre and Kekova – Üçağız Village. Despite the spaciousness of the cave, there happens to be no karstic structure and the walls have smooth outlines and thus arises the impression of a corrosional cave.

It is assumed that the cave had been used for hiding by pirates in the past centuries. Therefore called the “Pirate” Cave is one of the most appealing places for domestic and foreign tourist on boat tours. Tours departing from Çayağazı Marina, take one of their breaks at Korsan Cave. The Cave which was formed by the sea eroding the calcareous rocks, is 10 m. high and 50 m. wide and can be visited upon will after reaching by swimming. Small fishing boats can easily enter the cave.
Döşemealtı

Termessos Theatre

Döşemealtı Carpets
It is named after the stone paved road at the Derbent Strait which is one of the roads connecting Pamphilia cities and Pisidio in the ancient era. The paved road which had served its purpose in Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods, has recently been used by the Yoruks [Turkish nomads] as a migration route. The road paved with stones is 4 m. wide and gave its name to the Döşemealtı Plateau. Therefore the people named the strait “Döşeme” after this “Döşeme” (paved) road and the plain under the road as “Döşemealtı” (Under-the-paved).
The cave is found inside the borders of Yağca Village which is at 5 - 6 km. distance to the old Antalya - Burdur highway, 30 km northwest of Antalya. The Karain cave which is one of the greatest natural caves of Turkey, is 150 m high from the travertine valley in front, 430-450 m. high from the sea. The cave stands in the period of the beginning of the history of the mankind, as the cavern was continuously accommodated by early humans during the prehistoric and classic periods starting from lower Paleolithic, medium and high Paleolithic, Neolithic, Calcolithic and Ancient Bronze stages.

As a natural result of this, the cavern contains a thick cultural layer which can be 11 meters. But the longest and most important accommodation period of the cave is relevant with the Paleolithic period.

The usage at the classical period is more likely as an Offering Cave [Temple] and there are Greek inscriptions and niches at the cave exterior walls and ceiling. The archeological findings discovered from the archeological excavations done inside Karain Cave are displayed at the Antalya Museum and at the Karain Museum which is just near the cave.
Kocain Cave
Land Cave

Kocain Cave is one of the most important caves reflecting the history of nature with its monumental stalactites and stalagmites, and Antalya’s history and archaeology with its prehistoric findings and still readable inscriptions.

First discovered in 1919, the archeological researches have been carried out during various periods after 1946 by Prof. Dr. İ. Kılç Kökten of Ankara University, Faculty of Humanities (Faculty of Languages, History and Geography). The first speleological research has been carried out by Dr. Temuçin Aygen’s team and French speleologists in 1972.

The entrance of the nature’s wonder cave with its gigantic stalactites, stalagmites and snow-white formations inside, is 20 m. high and 75 m. wide. The 633 m. long cave basically consists of two large rooms and has a ceiling height of 80 m.

Based on the readable inscriptions enlightening the archaeology of the area from prehistoric era to Byzantine era, the cave appears to have had a religious function in the period of Early Christianity.
Suluin Cave is situated at 32 km north-west of Antalya and it is in the borders of Yağca Village in Döşemealtı. The cave is on the slopes descending eastwards of Mount Katran (formerly Mount Sam) and at a point close to the intersection point of the mount and the plain. Formed in cretaceous limestone, Suluin Cave is 1 km. north-east of Karain Cave. It is 320 m. above the sea level and 20 m. above the plain in front of it. It is nearby the springs known as Kırkgöz.

Consisting of a single gallery, the entrance of the cave faces east and there is a pond at the bottom. The ceiling advancing east has suffered collapses now and then and surface of the ground is covered with blocks of limestone.

Archaeological excavations have been carried out under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Harun Taşkiran from Ankara University since 2007. The excavations carried out at the entrance perforation reveal that the cave had been inhabited during Mid-Chalcolithic period. Suluin Cave is important in terms of indicating that mound settlement starting right from the north of Çubuk Strait was also present in caves around Suluin area in Chalcolithic period.
Güvercinlik Cave
Land Cave

Güvercinlik (dovecote) Cave is situated in Kovanlık Village in Döşemealtı and on the slopes of Taurus Mountains. The cave can be reached after a 150 m. walk taking the pathway. It is a common place for those willing to cool off.

The cave has a narrow entrance and widens inwards. There are water ponds down at the bottom of the cave.
Finike

Marina

Photo: Finike Municipality Archive
Şekerciler House
Famous for oranges, Finike is a tourism resort of history, nature and sea. The city draws attention with its Lmyra city and Ayranda ancient city ruins. Lmyra, believed to have existed since 5th century, is at the 11th km. of Kumluca-Finike route. Ayranda is 26 km far from Turunçova on the Kumluca-Finike route. The city survived till 11th century although she suffered greatly in the earthquake in 240 AD.
Suluin Cave  
*Underwater Cave*

Situated at the 2nd km of Finike-Kaş route, the cave is 18 m. above the sea level and has a total length of 128 m. Suluin cave, known as the longest underwater cave in Asia, has a wide entrance. Constituting a voluminous space, from top to bottom, from left to right, there is a pond at the bottom of the cave.

The cave formed with dissolutions underground in ancient times, and then the ceiling collapsed in the following era and thus the cave became available to outer world. The chalk the cave takes place in, is pretty pure and grey coloured. The cave advances downwards right after the entrance and there is a water pond at the bottom. Due to the moss covering the surface of the pond, it gives the impression of shallow water but it actually is the opening door of the cave advancing more downwards to the outer world.

The cave is one of the underwater caves that are presumed to have been dry earlier because of the stalactites and the stalagmites in the caves. Based on the research carried out in 1995, the depth of the cave is confirmed to be 83 m. and that when advanced further through the passages; one enters a big gallery after around 45 m. The walls of the gallery are covered with stalactites, stalagmites and travertine pool structures. It has been observed by the research dives that there are passages entering and exiting the gallery.
Caverns of Antalya

Gazipaşa

Airport

Selinus Ancient City
Gazipaşa, 180 km east of the city of Antalya, is a pretty town with its 10 km. long beach, forested lands, turquoise blue bays and natural beauties. Iskele (pier), Kotu and Kahyalar beaches are important nesting grounds for loggerhead sea turtles (Caretta Caretta). Gazipaşa is fast becoming a favourite touristic resort with her accommodation and recreation facilities, history and natural beauties and Antiochia ad Cragum, Nephelis and Se-linus ancient cities are in the borders of the town.
One of the longest caves in the world, Yalan Dünya Cave stretches out in the Taurus Mountains. Yalan Dünya Cave, approximately 5 million years old, is still a cave alive; the formation of the cave is still continuing. The massiveness of the stalactites and stalagmites indicate the elderliness of the cave. Located inside the borders of Beyrebucak Village on the Anamur route, the cave is expressed as to be healthy for asthma patients. As 400 m. part of the cave is illuminated, it allows visitors to roam comfortably inside the cave.

The Beyrebucak Village where the cave is located, is run as a recreational resort by the legal entity of the village. But the recreation facilities, cafés, W.C. and the landscape design are only supposed to be for the visitors of the cave. Yalan Dünya Cave takes place in the area archeologically protected in the first degree.
General view of the town centre

Photo: Gündoğmuş Governorship District Archive
Uçansu Waterfalls
There are a lot of ancient city ruins and vestige in Gündoğmuş District which is situated 182 km. away from Antalya. Cem Paşa Mosque in the town centre, the ruins at the top of Mount Sinek, Alanya/Konya caravan route, Kazayır City ruins at Taşağır which is on the Gündoğmuş/Antalya route are worth seeing.
Çeyiz Deliği Cave  
*Land Cave*

Situated in the town centre, the karstic cave is full of stalactites and stalagmites just like Damlataş Cave in Alanya. Although the humidity in the air inside the cave is as high as Damlataş, it is much colder compared to Damlataş. The cave consists two parts, one a slant entrance and the other a huge gallery. The length is not known for sure as it is not possible to advance because of the narrow passages. It is going to be a major tourist attraction once the cave is illuminated.

According to myth, two step sisters Meryem and Güüssün live in a house. When they become old enough to get married, the younger sister was asked her hand in marriage. The elder took umbrage at this situation and decides to kill her sister. One day while shepherding, elder sister Meryem starts arguing with younger sister Güüssün. They start arguing near the cave.

When the quarrel heats up, Meryem kills Güüssün by pushing her into the cave. Then she takes Güüssün’s dowry bag in this hole. The people, believing that Güüssün and her dowry bag to be in the hole, call this cave "Çeyiz Deliği" (Dowry Hole).
The cave is located 5 km. northwest of Gündoğmuş district and on the slopes of the mountain to the east of Karadere Village. The town and the entrance is substantially forested and covered with bushes. The Church Cave is known as Gedefi Den among the people. It is approximately 20 m. high and 13 m long. There were two hidden entries to the church cave which was used as a shelter during the time of war. However, due to the collapses caused by the earthquakes during the subsequent period, the entries have completely been opened up. There is a well dug up afterwards during the time of war to meet the need of water. There are three inscriptions carved on the walls; two on the east and one on the west side wall. Based on the inscriptions, it is understood that the cave was used as a sanctuary of a goddess before it was used a church.
Ibradi is 170 km. north-east of the central province. There are ruins around the district that belong to Roman period. The district is 950 m. above sea level. Therefore rather than the mild Mediterranean climate, continental climate prevails. But the humidity is really low.

The certain date of establishment of Ibradi, which is in the borders of Pisidio, is unknown. However, by the ruins in and around Ibradi, it is presumed that it dates back to Roman period. For example, there are ruins of Erymna Ancient City of Hellenistic period which is between Ormana Municipality 2 km. from Ibradi and Ürünlü Village which is 7 km. from Ibradi. The necropolis of the city is the rocky ruins surrounding Ormana.
The cave is located at the western slope of the deep and very steep Manavgat Valley which is to the east of Ürünlü village of Akseki District. It takes about one hour of walking to the cave from the village.

The cave, with the total length of 2500 m. has the highest point at +101 meters in respect to the cave entrance. It is a horizontal and partially active cavern. As the lower and medium parts of the cavern are sometimes active, small lakes are formed at the dry seasons most of the time. The upper level is always dry. The air of the cave is very humid and the average temperature is around 16-18ºC. No animal groups drawing attention are encountered.

Altınbeşik Cave is one of the most beautiful caves of Turkey. The karstic topography of the environment and the pine forests exhibit a marvelous spectacle. The cave is at the exit end of a very long and big underground system. This big system pulling Kızılova, Kambos and Söbücesuyu ends at the Altınbeşik - Düdensuyu Cave under the Oruç Sinkhole Cave. Therefore, this underground water system with a length exceeding 100 km is one of the longest and biggest karst systems of the world. The stream emerging out of the cave is connected underground with Beyşehir Lake. Because the cave is in water, the cave can be cruised on boats or small boats.
Kaş is a centre of residence, culture and tourism with surrounding ruins belonging to Ancient period and cultural journeys of historical values, underwater diving, canoe rides on the river full of adventure, trekking where you can explore the ecological harmony, technically equipped cave diving into deep and dark caves, paragliding, Blue Voyage to the islands and nearby and variety and beauty of handicrafts.

The city located in the valley of Xanthos is one the oldest and biggest cities of Lycian civilization and There are regular city wall remains on the city’s acropolis and the remains of the wall on the seaside are also visible. “Harpy Monument” is one of the most important artifacts. Only the replica of the monument can be seen in the region whereas the original is exhibited in the British Museum in England.
Inbaş Cave
Land Cave

It is a big cave situated on the Bezirgan Village shoreline near Kalkan. There is a road that goes all the way to Inbaş Cave.
Bayındır Cave
Land Cave

It is situated in Limanağız of Bayındır Village. The cave is in the west of village. It is also known as "Elif Cave". It is a small cave.
Hidirellez Cave
Land Cave

It is situated at Limanağızı bay in Kaş. There is an underground stream flowing through the cave. It is known that there used to be frescoes belonging to first period of Christianity. It is known amongst the people as “Hidirellez” as it has been visited at the times of Hidirellez. It is considered to draw more domestic and foreign tourist attraction with environmental planning, restoration of the stairs presumed to be built in the ancient times and the illumination and cleansing of the interiors.

There are four beach operating managements and one hotel at the service on the wonder’s nature bay of Limanağızı which can be reached with 15 minutes of boat ride. Domestic and foreign tourists visit the place by cooperative boats departing every ten minutes from the district marina in 15th May – 15th October period. The boats on The Blue Voyage anchor at this bay as well and visit the Hidirellez Cave which is thought to be belonging to Ancient era.
Aşırlı Adası Cave
Sea Cave

Aşırlı Adası (Aşırlı Island) Cave is a beautiful cave formed by the erosion of the sea in the limestone belonging to third era.

You pass by this sea cave when going from Çayağzı beach which is used a seaport of Demre district, to Kekova region or when coming from Kale Village (Simena).

Some tourists’ visit of this cave causes the seals to give up on this cave to utilize it as a place of reproduction.
Mavi (Blue) Cave is located 6 km. away from Kalkan; 600 m. to Kaputaş Beach and 18 km. from Kaş. The Fethiye Highway passed over the cave.

Mavi Cave was discovered by Geologist Dr. Temuçin Aygen in 1972. It is 50 m. long, 40 m. wide and 15 m. high. It is quite a big cave with different rooms and passages. The cave, consisting of two galleries; inner and outer galleries, takes its name from the blue light entering through the cloisters on the outside. All of the inner galleries that provide an exit to air shaft are dark. There are slight coral formations and variety of creatures in both inner and outer galleries. Depending on the period, school of narwhal shrimps can be seen in the inner galleries. It enables diving opportunities for all divers with both its level of depth and structure.

This cave is actively being used by the Mediterranean seals. It can be a place of reproduction especially in winter months.
Güvercinlik Cave
Sea Cave

Güvercinlik (Dovecote) Cave is 2 km. from Kalkan. This cave hosts a large number of wild doves. A small underground stream joins the sea through the cave.

The cave is actively being used by Mediterranean seals and doves. It can be a place of reproduction especially in winter months. The doves are unfurled and the seals are left to abandon the place during the summer season due to the tourists entering the cave by sea vessels or by diving.
It is situated 100 m. from Güvercinlik Cave. Güvercin Ini (Dove Hole) Cave is a small cave with a narrow entry. It is approximately 40 m. long. It has a high ceiling. As it is reproduction area for Mediterranean seals, the seals are adversely affected by tourists entering the cave by boats or by diving.
Kekova Island

Sea Cave

The cave which is near Karalos is a small cave and it has two entries, a big and a small one.

What the divers shouldn’t ignore is that they mustn’t harm the place. A stroke with a diving fin of a careless diver could harm the living organisms in the cave where the walls are adorned with algae, sponges and corals.

The cave is a place where seals can be seen. It can be a place of reproduction in winter months. Therefore, the divers have to be careful when diving in summer months.
Situated 40 km. west of the city of Antalya and with 52 km. of sea coast, Ke­mer, once a small village until 1980’s, has become one of the most important sea re­sorts of Turkey in 20 years time. The limpid­ity of the sea, greenness of the forests, the sea within the reach of the pine trees and the shade of the pine trees on the beaches are appealing. There are plenty of natural harbours and bays on the indented coasts of the district. One can easily swim at the places like Phaselis beach – a national park where the ancient city’s ruins still re­main. Safari Tours to higher grounds like Söğütt Cuması, Altınyaka, Dereköy draw interest in recent years. Places to be seen are: Idryos, Phaselis Ancient City, Olym­pos Ancient City, Chimaera (burning rock), Adrasan, Üç Adalar (The Three Islands), Göynük Canyon, Ikiz Kayalar (Twin Rocks), Ekopark (Ecopark), Ulupınar ve Selçuklu Av Köşkü (Seljuk Hunting Mansion).
The cave is located at the Gedelme Plateau locality. There is a road connecting Kemer district to Gedelme plateau. A short walk of approximately 4 minutes is necessary to reach to the cave entrance from the village center. There is a historic wall and ruins belonging to Byzantium at 65 m. north of the cave. The total length of the cave is 74 meters and the deepest point in respect to the entrance is at -19 meters. The cave is dry and is mostly vertical.

Most part of the cave is dry. There is only a small lake at the end and the deepest point of the cave. The temperature of the cave is 17ºC in autumn. As the cave entrance is relatively large, the temperature of the inner cave changes relatively to the conditions of open air. There are stalactites, stalagmite and pillars developed inside the cave. The surrounding natural beauties and historic ruins make the cave more attractive.
Büyük Cave
Sea Cave

Büyük Cave (Grand Cave), situated in Üçadalar, Kemer, has a diving depth differs from 6 to 33 m. At the deepest spot, one can still see the light shining through the entrance. There are many sea creatures surviving on without any light or only with dim light. Apart from the dwellers of the place like sponges, algae, coral and fish, there are important hosts of the cave; seals. As the seals choose to breed in sea caves, they especially opt for the ones that ascend and that have air shafts inside. Dives taking place here should be carried out with great care.
Üç Adalar (The Three Islands) is an extensive area of diving where nine coral reefs and two underwater caves exist. One of them is Derin Cave. The depth of the cave differs between 5 and 31 m. Just like Büyük Cave, there are many sea creatures surviving on without any light or only with dim light.

What the divers shouldn’t ignore is that they mustn’t harm the place. A stroke with a diving fin of a careless diver could harm the living organisms in the cave where the walls are adorned with algae, sponges and corals.
Konyaaltı

Photo: Konyaaltı Municipality Archive
Konyaaltı Beach

Photo: Konyaaltı Municipality Archive
Harbour
Konyaaltı is the district in the west of Antalya where the beach with the same name is located. It is neighbouring Kepez with the Çakırlar road and Muratpaşa with the Dumlupınar Boulevard. The name “Konyaaltı” is originated from the expression of “köy altı” which means the cove down the cliffs and reached the present day as “Konyaaltı”. According to the settlement mapping of Anatolian Civilizations, it is in the borders of Lycia. Lycia is a neighbor of Pamphylia. Lycian civilization dating back to 30 B.C., the name of the city situated in Konyaaltı area is Olbia.
Akyarlar Cave
Land Cave

Situated 12 km. from Konyaaltı town centre, on the slopes of Bey Mountain facing the sea near the Antalya – Kemer route, Akyarlar Cave was discovered during road building works in 1971. The cave stretches by a length of 75 m. to the sea. The entrance of the cave was arranged at the time of discovery.

There are different kinds of stalactites and stalagmites in the cave which draws thousands of foreign visitors. There are rock climbing tracks around the cave. The cave without lighting is kept open for service with regular cleaning procedures carried out by Konyaaltı Municipality.
Beldibi Cave
Land Cave

The cave is an under-rock shelter located at the 40th kilometer of the coastal highway between Antalya - Ke-mer, just after the Çamdağ tunnel. It is in Oba village.

Six layers containing totally Mesolotic cultures were identified by Prof. Dr. Enver Bostancı by the researches between 1960 and 1966. It represents the transition period between Paleolithic and Neolithic age.

At the excavations, Flintstones tools belonging to Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods were obtained. The cave is under the protection of Antalya Directorate of Museums (Antalya Müze Müdürlüğü).
Muratpaşa

Clock Tower and Yivli Minaret

Kaleiçi Marina

Kaleiçi Houses

Hidirlik Tower
Muratpaşa is a neighbor of Aksu District in the east, Kepez district in the north, Konyaaltı district in the west and the Mediterranean sea in the South. The central district is established on a 8804-hectare land and has coastline of 20 km. in total. Muratpaşa Mosque which is located in Kazım Özalp Road and was built by Grand Vizier Kuyucu Murat Pasha in 1570, Kaleiçi (Old Town) which is now a centre of entertainment with its hotels, restaurants, guesthouses and bars enclosed by two city walls mostly ruined; in the shape of a horseshoe, one enclosing it along the shore and the other inland, the old Antalya houses, Yivli Minaret which is the first Turkish structure built in Antalya and is now in the town centre near the harbour, Kesik Minaret; once a Roman temple but then became a church and then a mosque later on, 2 thousand years old lighthouse Hidirlik Tower, the Clock Tower and Hadrian’s Gate built in the honour of Emperor Hadrian’s arrival in 130 A.D. are amongst the tourist attractions of the city.
Fener Cave is adiving spot consisting of two caves. You come to the diving spot with a boat, first diving depth is about 8-10 m. When you swim towards the cliff, you pass through a gulf wide enough only for one swimmer to fit in and which is 45 m long. Ten metres further than the end of the gulf, you reach an air shaft where you can take off your diving regulator and breathe freely. There is another cave called Jesus Cave at the same spot. To be able to reach the cave filled half with saltwater and half freshwater, you have to go 100 m. into the cliffs towards the city. The depth of the cave from ceiling to bottom differs between 4 and 5 m. This place is diving spot with lots of rooms and different entrances and exits leading to the same spot. It is possible to see different stone formations as well as stalactites that have formed over the years.

You have to have a 2 star CMAS diving certificate to be able to dive here.
Serik

Gebiz Uçan Waterfall

Aspendos Theatre

Belek Golf Club
Closest district to the city centre of Antalya, it is 40 km. east of Antalya. It is slightly in the inner parts of the land. The territory is covered with calabrian pine, cedar and black pine forests. Belek hosts the biggest center of golf in Turkey. There are a great number of huge and comfortable hotels offering service on the coastline. Aspendos, the most important city of old Pamphylia is nearby Serik. Aspendos Theatre, reaching untouched to present and with a perfect acoustic, hosts many cultural activities today.
Zeytintaşı Cave
Land Cave

Zeytintaşı Cave is located on the south slopes of Mount Zeytinlitaş which is south-east of Gökçeler Street of Akbaş Village 15 km. away from Serik in Antalya. You can go to the cave by taking the Üründü-Deniz Hill-Kızıllar- Gökçeler- Akbaş road. The cave is 54 km. far from Antalya, 16 km. from Serik and 10 km. from Aspendos.

The cave formed on the fault line in the bottom-wise and side-wise surrounding permeable units in the limestone belonging to the Jurassic Cretaceous period. It is 14 m. deep and consists of two floors; one upper being 136 m. long including the cloisters and the lower being 97 m. long. It is adorned with stalactites, stalagmites and dripstones of all types that are still being shaped. Besides, the ponds amongst the pillars make the cave more interesting. It is endowed with unprecedented characteristics with soda straws 0,03 m. wide and 0,70 m long.
### CAVERNS AND CAVE SITUATED IN ANTALYA

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THE TOURING AND AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF TURKEY (TÜRKİYE TURING VE OTOMOBIL KURUMU - TTOK)
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CLUB OF TAURUS NATURE SPORTS (TODOSK)
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Yesilbahce Mahallesi Portakal Çiçeği
Bulvari 1466 Sokak
Göker Sitesi 8/4 Antalya
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MUSEUMS
Antalya Museum
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Fax.: (242) 238 56 87
www.antalyamuzesi.gov.tr

Atatürk’s House and Museum
Haşim İşcan Mah. F. Çakmak Cad. No.4
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Suna Inan Kirac Museum
Barbaros Mah. Kocetepe Sok. No:25
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www.akmed.org.tr

Toy Museum
Iskele Cad. No. 82 Kaleici
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Alanya Museum
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FINE ARTS GALLERY
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