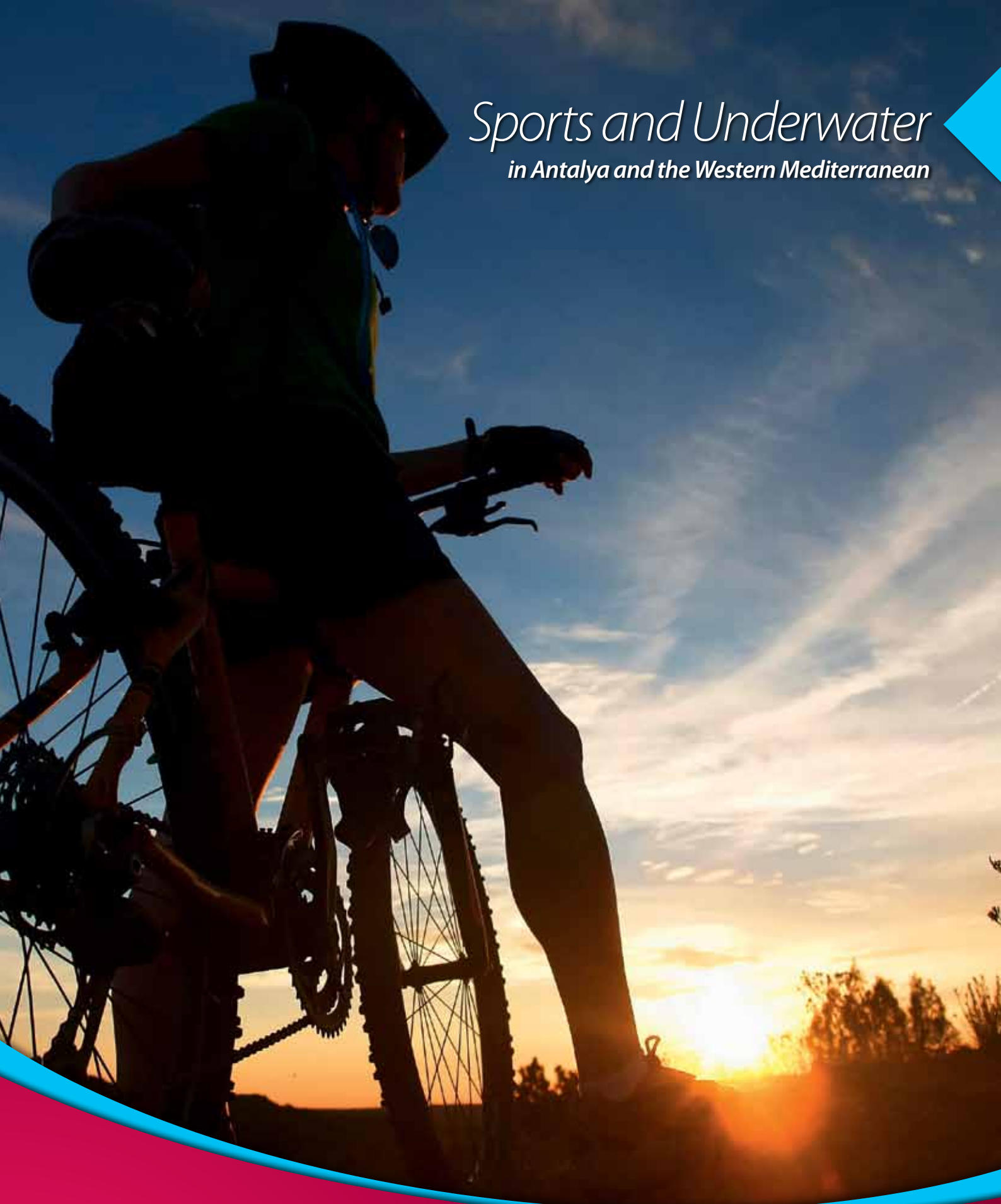


Sports and Underwater *in Antalya and the Western Mediterranean*



Antalya
the destination



Antalya
the destination



300 Sunny Days of Sports!

The stunning beauty, perfect climate and outstanding facilities make Antalya one of the premiere sports destinations of the world. The region is home to many national and international events throughout the year and brings together many people in an enjoyable atmosphere. Antalya has a very mild climate with over **three hundred days of sunshine** annually. It provides the perfect environment for a wide range of sporting activities across all twelve months of the year.

There is no doubt that the athletes and their entourages from all over the world are captivated by the Antalya region and the universal atmosphere it creates. The relationships established with the athletes create a feeling of optimism that rubs off on all those interact with them. Visitors to Antalya will be able to witness this in the events they attend.

Beyond Antalya

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 19th 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 19th 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.

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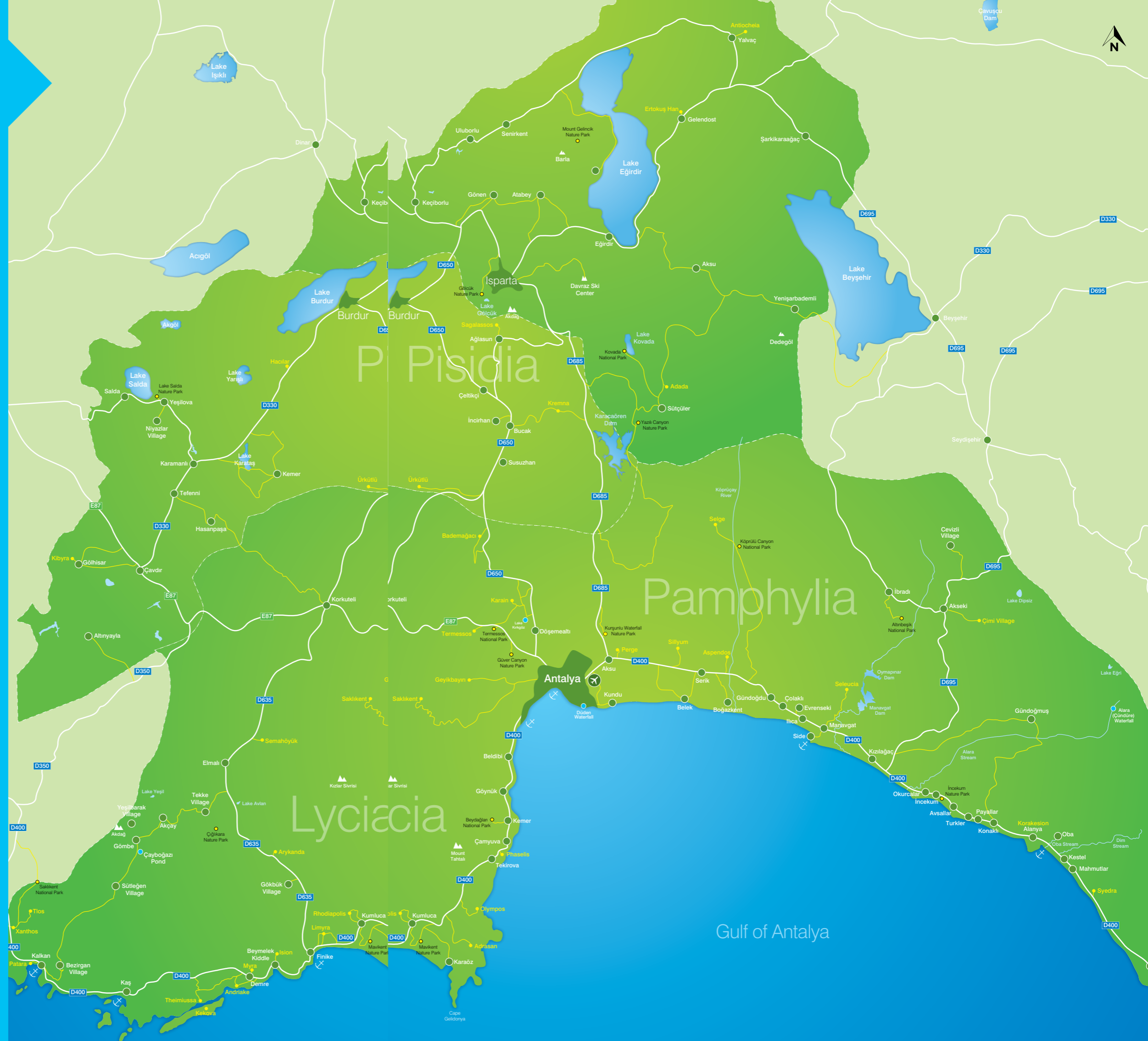
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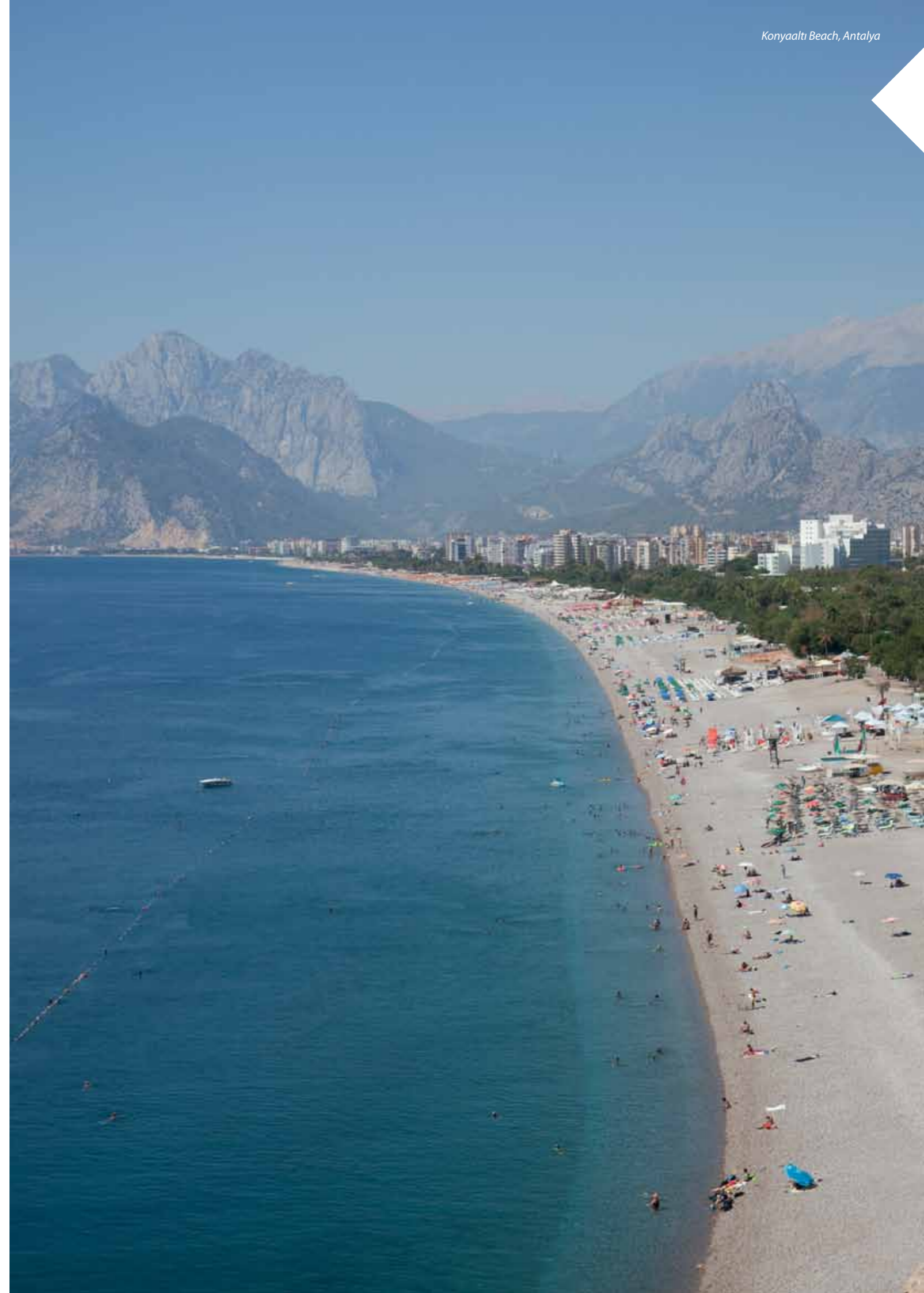
Kibyra

The Antalya Region has been Renowned for Sports since Ancient Times

Antalya has been a **centre for sports** throughout history, and still is today. The ruins of the numerous stadia and theatres that remain to this day demonstrate the importance the arts and sports held for the people of bygone periods.

The Lycians, the inhabitants of the country of light, lived in the western part of Antalya and loved the arts, entertainment and sports. It is known that many **famous athletes** originated from Patara, the capital of Lycia. The people of the Land of Light often took part in festivals and competitions, winning many victories. According to tradition, these victories enabled them to obtain citizenship of Patara as well as the cities where they competed. We know that the Lycian citizen Hermogenes of Xanthos won the double-stadion race and armour race three times during the 215th, 216th and 217th **Olympic Games** in 89, 85, 81 BC respectively.

The athletes who were successful in the Olympics were received home as heroes in their towns and were honoured with statues. Banquets which lasted for days were given in their honour. Was a statue erected in honour of the Olympic champion, the Lycian citizen Hermogenes of Xanthos? Unfortunately we do not know.





The Meeting Place of International Teams

The lush forested Belek Region is preferred by many European teams for its outstanding facilities and welcomes **hundreds of football teams** during the off-season in winter. **Belek** as well as the regions of **Alanya**, **Manavgat** and **Kundu** are preferred for the professional services they provide. Chinese and other Far Eastern teams have also discovered Antalya and its regions in the last years. It is becoming a preferred international centre due to its mild climate and professional services. The lavish hotels and the first class chefs who are trained at the finest culinary schools are doubtless a deciding factor for teams staying in the area.

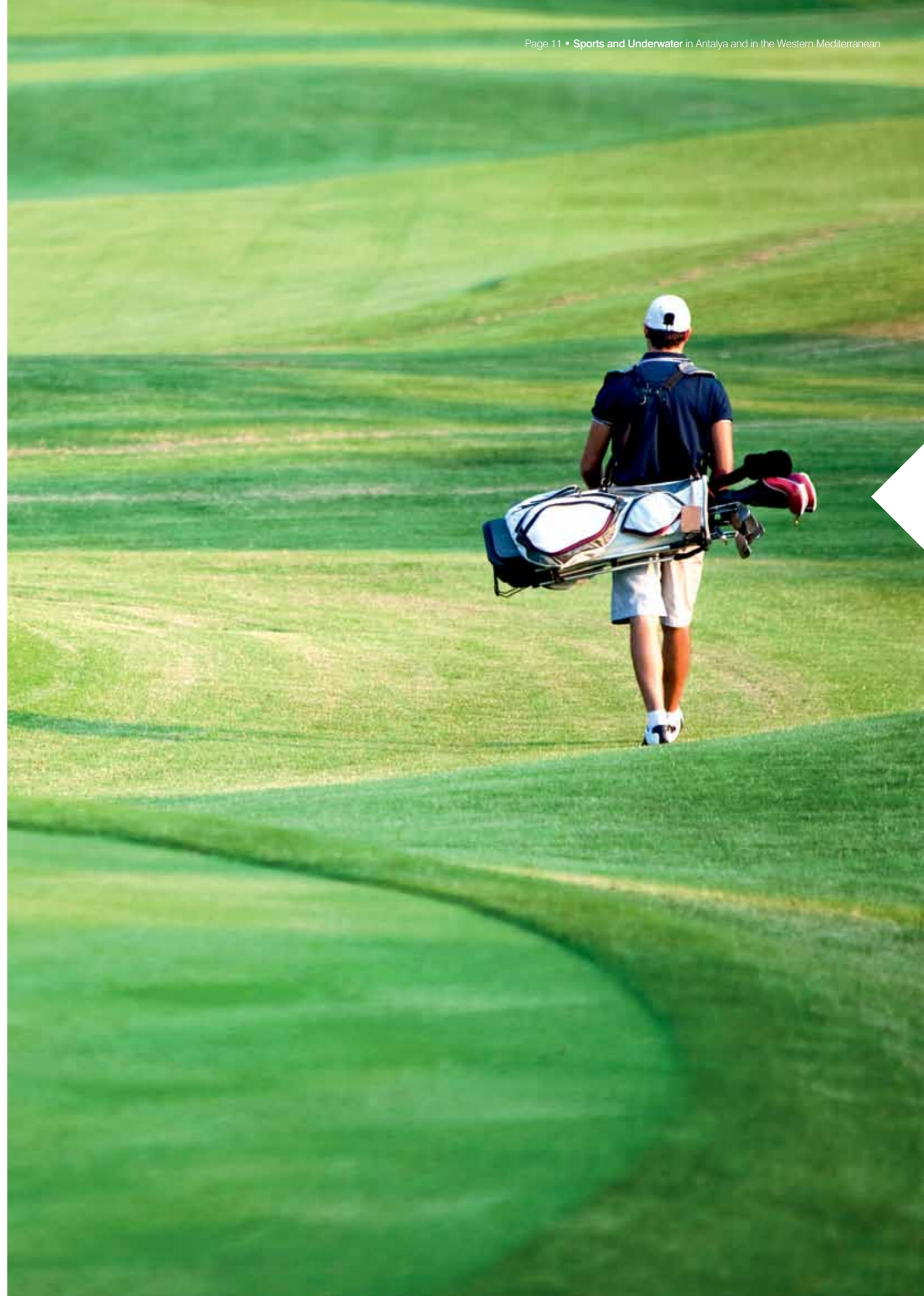


Antalya and its surroundings, where the average winter temperature hovers around 15-20 degrees Celsius, is an ideal place for many sporting organisations. With its modern and well-developed transportation network Antalya can be easily reached by sea, land and air.

A Perfect Golf Destination

Speaking of Belek, this pretty district not only welcomes many football teams but is even more widely acknowledged for its contributions to the sport of golf. The region is suitable for playing golf every day of the year and with excellent golf courses and high quality accommodation facilities, is a world-renowned destination that has become almost synonymous with golf. Belek boasts **eleven golf clubs** and **fourteen golf courses** that meet the highest international standards. Belek hosts a large number of golf tournaments every year and serves as a distinguished training center for many golfers. One of the world's foremost golf players, **Tiger Woods** participated in the "Turkish Airlines World Golf Final," which was held in Belek in October 2012.

It should be mentioned that Belek will host the **World Archery Championship** in September 2013.





Alanya

Adventure on Two Wheels!

Antalya is very advantageously located for the many bicycle clubs during winter, as it offers a wide range of camping opportunities. Located to the east of Antalya, Manavgat and Alanya districts are major locations for bicycle clubs, because they offer a choice of quality services.

The routes along Manavgat River and the area around the Oymapınar Dam further back are perfect for those wanting to explore and experience the local hospitality.

Alanya, the foremost destination for cycling events in the region, hosted the **Turkish Bicycle Championship** in 2011 and has also built a BMX track that complies with international standards. With its new BMX track Alanya will host many national and international competitions this year.

Mountain bike races held in Alanya every year bring together many cycling enthusiasts at an international level. Alanya offers enjoyable and convenient routes for cyclists who can experience the stunning views and natural setting of the Mediterranean.

Turkey's most prestigious cycling event, the **Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey**, starts from Alanya and offers stunning views of the Turkish landscape. Hundreds of cyclists from five continents participate in this race and after a few rounds of the streets of Alanya, they continue onto scenic routes along the striking coastlines of the Western Mediterranean and the Aegean. Both the athletes who pedal their way through the tour and their supporters enjoy an unforgettable experience. The Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey every May is met with great interest by the international media and is transmitted live on many television channels. Last year it was broadcast live in 130 countries and will attract a lot of interest as it reaches its 50-



Alanya

year milestone in 2014. Connecting Asia to Europe, the race covers a distance of 1174 kilometers and finishes in Istanbul after seven days.

Another cycling event related held in **Antalya's** centre is the "**Cycling For Everyone from 7 to 77**" day, held at the end of May each year. Thousands of cycling enthusiasts pedal through the streets of the city creating a bouyant atmosphere in the city centre.

The past year was tremendously favourable for cycling in the area which is steadily gaining in importance - in no small measure due to its scenic routes. The **İbradı Altınbeşik MTB Mountain Biking Competition** was held for the very first time and will take place annually in July at high altitude.

Now we turn our attention to **Kemer** which has become famous for motorcycling sports. Kemer is better known for having Turkey's most spectacular beaches, but the **Red Bull Sea to Sky International Extreme Endurance** races attract more than one hundred contestants from nearly twenty countries each year. The races take place in the second half of October each year on extremely difficult tracks at an altitude of more than 1000 meters.



İbradı

The Turkish Enduro Championship is jointly organised by the Turkish Motorcycling Association and the Kemer Enduro Motorcycle Club with the support of Kemer Municipality and occurs at the beginning of April every year. The race takes place in harsh natural conditions between pine trees and rocks, and attracts great interest.

Kemer is situated 35 kilometers from Antalya's city centre, and thanks to its well-developed tourism infrastructure and hotels, is able to provide excellent camping facilities and amenities for motorcycle clubs along magnificent routes.





One of the World's Top Ten Long-Distance Trails: The Lycian Way

With 77.8% of the province covered by mountainous terrain, the region is highly suited to mountaineering and trekking activities. Every weekend, thousands of nature lovers from Antalya trek the never-ending mountain roads.



There are a large number of amateur climbers in the region which is extremely convenient for mountaineering. Every Sunday mountaineering clubs organise walks to explore different areas of natural beauty. Many mountaineers from all over Turkey come to Antalya for weekend trips. After spending a pleasant Friday evening in the historic Kaleiçi district, they embark on a set route with their friends from Antalya on Saturday morning. There is no doubt that the subject of their conversation during the

Saturday night spent at the summit proceeds from the friendly chats begun in Kaleiçi the day before.

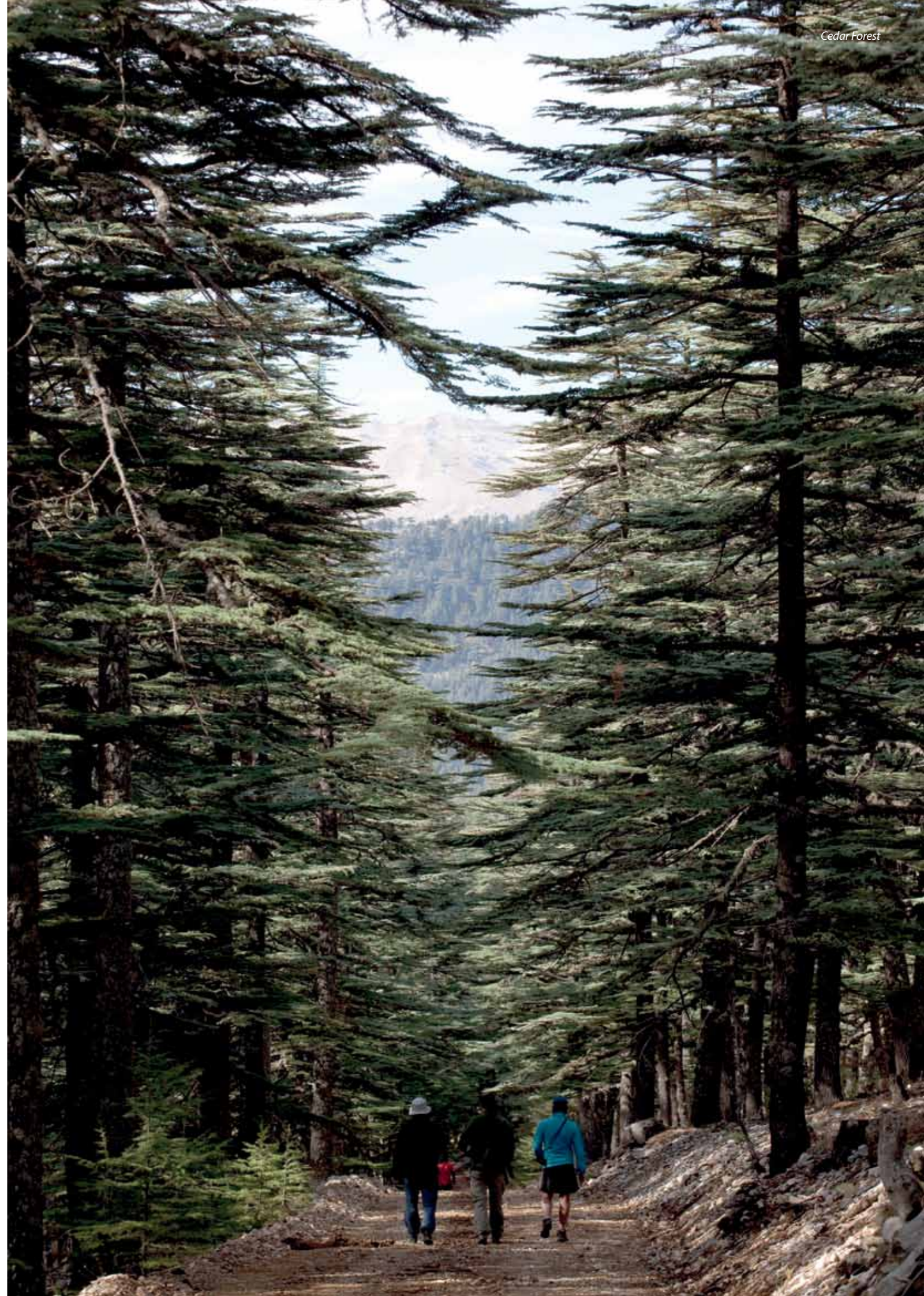
The **Lycian Way**, recognised as one of the world's top ten long-distance footpaths, connects the cities of Lycia on the Teke Peninsula all the way from Fethiye to Antalya. The whole trail has been waymarked by volunteer mountaineers from Antalya. The Lycian Way stretches to the west of Antalya, encompassing ancient cities, coasts and

mountains, and is considered as one of the great walks of the world. The first section of the Lycian Way begins in Fethiye and places such as Faralya (Uzunyurt) Village, Dodurga Village, Sidyma, Pinara, Letoon, Xanthos and Patara, the ancient capital of Lycia renowned for its magnificent beaches, lie on its path. The second part of the trail consists of Antiphellos, Apollonia, Simena, Myra, Limyra, Olympos and Phaselis.



Sports and Underwater in Antalya and in the Western Mediterranean

Cedar Forest





Mountaineering in Antalya

Peering at a big rock face from the bottom makes your palms sweat and it quickens your pulse. Leaving the flat ground below by climbing pitch after pitch of cracks, chimneys and faces, the feeling of hanging in the void in a big rock face is intoxicating and wonderful. Simply being there is outstanding. Observing the steep limestone faces from within the city of Antalya leaves the spectator in awe.

The rocky mountain range rising abruptly from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea west, east and north of Antalya are known as the Beydağları Mountains, an extension of the Taurus Mountains. This range soars to altitudes of 3000 meters and is a huge bulwark of limestone that creates excellent climbing areas in the form of rock bands and big faces. During the past ten years, Antalya has evolved into a world famous sport climbing

destination, but still the potential for traditional multi pitch climbing is almost unknown, undiscovered and virtually unspoilt.

The ideal grey, steep water-worn limestone of the Antalya region lends itself to very good protection with good friction and excellent sharp holds; features that a climber seeks to find and is delighted to scale. It is often very difficult to describe the wonderful feeling of climbing on such good quality rock.

Turkey, where the sport of climbing has been quiet recently introduced, offers diverse rock climbing areas of different quality: short or long, alpine or climbing garden type, trad or sport. Without doubt the karstic walls and crags of the Antalya region is an important piece of this mosaic.





Running Together!

Antalya is laid out with spacious parks and offers extremely convenient areas for running. The region also has a number of events for those interested in competitive running.

The **Olympos Marathon** held every October passes through a track full of natural beauty. Olympos is situated 85 kilometers from Antalya and is known for its unique natural and historical landscape. The region is also the nesting ground for the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and is under protection. This marathon is organised by the South Antalya Tourism Development and Infrastructure

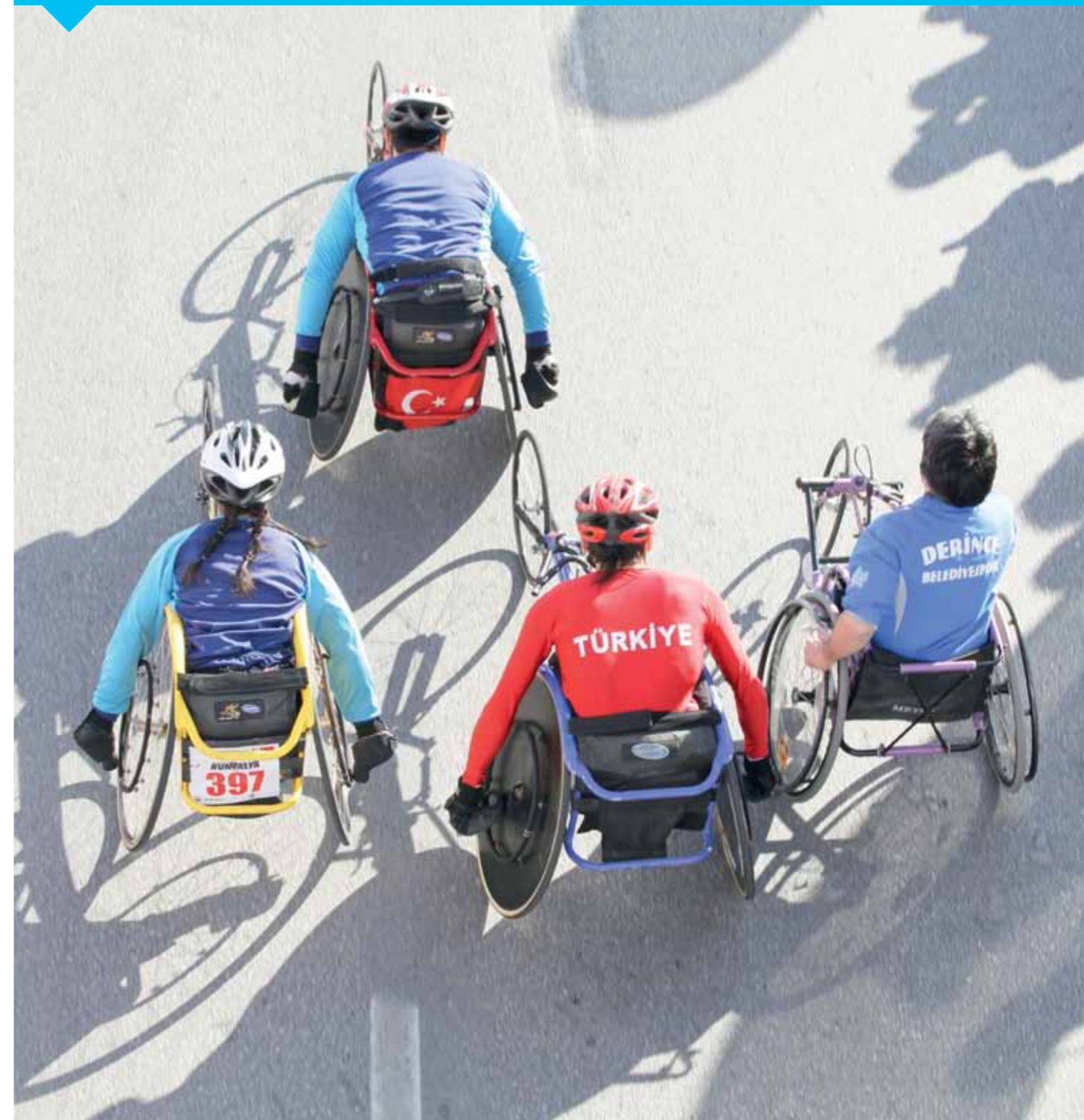
Operations Union (GATAB) and begins in the breathtaking trails of Olympos and ends in Kemer.

The inhabitants of **Kemer** welcome the New Year by joining together in a **Public Run**, which takes place on 31 December each year.

The **Runtalya Marathon** held under the slogan of "As Long As You Run" this year, is the staple event of Antalya's running calendar, attracting many international athletes as well as local runners. Colourful scenes can be seen during this race which takes place in the streets of Antalya. The

next Runtalya will commence at 10:00 on the morning of Sunday, March 3rd 2013. Hundreds of competitors from all five continents and from Antalya are expected to attend.

We turn east to **Alanya** for another event. The Turkish Athletics Federation and the Alanya Municipality annually hold the **Alanya Atatürk Public Run** and Half Marathon, which is held in the last week of February.





The snow-capped Taurus Mountains gives the region additional splendour. The mountains stretch toward the Mediterranean Sea in all their majesty and are well worth seeing. This natural vista not only symbolises the beauty of the area, but inspires athletic passion.



Davraz, Isparta

The Magic of White and Blue!

Antalya is one of the few places in the world where it is possible to ski in **Saklıkent** at the edge of the Beydağları Mountains, and swim in the deep, blue waters of the Mediterranean all on the same day! The Saklıkent Ski Resort is only 45 kilometers from Antalya and 65 kilometers from Antalya International Airport. There are two slopes of varying levels of difficulty: easy and medium. The resort has two lifts with a capacity of 240 and 340 people per hour and reaches an altitude of 2550 meters. The ski season in Saklıkent does not last very long, but it receives snowfall ranging from 50 to 100 cm.

Davraz, situated 26 kilometers from Antalya's neighbouring city Isparta and 154 kilometers from Antalya itself, provides another opportunity to participate in winter sports. Mount Davraz prominently rises to an

altitude of 2637 meters within the Lakes Region, Eğirdir and Kovada, almost overshadowing the plain of Isparta. The ski season in Davraz last for a long period and it is highly esteemed for the softness and excellent quality of its snow. It offers safe ski trails for amateur skiers and more challenging routes for professionals. These trails have a total length of 4 kilometers.

The most magical hues of white and blue can be seen with a cable car visit to the summit of Mount Tahtali. Such a trip will take the visitors to a height of 2365 meters in 10 minutes enabling them to witness the majestic views of the Gulf of Antalya.



Davraz, Isparta

Antalya





Discovering the Caves!

The region of Antalya has more than 500 caves on offer for those who want to discover these mystifying and unknown places. Located 30 kilometers from Antalya city center, the **Karain Cave** in the Yağca village of Döşemealtı district offers plenty of evidence about the dawn of mankind. The cave was continuously used as a habitat in prehistoric times during the Paleolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Old Bronze Age. Findings from the excavations inside the Karain Cave are housed in the Karain Museum next to it and are also displayed in the Antalya Archaeological Museum.

The **Sulu İn Cave** is situated on the slopes of a mountain north of the town of Evrenseki within the Manavgat district. The cave was given its name by the local population, and its walls are decorated with early Christian frescoes. It is believed that this cave served as a central location where religious ceremonies were conducted in secret during the first years of Christianity. The images of Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary, and other saints are displayed on the cave walls.

Even though there are over 500 caves in and around Antalya, the vast majority of them are not

open for tourism. For this reason, the caves around Antalya are still left to be discovered by tourists who would like to experience something outside the usual tourist routes. Such explorations, along with other natural attractions and getting to meet with the locals, will make this an enjoyable and worthwhile journey.

Turkey's longest cave, with a length of 16 kilometers is located within the boundaries of the neighbouring province of Isparta.





The Surface of the Water is Sparkling

The 6th ATSO-Antalya Chamber of Commerce and Industry Victory Cup was held in the Sailing, Optimist and Laser categories this year, and takes place annually during the last week of August. This Cup is fiercely contested and takes place off Antalya Port, Konyaaltı Beach, Cape Baba in Lara and Fener.

The annual "Atatürk Memorial Cup" is organised by the Konyaaltı Municipality and is held each August. Another competition takes place in Alanya in April in the Sailing, Optimist and Laser categories.

Konyaaltı

Every year in mid-June a festival which pays homage to the name of Lycia, begins in Kaş and lasts for three days. A very significant swimming race is organised as part of this festival, which is jointly held with the inhabitants of the Greek island of **Megisti** lying just across from the district of **Kaş**. The seven kilometer race starts from the island of Megisti and finishes in Kaş.



Kaş



Turkey is ranked fourth in the world in terms of the number of Blue Flag beaches. In total there are 352 Blue Flag beaches in Turkey, and Antalya ranks first with 118 of those beaches. The natural features of the region have helped foster many national swimmers.

Antalya hosts the Open Water Swimming Cup, named after Süleyman Erol who contributed to the development of the sport, and is traditionally held every year in May. This event is organised with the support of Konyaaltı Municipality and occurs simultaneously with the LEN (European Swimming League) Cup of the European Open Water Swimming Championships.

The Alanya Swimming Marathon, another major international event, will take place for the 21st time in November 2014. The swimming marathon starting from the Cleopatra Beach ends at the Galip Dere Beach after a five kilometer course. Alanya has two Olympic-size indoor and outdoor pools and hosts a number of international and national tournaments.

For a battle with the raging waters and an adrenaline-charged fun experience, we suggest that you visit the **Köprülü Canyon National Park**, ninety-two kilometers from Antalya. The Köprüçay River within the national park is one of the country's best rafting locations. It lies at the centre of Manavgat and welcomes thousands of adventure lovers with its natural splendour and majestic canyons.



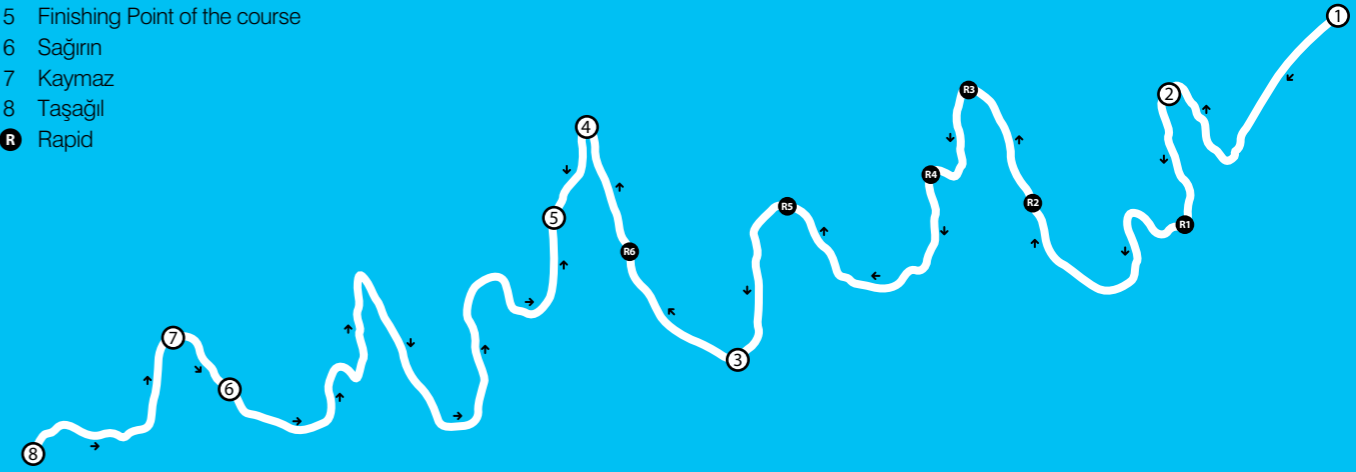


Köprülü Canyon
Sports and Underwater in Antalya and in the Western Mediterranean

Rafting in Köprüçay (Eurymedon)

The distance between the starting and finishing point on Köprüçay River is 14 kilometers. There are a total of 12 rapids, 6 of them are large. The water temperature is 12 degrees Celsius. The width of the river is around 12 metres and its depth varies between 1-3 meters. Its degree of difficulty is +4 according to international standards.

- 1 Canyon (Starting Point)
 - 2 Oluk Bridge
 - 3 Entertainment and Swimming
 - 4 Restaurants
 - 5 Finishing Point of the course
 - 6 Sağırn
 - 7 Kaymaz
 - 8 Taşağıl
- R** Rapid





Bring Your Racket and Come to Play!

Tennis is a widely played sport in the Antalya region. It is common to see someone walking along the street with a tennis racket stuffed in the bag. There are hundreds of tennis courts in the area that meet international standards. The **Antalya Tennis and Sports Club (ATIK)** in the city of Antalya is a major centre that hosts many national and international tennis tournaments.

Alanya is another focal point which plays host to many tennis tournaments. Beside the **Park Alanya Tennis Courts** there are a large number of tennis courts in the region.

The ancient town of Side is on the way of becoming another centre of tennis in the region. The **Side Tennis Club** was completed this year and has one indoor and two outdoor courts. In total there are 26 tennis courts in the area.

Antalya's hotels boast many world standards courts that are frequently used by tennis players for training purposes especially during the winter months.





The Challenge of the Iron Men: Triathlon

Triathlon was first initiated in the **Alanya** district and is one of the primary sporting events in the Antalya region. A group of businessmen from Alanya attended a triathlon competition whilst abroad, and quickly realised how suited this popular sport is to Alanya. After their return to Alanya they established a triathlon club. It did not take long for the sport to become popular and more widespread in the city. This dedication of a handful of

sports enthusiasts was soon recognised and supported by the Ministry of Sports. Alanya with its stunning location would entice any athlete and in October 1991, Alanya held its first international triathlon event. The creative, dedicated and hard-working citizens of Alanya successfully rose to this challenge and as a result the exhilarating Ironman competitions have become a recurring tradition in the first week of October each year.

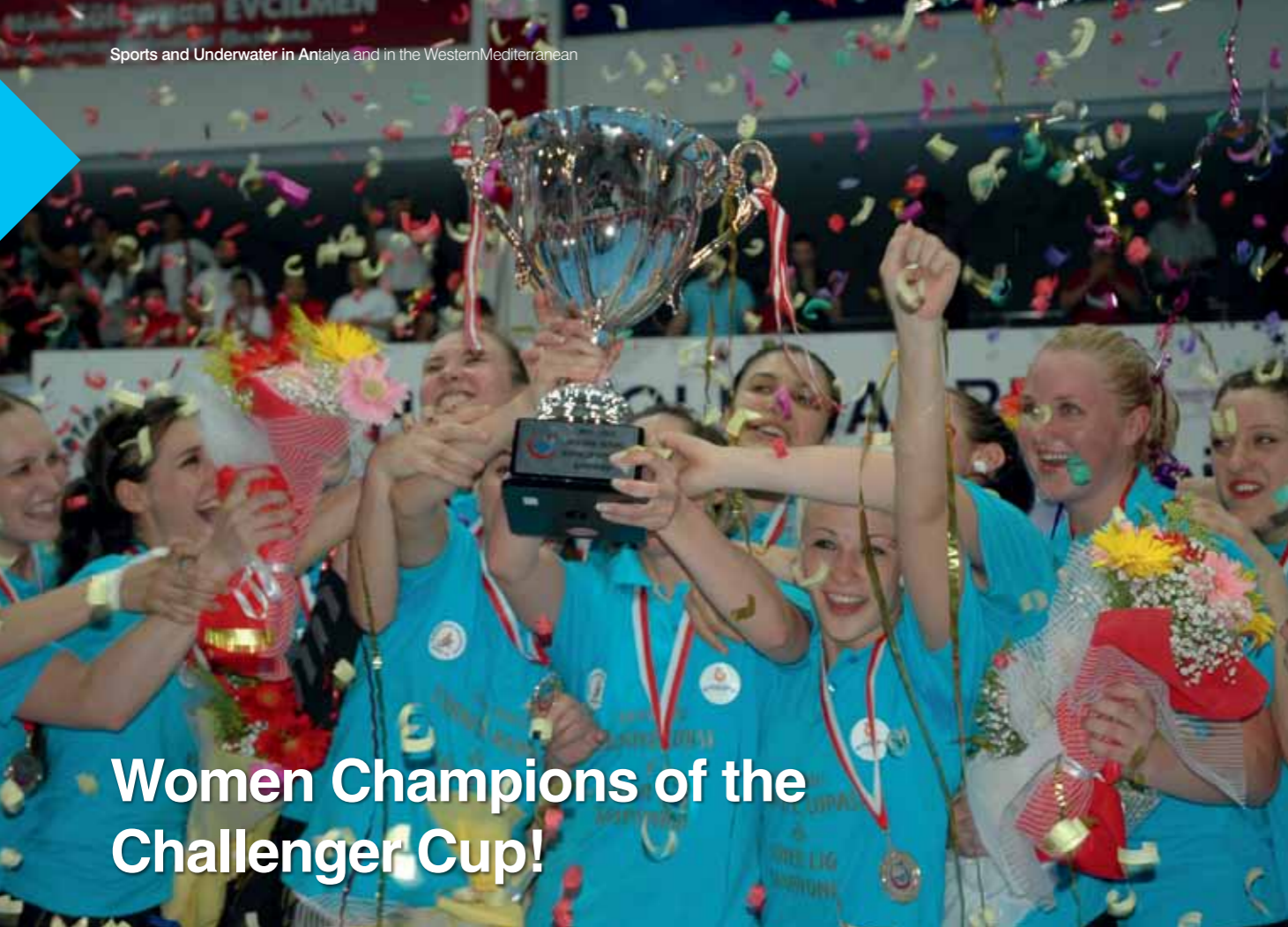




The preparations for the European Triathlon Championships of the **European Triathlon Union (ETU)** to be held in **Alanya** between 14-16 June, 2013 are still ongoing.

The triathlon quest begun by the citizens of Alanya found other enthusiasts in Antalya and the district of **Eğirdir** in the neighbouring **Isparta** province. The world-famous race each May starts at **Konyaaltı Beach** and continues in the streets of Antalya, becoming the scene of a friendly competition between triathletes. Since 2002, a triathlon competition has also been held in the Eğirdir district of Isparta at the end of each August.





Women Champions of the Challenger Cup!

Muratpaşa Municipality Women Handball Team

The handball team of the Muratpaşa Municipality narrowly lost in the final match of the **Challenger Cup in 2012**, taking second place. It managed to win the Turkish League Championship and the Turkish Cup in the same year and experienced a triple success. By winning the Turkish Super Cup at the beginning of the season the team brought four cups to its display case. The **Muratpaşa Municipality Women's Handball Team's** triumphant winning streak and a succession of cups was instrumental in popularising the sport of handball in the Antalya region. The fierce competition that takes place in indoor halls throughout the season moves to the beaches of Antalya in the summer.

In June of the past year, the **4th World Beach Handball Championship** was held at **Lara Beach** with the participation of 24 teams from 18 countries. The Lara and Konyaalti Beaches are the venue for a large number of national and local tournaments during the summer season. Sunbathers on the beach in one moment may suddenly find themselves to be spectators in a hotly contested match in the next.

In 1994, Ramazan Demirci of Alanya thought it would be a good idea to hold handball matches on Alanya's beaches. This esteemed sports instructor began to implement this idea by first bringing together the Alanya Municipality and the Turkish Handball Federation.

The "**Outdoor Handball Tournament**" first started on the beaches of **Alanya** in 1995 and today has become a pleasant custom. The tournament was renamed after the well-liked sports instructor who passed away in 2001. The "Ramazan Demirci Outdoor Handball Tournament" has been held under this name since 2002 and has become an important event in the sporting calendar. This June event has evolved into a massive occasion. This year, 108 teams and more than 1400 athletes participated. The 19th tournament will take place in the last week of June in 2013.



Playing In The Sands

Antalya has a coastline of more than 640 kilometers, which is naturally very suited to handball and other beach activities. The beaches, where adrenaline-fueled sporting events take place, are famous for their highly contested beach volleyball competitions.

The first seeds for beach volleyball organisations were planted in the second half of the 1980s. Today these have become regular events. **Alanya** hosted its first international tournament in July, 1990. Although the first tournaments were fairly amateur they proved to be extremely successful in the long-run. A few tournaments were held until 1995. In 1995, Alanya successfully applied to the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) to host the **Beach Volleyball World Cup**. They not only won the bid, but delivered the event with flying colours. Alanya came to be recognised all over the world as a leading destination for prestigious beach volleyball events. But Alanya's rightful place was further cemented in 2012. The President of the European Volleyball Confederation, Mr. André Meyer, proclaimed Alanya as the hub of European Beach Volleyball. Today the beaches of Alanya host numerous beach volleyball competitions which have become a festival of sorts alongside recreation activities and dance performances.

Another address of beach volleyball activities is **Antalya's Konyaalti Beach**. The Epiriden Women's Beach Volleyball Tournament is organised in the months of June and July each year and has become a fixture in the calendar.

In addition, local beach football tournaments are held on beaches across the whole region during summer. The most famous of these, organised every July in **Alanya**, is the **Turkish Regional Football League Cup**.

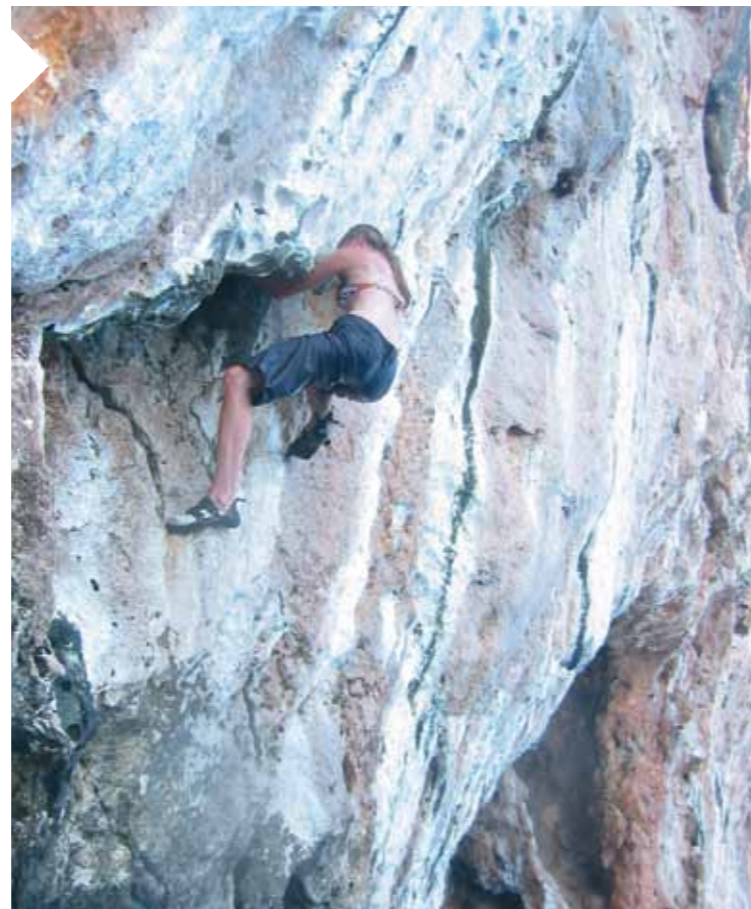




Deep Water Solo

Experience the thrill of climbing without a rope on the unique cliffs above the deep water.

The specific climbing walls lie between the coastal areas of Yarasali, Olympos and Adrasan. The structure of the rock generally consists of limestone and features stalactites with pockets. It is possible to climb routes that are 8 to 20 meters high above the sea. The levels of the climbing routes vary from beginner to advanced, as there are no ropes and bolts. The rocks have a negative rock structure. There are also sections that are more vertical and positive and the depth of the sea is sufficient for Deep Water Solo climbing. On land there are no paths which lead to the routes.



Hitting the Streets!

Basketball is one of the most played and popular sports in the whole region. The basketball team of the Antalya Metropolitan Municipality successfully competes in the Turkish Basketball League. Since basketball is very popular in the region many street basketball tournaments are regularly held. One such tournament is the **Street Basketball Tournament** hosted in **Alanya** each August.

Every year in mid-September, successful teams from the Turkish and European football leagues come together in the Antalya Atatürk Indoor Sports Hall to compete in the week-long "**Rixos Cup**."

Tens of thousand of elementary school students also participate in free summer courses arranged by the municipalities in Antalya in almost every sport.



We Have Already Overcome Our Obstacles!

Antalya and other regional municipalities have been conscientiously working for the wellbeing of disabled citizens and their company, working to remove obstacles in the streets and avenues for people with disabilities and making disability-friendly modifications. The region has dedicated all its efforts to eliminating barriers for the disabled, and hosts numerous tournaments and activities for them. These efforts were crowned with success when the wheelchair basketball team of **Antalya Metropolitan Municipality** won the Turkish championship last year.

Diving Points and Blue Flag Beaches

The Blue Flag Programme is implemented in 49 countries all over the world and Turkey is ranked at a steady fourth place over the last three years in the number of certified beaches. Even on the West Mediterranean coast there are **118 Blue Flag beaches and marinas**.

Its Blue Flag beaches notwithstanding, Antalya has more than **80 diving spots** and **68 authorised diving centres** that are registered with the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation. Divers of all levels, be they professionals or amateurs, can plunge into the deep blue sea 12 months of the year.



Underwater



Whilst swimming in the coastal waters of Antalya, you can come across dolphins anytime! But not only dolphins! Hundreds of species, among them the Mediterranean monk seal that is highly endangered and under protection in our country, are ready to embrace and welcome you. Keep your camera ready to take a picture at any moment!

Five of the top ten recommended diving sites in Turkish waters are located in Antalya. The region also includes 12 major world renowned diving spots. A temperate climate in the area lasting 12 months of the year allows for year-round diving and offers excitement for adrenaline lovers. However, in some areas diving is prohibited, in which case those who want to dive individually should get prior information from diving schools. There are a number of professional diving schools that stand out, and more than half a million dives take place every year. One of the most popular features of Antalya is that it provides a wealth of options for divers of all levels. We have compiled for you a list of the most outstanding diving spots located in the Antalya region.





Antalya

Antalya is perched on cliff formations known as falez that offer a wonderful opportunity for those who want to spend their day diving. The French Wreck, which has been the subject of many documentaries, and the area around Sığan Island are other important diving locations in Antalya.

French Wreck

Situated right at the entrance of Antalya's harbour, this French military transport ship lies at a depth of 20-32 metres. This wreck belonged to the French warship "St. Didier" which was sunk during the war in 1942 just 1 kilometre out from Antalya's harbour. In salvage operations conducted in 1946 and 1974, large parts of the ship's cargo were removed. Disguised as a hospital ship, it was carrying ammunition and jeeps intended for the desert. Not much is left from the shipwreck, but it still attracts the interest of divers. The boat traffic in the vicinity is an important issue that has to be considered, because of its proximity to the harbour's entrance. Permission from the Governorship of Antalya must be obtained before diving in this spot.

Falez Cliffs

Antalya has two beaches of different charm on opposite ends of the city: Those who prefer sand will prefer Lara Beach, while others prefer Konyaalti Beach with its pebbles glistening under the sun. Your expectations will not be in vain and at either beach you will be amply rewarded. Both beaches vie with each other as the preferred beach, and each offers a different experience for the visitors. The cliff formations known as falez are located between these two beaches and are highly suitable for diving. We should note that these cliffs are only to be found in Antalya and surround the shores of the city.

The height of the cliff formations vary from 14 to 25 metres. They are ideal for free divers since they are easily accessible. The area below the variant leading to Konyaalti Beach is especially noteworthy. You can descend to a depth of 25 metres, where you can see the breathtaking falez cliffs submerged underwater and observe the aquatic ecosystem. Fresh water seeps from the rocks and mixes with sea water, resulting in very clear diving conditions that never fail to surprise divers.

Sığan Island

This island is popular with divers and is situated across Topçam, a favourite beach and picnic area and lies a few kilometres to the west of Antalya's large commercial port. Its west coast overlooking the beach is shallow. The floor is usually covered with fine sand. The most interesting part of the island is the northeast coast. The bottom reaches a depth of up to 22 metres and offers pleasant scenery. At the same time, a small cave to the east creates a nice surprise for divers. Though the wind blowing from the west doesn't create any waves, it may cause strong surface currents depending on its severity. Precautions have to be taken for this reason. We remind those who wish to embark on a day trip to the island that there is busy boat traffic in the area.

Dornier Wreck

A Dornier military aircraft, which entered service with the Turkish Air Force in 1968 and also took part in the Cyprus Peace Operation, was scrapped in 1998 and sunk off Antalya's Yacht Harbour in 2010 for the purpose of diving tourism. The wreck lies at a depth of 25 metres.



Kemer

This prominent tourist destination has the largest number of diving schools in our country and is noted for its Blue Flag beaches. It provides many diving options. The waters of Kemer teem with fish and marine life and one can also come across species that originate from the Red Sea. The Three Islands diving spot is especially wealthy in marine life where shoals of large stingrays, moray eels, crayfish and shoals of tuna and barracuda at certain times of the year are found. If you are lucky you may encounter the Mediterranean monk seal.

Kiriş Cave Bay

Kiris Cave Bay is 15 minutes by dive boat from the Kemer Yacht Harbour. The bay is sheltered from the wind and the waves. The bay starts quite shallow but reaches a depth of 18 metres, which makes it a convenient place for beginning and professional divers. The bay is enclosed with steep cliffs and derives its name from two small caves in the area. At the same time, there are many small caves and tunnels underwater worth visiting. Most importantly the possibility to reach Kabarcık Cave from beneath the surface of the water makes this diving point extremely interesting.

Aquarium Bay

This bay is among Kemer's best liked diving spots and is ideal for beginning divers. The Aquarium Bay is approximately 18 minutes from the Kemer Yacht Harbour. It can only be reached by sea. The bay is surrounded by steep cliffs and pine forests, which also has a beautiful pebble beach. The beach is sheltered from the wind and waves and is highly suitable for dives at all depths. It is possible to come across red mullets, bogues, sea breams, grey mullets, chromis, salema porgy, lapins, groupers, octopi, sea urchins, starfishes, as well as barracuda, calamari and stingrays. The deepest point of the bay is 12 metres. The sea floor consists of gravel and sand which varies from place to place. Also it is possible to swim between large rocks covered with colourful sponges and corals, and even to feed the fish by hand. As the name implies, the bay will offer divers immense satisfaction.

Lighthouse - Tunnel

The Lighthouse diving spot appeals to divers of all levels and lies at a distance of 7 minutes from the Kemer Yacht Harbour. This location is covered with rocks and consists of many tunnels and caves. The name of this diving point comes from the reef and tunnel. The Reef starts from a depth of 3 metres and goes down to a depth of 18 metres. There is a wide tunnel from where the reef begins which has depth of 9 metres and a length of 5 metres. The tunnel serves as a habitat for many marine creatures. Divers will enjoy the display of such a rich underwater presence. There are corals and sea lilies in the tunnel covered by colourful sponges and oysters. Many species such as moray eels, octopus, crayfish, coral shrimps, crabs, sea cucumbers, nudibranches, dusky groupers and chromis are found in this place.



Paris II Wreck

This diving spot can be easily reached from the Kemer Yacht Harbour within about 7 minutes. It is the best known diving spot among foreigners in the region. The wreck lies at a depth of 21-31 metres on a sandy surface. The French wreck Paris II is said to appear as if it is almost floating on the surface of the ocean. It sank to the ground in September 1917 through artillery fire by a small Turkish battalion located at Koca Burun Hill that was under the command of Artillery Lieutenant Mustafa Ertuğrul Aker.

Before the war the Paris II was built as a fishing boat which was later converted into a military ship. The length of the boat was 65 metres and its width was 14 metres. The wreck captures the sunlight and has become covered with colourful corals and sponges over time. It not only captures, but reflects the sunlight resulting in a splendid visual display. This is no doubt a highly enticing call for divers.

Recognised among the 50 best diving locations in the world, the Paris II wreck has a very interesting story. After the ship began to sink, 25 Turkish soldiers under the command of a young lieutenant came running to the help of the French sailors and saved their lives by taking them ashore. They shared their dry clothes, their food which was sparse because of the war conditions and treated the French sailors as their guests. The French sailors, who were far away from home and were going through one of the most difficult experiences of their lives, were highly moved by this gesture. The young lieutenant Mustafa Ertuğrul based his principles on universal human values and became very good friends with the captain of the French ship Ronnin. The French captain Major Ronnin gave his dog as a present to the Turkish lieutenant as a keepsake of their friendship and returned to his country. He would go on to report his experience to his superiors and spoke with praise about this Turkish lieutenant. This story of Paris II was verified by fairly recent documented evidence. This moving story could provide the perfect theme for a novel.

In light of the magical atmosphere of this anecdote, the area offers a lively visual display of moray eels, black scorpionfish, crayfish and dusky groupers. In addition, a large steam boiler sits in the middle of the wreck in all its glory along with large amounts of coal briquettes scattered around the wreckage. Divers are likely to see a lot of shells. This diving location was only recently discovered and is suitable for certified and experienced divers.



Pati Wreck

During a heavy storm on January 1, 2001, a Georgian ship named Pati lost control and crashed on the cliffs near the Aquarium Bay in the area of Kiriş in Kemer. The ship split into two. The bow of the ship, which included illegal immigrants from Pakistan and Sri Lanka, immediately sank to the ground, while the stern got stuck in the cliffs and remained there until 2004. In the winter of that year the stern sank as well. The wreck of the 15 metre long ship is at a depth of 5-12 metres on a sandy surface. Since it sharply drops in depth only experienced divers are allowed to dive there. However, professional divers are available to guide beginners.

The masts, chains and anchors are scattered around the wreck and divers can find dusky groupers, moray eels, stingrays and numerous starfish and occasionally tuna fish.



Three Islands

The Three Islands or Üç Adalar in Turkish is one of the special diving centres across Tekirova in Kemer that is of a high standard. Divers, keen to discover the treasures of the sea, flock to this area. Three Islands offers a wealth of diving opportunities. There are four small islands known as Marti, Mağara, Piknik and Küçük Ada. What make them special are their unspoilt natural beauty and criteria that meet world standards. The Münfesih SG 120 was decommissioned by the Turkish Navy and recently sunk in the region to form an artificial reef.

Three Islands X Reef

Among the diving spots of the Three Islands, this reef is among the most abundant. Apart from the reefs extending from the coast, another reef starts 15 meters below the surface and goes to a depth of 55 meters. But they do not have to dive until this depth, because there is a wall north-west of the reef, which descends to a depth of 30 meters. Divers can come across droves of white groupers and dusky groupers in some of the reef edges. Doves of bullet tuna, dentex and leerfish can be seen depending on the season.

Three Islands Pyramid Stones

It is an ideal location for beginners and exploration dives. However, with the company of a good guide three large rocks can be explored on the bottom of the grounds. The upper parts lie between depths of 10-30 meters. If one looks carefully many species of fish can be found, especially a variety of tiny sea hares on the upper parts.

Three Islands Adventure Reef

This reef is located 400 meters from Three Islands and usually has a current. It is only recommended for experienced divers. The upper part is quite shallow and has a depth of 5 meters, but the overall depth can reach 60-70 meters. The centre of the shoal resembles a plateau. On its surface many small migratory fish fall prey to groups of greater amberjack. Some sea hare species can only be found in this reef. Among the variety of fish that can be encountered are barracudas, leerfish, dusky groupers, loggerhead sea turtles, white groupers, stingrays, red porgies, dentex, eaglerays, moray eels, scorpionfish and swallowtail seaperches in lower depths.

Cape Gelidonya Ancient Shipwreck: 3200 year old mystery!

Gelidonya is located on the most westerly end of the Gulf of Antalya, today known as Cape Taşlık, and is the largest of five islands that are lined to the south of the cape. The region lies between the districts of Adrasan and Kumluca and the shipwreck was first discovered by a sponge diver from Bodrum in 1954. The area known for the Cape is also famous for a lighthouse that carries the same name.

The shipwreck lies at a depth of 28 meters and a research expedition made in 1960 by archaeologists revealed that the ship belonged to the Early Bronze Age. These expeditions were also the first academic underwater archaeology research ever conducted in our country. Through these findings it was established that the ship sank in the 13th century BC. What makes the Gelidonya shipwreck even more significant is that the artefacts have uncovered glimpses of the past. The artefacts excavated from the wreck are displayed in the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology. After the wreck was salvaged nothing of importance was left at this location. But those who still want to dive into 3200 years of history are of course free to do so. Similarly fragments of the ship and the ship's anchor are still at the site.

The lighthouse adds a distinct touch to Gelidonya and the surrounding area. It lies on a footpath that attracts many nature enthusiasts.



Finike

This pretty district has a limited number of tourist facilities and its economy is largely based on agriculture. But it possesses a very fascinating diving spot that still remains an enigma.

Suluin Cave

The Suluin Cave, which is located in the Finike district, is considered to be the longest underwater cave in Asia and still remains a mystery. It is referred to as the İncirli or Gök Cave by the local population, but is only suitable for professional divers.

The Underwater Group of Akdeniz University and the Underwater Research and Application Centre established a team that made several dives in this area and also made camera shoots. The team found remains of bones and pottery at a depth of 45 metres, which was recorded on camera. Dr. Mehmet Gökoğlu, led a team who made several dives to the cave. Gökoğlu mentions that the cave went through a dry period, and that between a depth of 40 to 70 metres in the caves, there are stalactites hanging down like thin pencils. According to him this demonstrates that the cave went through a dry period in ancient eras. Gökoğlu also says that diving into the caves is highly dangerous and that the stalactites could break off at even the slightest vibration causing serious damage.

In 1995 the American diver Jarros Jablonski and his team made a descent to the Suluin Cave and reached a verified depth of 122 metres. However, the boundaries and the depth of the cave are still not exactly known. The same year an amateur German group also made an attempt, but this unfortunately led to the deaths of two divers. Today the cave still holds its mystery. In order to make a dive to Suluin Cave one needs to obtain the permission from the Subgovernorate of Finike.

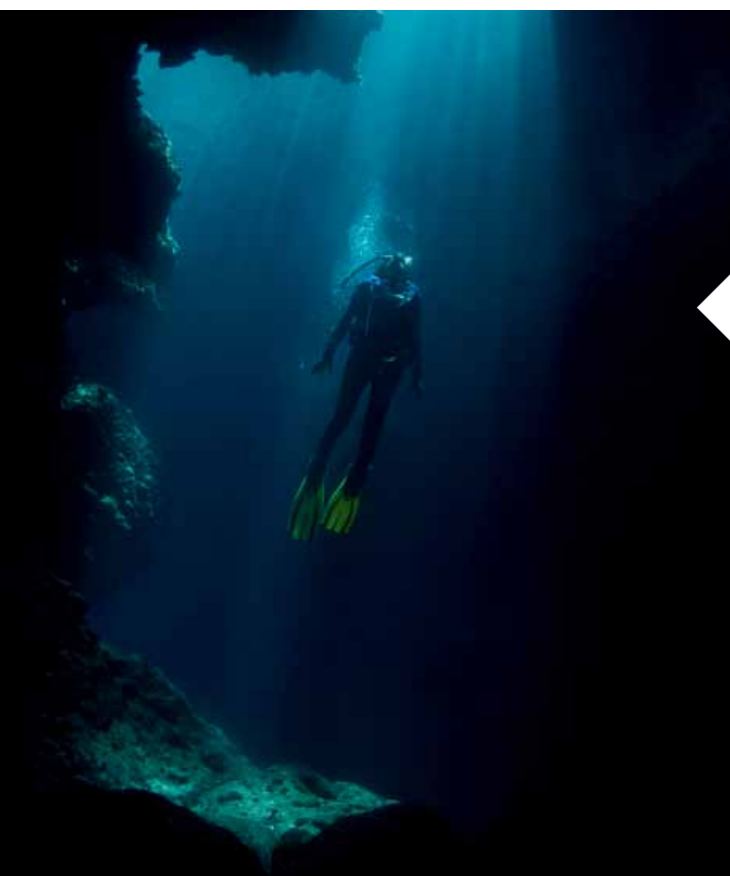
Demre

There are more than 30 diving spots in the district of Demre, known for its Lycian graves. It is however more famously known for St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, and houses the museum of this saint. Research and excavations are still continuing in some parts of the region that is closed off to diving.

This region has numerous caves and worthwhile diving spots where some of the region's foremost diving points are:

Blue Cave

This diving spot is appropriate for each diving level and is full of surprises. It is a fairly large cave that consists of different channels and islets. It takes its name from the blue hue created by the sun's rays which penetrate through a passage or crack. The cave has two galleries consisting of an interior and exterior gallery. The interior gallery open towards a smaller chamber where an air pocket exists. The coral formations and life forms that come with it in the interior and exterior galleries of the cave are highly interesting. More than likely you can come across shoals of shrimps in the interior galleries depending on the season. Outside of the cave, the surface is composed of sand and rocks and reaches a maximum depth of 30 metres.



Antrum

The cave, which has large and small crevices, extends to a length of 50 metres. Divers can often encounter a current along the slope that continues up to the entry of the cave. It has a unique underwater structure due to the presence of hard and soft corals that can only be found in the Mediterranean. It is possible to encounter large group of fish with the periodically intensifying currents.

The Rock

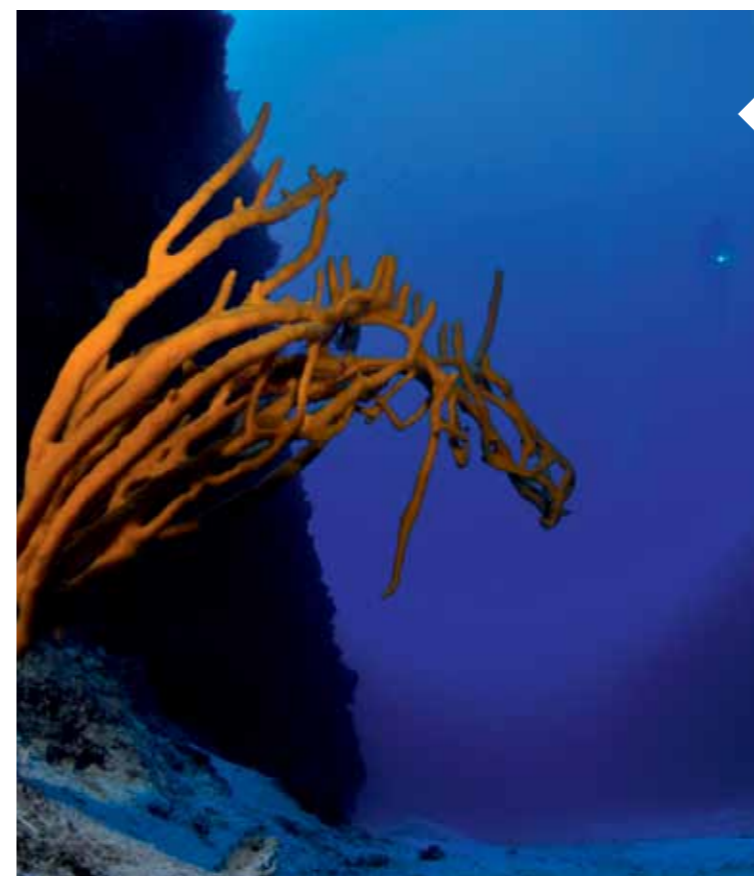
This diving point which is located on the southern part of Kekova Island has two diving routes. In the eastern part, vertical rock formations extend to a depth of 40 metres, whereas the western part leaves its place to shallow diving spots. The area is suitable for divers of all levels and due to a depth that varies between 10 and 40 meters it is extremely convenient for level diving. Thanks to the rocky outcrops in the seabed, the area is home to various species such as groupers, wrasse, crayfish and moray eels. Visibility in the area changes between 15 to 25 metres, and in the periodic currents large shoals of fish burst through.

Iberian Coast Wreck

This area derives its name from the freight ship that sank in February 2003. The ship was 72 meters long and 11 meters wide. The ship broke into three parts while sinking and was scattered in an area between 6 to 29 meters deep. This scattered state of the ship created spectacular views for divers. During the fragmentation of the hull, engine parts from the ship likewise disintegrated. The surface is rocky and despite that the ship's main hull has deteriorated the ship cabins, captain room, living spaces, warehouses, and the bow remains intact. The different levels in depth give both novice and experienced divers the chance to dive in the wreck, while the low visibility adds a mystical appearance. Visibility in the area varies between 10-15 meters and is often subject to currents.

Cave

The presence of three distinct caves of different size and depth offers divers an experience of unequalled beauty. Two of the caves have air chambers on the surface level. Both caves on the surface level are surrounded by walls and one has to pass through the cracks and channels between the rocks to reach the caves. Even though it is perceived as a difficult course, the width of the channel allows for easy movement. The third cave doesn't have an air chamber. It can only be entered at a depth of 16 metres where both the entrance and inner area of the cave is quite narrow. At this point, one has to be very careful and slow to act. For this reason it is recommended to make this dive in the company of guides. However, when entering the cave thousands of shrimp will greet you as if to say "welcome."





Sailing Ship Wreck

This diving point is located approximately 15 minutes from the port of Çayağzı and is mostly preferred for check dives, exploration, training and night dives. This sailing ship sank in 2001 and lies on top of underwater fields displaying a very beautiful imagery. The ship is less susceptible to the tides and bad weather conditions and quite suitable for divers who want to gain more experience.

The wreck lies between 8 to 12 meters, and divers may swim with stingrays whilst seeing marine life of different size and species such as sea slugs, parrot fish, octopus and calamari.

Eğri Harbour

Eğri Harbour, located at the south side of Kekova Island, is a highly preferred area for its shallow waters and with its enjoyable water surface is also suitable for deep dives. A reef is located on the sea bed of sand and sea weed, reaching a depth of 24 meters. The sea life is quite diverse, including groupers and barracudas. Moray eels, conger eels and stingrays are also often seen. The broken amphorae and dead corals can even be seen in shallow water. That is why the area is very attractive for snorkelling skin diving. Visibility changes between 15 to 25 metres and the surface area consists of sand, rocks, weed and ancient artefacts.

The Wall

This diving point is located at the southern side of Kekova Island facing the open sea. It lies at the entrance of Eğri Harbour at a depth between 12 to 40 metres. It has a very good visibility at 20-30 metres, but faces strong currents because of its position. For this reason dives are planned on location according to the direction of the current. It is recommended to dive with an experienced instructor. The deepest point of the Wall is at 35 meters and its bottom surface includes sand and rocks. Though the currents in the area are viewed as a nuisance, they yield a rich marine life. Therefore, many species come to the area for feeding. Barracudas and stingrays are the most prominent species that reside in the area. In ancient days it was situated on the route of trading ships, enabling divers to stumble upon many amphorae from different periods.

Reef

Situated to the south of Kekova Island, the Reef looks towards the open sea and consists of numerous coral reefs from which it derives its name. The reef starts at a depth of 1 metre and descends all the way down to 100 metres. It is only possible to dive in this area under optimal weather and sea conditions. This area is ideal for deep diving reaching a depth of 40 metres and is only appropriate for experienced divers.

The northern and southern face of the reef enables a different variety of dives. The rocky bottom structure gradually deepens on both fronts. The open sea currents have significantly contributed to the biodiversity of the region. Many large and small shoals of fish periodically inhabit the area. The reef deepens gradually and the surface of the area consists of a mixture of rock and sand. The visibility at each level is around 20 to 30 metres, where a large number of rays, sponges and corals appear at almost every descent. Most instructors advise that these expeditions take place in the morning hours, since in the afternoon the strong winds blowing from the west make diving conditions more difficult.



Kaş

Kaş and its surrounding area are among the world's top 50 diving destinations and it is a diving area that is full of surprises. It has many outstanding underwater landscapes that show great variation. In most places visibility reaches nearly 40 metres, which puts the region of Kaş in a very important position. There are more than 40 diving destinations where diving continually takes place throughout the year. Almost all of these destinations are within 30 minutes from Kaş harbour by boat. The shipwrecks, caves, canyons, reefs, underwater tunnels and night dives make Kaş one of the important diving centres of the world. Amphorae dating back more than two thousand years are scattered around the whole region.

The region has a long diving season thanks to its mild climate where on average more than seventy thousand dives take place every year. The area is also an attractive place for snorkelers. Some important diving locations are given below:

Gürmenli Islands

Due to its relatively remote distance to Kaş, this diving spot can be reached with a boat trip and consists of two islands. The larger island to the west is known for its imposing sea wall, but one has to be cautious of the current which sweeps the top of the wall. The diver will be rewarded with the sight of white groupers on the slopes of the wall, stingrays which circle the ancient anchors on the bottom of the sand and groups of leerfish. The smaller island is famous for shoals of fish which can be found in its deep cracks and strange and intricate bare reefs known as "Cappadocia".

Canyon

The Canyon can easily be reached from Kaş and is a diving location full of surprises. After passing through a narrow strait, one will encounter the vertical walls which vary from 3 - 23 meters, whose structure is very fragile and is adorned with hardened algae and corals. According to some divers, descending to these depths gives the sensation of flying. The 60 year old shipwreck "Dimitri" that lies on the bottom is also known as the "Cotton Wreck, because of its load of cotton bales that were stranded on the beach and later whisked away. Reaching this breath-taking underwater canyon is more than satisfying. This place is not recommended for beginners. However it is possible to experience the unique feeling of flying under water with the guidance of the experienced instructors of Kaş.

Oasis Reef

This reef is reached after a thirty minute long boat journey. It is a mountain-shaped reef, surrounded by sand and seaweed. On your way to the reef, you will see many large sea clamps (pinas) and shrimps tucked away in the seaweed. Once you reach the reef a large number of moray eels and cardinal fishes will be waiting for you. You will also see many ancient amphorae. Near the reef is a small wooden shipwreck, which is home to dusky groupers and a rare sort of anemone. There are also barracudas, calamari, nudibranches and sea turtles within the seaweed. This reef teems with marine life, so divers often visit the area more than once.



Neptune Reef

The Neptune Reef is 30 minutes from the harbour of Kaş, and worth seeing with its historical amphorae and small canyon. The top of the reef, also known as Three Rocks or Üç Kayalar lies at a depth of 7 metres. It takes its name from the three rock formations on its top, because they resemble three pyramids. The 2000 year old amphorae are at a depth of 18 metres and are still well-preserved. In the strait between the mainland and the reef that is susceptible to strong currents are a number of fish species such as white groupers or seabreams, grey triggerfish or even sea turtles. At this diving point a retired Coast Guard boat was sunk at a depth of 29 meters to create an artificial reef.

Tunnel

This tunnel has a length of approximately 35 metres and is one of the most popular diving locations of Kaş. As its name implies, this spot evokes the feeling of being in a tunnel and provides an interesting experience for divers. At first you feel as if you enter a dark area like the entrance of a cave, but you can see a dim light at the other end. Once you turn a corner and move towards the white light at the exit, prepare to witness a stunning visual display. As you approach the bottom of the surface you will witness the dance of the small shrimps. The cliffs covered by red-purple hardened algae are a unique opportunity for divers. During your journey you will meet nudibranches, Mediterranean parrotfish, soldier fish and crayfish, and if you are especially lucky, dusky groupers will accompany you.

Flying Fish

This was selected as the best diving location in Turkey by the Scuba-Magazin journal and diving centres. You can even reach the top of the reef by free diving, which is 6-8 metres deep. The reef reaches the bottom of the sea at a depth of 80 metres. At the bottom of the reef at a depth of 60 metres there is a plane wreck of an Italian Savoia-Marchetti war plane which probably took off from one of the Greek islands in World War II. The tail of this wreck, which can be reached after a 6-7 minute long descent, is 70 metres deep. The plane is still in good shape after all these years. Explorations of the wreck revealed that that plane had a forced landing. Though it is far from certain, an old villager from Kaş recounted that they had buried the dead pilot. There are a lot of pink anthias/anthias anthias, leerfish, white groupers and dusky groupers in the area.

Deve Taşı (Camel Stone)

It is one of Kaş's most favourite diving locations. It is possible to dive around the circumference, because of its small size and its proximity to Kaş. At the top there are two summits at a depth of 14 metres through which one can descend to a depth of 16 metres. It derives its name because it resembles a two humped camel. While the western and northern walls run quite deep the southern and eastern walls are 30 metres deep. At a depth of 30 metres divers will come across sandy and rocky surfaces. Currents are especially strong in windy weather, and it is highly possible to see dusky groupers, white groupers, leerfish and barracuda, as well as nudibranches, moray eels and sea turtles.



Uluburun Wreck

This wreck is 8.5 kilometres to the southeast of Kaş. The Uluburun Wreck was discovered in 1982 by the sponge diver Mehmet Çakır in the vicinity of Uluburun. The excavations were conducted by the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology and Underwater Archaeology Institute (INA). This wreck was first excavated by George Bass and afterwards under the direction of Cemal Pulak over a period of eleven years. It is the oldest shipwreck to be housed in a museum. The discovered artefacts are displayed in the Uluburun Hall of the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology.

A replica of the Uluburun Wreck was sunk to the bottom the Hidayet Cove near the Kaş peninsula and an underwater Archaeopark was established, so that this replica can be used for the study of underwater archaeology.

Heybeli Islands

They are located to the north of the group of islands of Kaş and are among the most abundant areas in terms of marine life. Among the special guests that you will be able to see are sea clumps on sandstone rocks, fish fry hidden in the posidonia sea grass, dusky groupers and white groupers swimming along the deepening slopes and sea turtles, who are the guardians of the reef that reaches to a height of 5 meters under the surface. This location has a rich underwater marine life where you will be able to witness barracudas and leerfish preying on sand smelts. A pleasant surprise in your excursion will be seahorses which you might see among the seaweed.

Kalkan

The waters of Kalkan are ideal for divers who want to dive professionally. The currents, strong winds, deep diving, ecosystem, and ancient shipwrecks demonstrate the wealth of the region's diving attractions. The ability of dusky groupers to stand almost still against the strong currents has to be seen. Sea turtles, tuna, stingrays and sharks are among the animals inhabiting the area. The area offers many possibilities for the new beginners.

The Patara Canyon is awash with a large variety of corals and sponge. The Fener wall which descends from 11 metres to a depth of 132 metres teems with life and is very colourful. Öksüz Island has many species belonging to the shark family.

Blue Cave

The Blue Cave lies at the coast between Kaş and Kalkan. Its distance from Kaş is 18 kilometres, while it is six kilometres from Kalkan. Located near Kaputaş Beach, it is known that seals used to live inside the Blue Cave. This cave was discovered by the geologist Dr. Temuçin Aygen in 1972. The rays of the sun enter the cave, being reflected from under the surface of the sea and creating bright blue phosphorescent light. The cave is 50 metres long, 40 metres wide and 15 metres high.



The Duchess of York - Sakarya Wreck

This shipwreck starts from a depth of 5 metres along the gradually descending wall. It was a large cargo ship which sank around 90 years ago. The stern lies at a depth of 15-20 metres. This part of the dive is suitable for less experienced divers. The bow of the ship lies at a depth of 45-60 metres and should only be attempted by expert divers.

French Wall

This is a steep wall that lies on the eastern edge of Kalkan Bay and is only 15 minutes from the harbour by boat. This steep wall descends to a depth of 60-80 metres underwater. It is a wonderful experience for those who want to sense floating underwater. Many marine creatures can be found along the wall such as moray eels, squids and seabreams.

Islands

These islands are visible to the naked eye from Kalkan and are among the most visited spots by divers. The Rat and Snake Island lie at the centre of the currents that flow from the open sea to Kalkan. These currents have resulted in many strange formations, which make the region stand out as a peculiar diving spot. This area is also very suitable for snorkel dives. The Rat Island to the north is ideal for beginners due to its calm waters. The wall which is found on the southern edge of Snake Island descends to a depth of 80-100 metres and offers very different alternatives. You are highly likely to encounter tunas, groupers, skates and barracudas.

Firnaz Bay

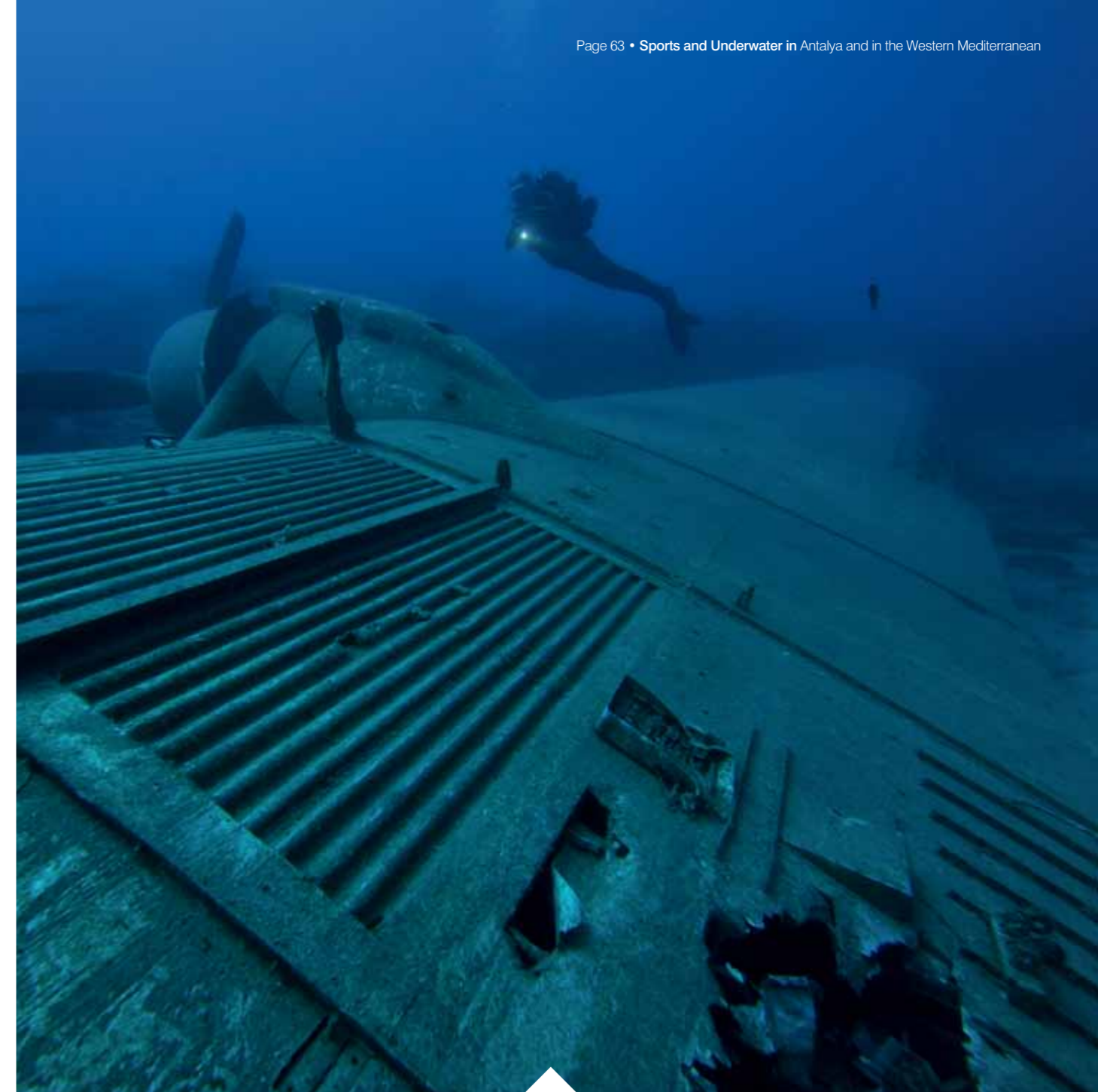
This small bay lies at the West of Kalkan Bay and is an area that is covered with sand and seaweed. It is an ideal place for those who are starting to dive and visibility is around 20-25 metres which makes this diving location even more interesting. Many sea creatures will accompany you during your dives.

Dolphine Reef

Dolphin Reef reaches a depth of around 30 metres. At 13 metres there is a giant reef, with clear visibility. Natural ridges and protrusions provide a very nice backdrop. The bottom of the sea is covered with rocks and sand in some places. It is a suitable location for all those who like to dive and it is also an ideal point for beginners enjoy a pleasant surprised.

Öksüz Island

Öksüz Island is approximately 40 minutes from the harbour. There are two separate diving points where generally night dives take place. There are walls in the area that go down to a depth of 35 metres. Night dives are usually made in more shallow waters. What makes Öksüz Island especially interesting is there are octopus and crayfish hiding in the cracks of the rocks. Barracudas, white groupers and leerfish are often encountered in dives during the day. Red shelled crabs can be often seen during night dives and are popular with underwater photo enthusiasts.



Heybeli

This island is known for the thousands of birds that inhabit it. There are four different diving points on the island. It is among the most beautiful diving locations in the region and is noteworthy for its stunning surroundings. Situated 45 minutes from the harbour of Kalkan, the visual display of the shoal of dentex fish in the southern end of the island shouldn't be missed. You can observe them up to a distance of 80 metres. Heybeli reaches a depth of 45-50 metres in the east. In this area you may come across large white groupers which hide in the reeds and rocks. Another deep diving spot can be found in the west of the island where one can dive down to a depth of 40 metres. The large shoals of dusky groupers and white groupers are considered to be the natural residents of Kalkan. As the eastern part of the island is rather shallow it is mainly preferred for practice dives. Boats stop by the island on daytrips, where visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of the island and the variety of birds.

Manavgat

B-24 American Fighter Plane Wreck

In August 1944, a B-24 American fighter plane on a return trip to its base in Cyprus was probably shot when flying over the Aegean Sea. It managed to fly all the way to Manavgat but finally crashed into the sea 200 meters off the coast. The crew were saved by the inhabitants of Çenger village. In 1995, one of the surviving aircraft personnel, Roy Newton, came to the region together with a cameraman. He went to the exact place where the wreck was situated and dived to the spot making some film footage. He also met the villagers who had saved him all those years ago.

In 1995, an attempt to salvage the plane wreck was made and the cockpit was brought up to the shore. It was displayed in the gendarmerie station of Çenger village for a while and was later sent to Istanbul. The other parts of the body and the tail of the plane lie 200 metres off Dilkum, which is 25 kilometres from Manavgat on the way to Alanya. There are no signs indicating the position of the plane and special permission has to be obtained for a dive.



Alanya

An important feature of this popular tourism destination is that most of the diving sites are situated around the city centre and the coastline of Alanya Castle. Thanks to these qualities, several dives a day can be made and there are 50,000 dives per year on average. The interesting flora, the variety of underwater marine life and the Mediterranean monk seal make Alanya a popular destination in this regard.

There are 13 diving sites in the district: Aquarium, Amphora, Pirate, Terrace, Middle Cave, Lovers Cave, East and West Divarda, Phosphorus Cave, Kırıktaş, Tunnel, Rambo and the Artificial Reef. A former police boat was brought to Alanya from Istanbul in 2006 in two pieces and was sunk off the coast of Alanya. It has the distinction of being Turkey's first artificial reef.

Aquarium

It is approximately 4-5 minutes from Alanya by boat. The depth varies between 4 to 25 metres. Dives for educational purposes usually take place in the region. The seabed consists of rock and seaweed. Here octopus, scorpion fish, moray eels, groupers, sergeant fish can be seen in abundance.

Amphora

This is the second nearest diving location to the harbour and takes 5 minutes to reach by boat. Its name comes from the many amphora shards that litter the area. The region is approximately 29 metres deep and is home to a great variety of marine life. The surface is rocky, and fish species like dusky groupers, moray eels, octopus, stingrays and grey triggerfish are often seen.

Pirate Cave

Pirates played a crucial role in Alanya's history, which adds to the mystery of the region. This cave is the most popular diving spot off Alanya and is a feasible dive for both inexperienced and experienced divers. The distance from Alanya Harbour is 8-10 minutes. Its depth varies from 10 to 32 metres. Divers are pleasantly surprised when they stumble upon a shipwreck at a depth of 25 metres. The entrance of the cave is at a depth of 12 metres. There is an ancient millstone 1 metre in diameter right at the entrance of the cave. The stones in the cave reflect the light, and create a fascinating fiesta of colours. This particular dive is very safe.

Middle Cave

Middle Cave is 14 minutes away from Alanya Harbour. It has a minimum depth of 15 metres and a maximum depth of 34 metres. The cave's entrance is located at a depth of 15 metres. This site is ideal for experienced divers and deep-water diving. The surface is rocky. Here, one might encounter dusky groupers, octopus, brown meagre, moray eels and sea breams.

Lovers Cave

The depth of this area is between 10 to 34 metres. It is a suitable place both for inexperienced and experienced divers. The seabed is mainly rocky. It has a rich underwater life. An ancient anchor is located at 20 meters depth. There is a small and enclosed cave at the foot of the mountain at a depth of 4 metres. Its sailing distance to Alanya Harbour is 15 minutes.



Rambo

Rambo is among the most popular diving points in the Alanya region with more than 50 thousand dives take place every year. A seal, named "Zehra" by divers, adds to the appeal of the site. It is approximately 25 minutes to the harbour and in close proximity to the world famous Cleopatra Beach. The entrance of the cave lies at a depth of 13 metres and is large enough to accommodate 4-5 divers side by side. A seven-metre long tunnel leads the divers to the cave that is semi-filled with oxygen. The air pocket above the surface can reach more than 10 metres. The stalactites and stalagmites in the cave are definitely worth seeing. They are said to resemble Damlatas Cave, one of the most visited sites of Alanya. The seabed of the cave is sandy and is also home to a seal. If you are lucky, you might get to see "Zehra" inside the cave.

Tunnel

This is a tunnel lying west of the castle with its entrance and exit located at 13 meters depth. The boat travel time to Alanya Harbour is approximately 25 minutes. The width of the tunnel is between 3-6 metres and its length is about 42 metres. There are also small pockets (chambers) to be found and a rich underwater life.

Phosphorescent Cave

This cave is located 20 minutes by boat from Alanya Harbour. The depth of this area is between 8 to 33 metres. There are two different caves: one at a depth of 5 metres and the other at a depth of 12 metres. The seabed is rocky and the area has a rich marine life. This site is suitable for both licensed divers and trainees. Night diving is also possible.

East and West Divarda

There are two separate diving locations on the eastern and western side of the peninsula where Alanya Castle is located. The distance to the harbour is two hours. The seabed is mainly rocky. Both places show similar characteristics. Their depth varies between 5-40 metres. This is a highly suitable for beginner divers.



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

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

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Walking, Trekking

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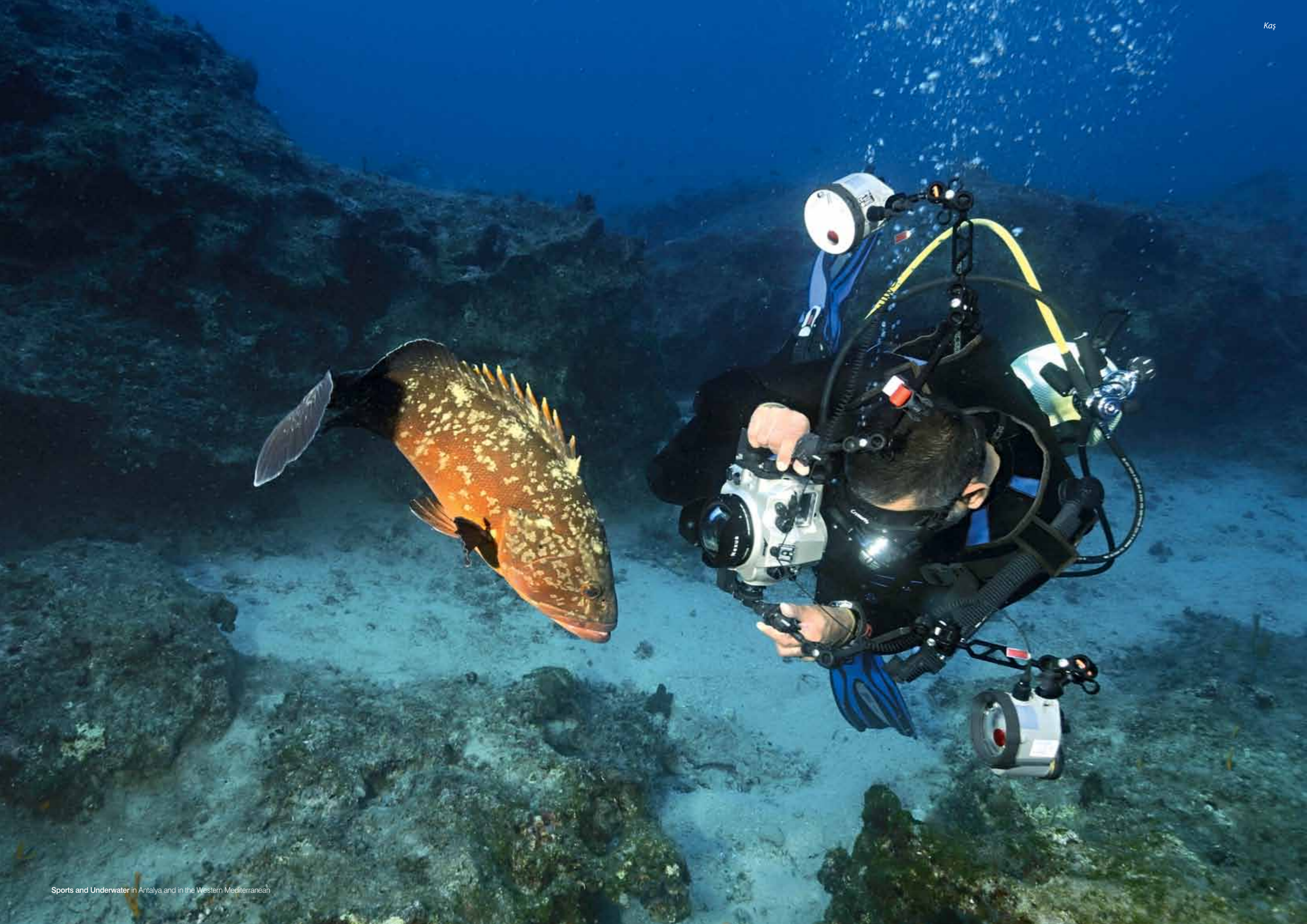
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Important Telephone Numbers

- Tourism Line 179
- Emergency 112
- Complaints 184







Dragoman Outdoors

Dragoman Travel Agency, authorized by the Ministry of Tourism and Union of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB License no: A-4615), was founded in May 2002 and is based in Kaş, ANTALYA to arrange outdoor activities mainly around the Lycian region.

Dragoman Outdoor Activities Centre

Trekking and hiking are among the most popular. Walking on easy paths, passing through dramatically rich Mediterranean maquis, viewing snowy hills, hidden canyons, green valleys and cool water springs.

Archipel Diving Centre

With its peculiar shore formations, ancient and modern wrecks, amphoras from ancient civilizations, reefs, canyons and large caves, KAŞ is internationally recognized as an amazing dive destination, and one of the best in the Mediterranean. Our rocky reefs have been chosen as "the best in Turkey" by the Turkish diver community.

Ekomarin Sea Kayak Centre

Sea Kayak Centre offers daily SEA KAYAKING tours to discover the magical turquoise coasts of Kaş.



dragoman-turkey.com



Kadir's Tree Houses

It is every kid's dream to sleep in a tree house. You can be sure that you will experience an unforgettable and extraordinary holiday at Kadir's Tree Houses.

Among our most popular facilities at Kadir's Tree Houses is the Olympos Diving Center.

We welcome you to explore the underwater paradise of southern Turkey with Olympos Diving Center. We are located in Adrasan in the Olympos National Park with convenient connections from Antalya.

Our dive center is licensed by the Turkish Underwater Sport Federation and is also an official PADI resort. We offer professionally guided dives daily for licensed divers, discovery dives for beginners and courses in CMAS and PADI.

The Olympos National Park offers ample attractions such as rock climbing, hiking, ancient ruins and the burning flames of Chimaera.



kadirstreehouses.com



Olympos Teleferik

The Olympos Cable Car in the district of Kemer is considered an engineering marvel which connects the sea to the summit 365 days of the year. The cableway is 4350 meters long and goes up to an altitude of 1639 meters in 10 minutes with two cabins for 80 passengers. The cableway is the longest in Europe.

The journey passes over the unique Beydağları-Olympos National Park above pristine cedar forests and deep ravines, piercing through the clouds.

The main reward lies at the summit after an exciting ascent. The mountain is covered with snow half of the year and greets the visitors with outstanding views in all directions. According to day or season, the visitors can find themselves above the clouds or within a snow flurry and sometimes the sun even seems to be within their grasp... They will be mesmerised by the stunning scene of the Mediterranean Sea stretching over many kilometres while enjoying the delicious dishes and beverages of Shakespeare Bistro. For those who seek excitement they will be able to make the highest paragliding descent with Escape Paragliding. Many activities and events can be held in the indoor restaurants or panoramic decks during summer. At the end of the day your body and soul will be replenished without you even noticing.



olymposteleferik.com



Papillon Hotels Resort & Spa*****

Papillon Hotels Resorts & Spa has been providing high quality service to Turkish tourism for more than 20 years.

We are serving professional football teams worldwide in our Hotels Papillon Zeugma, Papillon Ayscha and Papillon Belvil. There are six football fields in the Papillon Sport Center and one football field within the grounds of Papillon Belvil. To meet the needs of football teams a special drainage and germination system is used on the fields.

The Papillon Sport Center is fully equipped to provide teams with the possibility for night matches and facilities for live broadcasting. Amenities such as parking areas, club building, cafeteria, press and meeting rooms, VIP lodge and spacious storage facilities cater to the needs of guests.

Papillon Hotels Resort & Spa offers the best hospitality for international and domestic football teams during their inter-seasonal training camps.



papillon.com.tr



Sirene Davras Hotel

Established in Davras near Isparta at the foothills of the Kulova district is one of the most accessible ski centers in Turkey, Sirene Davras Ski & Wellnes Hotel, due to its proximity to the airports of Isparta and Antalya. It is located in a very convenient area in terms of skiing and mountain tourism with its main road open 365 days a year and its proximity to many town centers. At an altitude of 1650 meters the hotel offers ski-enthusiasts a spectacular surface and slopes and three different ski trails thanks to the three ski lifts that will take the skier to the summit.

Guests can pamper themselves at the indoor swimming pool, the modern and large SPA center with several salon services, massages, facial and body treatments. With its restaurant serving serving full board, its several bars and its lounge area with fireplace the hotel is designed to make your holiday unforgettable.

The clean and oxygen-rich air in spring and summer makes it suitable for sports such as hiking, trekking, mountain biking and horse riding. The hotel is an ideal place for winter tourism, but also enables an alternative holiday opportunity for those who want to be intimate with nature. The football fields within the hotel complex provide an ideal camp period to the football teams.



siredavrasotelbilgi.com

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