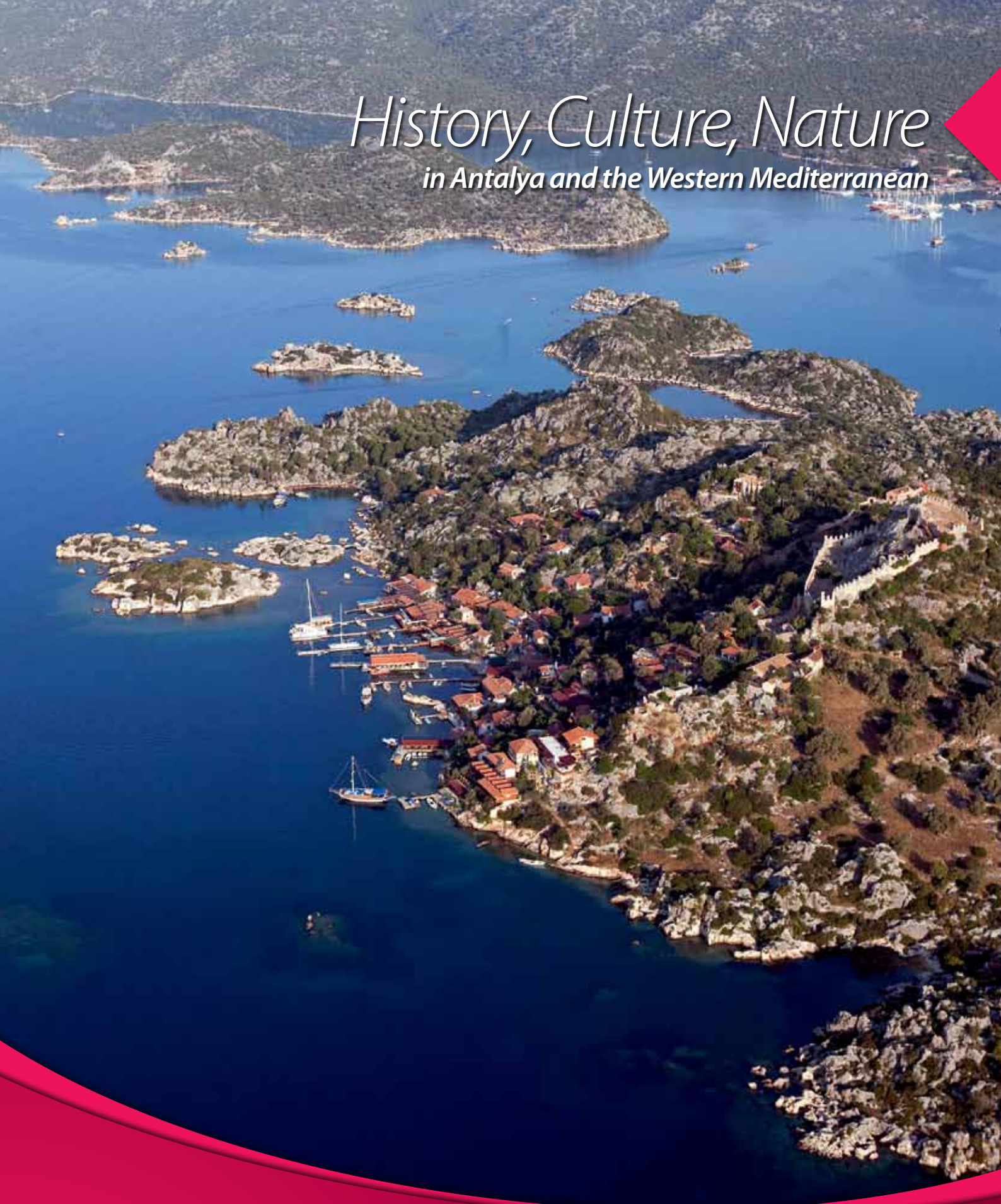


# History, Culture, Nature

*in Antalya and the Western Mediterranean*



*Antalya*  
the destination





*“As a result of a series of excursions to ancient cities in the Pamphylian plains within a few hours’ ride from Adalia, I was astonished to find out that there existed numerous ancient monuments, mostly dating to the Late Imperial period, either on which nothing has been written and researched or which have not received the attention they deserve, extending over a few miles. Nevertheless, its landscape, more beautiful than all the places I have known, had captured me the most.”*

Karl Graf von Lanckoronski

Städte Pamphyliens und Pisidiens, 1890

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# Traces of the Past



Karain Cave

## Karain Cave 160,000-60,000 BC

The Gulf of Antalya lies on the south western edge of the Anatolian Peninsula. Surrounding the gulf and south of the Western Taurus Mountains, approximately 25 kilometers from the Antalya city centre, are a series of caves located 500-600 meters above sea level. Situated on the slopes surrounding the springs that feed Kirkgöz Lake, these caves tell the stories of the prehistoric past to us today.

Artefacts discovered during the excavation of these caves distinguish not only the periods of Anatolia's distant past, but those of humanity as well. The most notable of these caves is **Karain Cave**.

Karain Cave, located on the upper slopes of the springs of Kirkgöz Lake near Yağca village in the Döşemealtı district has been a host to every era of human civilisation. Traces of human occupation in the Karain Cave go back hundreds of thousands of years to the Early Stone Age. They continue to, and also include, the Middle Stone Age, Later Stone Age (Mesolithic), Copper Age (Chalcolithic), Bronze Age and subsequent ages, giving today's visitors insight into all of these eras.

In the Karain Cave, drilling and cutting tools made of antlers and flint stones, and rudimentary hatchets were discovered alongside fossilized Neanderthal skulls. In the upper layers near the remains of fossilized human bones, tooth and bone fragments of extinct hippopotami, elephants, hyenas and cave bears have been found.

The habitation of Karain Cave began with the emergence of modern man and lasted until recent times. Inscriptions engraved at the entrance of the cave demonstrate that it was used as a place of worship. From an inscribed epithet to the Mother Goddess Cybele we understand that the cave was a shrine dedicated to Meter Oreia.

Karain Cave is not the only place in Antalya where prehistoric items have been discovered. When Karain Cave became unable to sustain the needs of the first human settlement, other caves in the immediate vicinity of the Kirkgöz Lake springs also became occupied. They include the Öküz, Mustan, Boynuzlu, Çark, Kızıl, Sulu and Harun caves. These were occupied from the later periods of the Early Stone Age until the advent of agriculture in the Neolithic Age. Öküz Cave stands out among these caves as being especially significant.

As the population increased, this collection of caves surrounding Kirkgöz Lake became inadequate to house the residents. People started to move to nearby caves and shelters (dolmens) and gradually established Neolithic villages beside the lake shores and in the area that surrounded it.

The Kocain Cave, near the Ahırtaş village northwest of Döşemealtı, abounds with inscriptions and cisterns. The Beldibi Rock Shelter and Belbaşı Cave possess cave paintings depicting human and animal figures painted on its walls. Both of these caves have served as a shelter for humans in the middle and upper periods of the Early Stone Age.

The Kadiini Cave is located in the Oba district northeast of Alanya at the eastern end of the Antalyan Gulf. Primitive tools and fossilised human remains found there are evidence that this cave has served as a shelter since the Early Stone Age.

The Karain Cave in the Elmalı district on the western shores of the Gulf (not to be confused with the Karain Cave in the Döşemealtı district) and the numerous caves surrounding the city of Antalya, such as those near the Geyikbayırı stream to its west or Güzeloba and Kemerağzı to the east of it, echo the primitive past of these regions.



Kirkgöz

**Antalya-Burdur (D650) road**  
take left in 16<sup>th</sup> km and follow signages





Plains of Elmalı

## Leaving the Caves

Humankind began to recognise the importance of seed and so learned to produce their own food. In so doing, humans made their first step from a hunter-gatherer society to a lifestyle bound to a particular settlement. The increasing population was not the only factor that forced humans to leave their caves. Perhaps a more important dynamic was that people learned to store and sow seeds, and to breed and domesticate animals for the first time.

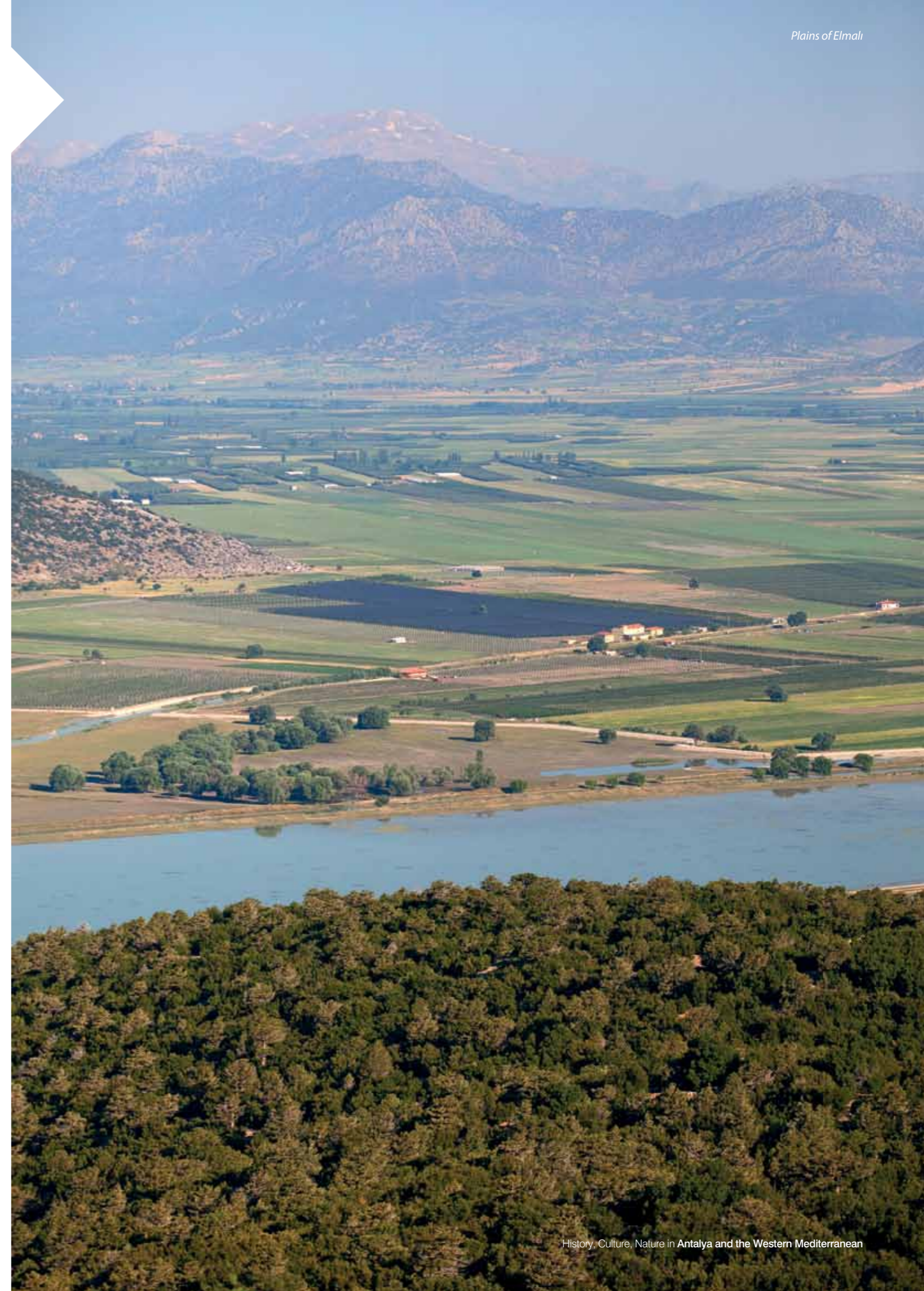
Hunter-gatherers living in the vicinity of Antalya moved out of their caves and began building simple agricultural settlements near lakes and other water sources. This period in human civilisation is known as the "Neolithic Age" or "New Stone Age." Constructed hand tools were developed and became more widespread, but the original use of stones as tools continued.

In Archaeological digs around Antalya, many agricultural settlements dating back to

prehistoric times were discovered in areas near wetlands, although some of these areas are dried up today. Among the foremost Neolithic settlements are those that surround Elmalı, Bademağacı, Döşemealtı, Korkuteli, Şerefönü, and Kırkgöz Lake. Şerefönü is located on a dried up reservoir, and is situated to the north of the Teke Valley near Ürkütlü. Elmalı is positioned to the west of the Gulf of Antalya.

It is understood that Gök Höyük was an important settlement in the Neolithic and later in the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages. It is situated a few kilometers south of the springs of Kırkgöz Lake. To the north of Kırkgöz Lake, near the town of Bademağacı, excavations conducted in the mound that bears the same name as that of the town, show that it was one of the most important settlements of the Neolithic and later ages. Other Neolithic settlements can be found beyond this region in the Bucak district of the Burdur province.

Northwest of Elmalı, situated on a dried up basin known as Gölova today, excavations made within the Karataş Mound have revealed that settlements were there during and following the Neolithic period. A few kilometers to the northeast of Bozhöyük, between the villages of Çobanisa and Karaköy, a mound which has not been yet excavated is assumed to have served as a shelter for the local population. West of Gölova and located at a lower elevation lies the Elmalı Plain. This area contains the largest number of mounds in the region. It has been established that there were many settlements bordering the two dried up lakes there. One of the foremost of these is the Hacimusalar Mound near the corner of the village of Akçaeniş located on the Elmalı-Kaş road. Ongoing excavations of this mound have revealed the remnants of a church, suggesting that this settlement was inhabited up until the Byzantine era.



Bademağacı Cairn





# Lycia

The area surrounding the Bay of Pamphylia in the Western Mediterranean takes its name from the peoples who inhabited the area many years ago. An imaginary line proceeding north from the Gulf to Fethiye (Ancient Telmessos) in the west delineates a boundary of the region known as Lycia.

There are several theories about the origin of the word Lycia. The most accepted theory is that it comes from the word "Lux" meaning light. Lycia would then be understood as the land of light. The fact that Apollo, known as the god of light, was believed to come from Lycia is one of the most convincing validations of this theory. In his Iliad, Homer writes that this god of guidance and revealer of mysteries was Lycian. The inhabitants of Lycia were known as the Lukkans. According to Herodotus, the Lukkans came to Lycia from Crete. Some also believe that these people were among the indigenous inhabitants of Anatolia.

There are no significant islands along the Anatolian shores of the Mediterranean. The geographic monotony of this part of the Mediterranean coast changes abruptly as it reaches the shores of Lycia with its twisting shores and bays. The winding coastline of Lycia heralds the labyrinthine coasts of the Aegean.

Lycia can be separated into three regions: East Lycia, Central Lycia and West Lycia.



## East Lycia

The main city is **Phaselis** with its three harbours. To the south of Phaselis is **Olympos** with its anchorage. Rhodiapolis is located east of the Bay of Finike, near today's Kumluca. It was the legendary city of Opremoas in ancient times.

The Finike-Kumluca plain is divided into two by the Alakır stream. **Rhodiapolis** lies to the east of this plain. Where the Taurus Mountains meet the plain and near the source of the Tatlıçay river is the ancient town of **Limyra**. Even though this town is located inland from the coast, it is accessible from the sea.

The town of **Arykanda** is situated beside the river Arykandos (Aykırçay) which is fed by the waters of the Taurus Mountains and from Lake Avlan. It is a Lycian town at a crossroads between the way connecting the Mediterranean to Ephesus in the west and the one to Phaselis in the East. Besides these East Lycian towns, many other smaller ancient settlements are also known.



## Central Lycia

This area lies between **Myra (Demre)** and **Antiphellos (Kaş)**. The existence of so many coastal settlements in this area is probably due to the suitability of its coastline for sheltering ships. The harbour town of **Andriake**, which lies a few kilometers to the west of Myra, is one of the most important cities of Central Lycia. To the north of Andriake (Çayağzı), in a marsh area beneath Sura is a district known today as Demre. It was a place of worship and possessed an oracle dedicated to Apollo. As pieces of meat were thrown into a whirlpool filled with seawater, seers gave answers according to the size and species of the fish that were attracted to the meat that was thrown in the water. One of the most important grain stores of the Mediterranean region in ancient times was built in this harbour town.

West of Andriake with its length parallel to the coast is the island of **Kekova (Dolikhiste)**. It is well known as being the only inhabited island in the past. The ruins of Kekova are mostly submerged, probably due to an earthquake, but it has become an important sightseeing destination. The island was used as a shipyard and a place for storage of materials in the past. Through the extensive structures that remain it provided shelter to shipbuilders, traders and members of the clergy. The mainland north of Kekova is an exceptionally rich and untouched region littered with numerous ruins and ancient graveyards belonging to smaller settlements.

**Theimiussa (Üçağzı)** is found just a few kilometers to the northeast of Kaleköy. Its historical fabric is still preserved. Thousands of sarcophagi line the coast as if waiting to salute wayfarers who passed by throughout the ages. The small harbour where material transport ships and passenger vessels once came ashore attracts countless tourists who come to see and experience the history of the place.

Myra (Demre), one of the earliest centers of Christianity; Andriake, a key port in ancient times; and the islands of Kekova, Simena and Theimiussa, are among the most visited destinations of the region. These sites entangle their visitors in the depths of their history. Small shoreside restaurants provide a unique opportunity for visitors to taste regional seafood dishes typical of the region. Andriake (Çayağzı) is the gateway to this area, approached either by sea or via a pleasant road trip through beautiful countryside.

*The coastal town of Simena (Kaleköy), with its clear and calm waters and submerged ancient ruins can be reached by land and sea. It is one of the most important destinations in Central Lycia.*





Antiphellos (Kaş) has developed out of previous obscurity into a major tourist center. The historical remnants within the city center have been preserved and the area has been transformed to make it attractive and comfortably able to serve the tourism sector. Kaş has become a real tourist paradise with its historic and natural attractions, seascapes, beaches, restaurants, bars and other entertainment facilities. The various attractions cater to visitors from all income brackets. Kaş is one of the finest diving centers in Turkey today. Numerous diving schools provide an opportunity to experience one of the Mediterranean's richest diving landscapes. They showcase a variety of shipwrecks and rich marine environments, and offer certificates to participants.

One of the growing sporting activities in Kaş is paragliding. The parachutes gliding from the mountains rising above Kaş not only thrill their enthusiasts, but also offer a visual spectacle to onlookers.

Kaş

Kaş also provides its visitors with the opportunity to visit the authentic villages of the Taurus Mountains. Visitors can witness traditional production methods, sip local herbal beverages, meet villagers and listen to their stories. Short road trips carry visitors into a place where they can experience eras of civilization dating from its earliest times until today. One can visit the remnants of ancient cities dating back before the advent of Christianity. Chapels, churches and monasteries found on isolated highlands showcase later times. Mosques, centuries old, then introduce tourists into the daily life of the traditional Taurus mountain villagers.

Central Lycia also offers its visitors opportunities for trekking. These activities often follow historic routes that wind through villages and ancient ruins on mountainside slopes. They offer a safe and relaxing chance to get to enjoy and learn more of the region and the local population.



West Lycia possesses one of the longest beaches in Anatolia where alluvial terrain meets the sea. Three important Lycian cities are found along this beach. The famous harbour town of Patara is located on its eastern end. Letoon, the ancient Lycian centre of worship is found towards the western end. To the north lies the capital Xanthos.



Üçağız

## West Lycia

This region is composed of the alluvial plains and the mountains around it. The plain is watered by the Akdağ and the Eşen streams lying towards its west. The region's plateaus contain the ruins of Patara (Fırmaz/Yeşilköy), Xanthos (Kınık) and Letoon (Bozoluk/Kumluova).

**Xanthos (Kınık)** is the place to begin. It was a developed city by ancient standards and was the capital of the Lycian Confederation, one of the most significant political powers of its time. **Patara** was one of the most important harbours of the Western Mediterranean in the past and one of two places of worship of the god of the sun and light, Apollo. He was the principal god of the Lycia region. **Letoon**, to the west of the river Kınık, used to be the city of Leto. Leto was named after a goddess who was Zeus' favourite and Apollo's mother. Her twin sister was Artemis, the moon goddess.

According to mythology, the Goddess Leto, known as Lada or Latta in the Lycian language, was impregnated by Zeus. She went out to look for a refuge for herself and her twin babies, which she gave birth to on the island of Delos. Fearing the wrath of Zeus's wife, the Goddess Hera, none of the cities would accept Leto and her twins. The mother and children were attacked by the people of Letoon, while she was cleaning herself up after giving birth on the shores of Xanthos. The infuriated Leto punished the town's inhabitants by turning them into frogs.

The three temples built by the Lycian Confederation in this town suggest that they were built in honour of this mythological family. The temples were dug out during Archaeological excavations. The countless frogs croaking amid the submerged stones of the temples were believed to be descended from these inhabitants transformed into frogs, as portrayed in local folklore.

The alluvial terrain near these three cities contain other cities. Tlos (Düver/Asar Kale), Pınara (Minare), Arsada (Arsa) can be found in the surrounding area, all concentrated in the province of Muğla.

The Persians, who entered Anatolia in the mid 6th century BC, began the invasion of Lycia and laid siege to Xanthos. The inhabitants resisted fiercely, but in the end the men of the city killed their women and children and committed suicide en masse by burning the city, so as not to fall into the hands of the enemy. Another similar event would occur five hundred years later. Brutus fled to Anatolia and came to Lycia to gather support after assassinating Caesar. Patara surrendered without any resistance, while Xanthos fought back as it had done centuries before and its inhabitants committed mass suicide by setting the city on fire.

**Fethiye (Telmessos)** at the western point of Lycia is a developing haven where tourists like to stay. The natural wonder of Ölüdeniz and places like Kayaköy are just few of the places nearby which visitors consider "must see" destinations. It also has a reputation for being the first place in Turkey where sporting activities like paragliding began. To the east of Ölüdeniz rises the Babadağ Mountain, where enthusiasts of paragliding soar above the spectacular landscapes above Ölüdeniz and environs.

One of the most important centers of accommodation and entertainment in West Lycia after Kaş is **Kalkan**. The spectacular landscapes it offers to its visitors, its crystal clear waters and authentic cuisine are important factors in the rising number of tourists coming to the region. Only 15 kilometers further on, the pasture of Bezirgan rises to the north of Kalkan, taking you from a maritime to a mountainous climate and opening the doors to a whole new experience.



# Pamphylia



Aspendos

The alluvial plain that stretches more than 100 kilometers along and 40 kilometers inside the eastern shores of the Gulf of Antalya was known as Pamphylia in ancient times. The Taurus Mountains rise to the north of the plain, watering it via numerous rivers and streams stemming from the steady rainwater throughout fall and winter. This area was always known as place of migration, hence the name Pamphylia, "The place of mingled tribes and races."

At the eastern edge of Pamphylia lies Alanya (Korakesion) and to the West lies Antalya (Attaleia). Between these two important cities are the cities of Side, Aspendos, Sillyum and Perge.

In historical times the Gulf of Antalya was also known as the Gulf of Pamphylia. For this reason, even though it is situated to the west of the Gulf at the peninsula known as Lycia, some regard Phaselis as a Pamphylian city, although Pamphylia is generally considered to include only the five major towns mentioned above. Selinus (Gazipaşa) to the east of Alanya belongs to the region of Cilicia.

The rocky and impregnable peninsula where Alanya is located was once the most famous pirate town in the Eastern Mediterranean. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, the pirate Tryphon established a fortress on what was thought to be an unassailable rocky outcrop and made it into a base and shelter.



Pamphylia

Tryphon built several fortresses in and around the **Korakesion Castle**. The caves around the peninsula served as a hiding place for booty and slaves taken from the transport vessels. These caves are a favourite tourist spot. Tryphon further consolidated his rule, so that he could establish hegemony in parts of Syria and Anatolia and threaten the Kingdom of Seleucia and its capital Antiocheia (Antakya). The region was finally freed from pirate control during the Roman period by the renowned commander Pompeius. The castle originally built by Tryphon and expanded by other pirate rulers was demolished.

After Roman and Byzantine domination, Korakesion Castle was conquered by the Seljuks in 1221. From this date onward, the castle was renamed Alâiye after the conqueror Alâeddin Keykubat and used as the winter headquarters of the Seljuk sultans. Within the same century Alâiye and the surrounding areas came under the control of the Beylik of Karaman. In the 15th century the region was conquered by the Ottomans remaining under their rule and occupied until the advent of the Turkish Republic.



**Alanya**, due to its extensive variety of historical and natural attractions, is one of the main centers of tourism of the Anatolian coast and Mediterranean region. The Alanya Castle, the ruins of ancient towns, its museum hosting countless artefacts, natural views, caves, pristine beaches and valleys are only a few of its charms.

Close to these attractions in Alanya are the natural attractions found in its hinterland. Remote pastures with breathtaking views, alpine lakes, mountains that remain snow-capped throughout the year, and the annual migration of the nomadic tribes are just some of the many experiences to be had in these captivating surroundings.

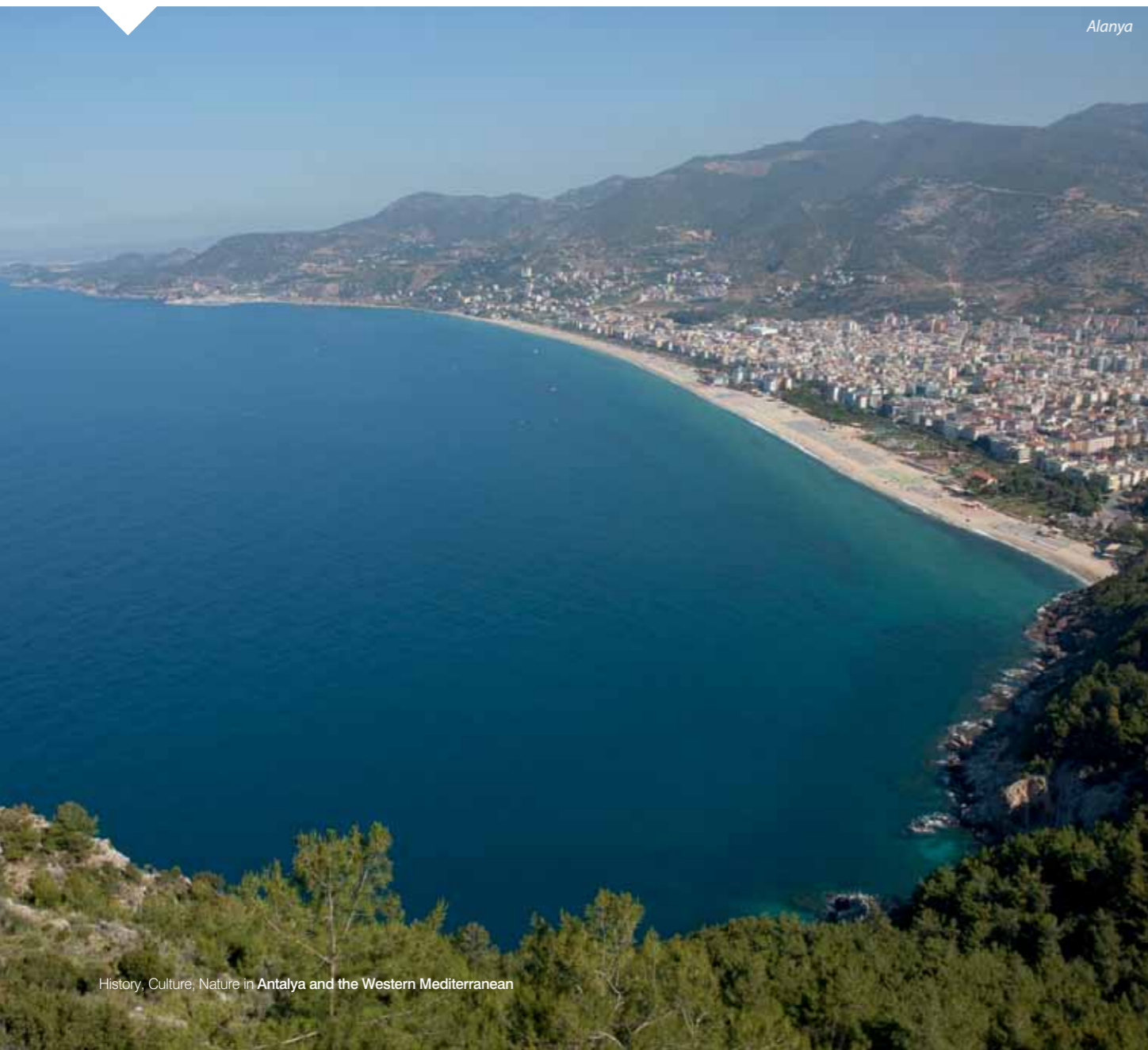
One of the most startling features of Pamphylia is the abundance of waterways. These waterways determine the path of the significant roadways and bridges. The large number of bridges built in ancient and recent times testify to the strength of the economic activity of Pamphylia. Especially on the Alara River, between Alanya and Manavgat to the west, one can find beautiful examples from the Seljuk and Karaman periods, such as the Kemer and Ali bridges. These bridges are still in use despite the centuries.

The medieval 'hans' or inns near Alanya, have been restored and now serve as a place of dining and accommodation. The Şarapsa (Serapsu) Han, 20 kilometers west of Alanya in the district of Konaklı resembles a small castle. The Alara Han, on the eastern shore of the

Alara River, just south of the Alara Castle which sits on top of a cliff is another such example.

Rising from the Taurus Mountains towering over Alanya, the streams born from waterfalls rush through the valleys to reach the sea, where nature supplies vibrant colours of green and blue in all its splendour. Old caravan routes accompany the modern roads which curl towards the mountains. These roads will lead you through an array of natural beauty to the mountain villages, where local village cafes serve beverages made from mountainous herbs.

The Uçan Waterfalls (Çündüre), which forms the water source of the Alara River, near the area of Demirtaş east of Alanya and other waterfalls shaped by the smaller streams flowing through the valleys create a wild splendour that is highly appreciated by local and foreign tourists.





Side was not only the most important harbour of Pamphylia in ancient times, but also of the entire Mediterranean region. Established on a peninsula, its magnificent theater, agora (market area), monumental fountain, and the remains of baths used today as a museum, parts of city walls and the colonnaded street are still quite well preserved. Located at the southeastern end of the peninsula, the Apollon Temple was restored by clearing up the surrounding area and by raising a few of its columns. Today, this site hosts many significant cultural events.

Just 30 km from the city of Side, parts of the huge aqueduct carrying water from the springs of the Melas (Manavgat River) remain standing today. The harbour of Side regularly silted up in the past, making shipping very difficult and requiring continual dredging to keep it open. In fact, in ancient times the Roman phrase 'a harbour of Side' was used to refer to a job that is never done.

Side could not offer resistance against Alexander the Great, who entered the region in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC and whose inhabitants gave in to all the demands of this powerful king. According to sources, Alexander turned towards Aspendos when he learned that the people of Side yielded to his demands. Later, in 190 BC, the people of Side witnessed the naval battle and defeat of the Carthaginian General Hannibal against the navy of Rhodes, who were allied with the Romans.

Alongside the piracy activities in the region, it is also recorded that the largest slave market of the ancient world was set up in Side, and that the inhabitants of Side profited greatly from the slave trade despite being castigated by neighbouring cities. It is perhaps for this reason that the rulers of Side later erected a statue of Pompeius, who cleared the area of pirates, in an attempt to whitewash their sins.

The caravans carrying people, goods and wealth from the port of Side traversed inland routes along the Taurus Mountains. The magnificent city of Side was known for its importance on the trade route between coast and the mountains and for undisputed capability of its people.

Side was weakened in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century by the pillaging of the Isaurians living in the Taurus Mountains and also by the Scythians who descended down from the Black Sea. The Arab raids, which occurred all over the Mediterranean region during the 7<sup>th</sup> century contributed to its decline and subsequent abandonment.

Today Side is the central city of a well-planned touristic region. It has many hotels, shopping centers, entertainment and sports facilities and a vibrant nightlife. Together with its natural and historical attractions, Side is enjoyed by tourists from all walks of life.



Aspendos

**Aspendos** was established on a plain at the western shore of one of the most important rivers of Pamphylia, the Eurymedon River (Köprüçay).

The Persian subjugation of Anatolia, which started in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and lasted until the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, began to weaken towards the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. While the Persians wanted to withdraw their fleets from the shores of Aspendos to the mouth of the River Eurymedon a few kilometers away to regroup and stave off their decline, they were attacked by the fleet of the Delian League of Athens led by the commander Cimon. What was to become known as the Battle of Eurymedon proved to be a decisive defeat for the Persians. The Persians would also lose the land battle outside Aspendos where they had taken refuge.

Alexander the Great first entered the region in 330 BC. Alexander proceeded to Pamphylia through Lycia reaching Perge and later Aspendos. It is known that he demanded as tribute taxes and horses, for which Aspendos was famous. According to some scholars, the etymology of the name 'Aspendos' is linked to the word 'horse.'

On the eastern shore of the Eurymedon River is a venue known as the "Cirit Place" by Turks where "cirit" is a traditional Turkish equestrian team game played by throwing javelins at the opposing team. The place name is proof that horse breeding, known to exist in the region in ancient times, was resumed by residents of later centuries.

Followed by the domination of Hellenistic kingdoms, Aspendos and its surroundings came under the rule of the Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans.

The famous Aspendos theatre, which is among the most visited historical sites in Anatolia, was built by the local architect Zenon and is considered to be one of the best preserved theatres in the world. The theatre, which lies on the eastern slope of the hill where the city was established, is used for cultural events today as it was in the past. The Stadium lies north of the Theatre. It is known from the excavations of the Seljuk bridge standing over the River Eurymedon that it was built on the foundations of a former Roman bridge. The city's agora, basilica,

monumental public buildings and fountains, are located on the hill where Aspendos was founded, while the baths are located in the low-lying area south of the Acropolis hill. One of the most fascinating ruins of the city is the colossal aqueduct carrying water from the springs in the north.

The nearby shopping centers, tourist facilities close to the coast of Side and Perge, rafting activities on the Eurymedon River and other camping and sporting opportunities make Aspendos and surroundings one of the most preferred places to visit.



Aspendos

**Sillyum**, situated between Aspendos and Perge in the west, was founded on a hill. Surrounded by steep cliffs, it lies far removed from the sea and rivers. The city never developed as much as Perge and Aspendos, probably because of its distance to the sea.

We know, however, that Sillyum, which was invaded by the Persians before, was spared by Alexander the Great. West of the hill on which

Sillyum was established and somewhat elevated are the tower, city gate, cistern, theatre and an odeon (some of which have fallen because of a landslide), as well as a large number of ruins which remain unidentified.

Sillyum is a calm and ideal place for those who want to stroll around an intact ancient city. A trip not only to the ancient city, but also to visit nearby villages is a memorable experience.



**Perge**, the last of the Pamphylian cities, was established on a plain between the mountains and the sea. It had access to the sea through the Kestros (Aksu) River and was a major centre of the cult of Artemis, one of the most widely venerated of the Ancient Greek deities.

When St. Paul and his companions first embarked on their missionary journey the Bible states: "From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perge in Pamphylia..." This verse demonstrates the crucial link of the city to the sea. The gate on the eastern side of the city walls is known as the Port Gate because boats could reach the outskirts of the city from the Kestros River.

Perge was occupied by the Persians in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, while in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC it was invaded by the armies of Alexander the Great. The city later came under the rule of the Romans and its ally Pergamon.

Perge was the most affluent city in Pamphylia and this affluence manifested itself in the city's infrastructure in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Since the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, the civic and public buildings

of Perge often contained the inscription of Plancia Magna, the high priestess of the Cult of Artemis, belonging to the prominent Plancius family. This family emigrated from their native Italian homeland in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and acquired large tracts of territory in the vicinity of the city. It is known that the family spent a large portion of their income on developing the town's infrastructure.

Perge is one of the major archaeological sites of Anatolia and the excavations made over half a century reveal a city of immense architectural worth. Perge has one of the largest ancient theatres of the region, a stadium surrounded by barrel-vaulted constructions, monumental city gates, imposing agora, baths, a colonnaded street, and impressive sarcophagi on the western foot of the Acropolis hill.

The River Kestros (Aksu), about ten kilometers south of Perge, offers visitors the opportunity to see remnants of thousands of years of history.

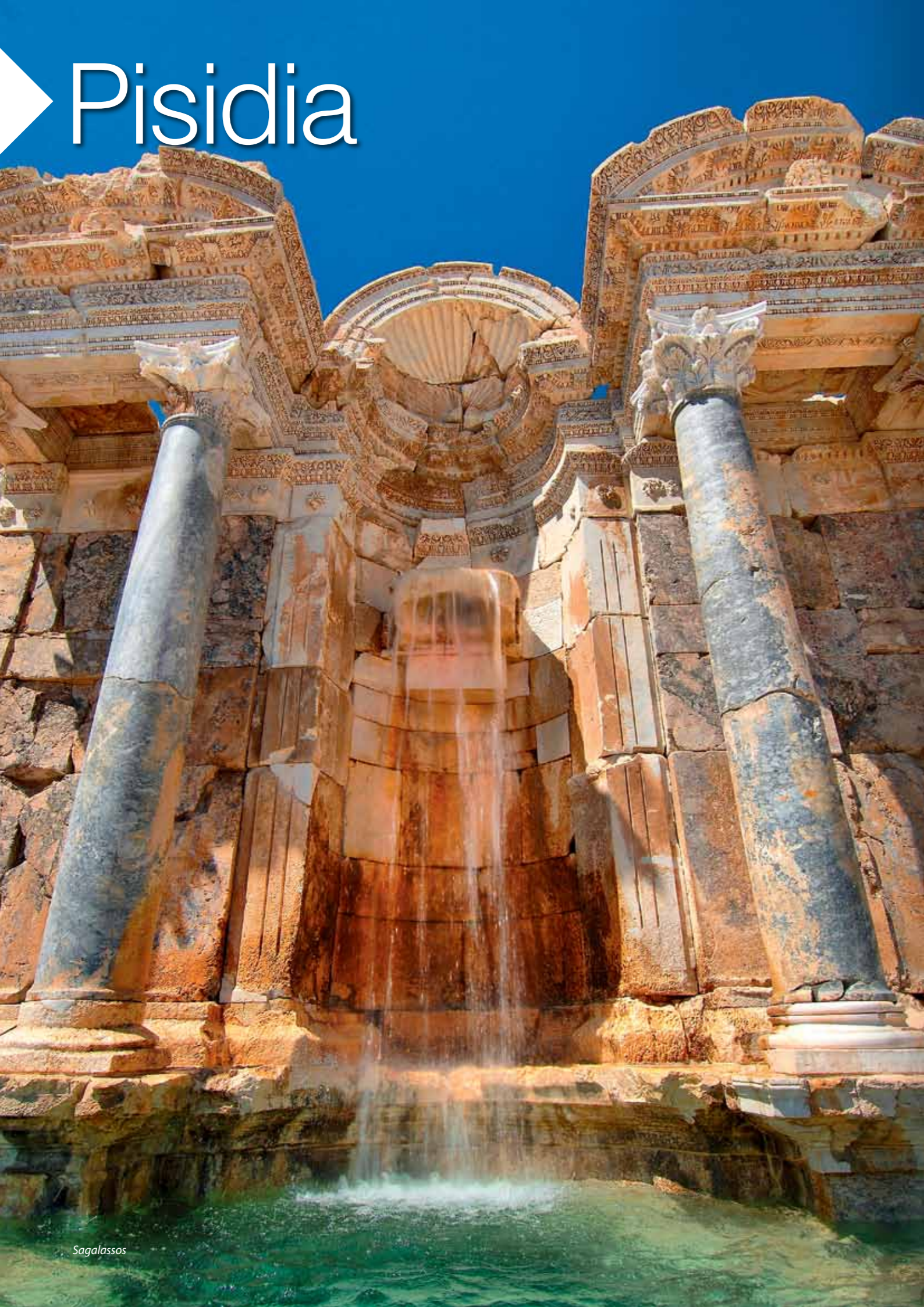
Antalya is the most recently established city of Pamphylia. In 190 BC, the Romans won the battle of Magnesia - a battle between the Hellenistic Seleucid Kingdom and Rome and its ally Pergamon. The Roman commander Manlius Vulso and the King of Pergamon Eumenes II came at that time to the area to discuss the terms of surrender of the cities in the region. The main aim of the victors was to occupy the most prized Mediterranean port city of Side. When Attalos II of Pergamon became king in 159 BC, he decided to establish a new port city to take the place of Side. The present location of Antalya was chosen for its abundant water sources and because its harbour was shielded from winds and did not silt up. The city was named Attaleia after its founder, King Attalos II of Pergamon. The port city of Attaleia was soon enclosed by city walls and started to develop rapidly.

All of the buildings built immediately after its establishment lay within the city walls. In successive periods, the city grew beyond the city walls and many authentic buildings dating to the Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods still exist and are in regular use.

*Hadrian's Gate, Antalya*



# Pisidia



Sagalassos

The **Gulf of Antalya** is bound by Pamphylia to the east, Lycia to the west and Pisidia to the north, which overlooks the Mediterranean Sea over the slopes of the Taurus Mountains. The roads leading from the ports of Pamphylia traverse more than a hundred kilometers through the expanse of Pisidia. Pisidian cities, with a few exceptions, were established on or near these roads.

Lycia and Pamphylia both have access to the sea on the Gulf of Antalya. However, the mountainous region of Pisidia, stretching northward from the Taurus Mountains is separated from the coast. While some Pisidian cities such as Termessos are relatively close to the coast, the main bulk of the region lies in the Taurus Mountains and the Lakes Region further inward, which are landlocked.

The reason this area north of Antalya is known as the "**Lakes Region**" is that a large number of small lakes are scattered next to the major lakes of Beyşehir, Eğirdir, Burdur and Salda.

The journey of the first inhabitants of Anatolia started after they left their caves. Pisidia owes its rich historical heritage and wealth to the abundance of its lakes. It is not a coincidence that the major neolithic site of Hacilar Höyük lies near Lake Burdur.



Toroslar

Instead of separating them, the Taurus Mountains actually serve to join Pisidia to the north with Lycia and Pamphylia to the south. This is primarily due to the common habitat and production area of the peoples in both regions.

The Turkmen tribes have resided in the region for nearly one thousand years. They still graze their flocks in the pastures, and rest near the coast during winter. Eventually some of the tribes established villages near their pastures, while others did so in the coastal areas. For this reason it is difficult to separate the landlocked districts of Isparta and Burdur from the coastal districts of Antalya. What is perhaps more interesting is that this has continued from the earliest ages of history to the present.

It should be noted that roads, beyond the means of transportation of goods and people, have other symbolic connotations. The roads did not just carry goods to be loaded and emptied at the ports of the Gulf. Winding through the mountains, they also served to transmit culture along with the carriage of people and goods. Roads not only brought the passage of goods, but also of sovereignty, hope, news and reunion. Roads mean culture, even connecting and familiarising cultures unrelated to each other.





The area around the Gulf of Antalya and the Lakes Region are two quite different habitats and production areas that complement each other. The Lakes Region, on the one hand, developed its own unique civilisation over the course of history, while the civilisations which originated around the Gulf of Antalya were the harbingers of a new manufacturing and cultural epoch.

There are three towns in the Lakes Region of Ancient Pisidia which act as a gateway to three distinct regions. Antiocheia (Yalvaç) opens to the Central and Western Anatolia in the north. Sagalassos (Ağlasun) is the gateway to Pamphylia in the south, while Kibyra (Göhlhisar) is the gateway to the Lycian ports in the west. The common feature of these three cities is that they possess extensive and fertile agricultural land.

Lying at the crossroads which connected Western and Eastern Anatolia, Antiocheia had abundant agricultural lands. Sagalassos is situated on the main road to the north from the ports of Pamphylia. It is flanked by Mount Akdağ behind it and possessed fertile lands to the south leading towards Eğirdir. Kibyra was at the centre of Kibyratıs, a major area of production stretching from today's Göhlhisar to Burdur.

**Kibyra**, a few kilometers from Göhlhisar District, was situated at a crossroads in ancient days. The road from the eastern Pamphylian harbour town of Korakesion (Alanya) leading to Ephesus in the west passed directly through Kibyra. Then again the Lycian ports in the southwest such as Andriake near Myra (Demre) and Patara further

west largely owed their wealth in shipping Kibyratıs' famed grain output to Rome.

The artefacts unearthed in Kibyratıs are a testament to its exceptional prosperity. The Medusa Relief in the flooring of the Bouleuterion, the building of the city council of Kibyra, captivates visitors. The 200 meter-long "Mosaic Street", stadium and theatre buildings promise that Kibyra will become one of the most visited sites of the region, if not the whole of Anatolia.

The wealth of a city is directly proportional to its production capacity. Ancient sources tell us that local lords and Roman dignities owned wide expanses of land in Kibyratıs. It was these local and foreign inhabitants of Kibyra who created this wealth and which undergirded the region's manufacturing prowess.

**Termessos** is the Pisidian city closest to the sea. The city was established thirty kilometers to the northwest of Antalya between two rock formations and is famous for holding out against the forces of Alexander the Great. The ruins of Termessos are testimony to the affluence of the city, and remain largely intact thanks to the inaccessibility of its location. It is clear that the city's extraordinary wealth is largely based on the revenue generated by the ancient road linking the port cities of the gulf to Ephesus in Western Anatolia. Traces of this road still exist, even if they are limited to the valley north of the city, known as the Strait of Yenice.

The classical historian Arrianos tells of the city's unusually steep location and its relationship with the road as follows: *"The site is situated on a very high altitude and is surrounded by steep cliffs on all sides. The road leading from the narrow strait is also arduous, and descends the mountain from the city. There is another steep mountain opposite. Both of them form a strait, which is so narrow that even a handful of soldiers could block it in case of defense."*

Termessos is also known for an event that rarely comes up in discussions of ancient history: *"After Alexander's death, an unrelenting battle began between Alexander's generals to get their own share of the empire. The stepbrother of Alexander, Antigonos (One-eyed Antigonos) wanted to occupy Anatolia and started a war with the commander Alketas. Alketas was defeated and subsequently fled to Termessos. Antigonos laid siege to the city. The elders of the city asserted that Alketas should be surrendered to Antigonos, while the younger citizens opposed this by saying that someone who has taken refuge cannot be turned over. The elders made a secret arrangement with Antigonos and led the young people away from the city under false pretenses. Deprived of the support of the younger inhabitants of the city, Alketas committed suicide after which his body was turned over to Antigonos."*

Sources tell us that Antigonos left after mutilating the body of Alketas for days. The grave of the unfortunate Alketas is among the most visited places of Termessos. Termessos is a veritable open air museum with its city walls, agora, theatre, odeon, temples, cisterns, gymnasia and many remnants of sarcophagi. Today it is one of the most popular sightseeing destinations visited by tourists all over the world.

**Kremna** is one of the most easily accessible towns of Pisidia. North of Antalya, it lies 15 kilometers east of the Bucak district of Burdur province, within Çamlık Village. Kremna long resisted the onslaught by Alexander the Great, who turned to the north after Pamphylia, but was ultimately defeated. Kremna, meaning cliff in Greek, is surrounded by very steep cliffs on its northern, eastern and southern sides and by a wall on its western side. Alexander the Great ordered his soldiers to build a ramp on western walls of the city, whereby they could enter the city. According to sources, the king who conquered Kremna laid waste to the city.

Kremna was attacked several times in later centuries and nearly half a century after Alexander the Great's conquest, the Isaurian bandit chief Lydius invaded the city. 250 years later Kremna would pass into the hands of the Galatian king Amyntas. Strangely enough, the city proved to be ill-omened for both rulers. Lydius was killed in Kremna and Amyntas was killed somewhere nearby. The city lies on an altitude of 1200 meters on a rock formation resembling that of a horseshoe. Kremna offers its visitors stunning views of the dam lakes lying on the Kestros River (Aksu) and mountains on the horizon.

**Sagalassos (Ağlasun)** is another important Pisidian town north of Antalya established on a road linking the Gulf to Central Anatolia to Isparta. Sagalassos, on the road to Gordion, was conquered by Alexander the Great after a longlasting siege and was largely destroyed. This tragic event was commemorated a few centuries later on minted coins. It can be said that this defeat left an indelible imprint on the city's inhabitants.

Recent excavations in this Pisidian city and the artefacts that were discovered have aroused great interest. The ancient fountain, built by one of the leading families of the city, the Antonines, has been fully restored. This and the ancient theatre never fail to impress visitors. The theatre, two agoras, the Temple of Dionysos and the newly uncovered main street of Sagalassos reveals the city's glorious history.

Besides these, the extraordinary views of Sagalassos also serve to make it a must-see place. One can sit under the shadow of the old oak tree in the main square of the city of Ağlasun, crossed by the road leading to the ancient city, and sip tea made from local herbs. Another pleasurable experience is to dine in rural restaurants where local dishes and trout raised in local fish farms are served.



Sagalassos

**Selge (Zerk)** This mountainous town on the northwest of Side at the western slopes of the Eurymedon River (Köprüçay) is not situated on one of the main roads, unlike other Pisidian cities. This feature has kept the city from experiencing significant damage from invasions. Sources reveal that the inhabitants of Selge acted as scouts for Alexander the Great on his incursion to the region and earned his friendship. However, Selge was defeated by the forces of the Hellenistic Seleucid Kingdom in the ongoing conflict with the neighbouring town of Pednelissos (Kozan) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and had to pay a heavy indemnity.

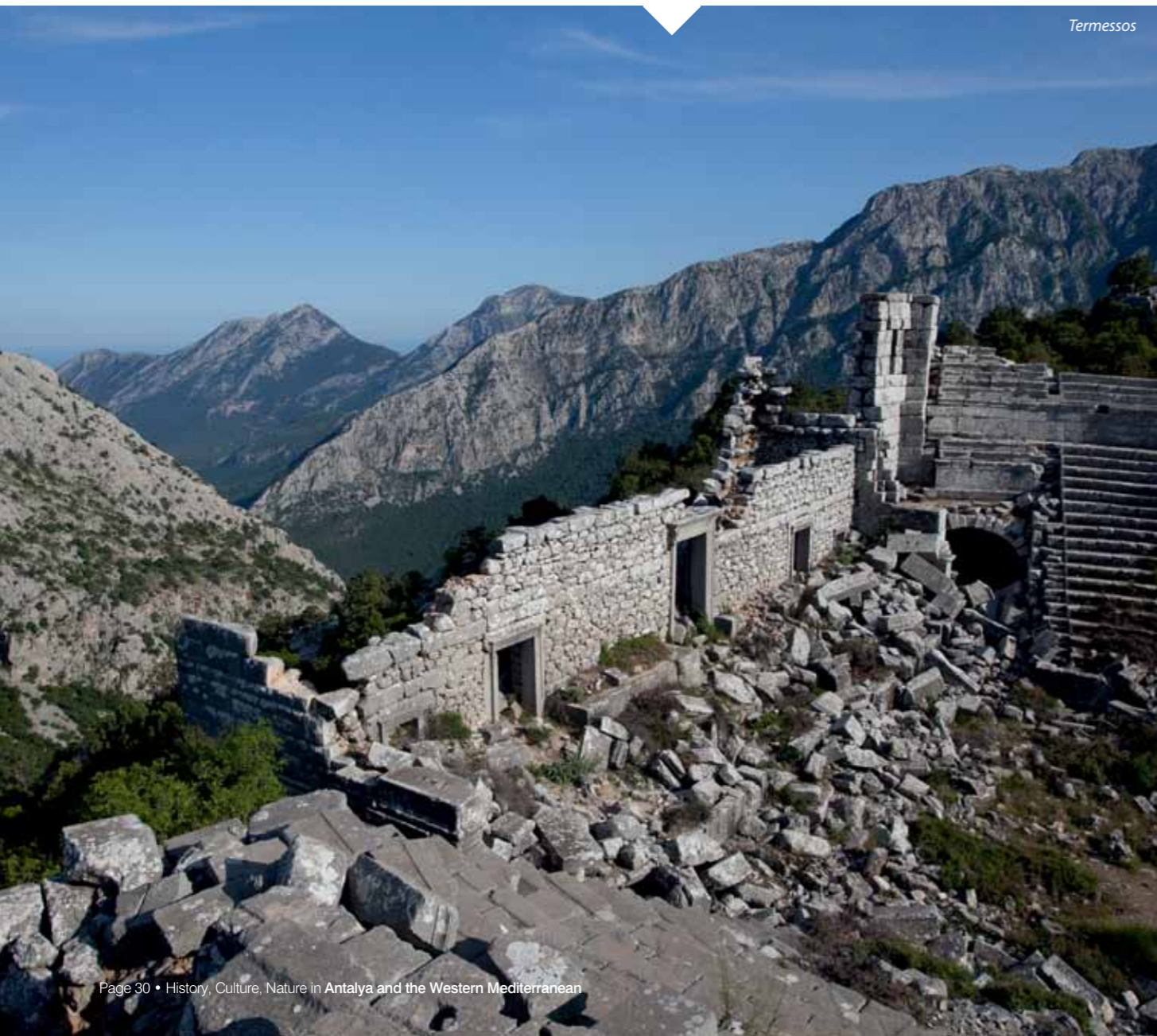
Two Roman bridges link Selge to the port city of Side on the eastern shore of the Eurymedon River; the Oluk Bridge and the Büğrüm Bridge on the deep Gökçesu Canyon west of the river. The ancient road, built with extraordinarily large stone blocks accompanies the modern highway.

Ruins show that the city built on three hills was surrounded by a wall with many towers. Among the places to visit is a theatre where most of the seats were hewn into the rock. Other sights of interest are the stadium, agora, cisterns, the stoa (porticos) and the necropolis, which is situated between the three hills where most of the ruins are found.

Rising from the heights where Selge was founded is the Eurymedon River. Tourists can participate in whitewater rafting tours, or trek through the unspoiled natural environment where they can also witness traditional village life in the Taurus Mountains. Restaurants on both sides of the river serve local dishes. The trout raised in local fish farms delight visitors to this region.



Selge



Termessos



Church of St. Nicholas, Demre

**Antiocheia (Yalvaç)** is one of the most prominent cities in the region of Pisidia, ranking high in importance. The city is said to have been founded during the period of the Hellenistic Seleucid Kingdom in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC following the era after Alexander the Great. The city gained its unique characteristics, for which it is so greatly renowned, during the Roman era.

The city became a Roman colony in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, which continued for another two centuries. It is written that it became one of the most Romanised cities in Pisidia and that besides the official language of Latin, Greek was also spoken. Antiocheia was at the crossroads of the trade routes of Anatolia extending from north to south and from east to west. This vital location allowed it to interact with many cultures near and far. The Via Sebaste road was built during the reign of Augustus to control the people living in the Taurus Mountains. Antiocheia was at the vertex of this road network. The roads extended to the ports south of the bay, thus connecting them to overseas locations.

Antiocheia has an indisputable place in the history of Christianity. **Saint Paul** embarked upon his first mission from Cyprus to this city. It is written in the Bible that: *"From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perge in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. From Perge they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down."*



Men Temple, Yalvaç

The church built and dedicated to St. Paul in the following centuries during the spread of Christianity was excavated in recent years. The sacred status of the city, which started with the visit of St. Paul and gained in importance in early Christianity, continued in the Byzantine era.

The theatre, ancient road network of the city, baths, monumental fountain, the Temple of Emperor Augustus, imposing aqueducts, basilica and city walls unearthed in the ongoing excavations in Antiocheia are of exceptional architectural value.

A few kilometers southwest of Antiocheia is the Gemen Korusu Hill. This is the location of a sacred place dedicated to the mystic powers of Men, the deity of the Moon in Anatolia and the protector of the poor and the vulnerable. The **Gemen Korusu Hill** allows the visitor to see one of the most important temples dedicated to moon worship, the Temple of Men. It also offers the privilege of viewing the two of the largest Anatolian lakes, the lakes of Eğirdir and Beyşehir from the same vantage point. This is especially spectacular at sunset.

Yalvaç or Antiocheia in ancient times is one of the most important destinations of the tourism basin of Antalya. Its importance in the history of Christianity cannot be stressed enough and its natural and historical setting makes Yalvaç and neighbouring areas a destination that cannot be overlooked. It possesses an outstanding museum that houses artefacts found in excavations made in the ancient city. The cities in the region of Pisidia, especially the cities mentioned above, are an inseparable feature of the larger province of Antalya.

# Antalya and Surroundings in the Middle Ages

When the Roman Empire dissolved into Eastern and Western entities, Anatolia remained within the Eastern Roman Empire, known in following centuries as the Byzantine Empire. Antalya and surrounding regions were part of Eastern Rome.

Islam was born on the Arabian Peninsula in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and reached the Mediterranean in the second half of the same century. The raids of the Arabs, particularly on the coastal cities of Cyprus and Anatolia, continued for centuries. As with many other port cities, the people living on the coastal cities of Antalya moved inland for safety. The cities on the coast then began to decline and were gradually abandoned. Through an agreement made between the Byzantines and Arabs a large part of the rebellious Mardaite people living in the mountains of Lebanon in the east were relocated to Antalya and other vacant coastal towns.

However, this measure was not enough to bring the region back to the glory days. "At the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Christian-turned-Muslim renegade sailor Leo, who was of Syrian Arab origin, raided and

ransacked Thessaloniki with his fleet. He returned with thousands of prisoners and a large fortune amassed from raids in the Aegean islands. Byzantium built a second fortification wall around the city for fear of a similar raid to Antalya."

The remnants of the second city walls still remain standing in the Old City of Antalya. With the demise of adjacent port cities Antalya gradually lost its importance and became a small coastal town. "In the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century during the Second Crusade, a Crusader army on its way to the port of Antalya was ambushed and heavily defeated by Turkmens living in the mountains. The King and the nobility were taken into the castle, while the large part of the Crusader army consisted of the sick, injured and hungry and who became trapped between the Turkish enemy and the castle walls. A Christian cleric amidst the wretched Crusaders wrote that the Turks who saw that the castle gates were being shut immediately called off their attack and helped and fed the sick and wounded adding: "O cruel mercy, worse than death!"



Antalya

At the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, first **Antalya** and then **Alanya** were conquered by the **Anatolian Seljuks**. With Seljuk sovereignty over the region, a new period was born which lasts until today. The Seljuk sultans began using Alanya as a second capital where they would spend the winter months.

*"The local Christians who conspired with the Lusignan Crusader Kingdom of Cyprus attacked their Muslim cohabitants on a Friday and gained control of Antalya. The Seljuks quickly took back the city and built an inner wall separating the Christian and Muslim populations. Most of these walls still remain standing to this day. They divided the city into two parts and on the walls facing the Christian sector of the city is an inscription which tells of the reconquest of Antalya."*

The Seljuks were not satisfied with this and resettled the Turkmen Yörük nomadic tribes who were stockbreeders, roaming the higher plateaus during summer and living near the coastal areas during winter. Many Moslem seminaries, hammams and charitable foundations were built in Antalya. The Yivli Minare Camii or Fluted Minaret Mosque, which is the symbol of the city today, takes its name from its unusual shape and was built at an exceptional height for this period. The section reserved for the Muslim population within the city walls became too crowded, so that another wall and a second inner wall was built in 1225, whose towers are still standing.

Alanya



The region rose in importance during the reign of the Seljuks after being sorely neglected in the Byzantine period. The defensive walls of the city were strengthened and Alanya now has a dockyard consisting of five dry-docks. The Red Castle was built as a defensive and observation tower taking its name from the red bricks used during its construction. Sailors of all faiths and nationalities were provided with the freedom to trade freely and to benefit from tax reductions or exemptions. Security measures at sea and land further stimulated trade.

Inns and caravanserais were built according to the daily distances covered by caravans. It is written that wooden extensions were assembled on the walls of the stage of the Aspendos theatre and were used as a sort of inn. Who knows ... maybe a short note left by a merchant or passenger lies still preserved in the inaccessible crevices of the theatre walls after all these centuries!



Beside the permanent bazaars which existed within Alanya Castle, the immediate surroundings of the inns and caravanserais on the roads served as open-air markets. These markets were set up on certain days of the week attracting producers and merchants from near and far and enabling foreign traders to easily conduct business. The local fairs established especially after the autumn harvest were lively marketplaces.

Wealth and prosperity increased thanks to the security provided to merchants. The roads crossing one end of the region to the other had to traverse numerous rivers. Bridges were built over the rapid flows and many are still intact today. The bridges built during the Seljuk, Karaman and Ottoman periods are of immense historical value. These bridges are not open to motorised traffic, but they continue to be used between the villages and towns of the region.

It is known that Antalya was an independent beylik, or principality, after the demise of the Seljuks in 1308. What is even more remarkable is that the local ruler (or Bey) was elected by the inhabitants for some part of this period. The famed Moroccan explorer **Ibn Battuta** visited Antalya in the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and provided valuable information about the lives of people from all faiths. The explorer Battuta had nothing but praise for the Ahi guild or commercial fraternity, which was based on the medieval form of commodity production, quality, fair trade and solidarity between its members. With regard to the Ahis of Antalya, he had this to say: "I haven't seen anyone in this world who performed a more superior and charitable work."

Antalya was occupied once again by the **Lusignan Kingdom** of Cyprus in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but 12 years later was taken back by the Turks. After the end of Seljuk rule, Antalya and its surrounding regions first came under the domination of the Beylik of Teke and then under the domination of the Ottomans at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Antalya first came under the dominance of the Beylik of Karaman and then the Ottomans in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

*"In the years following the conquest of Istanbul by the Ottomans, a crusader fleet was assembled by order of Pope Sixtus IV. This fleet reached the shores of Antalya after looting several Aegean Islands. A large metal chain was pulled across the two towers at the entrance of the breakwater surrounding the harbour to prevent the entry of enemy ships. This chain was destroyed by artillery fire. The soldiers went ashore and started to plunder the shops in the harbour of the town. Nonetheless after realising that they could not enter the city, they embarked on their ships and left."*

History books tell us that during this invasion attempt in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century the crusader fleet destroyed the chain pulled across the mouth of the harbour with artillery fire. The remnants of the chains were taken to Rome and are preserved in St. Peter's Basilica as a memento of the "**Raid of Antalya**." A similar raid by a crusader fleet took place in 1606 in the port of Finike. *"The Knights of St. Stephen of Tuscany arrived at the Port of Finike with a large number of ships and laid siege to the castle. Unable to capture the guards of the castle, the knights captured defenceless women and children instead. The knights set sail to Italy together with their captives."*

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century during the Egyptian Campaign of the French General Napoleon Bonaparte many immigrants from North Africa came and settled in Antalya. Antalya and Alanya's trade relationship with **North Africa** is known to have existed since prehistoric times and further increased with the later migrations. Napoleon's attack on North Africa caused the Ottoman government to repair and improve the city walls of Antalya. This restoration work was recorded in marble inscriptions and placed on the city walls. Many of these inscriptions are still in existence today. However, the next attack came not from the outside but from inside the castle in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Ottoman guards garrisoned in Antalya started a rebellion. Antalya Castle was besieged by the Ottoman Navy, but the rebels resisted for more than two years. The castle fell with the support of the inhabitants who faced starvation because of the ongoing blockade. The ringleader was caught and hanged and the remaining members of the family were deported to the Balkans.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century was marked by constant loss of territory by the Ottoman Empire. This loss was exasperated by the exodus of Muslim Turks from the Balkans, Aegean Islands and the Caucasus to Anatolia. Some of these refugees were resettled in Antalya and adjacent areas. These people, referred to as "**muhacir**" or refugees, were known from their place of origin, such as "Cretan." These refugees settled down in newly established villages named after the children of Abdülhamit II, or around abandoned ancient cities like Side (Selimiye). Kadriye is an important tourism centre in the south-eastern corner of Antalya's Serik district. Ahmediye and İhsaniye, within the Aksu district, are notable villages where immigrants from the Aegean Islands were resettled at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

World War I ended with the downfall of the German, Russian and Ottoman Empires. The victors of the war landed troops in Anatolia, so that they could take their share during the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire. Antalya and its neighbouring provinces were occupied by the Italians in the spring of 1919. The War of Independence started by the Anatolian people under the leadership of **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** culminated in victory. This achievement was crowned with the Treaty of Lausanne whereby a significant number of Muslim Turks were brought to Anatolia and resettled in their motherland. Antalya received the largest number of settlers in this wave of immigration.



Atatürk in Aspendos

## Republican Era

The Republic of Turkey rose from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire after its defeat in the First World War. After the War of Liberation was won under the able leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Republic was declared in October 1923. The Republic has since been successfully progressing in its level of contemporary civilization.

Antalya also benefitted from the developments made in this period, including the areas of education, healthcare, land/air/sea transportation, and urban development, all of which are essential for a city's material progress and the wellbeing of its citizens.

Thanks to advances made in areas such as health, engineering, architecture, roads, communications, and fine arts, Turkey is steadily progressing towards the level of contemporary civilization as stipulated by Atatürk.

During the Republican era, methods developed in the field of agriculture, improved seed types and resourceful irrigation systems throughout the water-rich lands of Pamphylia have increased productivity. This has had a positive impact on the welfare of the region and increased the share of Antalya in the national economy.

Dams constructed for irrigation purposes have been built on rivers with high flow rates in the province of Antalya. Large-scale hydroelectric dams were also built and have an important share in the electricity production of Turkey.





Oymapinar Dam, Manavgat

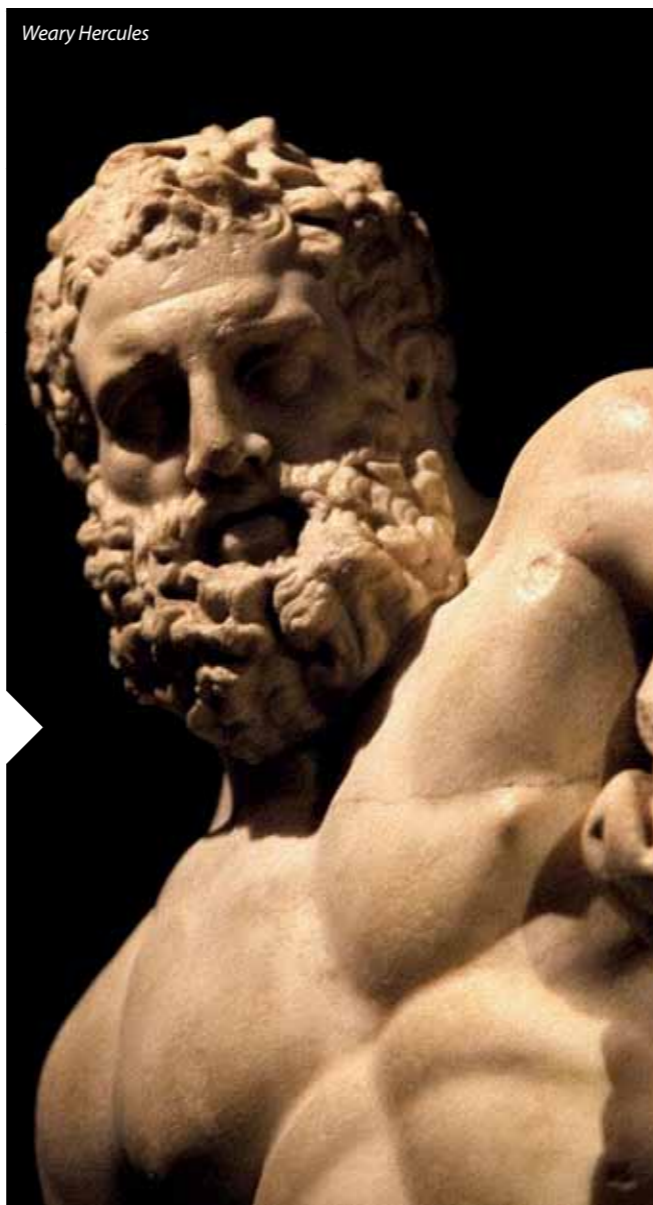
The **Oymapinar Dam**, built north of the Side Tourism Region on the Manavgat River (Ancient Melas), is among Turkey's most important investments in hydroelectric energy. Behind the dam wall, the enormous Oymapinar Dam Lake is formed in the deep valleys and canyons of the Taurus Mountains. It attracts a large number of tourists for its water sports as well as for its stunning views and relaxation opportunities.

From the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Western travellers, followed by architects, painters and archaeology enthusiasts started to explore and identify areas mentioned in the Bible. These travels led to the emergence of archaeology, which today is one of the most important catalysts for tourism.

Even a passing look at history books or a short excursion to the region, allows people to understand the proper place of Anatolia in world history.

In the Republican era, all the material and spiritual wealth created by the Anatolian peoples of civilisations of the past thousands of years have been accepted as an integral part of the national identity. Excavations have brought to light the remnants of many civilisations in Anatolia, rightfully earning it the distinction of an **"open air museum."** Initially, the excavations were carried out by Western archaeologists, but with the improvement in archaeology training in Turkey they have been increasingly carried out by Turkish archaeologists. Antalya has become one of the most important locations for archaeological and historical research. Archaeological tourism is a vital and unique component of tourism in the region.

Inhabitants of the region created numerous buildings and artefacts over thousands of years, which were gradually lost in time. Religious buildings such as temples and churches and civilian buildings such as agoras, baths, theatres, stadia, fountains and city gates are today being unearthed and restored. Some of these restored buildings are now available for public use and in particular for tourism.



Weary Hercules

Antalya welcomes more than ten million tourists every year with its award winning airport. Its modern harbour caters to an increasing number of cruise ships each year. It possesses a well-developed transportation network which connects the whole region. In this way, Antalya is connected to Isparta, Burdur and Afyon, which lie in the same manufacturing and geographical basin and to Pamukkale and Cappadocia further afield, which are among the worlds most visited historical and touristic sites.

The founder of the Republic of Turkey, Atatürk, visited Antalya during the days of the War of Liberation. On his visit he told local officials that ancient artefacts must be safeguarded so that they would not fall into the hands of the enemy. He also urged that a museum be established to protect the artefacts found in the region. This begun the process which led to the establishment of the Museum of Antalya, considered among the best in the world today.



Antalya Airport

On a visit to the region in the first years of the Republic, Atatürk visited Aspendos Theatre, advised the local officials to clean up the theatre and suggested that it should be used for cultural events, which was its main intended purpose in history. Due largely to this suggestion, Aspendos Theatre has been reverted to its original function and today hosts the world-renowned annual **Aspendos Opera and Ballet Festival** organised by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Antalya, whose journey towards civilisation started from the Karain Cave, has successfully utilised its wealth created by agriculture, animal husbandry, trade and shipping, by transforming it into architectural marvels and urban development throughout history. The pace of development has considerably accelerated during the Republican Period, promising Antalya even a brighter future.



Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival



*"The yörük are referred to as travellers, but are in fact nomads who reside in tents the whole year and do not know of fixed dwellings. All the tents are of the same style and they are made out of black goat hair. They have a rectangular base and are held up by nine poles. The tents are quite spacious and very bright because of the loose texture of the fabric. Though the exterior can be seen from the inside, they are totally waterproof. This kind of tent is specific only to the yörük, and mirrors their character."*

Eugen Petersen - Felix von Luschan  
Reisen in Lykien Milyas und Kibyatis, 1889



# Culture in the Taurus



The **concept of culture** has many definitions. The easiest valid definition that comes to mind is: "Whereas natural forces create, culture is created by man." Another interesting definition of culture is: "Culture is to man, what water is to fish." In this sense, culture is life itself. Life is dependent on what man produces. Whenever man creates, he then lives accordingly. As cities and villages differ in their modes of production, so do their cultures and lifestyles. Initially production was fully dependent on nature, but with the increasing weight of technology in production, this dependency has been reduced.

History and sociology tell us that progress in production techniques has also altered culture and hence our lifestyle. Antalya has a unique geographical location in that it is surrounded by mountains to the north and the sea to the south. These two areas are adjacent to each other, but completely different in terms of production. Two cultures based on sea and land emerged here in ancient times and have evolved to this day. Since the mode of production in the mountains is different from that of the coast, the way of life and culture of their inhabitants also differs.

And so it happened...

The cultural wealth accumulated in Antalya and its surrounds has been created over the centuries through the interaction of peoples and goods carried from ports. This started with the wall paintings in the Karain Cave, more than one hundred thousand years ago and this cultural accumulation has been transmitted from one era to the next until the present day. The Taurus Mountains, encircling the Gulf of Antalya, is a unique place for **nomads**, whose subsistence depends on animal breeding. The mountain ranges rising sharply along the coast, thousands of meters high are divided into plateaus, meadows and highlands. These stages are essential in the cycle of the nomadic lifestyle.

This lifestyle has three stages requiring different altitudes and different natural environments for each stage. The Taurus Mountains enabled the traditional modes of production of the nomads also known as *yörükük/yaylacılık*. For this reason, it is one of the most exceptional places in Anatolia, where the nomadic lifestyle can be best observed.

This way of life continues to exist in the Taurus Mountains of Antalya, although less intensely today. The transition to a sedentary lifestyle has been on-going for half a century and nomadic animal breeding is becoming increasingly distant. The plateaus, which used to be centres of traditional nomadic production and animal breeding, will eventually become recreational areas where people from the coastal areas will escape to. However the villagers, being the nomads of yesteryear, do not easily give up their tradition of seasonally migrating to the highlands. In the summer, just as their ancestors did before them, they continue to goad their diminishing sheep and goat herds to the high plateau.

### Migration to the High Plateaus

The seasonal migration from the valleys to the high plateaus occurs at the end of May and the beginning of June every year, although it occasionally takes place earlier in the year. The return from the high plateau is a much slower process. It starts in mid-August when the temperatures start to cool, while the coastal areas are still scorching from the heat. Occasionally necessary stopovers have to be made at places which are warmer than the higher elevations, but still cooler than the coast. Sometimes these stops can last for months. The relocation in the meadows may even be repeated several times during the migration. As the area of temporary accommodation starts to cool the migration to lower elevations continues until the coast is reached.

The villages that are situated between the coast and high plateaus were mostly established in meadows that served as temporary lodgings during the autumn months. These temporary stopovers are known as "güzlek" in Turkish. These *güzleks* have transformed into villages over time. Some villages in the coastal areas and meadows bear the same name, since the same nomadic tribes either settled down at the coast or in the meadows. These are mostly situated to the west of Antalya and are known by the names of their tribes and locations: Bayındır (Alm Bayındır), Sahil Bayındır (Coastal Bayındır), Yayla Göçerler (Alm Göçerler), Sahil Göçerler (Coastal Göçerler), Yayla Barak (Alm Barak), Sahil Barak (Coastal Barak).



These **villages** can be easily reached from the tourist hotspots of Alanya, Manavgat/Side, Belek, Antalya, Kemer-Tekirova, Finike, and Kaş and receive an influx of tourists during the summer months who want to experience an authentic village atmosphere. There is a tradition in the seasonal migration to the high plateau which has remained unchanged throughout the centuries. The villages closest to the coast migrate to the remotest plateaus, while the farthest villages settle down in the nearest plateaus. That is why the migration of some villages lasts for days, while other villages reach their destination and put up their outposts within a few hours. When the time for migration approaches, not only humans, but also animals are prepared for this journey. Although they are guided by the shepherds and are under the protection of guard dogs along the way, the migrants, who include the young and old, women and children, are anxious to reach their destination as quickly as possible in order to set up their tents.

**Stone-paved roads** built in ancient and later ages and which straddle the valleys of the Taurus and the mountain slopes are used to reach the highlands. These roads fell into disuse with the increase of motor vehicles. Nowadays these roads have been long abandoned, but they bear witness to many incidents that have become legendary. These stories have been passed down from father to son and are as well-known as if they themselves had lived through them. Each bend in the road, the hills and the slopes, the fountains, wells, cisterns, rock formations, trees, and bridges tell stories of those people who died before reaching their destination and who are buried beside them.

There is not a single landmark along the pathway which has not been named. These places are named after events which are important in the life of the nomads. Places where wolves attacked a herd, where a shepherd was killed or where someone's beloved was abducted by bandits are known by these incidents even after many generations. And there are many such places! The owl perched on a tree; rocks blown by the wind or the donkey that fell to its unfortunate death from the cliffs are referred by names which recall these incidents. The remains of the people who are interred in the tombs at the plateaus are mostly unknown and are only marked with a headstone. Nomads are usually aware that their ancestors lie

in these graves, but they won't be able to point the exact location. After two or three generations even that will be forgotten. One of the most popular stories by people using the mountain roads are those dealing with "highway bandits." Bandits in the pursuit of money and those who watched over the poor were clearly differentiated. While the first were cursed, the second were remembered with prayers and good wishes.

## Production

Once the plateau is reached, the nomads pitch their tents and pile up stone walls around them to protect against the wind. Since the mountains have been covered with the snow for many months, the damaged animal shelters, water and feed troughs, canals, fountains and places of worship are fixed. Wooden jugs are placed at the fountains for passers-by and coops are set up for poultry animals. Animal breeding is a twenty-four hour occupation in the life of nomads. The real masters of the high plateaus are wolves, foxes, jackals and bears which require vigilance at all times. Shepherd dogs are man's best friend in this regard. Trained dogs with barbed iron collars around their necks are the greatest guarantee against hordes of wolves and other predators. **Life in the plateau** is a difficult and arduous existence, which involves a wide range of chores, including shearing sheep and goats, milking, cheese and oil production, apiculture, fish farming and hunting. Beside the main occupation of animal breeding, another source of livelihood is the production of harnesses for pack and mount animals made from goat hair as well as weather-proof tents woven from animal hair. Carpet looms are one of the objects that must also be moved during the migrations.

**Yörük weaving** is nothing more than an expression of the joys and sorrows of nomad life which are prominently displayed in carpets and kilims they weave. The carpets and kilims of the nomads are never large. The reason for this is that the carpet looms have to be assembled and disassembled twice a year. These small carpets and rugs have various themes and depict motifs representing the universe, the environment, camels which shoulder the brunt of migrations, rams, women/mother figures and flowers or nature. The motifs that are found on carpets and kilims attract the interest of art enthusiasts and art historians. These carpets and kilims, which have an important place in the life of the Anatolian people, were used as ornaments and a display of wealth in European mansions and palaces. As items of great cultural worth they are one of the favourite objects of foreign guests.

Among the traditional hand woven carpets of the Antalya region, the **Döşemealtı carpets** have become almost a brand. It derives its name from the place where nomadic Turkmens take shelter during winter. The reputation of these carpets has steadily grown and they are woven in looms set up in almost every village household. Another carpet which is becoming more sought after is the **Barak kilim**. This kilim is woven by nomadic villagers who spend winter at the coast of Kaş and summer in the high plateaus of the Elmali Valley.

The villagers originating from nomads need to know every nook and corner of the mountains like the back of their hands. They have extensive knowledge about the plants and animals in their surroundings. They are highly familiar with the grass and herbs that are most suitable for their flocks and therefore goad them to these areas for grazing.



*Carpet of Döşemealtı*



**Animals** are considered part of the nomadic family. Each sheep, goat and dog has its own name. Interestingly the herd animals, especially the smartest among them, know their name. They respond to the sound of their names being called by their shepherd or owner. The shepherd who earns the devotion of his flock is also respected by society at large. Herding competitions are held to measure the skill of the shepherds. One of the most famous of these competitions in Anatolia is the herding competition in **Hasanpaşa/Tefenni**. Surrounding villages also participate in this festival, in which shepherds must bring their flock from the Tostos Hill to the competition area. The competition is held at the Yügnüm Pond, which is filled with the cold waters of melted snow. The shepherd enters the water first and calls his flock to the pond with accustomed calls. The shepherd, who can first lead his flock through the pond, earns his award and gains the respect of his own and neighbouring villages.

The sheep herding **festivals** of the nomadic Turkmens have been continuously held since they first arrived in the Taurus Mountains nearly a thousand years ago. As for harvest festivals special tours can be arranged for tourists coming from Antalya so that they can witness these festivals. These tours introduce folk culture and rural areas to the visitor and create an important niche in the local tourism sector.

Among the Turkmen nomads, all the danger spots where wolves, bears and jackals use to lurk have been passed down from grandfather, to father to son across each generation. They also stay away from places, which are known to be dangerous for their flock. The location of bee hives has to be chosen carefully, because it is closely related to the quality of honey that will be obtained. A good product means a good income.

The cheese and fat products are stored in holes dug in the snow or in deep caves sheltered far away from the sun. They are brought out when the time comes to sell them to wholesalers or at the market. **Markets** are established in the highlands far removed from each other on certain days of the week. In the meanwhile, fairs which are set up in the high plateaus by the nomadic tribes at the end of the migration season are of longer duration and directly appeal to the seller. This is a highly popular and lively event in the migration season in an unforgiving and harsh mountainous geography that becomes uninhabitable when winter sets in. Due to the number of smaller markets and other trading activities these fairs are set up once a year. Many visitors who are curious about the nomadic way of life come and visit these fairs, and leave with many unforgettable memories.

These markets and fairs have become traditional events in the summer months, where people come from the surrounding counties

and towns to sell their fruit and vegetable produce. Portable wooden furniture, simple agricultural and hand tools are also sold in these markets. Nomads often come to sell animal products. It is known from archaeological excavations that smoked deer meat was exported from Lycia, lying to the west of the Gulf of Antalya, to Rome. This also shows that hunting wild animals in the Taurus Mountains of Antalya was an important source of income in ancient days.

Leopards, mountain lions, mountain goats and a variety of birds of prey continued to exist until recently in the impenetrable parts of the Taurus Mountains. Skilled hunters set up traps to catch these animals alive, which were then sold to buyers at a high price. The hides of wild animals such as wolves, bears, foxes, mountain goats and rabbits were the staple goods of the markets in the high plateaus and were exported to large cities like Istanbul, where they were particularly sought for. Large tracts of the Taurus Mountains were designated as a natural park, and the dwindling numbers of animals due to rapid hunting and overfishing are on the way to recovery. Today the Taurus Mountains offer hunting enthusiasts the opportunity to hunt mountain goats in wildlife reserve areas for a certain fee during the hunting season.



# Nature is Venerated

The different modes of production and living, also manifests itself in expressions of belief, an integral part of culture. The gods that were worshipped in the polytheistic era show a marked difference in their characteristics. Those gods which were worshipped in coastal areas appear to be more naïve and passive, whereas the gods worshipped in the mountains appear to be more stern and effective. The gods worshipped in coastal and mountainous areas had significant differences in their creation myths, worship rituals and their relationship with mortals, even though they had the same mythological identity. The gods were thus given attributes, which conformed to the living and economic conditions of the region. This manifestation is not only seen in their beliefs, but in all moral values created by man.

Nature is venerated in the nomadic lifestyle, which is mainly based on herding. This veneration continues

even after the transition from a nomadic lifestyle to a sedentary one. It is centred on the respect for nature, which is the source of all production and life. This respect for nature is so strong that it became a form of creed among the people whose very subsistence is based on it. In this form of belief, nature turns into a mysterious realm where mountains, rivers, caves, memorial trees, large rocks, are regarded as holy and living. The nomads gather near the summits on special days to sacrifice animals as an offering and to pay their respect to the mysterious powers, who they believe to guard them. Such rituals usually take place when large nomadic communities gather. A widely seen tradition in the Anatolian countryside is the "Rain prayer," considered important because delays in the autumn rainfall disrupt the agricultural cycle. Villages still continue this tradition today by coming together to pray for rain.



The Rain Prayer can be performed on the coast, as well as the high plateau. The basics of the rituals are usually the same, but show variations from one yöruk tribe to the other. There are local saints who are worshipped at a certain location, but there are also those whose fame stretches beyond the shores of Anatolia to Egypt and the Balkans. These figures served as role models and played a vital role in their communities. Their followers lavish particular devotion on the tombs of these saints and perform ceremonies where they make offerings and sacrifices. There are many local saints who lived in the region of Antalya. **Abdal Musa**, who lived in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and is buried in the Tekke village of Elmalı, is among the most famous.

**Tekke Village** is one of the most important worship centres in Heterodox Islam. Thousands of people from all over the country and abroad flock to the village in June. Elmalı, where Abdal Musa is buried, is only a few kilometers away from Myra, the cult centre of St. Nicholas. It is an important indication that geography has an impact on the beliefs of people.

Another similar place of worship can be found near Isparta. After leaving Yalvaç on the highway north of Lake Hoyran towards the west one passes through the productive agricultural corridor of Senirkent-Uluborlu. The **Uluğbey** District of Senirkent is the place where **Veli Baba Sultan**, one of the most important saints of Anatolia in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, is buried.

Nine graves lie side by side in the tomb of Veli Baba Sultan. One of these nine graves is empty and wide-open. This open grave has been waiting for the body of Gül Baba for more than 500 years. Gül Baba died in the 16<sup>th</sup> century during the Siege of Budin and was buried in a ceremony attended by Suleiman the Magnificent. But even to this day, people believe that he is still alive and that one day upon his death he will be buried in this tomb, situated in his own native soil. What is interesting about this unusual tradition is that people in the Yalvaç region prepare graves for their loved ones who leave their birthplace but fail to return.



Tomb of Sultan Veli Baba, Uluğbey



## Weddings

One special event that brings together people from near and far are weddings. With the intervention of the village elders, families of the prospective bride and groom have to agree on the marriage, whereupon the prospective bride's hand in marriage is asked for. As soon as the family of the prospective bride gives their approval, the wedding can go ahead. Once the date of the wedding is determined, wedding invitations known as "oku" in the form of handkerchiefs, towels, shirts and headscarves are sent to the tribes. Those who receive the "oku" are considered to be invited to the wedding.

After the wedding ceremony, which can last for a few days, the groom fetches the bride and arrives at his home on horseback accompanied by drums and pipes. Another indispensable part of nomadic and village weddings is the planting of the wedding flag. A wedding without the raising of the flag is unthinkable.

## Sport

One of the integral parts of nomad life is sports. Horse riding competitions take place in every highland game and are based on stamina and dexterity. Elderly nomads tell anecdotes about the wrestlers and horse-riders trained by their tribes and other interesting stories about the achievements of sportsmen and horses. Each tribe prides itself with their wrestlers, horse-riders and horses. The victorious sportsmen become local heroes.



Tomb of Abdal Musa, Tekke Village



Oil Wrestling



## Mountains and Tradition

The historian **Fernand Braudel** says that: "Traditions are best preserved in the mountains." Antalya, which envelops the Gulf of Pamphylia, and the provinces of Burdur and Isparta in its hinterland are one of the areas where traditional culture is best preserved. This is mainly because the modes of production and relationships have remained substantially unchanged until the present day.

These traditions still continue, because the limited production possibilities of the people of the Taurus have remained unchanged for centuries. The cultural mix between the coastal and mountainous areas has diverged and evolved over the years enabling visitors to see the contrasts. Since arable land is sparse in the Taurus Mountains many people migrate to Antalya or to the larger cities of Izmir, Manisa, Bursa and Istanbul in the Marmara and Aegean regions.

Whereas they are reduced to a few families in winter, the population of the villages increase significantly during the summer months. People hurled near and far from their villages, return to the place

where their ancestors are buried and where they can reminisce with relatives and friends. These villagers do not forget where they came from, even though they have become urbanised. Instead they return to build modern houses in place of the earthen roofed homes they abandoned long ago. Old village houses are also being restored by taking traditional features into consideration. The restored villages especially attract the interest of foreigners, who visit these villages in increasing numbers. Most of these restored villages are situated to the east of the Gulf in mountain settlements. They include the Sanhaclar, Büyükalın, Belenalan, Bucakalan villages of Akseki district and were known as İlvat villages in the past. They serve as an example to other villages in the region, which have, in turn, started to restore derelict houses. The **Çekül Foundation** plays an important role by guiding and reviving these abandoned villages in the Taurus Mountains.



Olympos

## Living Traditions in the Mountains

The quiet and empty villages and towns in the Taurus during winter become alive once summer sets in. Almost every village, town or county starts with the preparations for their annual festival. These festivals always have a theme or are named after their produce. For example, one of the regions with the most abundant plant diversity, are the plateaus of the Gündoğmuş District, which has the highest quality honey. The **Honey Festival** in Gündoğmuş draws attendants from near and far.

Bademli Village in the Akseki district near the province of Konya is famed for its wood carving. The inhabitants of Bademli have been doing this handicraft for many centuries and mainly craft kitchenware, particularly wooden spoons. The wood carving products that are produced in the snow covered village are exhibited during the **Wooden Spoon Festival**. The largest settlement in Akseki, Cevizli is a typical town of the Taurus. Cevizli, which lies on the ancient road that connects Antalya and Alanya to Central Anatolia, is known for its **Ayran Festival**. The town serves as a gathering point for locals and tourists during the activities.

The Taurus Mountains are known as the homeland of the genus *Galanthus* or snowdrop flower. Known as the Taurus *Galanthus*, snowdrops grow above a certain elevation, mostly in the Akseki region. The flowers are particularly plentiful in the surroundings of Çimi village. Snowdrops often start to bloom even before the snow is gone from the ground.

The snowdrops which bloom in the mountains of Çimi have longer and larger leaves. Today snowdrops are a popular export item and are a protected species. The Çimi Plateau is also renowned for its honey. The **Snowdrop and Flower Festival** is a welcome opportunity for Çimi Village to sell their products and also promote the village and surroundings.

Keşkek is a meat stew made with ground wheat and requires arduous effort to prepare. This ceremonial dish is cooked on special occasions such as weddings, religious holidays and other festivities. This traditional Anatolian dish is also popular in the Taurus region. The **Keşkek Feast** held in Pınarbaşı under the old oak trees in the village square is a very popular event that draws many people.



Snowdrop Flower

The district of İbradı annually holds the **Grape Festival**, which takes place after the harvest season in autumn. This festival in İbradı, where traditions are strongly kept alive, is a colourful experience that attracts many tourists from the adjacent areas of Manavgat and Side.

The best grapes are grown in Elmalı, west of the Gulf. The Lycian Wines that have received many awards in international competitions are produced in Elmalı. However, the dominant products of traditional viticulture in Elmalı are fresh grapes and molasses. The **Pekmez (Molasses) Boiling Festival** is held after the grape harvest each year. Not only local people, but foreign tourists staying at seaside resorts show great interest in this harvest festival.

Ancient theatres which have been unearthed in excavations carried out in recent years are used for cultural events, to great acclaim. The foremost of these festivals is the **Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival**, which is held annually in the ancient Roman Aspendos Theatre. Many world-renowned orchestras, opera and ballet companies perform in this summer-long festival, which is hugely popular with locals and foreign tourists staying in the tourist destinations of Alanya, Manavgat/Side, Belek and Kemer.

The **Side International Culture and Art Festival** is held in Side each year and the magnificent open air venues of Side, such as the Ancient Theatre or the Temple of Apollo, host impressive performances of renowned interpreters of classical, modern and contemporary music. The festival is spread out over the whole tourism season and its reputation is steadily growing. Side today is an important Mediterranean resort town, distinguished by the quality of its tourist facilities.

Located 25 kilometers inward from the coast of Finike, the **Classical Music Festival** held in the ancient theatre of **Arykanda** is another important event. This festival plays an important role in increasing the visibility of Arykanda outside its borders.

Another classical music festival in the province is held in the ancient city of **Rhodiapolis** near Kumluca. A severe earthquake in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD caused extensive damage across many towns in Lycia. Rhodiapolis was known as the city of the famed and wealthy Opramoas who gave financial assistance to many cities ravaged by



Elmalı

the earthquake. As an expression of gratitude each Lycian town put up an epigraph extolling the generosity of Opramoas. The festivities are held in the ancient theatre next to Opramoas mausoleum, which offers the spectator an unforgettable experience among the unique mountain and sea views. It is certain that the concerts in Rhodiapolis will become a fixture among the region's cultural activities in the coming years.

The **Kaş-Lycia Culture and Art Festival** organised in the picturesque coastal resort town of Kaş doesn't only feature cultural events, but also sport competitions like swimming. The swimming competition takes place between Megisti Island and Kaş and gathers a large number of competitors and spectators.

Alanya, on the eastern shores of the Gulf, has a distinguished place among musical and sports activities. The **Alanya International Triathlon Championship** is a fixed event in the annual triathlon calendar and is organised by Alanya Municipality and the Turkish Triathlon Federation. Men and women from all nationalities attend this event and the highest placed competitors are awarded prize money. The reputation of the beach volleyball tournaments held in Alanya also increases from year to year.

The festivities of **Abdal Musa** have already been briefly mentioned. In June of each year, the three-day long festival in the village of **Tekke in Elmalı** attracts people from all over the country and from abroad, who come to fulfill their religious duties. Participants of the festivities feel privileged to have witnessed a centuries-old tradition.



Rhodiapolis



## The Taurus Mountains and Tourism

The High Plateaus are regions where centuries-old traditional ways of life and modes of production can be found, but they are also increasingly doomed to oblivion. The plateaus are in the process of being abandoned. It seems inevitable that this form of habitation will forfeit its place to an entirely different, more sedentary lifestyle. Life in the village will supersede life in the high plateaus.

Since the evolution from a **nomadic lifestyle** will naturally progress to a **sedentary lifestyle** this end is certain. The developing tourism sector has also had an adverse effect by accelerating this process. The modern infrastructure in and around Antalya hastened the trend of settling down in these areas and thereby altering the mentality and culture of the nomads. The nomadic culture is radically different from the village culture although they have the same roots. But there are similarities in their beliefs, traditions, solidarity and their devotion to nature.

For that reason, some aspects of the old nomadic culture are still found in the villages of Antalya. Nowadays these villages have also started to adapt to the trappings of modern life. Many activities for tourists interested in nature are organised with the help of locals, who are familiar with the highland and coastal environments. It is always an unforgettable experience, when in the most unexpected places in a remote rural area, one is touched by the traditional hospitality of a peasant family who generously offers their homemade yoghurt or ayran to their guests. This will leave an impression on any visitor which is not easily found elsewhere. Thanks to the tourism sector, coastal settlements in particular have rapidly modernised.

As major tourist centres, **Antalya, Kemer, Finike, Kaş, Alanya, Manavgat** and **Side** are also important shopping, entertainment and cultural destinations visited by thousands of visitors every year. Notwithstanding the diversity of national and local specialties, tourism gastronomy also has developed to cater to the wishes of tourists who do not want to stride away from their own national dishes. Antalya, which hosts more than 10 million tourists each year, has achieved a distinct reputation in this regard. Tourists are served in their own language by competent staff not only in restaurants, but also in bars, discotheques and shopping centres.

Whatever entertainment and shopping opportunities there are in the Mediterranean holiday destinations of Europe, can also be found in Antalya and the neighbouring coastal towns. Besides these, a wide array of activities such as carpet weaving can be enjoyed by tourists. This is true, not only of the tourist destinations along the coasts of Antalya but of the whole province.

The **Lakes Region** north of Antalya is a location of cultural and touristic importance. Lake Eğirdir, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Anatolia, is located within the borders of **Isparta** province. The areas around the lake are one of the most fertile agricultural lands of Anatolia. Famous for its fruit and vegetable cultivation, **Gelendost, Yalvaç, Senirkent** and **Uluborlu** are major centres of cherry, apple, pear and apricot cultivation.

These festivals provide a welcome chance for towns and villages to showcase the products on which their livelihoods depend. They are meticulously organised and are the single most important event of these towns. Situated at either end of Lake Eğirdir are the districts of Eğirdir and Yalvaç, one of the most important areas for fruit and vegetable production. At the southern end of Lake Eğirdir lies the town of **Eğirdir** known for its perch and shrimp, both of which are important export items.

Northwest of the lake is **Yalvaç**, famous for its traditional handicrafts such as felt making and saddle making. Both towns have a significant place in the history and economy of the region. The **Spring Market Fair** held in Eğirdir at the end of summer every year goes back hundreds of years. It is the most important trade event in the Lakes Region where nomads from Serik also attend. The fair lasts a few weeks, and products ranging from live animals to carpets, fruit and vegetables and household items are sold. The nomads sell all of their produce during the fair and stock up on necessary food and clothing items to prepare for the winter.

From Antalya, one or two day tours with overnight stay can be made to the districts of Eğirdir and Yalvaç located between the Taurus Mountains at opposite ends of Lake Eğirdir. They are one of Anatolia's most important fruit and vegetable production centers. The visitor will get the opportunity to learn about the natural and historic environment of these districts and the surrounding area.

The **Gömbe Plateau**, west of the fertile **Elmalı Valley** on the Teke Peninsula, comes alive in spring. A traditional fair is also held in Gömbe in autumn after the bustle of the summer months. It is the largest commercial activity of the region and attracts tourists from **Kaş, Kalkan, Fethiye** and **Finike**.

**Isparta** is Turkey's most important centre of **rose production** and traditional carpet weaving. Isparta's traditional carpets as well as rose perfumes and fragrances are one of the most important exported goods in the province. Each year many tourists visit Isparta and the surrounding area, regarded as the centre of the Lakes Region. There they can see for themselves how locally grown roses are processed for cosmetic products and how the hand-woven carpets are coloured with the use of natural dyes made from roots, leaves and grass.



Çimi Village, Akseki

# Nature in the Western Mediterranean

The Gulf of Antalya, located in southwest Anatolia, was known in ancient days as the Gulf of Pamphylia. The mountain ranges encircling the Gulf run parallel to each other along the coast, but later intersect each other at the Lakes Region to the north.

Travelogues, especially those written in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Western archaeologists, historians, artists, architects, sailors and geographers, refer to the nature around Antalya as "extraordinary." The depiction of Antalya's natural environment by the 19<sup>th</sup> century traveller Karl Lanckoronski is especially noteworthy:

*"Anyone who wants to witness the beauty of the mountains should come here. Mountains overlap each other as if in a hurry to reach the sea. The harmony of every shade of green and blue dazzles the spectator and constantly changes with the daily path of the sun. Waterfalls, rivers, date trees, minarets... In short, the imaginary depictions of magnificent landscapes by European authors can be found here for real."*

The famed Ottoman navigator Piri Reis outlines the ports he explored around the Gulf according to the geographic location of the rivers and mountains rising behind them, just as he did in other areas of the Mediterranean.

In ancient times, the most familiar places located around the bay, such as Pamphylia, Lycia, Pisidia and Isauria, enabled visitors to enjoy the pristine environment and experience traditional ways of life. In light of the accounts of explorers throughout the centuries, those sightseeing trips provided plenty of opportunities for those interested in nature and history to make their own observations.





Çıralı

## Mountains and Lakes

Antalya covers an area of 20,815 km<sup>2</sup> and a large part of the province (76%) is covered by mountains. The mountains rise suddenly from the shore intersecting each other, sometimes extending parallel along the coast, and offer outstanding views of the Mediterranean Sea from their slopes. This specific feature is one of the main reasons for the distinctive climate of the region and the diversity in vegetation, animals and produce.

One of the most peculiar features of the mountains spanning the Gulf of Antalya is that they rise sharply from the coast and reach

enormous heights. The mountains of Lycia can be considered a monolith, constantly lapped by the sea. The mountains are relatively young in geological terms and pierce the sky like a collection of spears.

The mountains become taller as one moves further inward and their peaks become rounder. Rounder peaked mountains are generally older than the mountains at the coast. They are lined up as if in a family photo, with the older mountains at the back and the younger mountains at the front.

Lake Burdur



Mount Tahtalı

On the western edge of the Gulf of Antalya is **Tahtalı** Mountain, known as Mount Olympos of Lycia or Solym Mountain in the past. They have sheltered famous cities as Idyros, Phaselis and Olympos in the past and many smaller settlements whose names are long forgotten. Today they cover the holiday destinations of Göynük, Kemer, Tekirova, Adrasan and Beldibi, which host thousands of tourists each year.

The tallest mountains around the Gulf of Antalya are **Kızlar Sivrisi** Mountain (3070 m) and **Akdağ** Mountain (3014 m) on the Teke Peninsula. The meadows lying between the mountain ranges are also host to a rich cultural heritage that has been passed from generation to generation. The high plateaus do not allow for arable farming and are used by the villagers for animal grazing. Migratory life during the summer months concentrates around the mountain lakes above an elevation of 2000 meters.



Olympos

There are a series of lakes on the high plateaus between the mountain ranges north of the Elmalı Plain on the west of the Teke Peninsula. The terrain around these lakes is large enough to accommodate both habitation areas for the villagers and grazing land for animals. Lake Yeşil in Akdağ, Lake Girdev in the Fethiye district of Muğla and Lake Baranda in Elmalı are good examples. Many local and foreign tourists visit the mountain lakes which are known for their pristine natural environment.

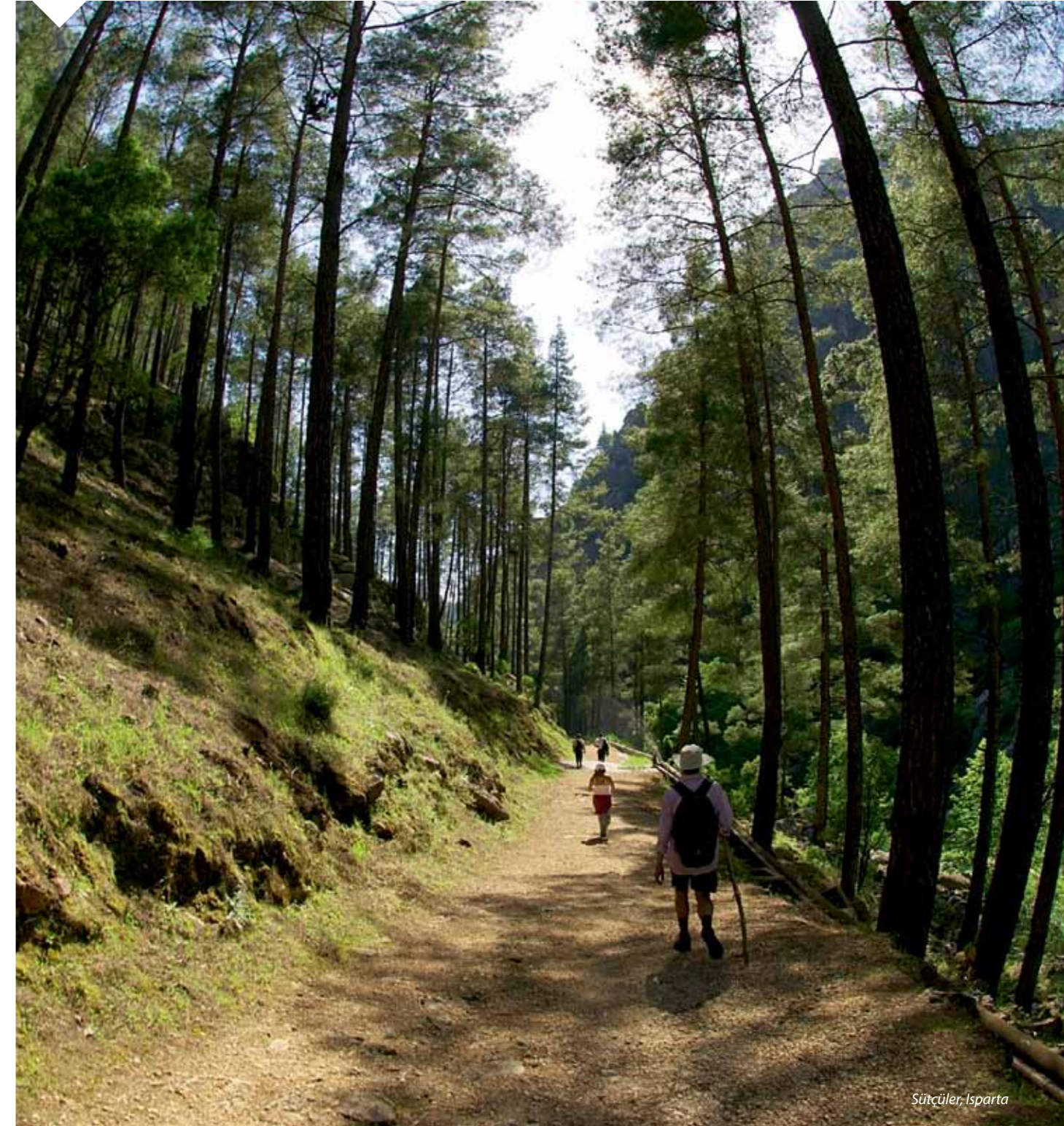
The mountain ranges east of the Gulf of Antalya do not rise as steeply as those in the west. These mountains begin at the back of the long, broad coastal plains and like the mountains in the Teke Peninsula in the west, they run sometimes perpendicular or sometimes parallel to the north. The mountains east of the Gulf rise to heights of almost three thousand meters.

The plains of Taşeli Plateau are not suitable for agriculture, though perhaps the Gembos Basin in the northwestern corner of İbradı, is an exception. The drainage basin there also feeds the waters of the Manavgat River. Water is retained in the Gembos Plain because of the snow, but recedes during summer making it arable once again. However water starts to accumulate with the autumn and winter rainfall.

Like the mountains of Lycia (Teke Peninsula) in the west, the mountains in Alanya rise sharply from the coast to higher elevations. Beneath these mountain ranges are the three districts of Gündoğmuş, Akseki and İbradı. The mountainous geography of these three districts affected the living and production conditions of its inhabitants.

Civilisation started in this area after the first human inhabitants started to leave their caves, and those who lived in subsequent periods left their tracks in the form of city ruins or temple complexes, which remain unspoiled and largely unexplored.

The plateaus of the **Gündoğmuş** Mountains are mostly preferred by the yörük villagers of Alanya, whereas the plateaus of the **Akseki** and **İbradı** Mountains are the traditional migration paths for villagers from the Manavgat and Serik districts. The migration of the yörük villagers starts in spring. Tents are pitched up among the snow-capped slopes and sheep, goats and cattle are released for grazing. The pastures surrounding the mountain lakes are the most favoured grazing areas in the region.



The largest lake in the region is Lake Eğri in Gündoğmuş district. Lake Eğri, which is used for grazing by the nomadic villagers from Alanya, is mainly fed by the melting snow of one of the tallest mountain in the region, Geyik Mountain. The Ermenek Göksu River, one of the two branches of Göksu River, springs from the waters of the Söbüçimen Plateau east of the lake. Carp can be found in the snow-fed waters of Lake Eğri.

One of the lakes of the Gündoğmuş Mountains, which does not seasonally dry up is Lake Karın. It is somewhat smaller than Lake Eğri. The Yenice Pazar Lake on the western shores of the Alara River is a favourite resting place of the nomadic villagers from Manavgat. The renowned Susam Lake lies near the Susam Beli road which runs along its shores and was a major route connecting Alanya to Central Anatolia in days gone by. Lake Dipsiz, located within the boundaries of Akseki district, is another lake in the region that serves as a habitat for the villages from Manavgat and the Bozkır district of Konya.

Gündoğmuş

The mountain lakes lie above the tree line at altitudes averaging 2000 meters and the diversity of plants, including various species of flowers and grass, is so vast that they are extensively studied by researchers. These mountains, which possess an abundantly rich flora, can accommodate many day-visitors or campers with equipped camping sites. Campers can buy their refreshments in the centre of Gündoğmuş or in the many small shops that have sprung up in the countryside.

The untouched and remote mountains east and west of the Gulf offer visitors an unforgettable holiday experience not easily found elsewhere. Behind the coastal region stretching from Alanya to Manavgat and further north of the mountain lakes comes the Lakes Region, where the majestic Lakes **Eğirdir**, **Kovada**, **Beyşehir** and **Salda** slightly to the east are located.

Its name comes from the numerous lakes that are scattered in the geographical area encompassing the provinces of Isparta, Burdur, Antalya and Beyşehir district of Konya province. The lakes are surrounded by high mountains to the south, which do not allow for their surface flow. These lakes have greatly shaped the climate, wildlife and modes of production and way of life in the region.



Eğirdir Lake



Salda Lake

Two mountains tucked away in the Lakes Region, Mount Davraz and Mount Dedegöl, are becoming more and more popular with ski and mountain sports enthusiasts. Mount Davraz is located within the central district of Isparta province and with investments made in the transportation infrastructure and on accommodation facilities it has become a fully-fledged skiing centre.

Mount Dedegöl, is located within Yenişarbademli district and derives its name from Lake Karagöl, a glacial lake that sits on

top of its summit. The stunning views of the mountain and lake, unique vegetation, wildlife and traditional villages and towns make it a must-see location for all visitors. The cedar forests of Dedegöl overflow with colourful tents in every season of the year and the area almost takes on a fairground atmosphere.

The number of local and foreign visitors to Mount Davraz and Mount Dedegöl are increasing every year and this will help promote the region to a wider population.



## Vegetation

The Taurus Mountains are especially abundant in their variety of trees and plants, but they differ at each altitude. This difference can also be explained not only in terms of altitude, but whether the face of the mountain overlooks the sea or even if there are streams nearby. Olive trees, pines, locusts (carobs) and laurel trees grow in lower altitudes closer to the sea level. Juniper trees, the sacred tree of the nomads, become more abundant at higher elevations.

The Turkish pine tree is native to the Mediterranean shores and has a bark almost as thin as a membrane, whereas the European Black Pine tree can withstand the snow and cold, thanks to its thick, insulating bark.

Trees are just like human society: they do not want intruders in their environment. Each tree species tends to grow together in its own habitat. The legendary tree of the Mediterranean, the **Cedar** tree, grows from an altitude of 1000 meters until the tree line of the Taurus Mountains at 1600 meters. The cedar is to trees, what the eagle is to birds. No bird flies higher than the eagle, as no tree grows higher than the cedar tree. Trees found in lower elevations share their habitat with other tree species, but the cedar tree is unique in that it grows on its own and does not share its habitat with any other tree species.

The deep passes of the Köprüçay (Eurymedon) River basin, below the ancient city of Zerk (Selge) perched high on hill, are the only places in the world where wild **Cypress** trees can be found in isolation.

The Oak is the tree of Zeus, the father of Gods.

The oak tree, a symbol of power and nobility, becomes a center of attraction wherever it grows. It is extensively spread in the Kasaba Ravine to the north of Kaş district.

Oak trees are heavily concentrated in Kızıllı village and neighbouring areas east of Döşemealtı. This density is so intense that until recent times Kızıllı village was referred to as “the village where the sun didn’t shine”.

Another area where the presence of oak trees is quiet widespread are the pastures on the south of Lake Kovada. The trees are an indispensable part of the landscape where squirrels, birds and other animals feed from its acorns. Both the tree and the forest create a special environment in the area.



## Rivers

The tall mountains around the Gulf of Antalya are the origin of many streams and rivers once snowfall arrives in autumn. Precipitation in the form of rainfall ultimately dissipates within a few hours, whereas precipitation in the form of snow ends up as surface water stored at the summits of the mountains and streams through valleys, narrow passages and meadows until it reaches the sea once temperatures rise.

Snow fall has a positive impact on daily life and production since it provides a regular flow to streams and rivers.

While the eastern part of the Gulf has a large number of rivers with a high flow rate, the western part is notably sparse in rivers. The main reason for this is that the two banks have different geological features.



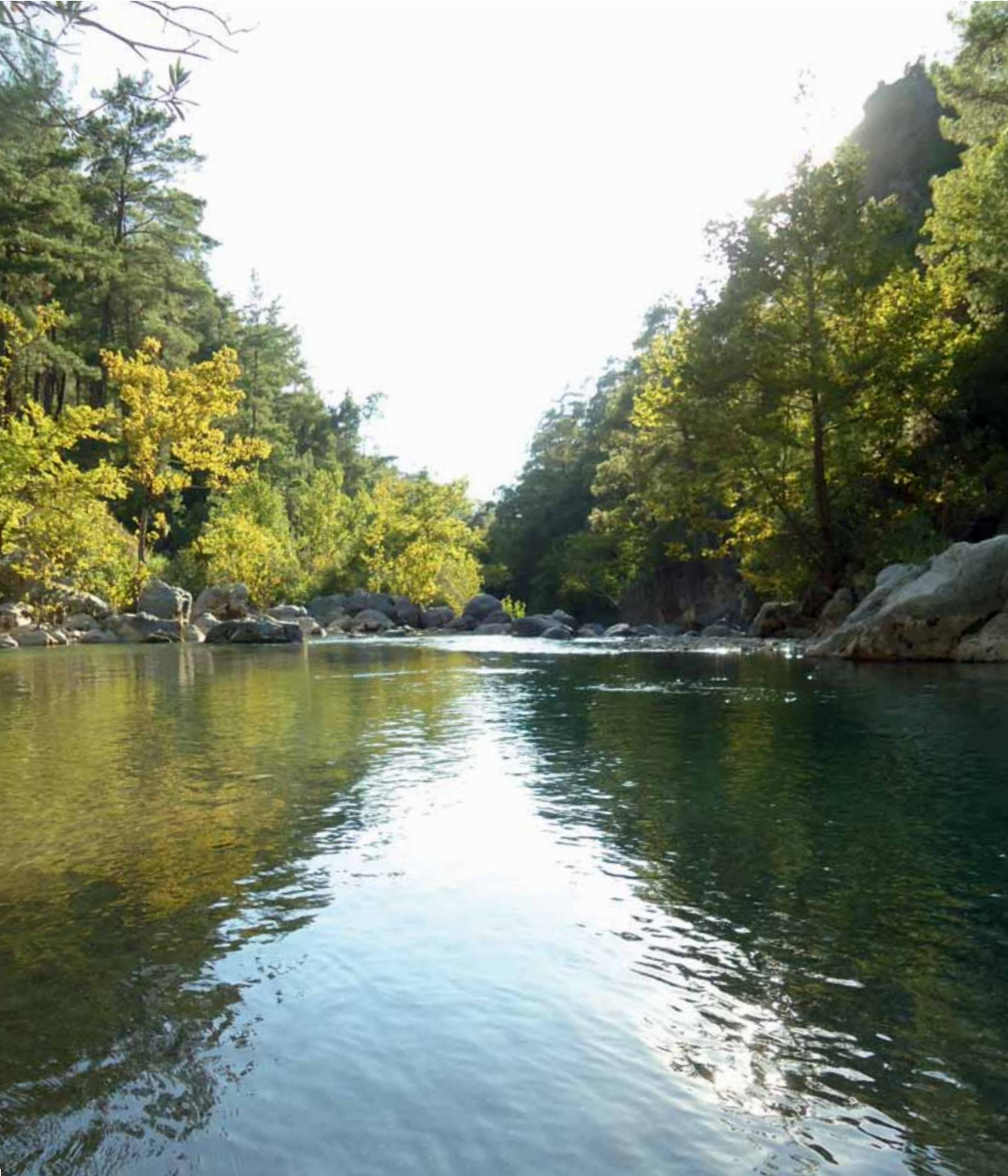
The **Dim** River, east of Alanya, is the first major river on the eastern shore of the Gulf. A dam was built in recent years and above the slopes, covered with forest and fruit trees, many villages are lined up. Established on both sides of the dam are many dining, swimming and recreational places known as "piknik" by the locals. These are among the most preferred places for those want to escape the monotony of the beach. The **Oba** River west of the Dim River is a popular spot among tourists.

The **Kargı** River, which originates from the mountains north of Alanya flows northwest and reaches the sea west of the Türkler village. The Kargı River pours down from the mountains to the sea and is well worth a visit.

The **Alara** River originates near Kayabükü village in Gündoğmuş and flows towards the southwest through narrow gorges and under many medieval bridges until it reaches the Mediterranean just west of Okurcalar village. The Alara flows through very picturesque

settings and delineates the boundaries of Gündoğmuş and Manavgat.

The **Karpuz** River rises south of Akseki district and rushes through the Ahmetler Canyon, before flowing to the Mediterranean Sea near Kızılot village in Manavgat. It runs through the canyon, which begins in Murtıçı and is crossed by the Antalya-Konya highway. The canyon is a gateway to an extraordinary world and its steep cliffs obscure views of the sky.



The Manavgat River, which empties into the Mediterranean, is one of region's major rivers like the Köprüçay River and Aksu River. It is fed from the snow waters from the steep mountains of the Western Taurus situated in the Lakes Region north of the Gulf of Antalya.

Known in ancient days as Melas, the Manavgat River has the highest flow rate among the rivers on the eastern shores of the Gulf of Antalya. The river empties into the Mediterranean Sea a few kilometers east of Side and also bisects the town of Manavgat. The Oymapınar Dam, built on the Manavgat River to generate hydroelectric power, is highly popular with tourists, who come to enjoy the stunning views of the dam lake.

The Köprüçay River (Eurymedon) arises from Mount Anamas, west of Lake Eğirdir. It flows under the ancient bridge before of the renowned Zindan Cave and meanders through the narrow passes of the Taurus. The river cascades east of the ancient town of Selge where it reaches the plains of Pamphylia and empties into the sea not far from the ruins of Aspendos.

Rivers were regarded as sacred in ancient times and represented as a deity, in whose honour sculptures were made. The Eurymedon was likewise such a river, where on the western side of Roman era Zindan Bridge a broken relief of the deified Eurymedon was depicted on the bridge's keystone.



Manavgat



Oymapınar Dam

Köprüçay River has become one of the most popular places for tourists interested in rafting. The recreational areas have been greatly improved in recent years in terms of quality of service. The area surrounding the ancient Oluk Bridge near Beşkonak village is one of the most famous rafting centres of Anatolia and has become a focal point for this sport. One can see the excitement of the participants, who partake in this hour-long activity with their inflatable boats.

One of the rivers which emerges in the Lakes Region from Lake Eğirdir and Lake Kovada is the **Aksu** River. This was known as Kestros in the past, the name of the river god that was worshipped by the inhabitants of Perge. It is written in the Bible that St. Paul and his companions journeyed from Cyprus and sailed up the river to Perge from Cyprus and continued on to Antiocheia in Pisidia (Yalvaç). This shows that the ancient city of Perge, which was established inside the shores of the Aksu River, functioned as a port city. The gate on the eastern side of the city is referred to as the Port Gate, confirming this assertion.

The last significant river on the eastern shores of the Gulf is the **Düden** River. This river travels underground from the source at Kirkgöz Lake and surfaces near Varsak. It then submerges again and resurfaces where the waters of the Düden Falls drop 40 meters from a rocky cliff directly into the Mediterranean Sea. A well-manicured park surrounds these waterfalls and offers visitors stunning views.

Pamphylia, the eastern part of the Gulf, teems with rivers, while Lycia in the west is notably scarce in rivers. Despite the heavy snow fall in the mountains, the dense, porous layers do not allow for the formation of rivers.

One of the few exceptions to this situation is the **Alakır** River flowing on the boundary between the districts of Kumluca and Finike.

Another important river is the **Tatlıçay** River, which rises among the ruins of the ancient city of Limyra at the confluence of the Bay of Finike and Tocak Mountain. **Acıçay** River lies in close proximity west of Limyra. It is a great pleasure to watch the Tatlıçay River flow past the ruins of Limyra and through the beautiful landscape until it reaches the sea.

The main source of both these rivers is the reservoir of Lake Avlan, surrounded by the high mountains of the Elmalı Plain. Lake Avlan offers stunning views and is fed by **Akçay** River stemming from the Akdağ Mountain. The waters seeping from the lake also form the source of **Aykırıtça** River (Arykandos) - another river in the lower elevations, which flows through and beside unspoilt villages of the region and through the valley where the ancient city of Arykanda is located, until it reaches the flat terrain. The rock formations hewn from this river awe local and foreign visitors alike.

The most important river on the western edge of the region is **Eşen** River and has two main branches. The longer branch is the **Karaçay**

River, which originates in the Saklıkent Canyon at the foot of the Akdağ Mountain in the Elmalı Plain along the border of Kaş (Antalya) and Fethiye (Muğla). The Saklıkent Canyon is the source of the Karaçay River and stretches for nearly 18 kilometers, and its walls soar up to 100 meters high. Many tourists staying in the vicinity of Fethiye and Kaş-Kalkan enjoy rafting downstream through the rapids and meandering waters of the Karaçay River.



Saklıkent

## The Protection and Development of Natural Life

Antalya is generously blessed with unparalleled natural beauty and preserving its natural assets and wildlife for future generations is among the most important environmental concerns which need to be tackled. It is clear that a national policy must be implemented to achieve this main aim by developing sustainable conservation and breeding projects.

This is also the main reason why so many National Parks, Nature Parks, Nature Reserve Areas and Wildlife Reserve Areas have been established around the Gulf of Antalya and its natural extension, the Lakes Region. However, there is still the threat of a decrease in numbers of wildlife on land and sea. The conservation efforts to protect the nesting grounds of the loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) have borne fruit. In this regard Turkey has gained worldwide respect for its efforts.



Patara

# National Parks

There are five national parks within the borders of Antalya.

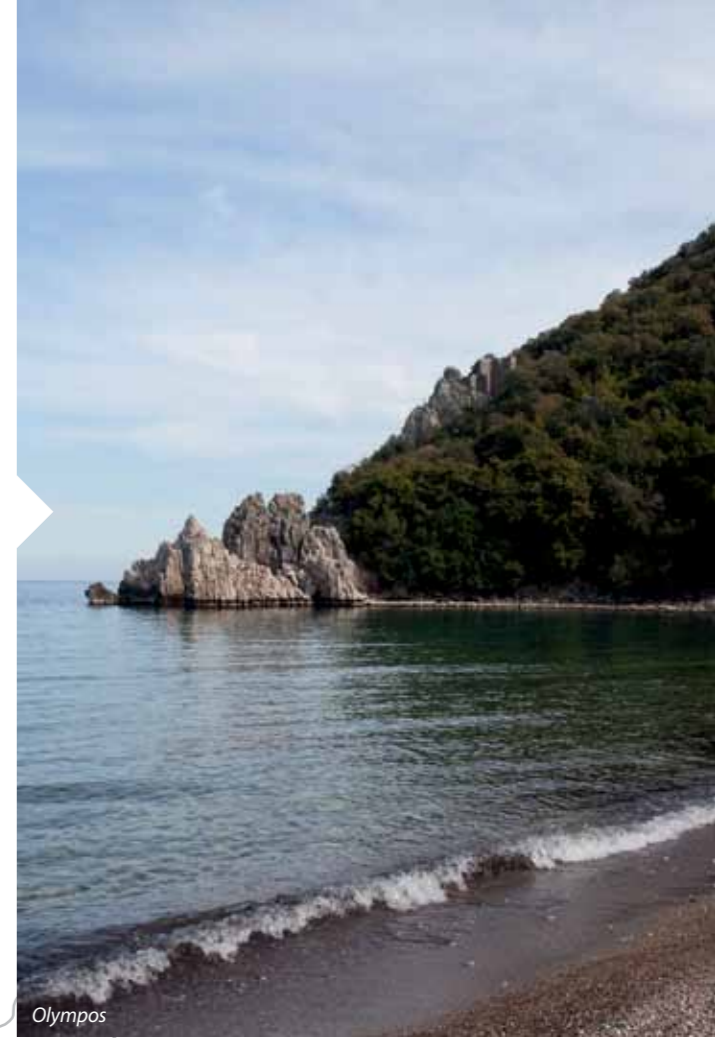
## Beydağları (Olympos) National Park

This national park extends from Sarsu, immediately west of the outskirts of Antalya, to the southwestern tip of the bay at Cape Gelidonya. It covers the entire coastal area and encompasses certain parts of the interior regions.

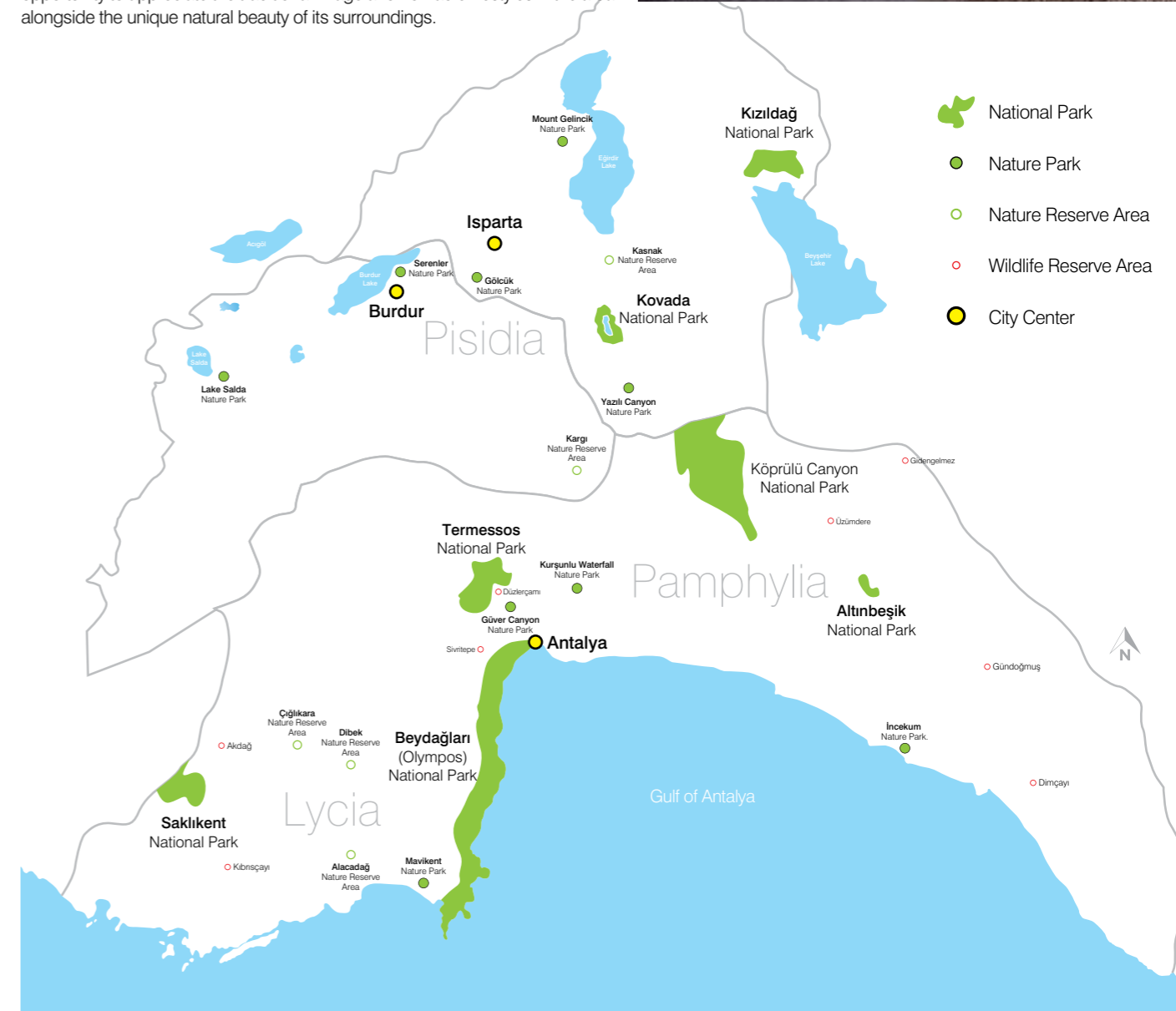
The area covered by the Beydağları National Park includes important ancient cities such as **Idyros** (Kemer), **Olympos** and **Phaselis**. The park is rich in historical and natural features and has a number of unspoilt beaches lying along its shores. The area, which is part of the South Antalya Tourism Zone, provides guests with first-class accommodation facilities and the chance to have a holiday in one of the world's most beautiful regions.

Mount Olympos, known as Mount Tahtalı today, rises at the shores of the Beydağları National Park and stands 2365 meters above sea level. A cable car takes visitors to the top of the mountain where they can witness the spectacular panorama of the bay and its hinterland.

Wildlife enthusiasts are able to experience the exceptional scenery of the multitude of canyons located in the park. Through daytrips, guests will have the opportunity to appreciate the traditional village and nomadic lifestyles in the area alongside the unique natural beauty of its surroundings.

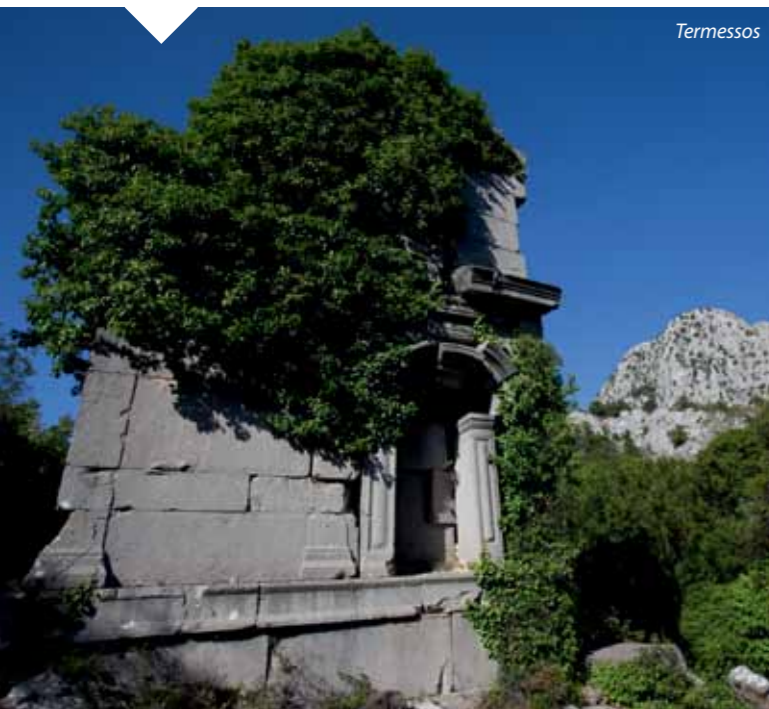


Olympos



## Termessos National Park

The Güllük Mountain National Park, where the ancient city of Termessos is located, covers an area of approximately seven thousand hectares. This national park is 25 kilometers northwest of Antalya's city centre. The main attraction, **Termessos**, was among the cities of Pisidia, a region bordering Pamphylia that has remained relatively untouched because of its remoteness. It attracts numerous visitors each year not only for the ancient city itself, but also due to the biological diversity of the wildlife around it. Termessos has an interesting place in history and is referred to as the "impenetrable city" because of its unique location. Visitors are impressed by its imposing theatre, odeon, gymnasium, cisterns, necropolis (ancient graveyard) and many remains spread over a fairly large area. There is also an information centre and various dining and recreational facilities, which cater to the needs of visitors, providing them with a pleasant experience following a memorable trip.



Termessos



Termessos



Termessos

## Köprülü Canyon National Park

The Köprülü Canyon National Park lies in the Manavgat and Serik districts to the east of Antalya and has an area of approximately 40 thousand hectares. The Köprülü Canyon National Park takes its name from the Oluk Bridge, which was built over the Köprüçay River in Roman times. Southwest of Oluk Bridge is the the Büyürcüm Bridge, which stretches over the canyon where the Gökçeşu River flows. This bridge was built in the Roman period.

Fifteen kilometers north of the Oluk Bridge lies the renowned ancient city of **Selge**. Together with the endemic plants and animals situated in an undisturbed environment makes the Köprülü Canyon National Park one of the most popular sightseeing areas among tourists.

The central section of the Köprüçay River is one of the most important rafting centres of Turkey. There are many mountain settlements and villages dotted throughout the wide expanses of the Köprülü Canyon National Park. Besides sports and leisure in a magnificent landscape, visitors also have an opportunity to see rural life for themselves.



Köprülü Canyon

## Saklıkent National Park

This national park was established on the provincial border of Antalya in Kaş district and Muğla in Fethiye district. The national park was established in and around Saklıkent Gorge, which is traversed by the Karaçay stream-one of the tributaries of the Eşen River. The majority of the 500 km<sup>2</sup> large national park lies in the province of Antalya. The trip starts from the footpath that is attached to steep canyon walls with iron joints. The stream runs below the pathway

which takes visitors to the main source within the canyon. The water consists of white foam that rushes from below. Around the river source there are dining and other recreational facilities, which create a welcome diversion during the trip.

The walking tour in the imposing 20 kilometer long, winding canyon that continuously expands and narrows, rightly justifies its reputation.



Saklıkent



Altınbeşik Cave

## Altınbeşik Cave National Park

The Altınbeşik Cave National Park takes its name from the cave of the same name and is situated within Ürünü Village (Unulla) in the Ormana (Erymna) area of İbradı district. It is approximately 200 km<sup>2</sup> large. The underground lake accumulates the source waters of the Manavgat River before it transforms into a river and it is a true natural wonder that can also be traversed by boat. The Altınbeşik Cave Lake is part of the submerged waters of Lake Gembos. The water discharged from Manavgat River has carved out a natural bridge in the cave and unusual formations in cave walls document and demonstrate the power of this flow.

The extraordinary formations of the Altınbeşik Cave and the unperturbed natural environment around the area evoke admiration among visitors. The number of visitors has increased since road improvements were made and recreational facilities at the entrance of the cave were built. On the other hand, the meticulously preserved Ürünü Village in the Akseki-İbradı region reflects the architecture of all structures unique to Anatolia. It is an unforgettable experience for the visitor to walk around with the guidance of the hospitable villagers.



Düden Waterfall

# Nature Parks

## Güver Canyon Nature Park

The Güver Canyon Nature Park with its outstanding scenery and remarkable geological formations is visited by many local and foreign guests. It is situated in the western part of the Döşemealtı district in Yukarı Karaman in the Düzlerçamı region. The canyon is more than 100 meters deep and is a remarkable reserve for wildlife. Rainfall from the northern mountains accumulates and after traversing the canyon, finally empties into the sea. The observation decks around the canyon offer views of the city as well as the Beydağları Mountains.

## Kurşunlu Waterfall Nature Park

The **Kurşunlu Waterfall Nature Park** was established in and around Kurşunlu. The main feature is the Kurşunlu Waterfall formed by the Küçük Topallı Stream. It is a well-maintained park with pathways alongside the stream and small bridges traversing it. The rich animal life and trekking and picnic facilities make it very popular with tourists.

Three hundred thousand visitors come to this nature park each year, which is located in Aksu, about twenty kilometers from the city centre of Antalya.

## İncekum Nature Park

The **İncekum Nature Park** is situated by the sea in the district of Alanya. This park is especially well-known for its forest cover and the beach which carries its name. Before it was declared a Nature Park, it was a favourite recreation area used for daytrips. Today it is visited by local and foreign tourists in great numbers who stay in nearby facilities.

## Mavikent Nature Park

The name of the **Mavikent Nature Park** located at the western part of the Gulf in Kumluca comes from Mavikent District nearby. Before being declared a Nature Park, it was simply used by the locals as a recreation area.





## Nature Reserve Areas

**The Çıtlıkara Nature Reserve Area** has outstanding views of the Çayboğazi Dam and monument trees are located in the area. This reserve area is located west of the Gulf on the Teke Peninsula in Elmalı District and was established to preserve the endangered cedar trees and the large number of endemic plant species and wild animals.

**Alacadağ Nature Reserve Area** is situated in Finike District south of Elmalı. There are more than twenty tree species in the Alacadağ Nature Reserve Area. It is one of the region's most important ecosystems, with unspoiled vegetation and protected monument trees. The slopes of Alacadağ have one of the most striking views of the Bay of Finike-Kumluca and offer visitors a pleasant trip in a scenic location.

**Dibek Nature Reserve Area** was established in the Dibek Forest in Kumluca District. It is one of the major ecosystems in the region, particularly due to the variety of trees, the most common of which is the cedar tree.

## Wildlife Reserve Areas

There are eight Wildlife Reserve Areas in the surroundings of Antalya, designated in order to protect and foster wild animal and plant life.

**Sivridağ Wildlife Reserve Area:** This wildlife reserve in the vicinity of Sivridağ in Antalya's Konyaaltı district was established to protect mountain goats, wild boars, hares and partridges in their own natural environment.

**Gidengelmiz Mountains Wildlife Reserve Area:** This wild reserve area in the Gidengelmiz Mountains in Akseki district to the north of the gulf has a large number of mountain goats, bears, wild boars, hares, foxes and badgers. The isolation of the Gidengelmiz Mountains gives it an additional appeal.

**Üzümdere Wildlife Reserve Area:** This wildlife reserve area is located along the shores of the Manavgat River in İbradı District, a typical highland district. The main species found in this area is the mountain goat. It is also rich in the number of partridges, hares, wild boars and martens.

**Dimçayı Wildlife Reserve Area:** Situated in Alanya District this wildlife area covers the upper parts of the Dimçayı Valley. Again the main species in the area is the mountain goat, but large number of wild boars, hares, foxes and martens are also seen.

**Düzlerçamı Wildlife Reserve Area:** The main species that can be found in the Düzlerçamı area just north of Antalya's city centre are mountain goats and fallow deer. Besides these two main species, wild boars, rabbits, foxes, martens, caracals and partridges live in the reserve. The Düzlerçamı Wildlife Reserve Area is popular with many visitors as it allows for the observation of mountain goats and fallow deer.

**Gündoğmuş Wildlife Reserve Area:** This lies within the Gündoğmuş District in the midst of the Taurus Mountains and is marked out as a wildlife preserve. The wildlife around Gündoğmuş has been better preserved than other areas, because of its isolation. One of the main elements of wildlife in the Taurus Mountains are mountain goats, rabbits, martens and foxes in addition to the presence of partridges.

**Kıbrısçayı Wildlife Reserve Area:** This covers an area starting from the northern end of Kaş District and extends to the foot of the Akdağ Mountains. The most significant species found here is the mountain goat. In addition to wild boars, hares, foxes and martens, badgers in the Kıbrısçayı Valley Floor are among the most common species in this area.

**Sarıkaya-Akdağ Wildlife Reserve Area:** This covers a very wide expanse around the Oluklu Highland beginning from Sarıkaya Cliffs north of Finike and extends towards the Susuz Akdağ Mountain. It is mainly a wildlife reserve area for mountain goats, wild boars, rabbits and foxes.



## Paradise in the North: the Lakes Region

The Lakes Region north of the Gulf of Antalya is among the most remarkable areas of Anatolia in terms of natural wealth. Located mainly in the provinces of Burdur and Isparta, national parks, nature parks, nature reserve areas and wildlife reserve areas have been established to protect and preserve plants and wild animals.

# National Parks

## Lake Kovada National Park

The small Lake Kovada in the Eğirdir district of Isparta is a real gem of nature with its charming scenery and wildlife. The lake is easy to reach and has lush foliage. It is a haven for many bird species ranging from partridges to ducks and there are squirrels, foxes, martens, badgers, wild boars and rabbits to be found as well.

Lake Kovada has a circumference of 20 kilometers and with its untouched nature is a hidden paradise for camping enthusiasts.

## Kızıldağ National Park

The Kızıldağ National Park in Isparta's Şarkikaraağaç district is noted for its high oxygen producing capacity. This is probably due to the extensive forest cover at the slopes of Büyüksivri Hill, just south of the district's centre, and consists of cedar, larch, juniper and other trees. The Kızıldağ National Park is not only important in terms of the presence of trees, but for its endemic plant diversity and wildlife.

The large Lake Beyşehir to the south of the national park is not only renowned for its scenery but also for its climate and rich vegetation.



## Nature Parks

The **Yazılı Canyon Nature Park** is situated within the borders of Sütçüler district in Isparta province. It derives its name from the rock inscriptions on the canyon walls, which includes the writings of the famous Stoan philosopher Epictetus. St. Paul crossed this road during his journey from Perge to Yalvaç, which is also the most direct route connecting the Antalya region to the north. Because of its well-maintained sections, this road has been referred to as the "King's Road," but is more commonly known as "St. Paul's Trail" or the "Way of the Cross."

The canyon, which is traversed by a road, is noted for its extraordinary views and for its delicious trout.

**Mount Gelincik Nature Park** is situated on the western shore of Lake Eğirdir. With its unique ecosystem and stunning views of the lake from the summits of the Kapıdağı and Çamdağı Mountains, this is one of the region's important natural treasures.

The Mount Gelincik Nature Park has an abundance of cedar trees and to a lesser extent juniper and larch trees. Many bulbous plants also grow in the park. The Mount Gelincik Nature Park is used by the villagers of the Senirkent, Eğirdir, and Uluborlu districts as a pasture ground. As in almost all nature conservation areas, this park enables visitors a firsthand experience of traditional rural life and nature.

Lake Gölcük, a few kilometers southwest of Isparta's city centre, is a crater lake. Unique for its natural formations **Gölcük Nature Park** is a highly popular place with local and foreign tourists. This recreational area attracts plenty of visitors for its trees variety, as well as animals such as various bird species, turtles and snakes.



Gölcük, Isparta

Lake Salda is located within the boundaries of the Yeşilova district in the Burdur province and is among the deepest lakes of Anatolia, if not the deepest. **Lake Salda Nature Park** is a popular excursion spot for visitors where they can savour regional dishes and trout.

The Serenler Hill on the shores of Lake Burdur attracts many visitors with its picnic areas and an observation deck that offers outstanding views of the lake. **Serenler Nature Park** is one of the most visited places in the region.



Lake Salda

## Nature Reserve Areas

The **Kasnak Oak Forest Reserve Area** lies within the Yukarı Gökdere village between Lake Eğirdir and Lake Kovada. Since this area has been declared a reserve, oak trees which previously sustained heavy damage over the years, will now be preserved for future generations.

The sweetgum oil extracted from the sweetgum tree was well known in ancient times for treating skin ailments and for its other therapeutic qualities. One of the places where sweetgum trees can be found is the vicinity of Kargı village in the Aksu Valley of Burdur. The **Kargı Village Sweetgum Forest Nature Reserve Area** was established to preserve these cherished trees for years to come.





## The Monument Trees in the Region

Ancient cedar and juniper trees overlook the Gulf of **Antalya** from their vantage points among the mountains. They are among the most prominent trees of the mountains of Antalya as well as those of Burdur and Isparta. Many cedar and juniper trees are located in remote geographical areas and are preserved as "**natural monuments**" to extend their lifespan. These monument trees have served as witnesses to time throughout the Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods.

In the Çamkuyuları, Dokuzgöller and Çiğlıkara forests in the **Elmalı** district of Antalya, monument cedar and juniper trees are known by local names such as "Ram Cedar," "Big Tar," "Shah Juniper" or "Lion Juniper" and are visited by numerous visitors. The monument trees can be found around the Lakes Region of the Taurus Mountains in the upper elevations of **Sütçüler** and **Senirkent** and include juniper, cedar, chestnut and linden trees.

One of the longest-living trees is the plane tree. Plane trees have no preference for higher altitudes, unlike cedar and juniper trees. They are also popular with many people because of the wide shade they provide. The ageless plane trees in **Yalvaç**, **Altınyayla** (Dirmil) and **Ağlasun** districts have been offering shade and a cool breeze for untold centuries. The same goes for the age-old plane tree in

Gedelme, which lies immediately north of Kemer. Another such tree is the "Arapastığı Chestnut Tree" in the heart of İbradı that has been standing for more than a thousand years.

Out of the nine monument trees in Antalya province, six are in Elmalı district and three in Kumluca district. Their ages range from 650-2000 years. Six are cedar trees, two are juniper trees and one is a plane tree.

There are a total of thirteen monument trees in the **Isparta** province. Their ages range from 1000-2000 years and include five cedar trees, three juniper trees, chestnut trees, plane trees and larged-leaved linden trees. Most of these trees in Isparta are situated in the **Sütçüler** and **Senirkent** districts. The famous plane trees of Yalvaç offer cool shade for the cafes lined beneath them and provide a welcome relief for those visiting.

**Burdur** province has four monument trees within its boundaries and these are located in the Tefenni and Altınyayla (Dirmil) districts. They consist of cedar trees and range from 300-600 years old.

A well-preserved and imposing group of plane trees can be found in the town centre of Altınyayla district, which is also well worth visiting.



February <b>International Guitar Festival</b> Antalya antalyagitarfestivali.com	March <b>Golden Orange Poetry Awards Symposium</b> Antalya altinportakal.org.tr	March <b>Mediterranean Storytelling and Poetry Days</b> Antalya ansansanat.com	April <b>Traditional Turkish Music Days</b> Antalya atso.org.tr	April <b>April 23 Children's Day</b> Antalya altinportakal.org.tr	April <b>National TV Awards</b> Antalya altinportakal.org.tr
April <b>International Choir Festival</b> Antalya antalya.bel.tr	April <b>Snowdrop Festival</b> İbradi, Antalya ibradi.bel.tr	May <b>Air Show Side</b> Side, Antalya side.bel.tr	May <b>Dedegöl Mountaineering Festival</b> Eğirdir, Isparta egirdir.bel.tr	May <b>International Antalya Sand Sculpture Fest.</b> Antalya larasandland.com	May <b>Antalya Youth Festival</b> Antalya antalya.bel.tr
May <b>Akdeniz University Youth Festival</b> Antalya sks.akdeniz.edu.tr	May <b>Antalya International Theatre Festival</b> Antalya devtiyatro.gov.tr	May <b>Yörük Türkmen Festival</b> Antalya yoruklerdemegi.org.tr	May <b>International Alanya Tourism and Art Festival</b> Alanya, Antalya alanya.bel.tr	May <b>Golden Pomegranate Oil Wrestling</b> Kemer, Antalya antalya-kemer.bel.tr	May <b>Motocamp Festival</b> Eğirdir, Isparta egirdir.bel.tr
May <b>University Spring Festival</b> Isparta sdu.edu.tr	May <b>Eğirdir Oluklaci Festival</b> Eğirdir, Isparta egirdir.bel.tr	May <b>May 19 Youth and Sports Day</b>	June <b>Abdal Musa Festival</b> Elmalı, Antalya elmali.bel.tr	June <b>Finike Festival</b> Finike, Antalya finike.bel.tr	June <b>Mahmutlar Culture and Art Festival</b> Alanya, Antalya mahmutlar.bel.tr
June <b>Manavgat Peace Water Festival</b> Manavgat, Antalya manavgat.bel.tr	June <b>Likya &amp; Kaş Culture and Art Festival</b> Kaş, Antalya kas.bel.tr	June <b>Russian Culture Days</b> Antalya antalya.bel.tr	June <b>Konaklı Tourism Festival</b> Alanya, Antalya konakli.bel.tr	June <b>Oba Tourism, Culture, Art and Orange Festival</b> Alanya, Antalya oba.bel.tr	June <b>International Manavgat Motorbike Fest</b> Manavgat, Antalya manavgat.bel.tr
June <b>Culture &amp; Art Festival Oil Wrestling</b> Uluborlu, Isparta uluborlu.bel.tr	June <b>Isparta Rose, Carpet and Tourism Festival</b> Isparta isparta.gov.tr	June <b>Golden Pomegranate Festival</b> Kemer, Antalya antalya-kemer.bel.tr	June <b>Kozağacı Highland Festival</b> Kozağacı, Burdur kozagaci.bel.tr	July <b>Festivalya Street Festivities</b> Antalya antalya.bel.tr	July <b>Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival</b> Belkis, Antalya aspendosfestival.gov.tr
July <b>Kestel Oil Wrestling and Tourism Festival</b> Alanya, Antalya alanyakestel.bel.tr	July <b>Pınargözü Traditional Culture Festival</b> Yenişarbademli, Isparta yenisarbademli.bel.tr	July <b>Pisidian Antiocheia Culture, Tourism and Art Festival</b> Yalvaç, Isparta yalvac.bel.tr	July <b>Culture and Art Festival</b> Sütçüler, Isparta sutculer.bel.tr	July <b>Altınsipsi Oil Wrestling, Culture &amp; Art Fest</b> Altınyayla, Burdur altinyayla.bel.tr	July <b>Aziziye Village Culture, Art and Highland Festival</b> Aziziye, Burdur aziziyekoyu.net

July <b>Deliktaş, Sarıkaya Culture and Art Festival</b> Yeşilbaşköy, Burdur yesilbaskoybelediyesi.com	July <b>Marble Highland and Walnut Festival</b> Karamanlı, Burdur karamanli.bel.tr	July <b>Pınar Market Fair</b> Eğirdir, Isparta egirdir.bel.tr	July <b>Niyazi Baba Culture and Art Festival</b> Burdur	August <b>Konyaaltı Carnival Summer Fest</b> Antalya konyaalti.bel.tr	August <b>Summer Festival</b> Akseki, Antalya akseki.bel.tr
August <b>Ayran Festival</b> Cevizli, Antalya cevizli.bel.tr	August <b>Akçaeniş Culture and Art Festival</b> Elmalı, Antalya	August <b>Seedless Pomegranate Festival</b> Gazipaşa, Antalya gazipasa.bel.tr	August <b>Ramadan Feast</b>	August <b>August 30 Victory Day</b>	August <b>Şehzade Korkut Summer and Mushroom Fest.</b> Korkuteli, Antalya korkuteli.bel.tr
August <b>Bicycle Festival</b> Antalya antalya.bel.tr	August <b>Elmalı Oil Wrestling Tournament</b> Elmalı, Antalya elmali.bel.tr	August <b>İncesu Culture and Art Festival</b> Keçiborlu, Isparta keciborlu.bel.tr	August <b>Seyyit Veli Baba Minstrels' Night and Rice Festival</b> Senirkent, Isparta senirkent.bel.tr	August <b>Bucak Fig, Culture and Art Festival</b> Kocaaliler, Burdur kocaaliler.bel.tr	August <b>Kibyra Ancient City and Highland Festival</b> Göhlisar, Burdur golhisar.bel.tr
August <b>Lake Salda Amateur Song Contest</b> Yeşilova, Burdur yesilovabel.tr	August <b>Golden Cherry Oil Wrestling</b> Korkuteli, Antalya korkuteli.bel.tr	September <b>Oktoberfest</b> Antalya antalyaoktoberfest.com	September <b>Phaselis Festival</b> Kemer, Antalya phaselisfestival.com	September <b>International Culture and Art Festival</b> Side, Antalya sidefestival.com	September <b>Oil Wrestling</b> Manavgat, Antalya manavgat.bel.tr
September <b>Water Festival</b> Eğirdir, Isparta egirdir.bel.tr	September <b>Culture, Art and Grape Festival</b> Senirkent, Isparta senirkent.bel.tr	September <b>International Alanya Jazz Festival</b> Alanya, Antalya alanya.bel.tr	September <b>İnsuyu Culture, Art and Sports Events</b> Burdur burdur-bld.gov.tr	September <b>Hunting Festival Single Shot Prize Competition</b> Bayır, Burdur burdurbayir.bel.tr	September <b>Tefenni Böğët Sheep Herding Festival</b> Hasanpaşa, Burdur hasanpasa-blf.gov.tr
October <b>Sacrifice Feast</b>	October <b>International Golden Orange Film Festival</b> Antalya altinportakal.org.tr	October <b>29 October Republic Day</b>	October <b>Pomegranate Festival and Oil Wrestling</b> Döşemealtı, Antalya dosemealti.bel.tr	October <b>International Triathlon</b> Alanya, Antalya alanya.bel.tr	October <b>International Swimming Marathon</b> Alanya, Antalya alanya.bel.tr
October <b>Public Run and Half Marathon</b> Alanya, Antalya alanya.bel.tr	October <b>Street Basketball Tournament</b> Alanya, Antalya alanya.bel.tr	October <b>Sea to Sky Extreme Enduro Race</b> Kemer, Antalya redbullseatosky.com	October <b>Traditional Göce (Tarhana) Festival</b> Kozağacı, Burdur kozagaci.bel.tr	November <b>International Piano Festival</b> Antalya antalyapiyanofestivali.org	December <b>International Labor Film Festival</b> Antalya festival.sendika.org

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## Museums

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alanyamuzesi@kulttur.gov.tr

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info@antalyamuzesi.gov.tr  
antalyamuzesi.gov.tr

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antalyamuzesi.gov.tr

#### Antalya Toy Museum

İskele Caddesi Kaleiçi Yacht  
Marina 07100 Muratpaşa/Antalya  
T +90(242) 248 49 33  
oyuncakmuzesi.antalya.bel.tr

#### Demre St. Nicholas Museum

St. Nicholas Church 07570  
Demre/Antalya  
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noelbaba@muze.gov.tr

#### Side Museum

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muze.gov.tr/side

#### Suna İnan Kıraç Kaleiçi Museum (AKMED)

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akmed.kaleicimuzesi.com

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### Isparta

#### Isparta Museum

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F +90(246) 223 94 03

#### Uluborlu Museum

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Keykubat Public Library Building  
32650 Uluborlu/Isparta  
T +90(246) 531 24 99

#### Yalvaç Museum

Hükümet Cad. No: 4  
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T +90(246) 441 50 59

## Main Historical Sites

### Antalya

- Adada-Lamus, Çile Village/Gazipaşa
- Alanya Castle
- Alarahan Castle, Çakallar Village
- Andriake, Demre
- Antiocheia Ad Gragum, Güney Village/Gazipaşa
- Antiphellos, Kaş
- Apollonia, Üçağız
- Ariassos, Dağ Nahiyesi
- Arykanda, Finike
- Aspendos, Serik
- Cestrus, Macarköyü/Gazipaşa
- Colybrassus, Güzelbağbelde/Gündoğmuş
- Corydalla, Kumluca

- Etenna, Sirt Village, Manavgat
- Gagae, Kumluca
- Idyros, Kemer

- Idebessos, Kumluca
- Justinianopolis -Okurcalar
- Karain Cave, Yeniköy
- Kyenai, Yavu Village/Kaş
- Laertes, Gözükküçüklü Village/Alanya

- Limyra, Finike
- Myra, Kale (Demre)
- Naula, Mahmutlar

- Nephehis, Muzkent Village/Gazipaşa
- Olympos, Kumluca
- Patara, Gelemiş Village/Kaş
- Perge, Aksu
- Phaselis, Tekirova/Kemer
- Phellos, Kaş
- Rhodiapolis, Kumluca
- Selge, Altinköy/Manavgat

- Selinus, Gazipaşa
- Seleukeia, Bucakşeyhler Village/Manavgat
- Silyum, Yanköy/Serik
- Simena, Kekova
- Syedra, Seki Village/Alanya
- Termessos, Yukankaraman
- Theimiussa, Üçağız
- Trebenna-Melanippe, Finike
- Xanthos, Kınık

### Burdur

- Bademli Mound, Bademli Village/Karamanlı
- Balbura, Altınyayla
- Beyköy Höyük, Beyköy/Tefenni
- Bubon, Gölhisar
- Hacılar, Hacılar Village/Burdur
- Kıbyra, Gölhisar
- Kodrula, Kestel Köyü/Bucak
- Kormasa, Çallıca/Burdur
- Kremna, Çamlık Village/Bucak
- Kuruçay Mound, Kuruçay Village/Burdur
- Lisinia, Karakent Village/Burdur
- Mallos, Karacaören Village/Burdur
- Milias, Kocaaliler Village/Bucak
- Olbasa, Belenli Village/Kemer
- Sagalassos, Ağlasun
- Sia, Karaot Village/Bucak

### Isparta

- Adada, Saçrak Village/Sütçüler
- Antiocheia, Yalvaç
- Apollonia, Uluborlu
- Caralis, Yenişarbademli
- Conana, Gönen
- Fori, Keçiborlu
- Men Sacred Area, Yalvaç
- Seleukeia Sider, Bayat Village/Atabey
- Tynada, Terziler Village/Aksu

## National Parks

### Antalya

**Altınbeşik Cave National Park**  
**Establishment:** 1994  
**Area:** 1,156 Ha.

**Beydağları Sahil National Park**  
**Establishment:** 1972  
**Area:** 34,425 Ha.

**Güllük Dağı (Termessos) National Park**  
**Establishment:** 1970  
**Area:** 6,702 Ha.

**Köprülü Canyon National Park**  
**Establishment:** 1973  
**Area:** 36,614 Ha.

**Saklıkent National Park, Antalya, Muğla**  
**Establishment:** 1996  
**Area:** 1,643 Ha.

### Isparta

**Kızıldağ National Park, Isparta, Konya**  
**Establishment:** 20.02.1993  
**Area:** 59,600 Ha.

**Lake Kovada National Park**  
**Establishment:** 1970  
**Area:** 6,534 Ha.

## Nature Parks

### Antalya

**İncekum Nature Park**  
**Establishment:** 08.12.2006  
**Area:** 27.1 Ha.

**Güver Canyon Nature Park**  
**Establishment:** 28.03.2007  
**Area:** 4,044 Ha.

**Kurşunlu Waterfall Nature Park**  
**Establishment:** 21.05.1991  
**Area:** 586.5 Ha.

**Mavikent Nature Park**  
**Establishment:** 30.06.2009  
**Area:** 42 Ha.

### Burdur

**Lake Salda Nature Park**  
**Area:** 14.5 Ha.

**Serenler Hill Nature Park**  
**Area:** 38.37 Ha.

### Isparta

**Başpınar Nature Park**  
**Establishment:** 11.07.2011  
**Area:** 39.5 Ha.

**Mount Gelincik Nature Park**  
**Establishment:** 14.12.2005  
**Area:** 2,764 Ha.

**Gölcük Nature Park**  
**Establishment:** 05.07.1991  
**Area:** 5,925 Ha.

**Yazlı Canyon Nature Park**  
**Establishment:** 05.09.1989  
**Area:** 600 Ha.

## Nature Reserve Areas

### Antalya

**Alacadağ Nature Reserve Area, Finike**  
**Establishment:** 01.10.1990  
**Area:** 427 Ha.

**Çıglıkara Nature Reserve Area, Elmalı**  
**Establishment:** 05.07.1991  
**Area:** 15,889 Ha.

**Dibek Nature Reserve Area, Kumluca**  
**Establishment:** 31.12.1993  
**Area:** 550 Ha.

### Burdur

**Kargı Village Sığla Forest Nature Reserve Area –Burdur, Isparta**  
**Establishment:** 1987  
**Area:** 88.5 Ha.

### Isparta

**Kargı Village Sığla Forest Nature Reserve Area, Burdur, Isparta**  
**Establishment:** 1987  
**Area:** 88.5 Ha.

**Kasnak Oak Forest Nature Reserve Area, Eğirdir, Isparta**  
**Establishment:** 1987  
**Area:** 1,300 Ha.

## Wildlife Reserve Areas

### Antalya

**Dimçayı Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 52,655 Ha.

**Düzlerçamı Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 28,972 Ha.

**Gidengelmaz Mountains Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 16,134 Ha.

**Gündoğmuş Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 8,404 Ha.

**Kıbrısçayı Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 3,558 Ha.

**Sankaya-Akdağ Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 40,398 Ha.

**Sivridağ Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 8,127 Ha.

**Üzümdere Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 18,462 Ha.

### Burdur

**Lake Burdur Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 38,125 Ha.

**Lake Karataş Wildlife Reserve Area**  
**Area:** 4,720 Ha.

## Important Telephone Numbers

• **Tourism Line 179**

• **Emergency 112**

• **Complaints 184**

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#### Photographical Archives

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[altso.org.tr](http://altso.org.tr)



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[antalyaulasim.com.tr](http://antalyaulasim.com.tr)



ATAV Antalya Promotion Foundation  
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ATB Antalya Commodity Exchange  
[antalyaborsa.org.tr](http://antalyaborsa.org.tr)



ATSO Antalya Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
[atso.org.tr](http://atso.org.tr)



BETUYAB Belek Tourism Investors Association  
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[antalyadto.org.tr](http://antalyadto.org.tr)



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[matso.org.tr](http://matso.org.tr)