

A Journey to





A Journey to **AYDIN**





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* The QR codes, located throughout the book, detailed location each of tourist destination. For example, when the QR code on the right side is scanned, the location of Aydın is accessed.



Aydın, the land of Efes*, where Mediterranean beauty and rich history are blended together to form an adventure of a lifetime.

These lands are filled with juicy figs and green olives surrounded by
a coastline ebbing and flowing with serene blue and green waters.

While soaking up the luscious environment, you will have the opportunity
to observe local monuments dedicated to the brave heroes of the Turkish Independence War,
as well as archaeological sites and museums commemorating the powerful empires
that inhabited the land.

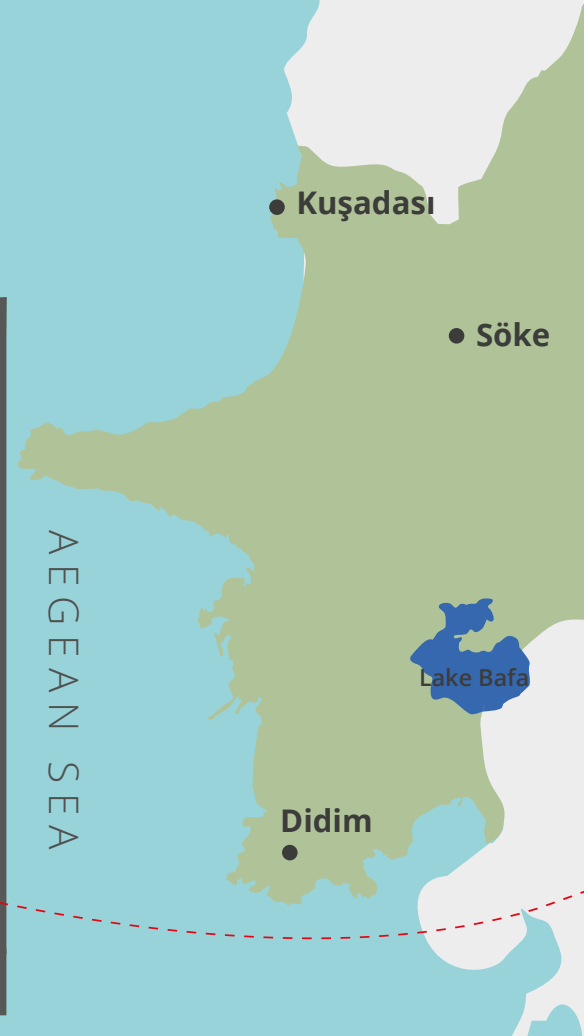
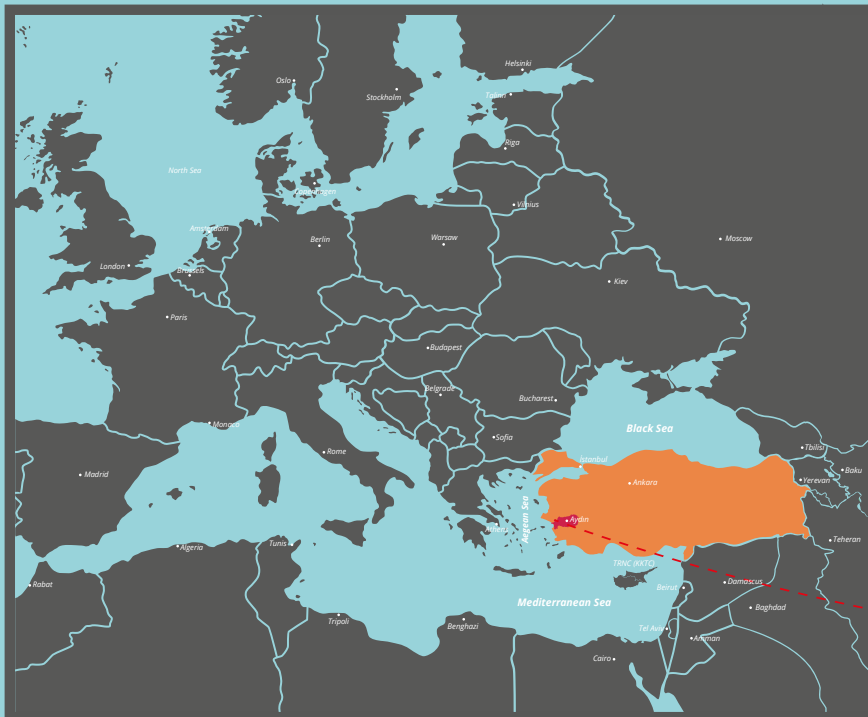
You are invited to Aydın, the most beautiful land under the sky.

* The Efe is the name for local hero in Aegean Region. Efes were renowned for their bravery, agility, audacity and character. During the Turkish War of Independence, they defended their homeland by fighting off the enemies of the national forces until the foundation of Turkish Republic.

Where are we going?

Land of Efes

AYDIN





İzmir

Manisa

Buharkent

Nazilli

Kuyucak

Sultanhisar

Germencik

Efeler

Köşk

İncirlioiva

AYDIN

Yenipazar

Koçarlı

Karacasu

Topçam Dam

Bozdoğan

Çine

Karpuzlu

Kemer Dam

Denizli

Muğla

Would you like to take a short overview at the history of Aydın?

Aydın is in the south of the Aegean Region. In ancient times, south of Aydın named Ionia where was located in the north of Caria Region. It has been an area preferred by people since prehistoric times with its climatic conditions and fertile lands suitable for a healthy life. The rock paintings found during the surveys in and around the Beşparmak Mountains date back to the Chalcolithic Age.

Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze Age cultures are observed in the region. According to the Hittite written sources, many cities were established in this region. Some of these cities are Karkisa or Karkiya (Caria), Apasa (Ephesus), Milewanda (Miletus), Pariyana (Priene), İlyalanda (Alinda) and Waliwanda (Alabanda).



Miletus Ancient Theatre

Settlement Structure of
Aydın
in Ancient History

- Coastal Cities of Caria Region
- Valley Cities of Caria Region
- Hillside Cities of Caria Region
- Ionia Cities
- Religious Centers of Caria Region



The region, which joined the Lydian lands in 7th-6th centuries BC, was occupied by the Persians in 546 BC. Alexander the Great conquered the region in 334 BC. When Attalus III abdicated the throne of the Pergamon Kingdom in 133 BC, the region became under the rule of the Roman Empire. During the long peaceful period of the Roman Empire, the cities in the region experienced economic harmony, as the wealth of the people increased. When the Roman Empire

was divided in 395 AD, the Eastern Roman Empire took control of the region.

The Aydınid Dynasty was the main inhabitants of the city by the first quarter of 14th century. The Ottoman Empire gained control of the land in the 15th century, a sanjak was declared, consolidating the small surrounding cities with Aydın.



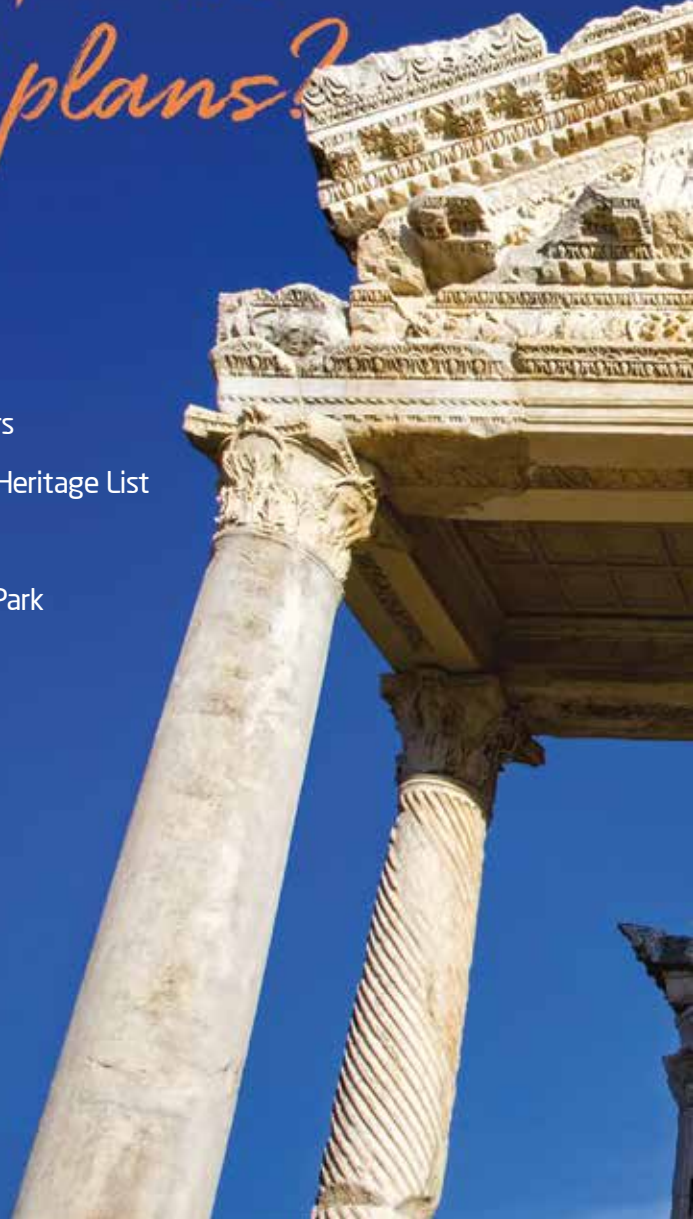
Aydin was occupied by the Greeks on 27 May, 1919. The local patriots, with cooperative efforts of the Efes and the local government, formed a resistance against the occupation. The city was liberated on 7 September, 1922.

The city was declared as one of the 19 metropolises in Turkey, according to official gazette dated 6 December, 2012.



Why should Aydin be added to travel plans?

- Possessing natural and historical beauties
- Historical cities that witnessed thousands of years
- The Ancient City of Aphrodisias which is on UNESCO's World Heritage List
 - 5-months-long summer season
- The Dilek Peninsula Great Menderes Delta National Park
 - where green and blue meet
 - Numerous beaches with blue flags
- Blue voyage promising clear sea and virgin bays
- Local products that hold the secret of long life
- Souvenirs and daily items matured by time







THE CENTER OF ARCHAIC CIVILIZATION

Aydin

APHRODISIAS *(Karacasu)*

It is a city dedicated to Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, love, nature and fertility. It is located in the district of Karacasu in Aydın. The marble statues that came to life in the city, which was an art center with the famous sculpture school in the Roman Period, are exhibited in the museum in the ancient city today. The temple of Aphrodite, the best preserved stadium in the ancient world and the monumental gate called Tetrapylon, which is known as the symbol of the city, are worth seeing.

Aphrodisias takes place in UNESCO World Heritage List since 2017.



Flavius Palmatus

Aphrodisias was discovered by Ara Güler, who is one of the most famous photographers and journalists in Turkey, when he took photographs of the newly built dam in 1958. Inside the ancient city, there is also an exhibition of photographs of the ancient city ruins and the villagers, taken when it was discovered by Ara Güler.



Aphrodisias Ancient City



TRALLES *(Three Eyes / Efeler)*

Tralles, also known as “Three Eyes” in Turkish, was named by Argives and Trallians after Dorians migrated to the area or was named after an Amazonian called Tralla or Thiba. The only structure that survives today is the remains of the gymnasium, which calls it “three eyes”. There were habitations, shops, latrines, walls, burial places, sacrarium and a stadium around the gymnasium that mostly belong to Roman and Byzantine era.

The city was established in the 13th century BC, and it was famous for the arts of sculpting and ceramics. It was also an important center of eparchy for the Byzantine Empire. The city was conquered by the Seljuks in the 13th century. It is currently visited by many history and archeology enthusiasts.

*Tralleis, famous for its leather and red pottery production in the early ages, was a city of sculpture and ornamental art. The world-famous sculptors of Aphrodisias were students of the school in Tralleis. The **Farnese Bull** and **Young Athlete (Ephebe)** are the world's famous examples of sculpting art. In fact, many prestigious sculptors of that time studied in the Tralles schools such as Apollonius and Tauriskos, as well as Anthemius who was one of the architects of Hagia Sophia.*





NYSA (*Sultanhisar*)

Nysa, 3 kilometers north of Sultanhisar, is an ancient city founded on the sides of the Tekkecikdere river in the 3rd century BC during the Hellenistic period and served as a bridge over the transportation and trade routes connecting Anatolia to Caria and Ionia. It offers a romantic view because of the fact that it was established along the both sides of the stream. As Turkey's first archeological park to be opened to the public, the city hosts architecture and engineering from early Roman and late Roman period which were built specifically for the geography of the land. The gym where young men were raised, the gerontikon (council of the elderly) where the political and commercial life of the city occurred, 3 bridges and a tunnel that brought both sides together; they reflect the spirit of the city and give an idea about the lifestyle of the period.

Nysa also was a cultural and educational hub of its time. In fact, the famous Greek geographer, and writer of the Geographica, Strabo maintained his studies in Nysa. Furthermore, the library of Nysa, which was constructed around the 2nd century AD and after the Ephesus Celsus Library, is considered one of the best preserved ancient libraries in Anatolia.


Nysa is visited by thousands of tourists every year thanks to its 12,000-seat horseshoe amphitheater, agora supported by double row columns, stadium known as an amphitheater, sacred temple called akharaka in ancient times, and city walls from the Byzantines.



Nysa Ancient Library



Nysa Ancient City



According to the story, three brothers from Lacedaemon, Athymbros, Athymbrada and Hydrela, built three cities that they gave their own names. Later, Nysa was founded by the inhabitants of these three provinces because they lived inadequately. Strabo, the famous geographer of that period, stated in his book, Geographica, that people from Nysa agreed on the fact that Athymbros was the real founder of Nysa.



Temple of Apollo/ Medusa Head

DIDYMA *(Didim)*

Didyma is not actually an ancient city but a sanctuary and a prophetic centre which is linked to the holy path of Miletus.

The Temple of Apollo was built in honor of Apollon, the god of all arts, music, poetry and fire also known as the oracular god. The temple is in Didyma holy lands where was a prophecy center. Strabon, the famous geographer of that period, defines the Temple of Apollo, one of the most important divination centers of the world in antiquity, as the largest and the most magnificent temple. According to legend, Apollo taught the

oracular secrets of the universe to Bronchos, a shepherd whom he loved dearly. As a sign of gratitude, Bronchos erected a temple in the name of Apollo. Kings were known to consult oracles to foresee the outcome of a battle or war. The sick also sought cleansing and healing from oracles. A few months before the prophetic rituals, priests and priestesses would prepare the temple by sanitizing the holy place. During rituals, animals were sacrificed, people wrote their wishes on a piece of paper with holy songs and special rituals. After the ritual, the nuns conveyed the message of the gods to the owner of the wish as a poem.

The first structure of the temple is assumed to be at the end of the 8th century BC. The temple had 124 columns in double rows, some of which still stand today. The temple, where unique ornaments and rare handiworks are exhibited, differs from other temples by its architecture, plan and mythological stories. When the Romans conquered Didyma, Emperor Theodosius banned fortune-telling and prophecies. Thus, the temple lost its importance. When you visit the temple, you can convey your wishes to gods. Perhaps you could even hear a nun whispering in your ear the poetic messages of gods at that time.

Approximately 2500 years ago, long before Temple of Apollo was built, there was a grove of laurel trees, water sources and wells that were considered sacred. God Zeus first saw Leto here. Two gods enjoyed each other. Later, the Leto gave birth to their twins Apollo and Artemia. It is accepted that the word "Didymos", which means twin, was given to Didyma / Didim because of the twin gods.



MAGNESIA *(Germencik)*

This ancient city established by Magnes, can be found in the Ortaklar settlement of Germencik county. Strategically positioned to form a triangle between Priene, Ephesus and Tralles, the city quickly became an important commercial center. The city owes its reputation to the famous architect Hermogenes for his designs and applications.

According to legend, the Magnes left their homeland of Thessaly and immigrated to Island of Crete where they established the city of Magnesia. According to the prophecy, they were then to wait 80 years for a white crow to come. Once the crow was seen, representatives were sent to Delphi where they received a second prophecy. The second prophecy demanded they relocate to the foothills of Mount Thorax (Gümüş) under the command of Leucippus. Once they learnt the prophecy, they followed the Meander (Great Menderes) River, which guided them to the city called Mandrolytia. Once ashore, Leucippus, the leader of Magnes, would meet Leukophryne, the daughter of Mandrolytos. The girl would open the gates of the city to her enemies for her love.

It is assumed that the name Mandrolytia, which was seized with the help of Leukophryne, was later changed to Magnesia and the name of the city was changed to Magnesia to commemorate the Magnets.



Magnesia Ancient City





Alinda Ancient City

ALINDA *(Karpuzlu)*

Alinda was an important Caria city built on a high steep hill. Alinda attracts attention with two acropolises, which were built in the 4th century BC, were encircled by stone walls. Some of the structures of the agora in the south, aqueducts, which used to nourish the city, and the 35-lines-seater theatre building, which was built by the command of Alexander the Great, still stand today. The city, enriched with attractions such as the palace of the Queen, tombs, cisterns and sewer system, invites everyone to get a closer glimpse of a replicated city of Karia.



Alinda had once belonged to the Hittites until it was given to Queen Ada of Caria by Alexander the Great. According to Strabo, when Ada the daughter of Hecatomnus was exiled from Halicarnassus, she claimed the city as her own. The city adopted the Hellenistic culture, but maintained its significance also during Roman period.

MILETUS *(Didim)*

According to Herodotus, Miletus, the gem of Ionia, was one of the largest and most important port cities on the Anatolian coast. Miletus, once known as the philosophers' town, is only 20 km far from Didim. Located on Ionia's Anatolian coast, Miletus quickly became a popular coastal town in the region known for its well-organized street plan. In fact, it is believed that Hippodamus of Miletus was the one who introduced the concept of the vertical grid street plan. As a major coastal town in the region, the city was a strategically established between the Aegean and Anatolia which proved had locational significance for merchants. The local economy was booming, and saw its brightest era during the 8th and 7th centuries BC. It was occupied by Persians in 546 BC. Afterwards, it became independent and lived independently during Roman period. However, it lost its sea connection so weakened commercially and lost its importance like many ancient cities in the Aegean.

In the city, there are baths, agora, gymnasium, stoa and sacred constructions which carry traces of different periods and civilizations that ruled the port in ancient times. Standing to this day, an ancient Roman theater, with a great acoustic with a capacity of 15,000 is visited by many. In the local museum, it is not only possible to see the ruins of Miletus, but also the Ancient City of Priene and the Temple of Apollo. Miletus Museum is a museum where visitors are able to appreciate both the visual beauty and scientific value of its indoor and outdoor exhibits.



The museum also commemorates the greats, such as Thales of Miletus, the father of philosophy, Isidoros, the architect of Hagia Sophia, and Daphnis, the architect of the Temple of Apollo.





Rumor has it, a poor man from Miletus once had a long quarrel with Zeus, as neither of them would take a step back from where they were standing. Zeus toted the fact that he had the upper hand being he is god: "Look! Don't make me angry anymore otherwise I will throw a thunderbolt and burn you alive!". The poor man spoke calmly: "Almighty Zeus, you have just proved how you were wrong with your attitude now." Even if nobody knows what happened to that poor man, the Miletians obviously had the same mindset as god. 2600 years ago, Thales, considered the first philosopher in history, laid the foundations of rational thought and philosophy in this city. It is not a coincidence that Thales and his students laid the foundations of positive science known as "school of physicists" in here.

ALABANDA (Çine)



It is approved by historians that Alabanda is an important ancient city as much as Ephesus...

Today, Alabanda is called Araphisar/Doğanyurt. It is located 7 km far from the county of Çine in Aydın. Its establishment is traced back to 3000 BC. Alabanda was the only city which was permitted to mint gold coins in the region, as well as artistically superior. Miletus, Priene, Tralles, and Nysa were united with Alabanda when the city was declared the capital in the 1st century BC. As acknowledged by Strabo, the locals were rich, appreciate entertainment and there were many local girls that could play the harp. It is not surprising that historians think Alabanda as important as Ephesus Ancient City considering

its council building as an indication of democracy initiation in Anatolia. Stephanus of Byzantium gives the following information about where the name Alabanda comes from. "Ala", which means horse in Carian language, and "Banda" which means victory. The city was named after Alabandus, the son of King Car, a victorious horse rider. On the other hand, according to the famous Roman statesman and writer, Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC), wrote the name Alabanda refers to Alabandus who was worshipped by citizens of Alabanda until the beginning of Roman Empire.



Alabanda Ancient City





According to the legend, Marsyas, the shepherd who found the flute cursed by Athena, started play. He loved his voice so much that he mastered as he played and captivated those around him. And he said, "The Apollo of God cannot sound better than my flute. Apollo heard rumors and Marsyas proposed competition but on one condition: winner could do anything to the loser. Although Marsyas won the first round, Apollo cunningly suggested playing instruments from backside for the second round, and when Marsyas tried to play flute, he could not produce a single note. Apollo stripped the skin off of Marsyas. It is said that the tears of nine muses who wept the death of Marsyas formed the Marsyas River, which is known today as the Çine Creek.



PRIENE (Söke)

The city was established on the route which goes between Söke, which is in the southwestern district of Aydın, and the Mycale Mountain (Samsun Mountain) hillsides. Although it was one of the most beautiful coastal cities of the period, it is now stretched from the sea thanks to the alluviums brought by the Great Menderes River for centuries. As one of the members of Ionian League as Miletus, it shared their dominant geographical position in the area which held quite a defensive advantage.

The first written sources found about the city dates back to the 7th century BC. Some important constructions are the temples of Demeter, Zeus, Athena, and the temples of Egypt, agora, bouleuterion (council of citizens), the house of Alexander the Great, Byzantine church, housing zone, and the necropolis. The ancient theatre in the city is considered one of the most alluring examples of Hellenistic architecture.

The city was built geometrically according to grid street plan which was developed by Hippodamus of Miletus. The city was known to have steep streets. Also, it is one of the most beautiful examples of city planning in the ancient times.

Priene archeological site was added to the Tentative List of UNESCO in 2018. It is expected to be recommended for UNESCO World Heritage List in the upcoming years.





Natural Beauties



DİLEK PENINSULA GREAT MENDERES DELTA NATIONAL PARK

It is one of the unique natural territories of Turkey and the world which is a home to endangered animals and plants.

The national park which takes place in the south of Dilek Peninsula and located in Davutlar Neighbourhood of Kuşadası county, is a peaceful place where green and blue come together. It is an international wetland. The park has a rich ecosystem that 209 bird species can be seen in. It is an incubation area for crested pelicans and a shelter for dwarf cormorants, both of which are endangered animals. It is a habitat for the Mediterranean monk seal and sea turtles that are under protection in Mediterranean countries. In the north of the national park, almost all plant species of the Mediterranean maquis shrubland are found with the most alive and healthy specimens. It is one of the rare places that snowball and Juniper usphoenicia grow, and it is also the only place which Quercus ilex and Mediterranean cypress (Cupressus sempervires) grow.

The place is visited by approximately seven hundred thousand domestic and foreign tourists each year. Not only the visitors can practice sea sports in arranged areas but also they can go trekking and mountain cycling. On the other hand, they can join activities such as taking photography, hand-line fishing, cultural walking, birdwatching and botanical tours.

Güzelçamlı known as Panionium, where political and religious meetings of 12 Ionia cities were held in ancient times, is an archeological site which is the favorite of tourists along with its nature and shallow sea in the entrance of national park that has fine sand on the beaches.



A piece of heaven...



Dilek Peninsula / Kuşadası

A JOURNEY TO AYDIN | 33

It is said that during heated arguments between Zeus and Poseidon, Zeus sought refuge in the hills of the Dilek Peninsula to avoid his brother's rage. While on the run, Poseidon wrathfully raised his trident and formed enormous waves that turned the sea upside-down. Zeus saw the cave, and made it his hideout until his brother calmed down. He even managed to have a bath thanks to the warring waters that reached the mouth of the cave.



CAVE OF ZEUS

A true hotspot for anyone looking to take a swim in mythological waters...

The cave is close to the entrance of Dilek Peninsula and Great Menderes Delta National Park. The cave is 10 to 15 m deep. Green and blue waters fill the cave due to the combination of waters from the river and the sea. Its bottom is shaped like a pool, which is formed by dissolving limestone due to a sinkhole and a subterranean river. The cave, in which swimming both in the summer and the winter is possible, contains mud that is applied for the sake of visitors' beauty.



KIRAZLI VILLAGE

Located 11 km far from Kuşadası, this ecological village has preserved its nature and traditional living style throughout the years by furthering their agricultural developments of organic farming.

In the village where you can see a thousand shades of green together, it is claimed that all kinds of fruits can be cultivated here except for banana and avocado. It is possible to see variety of plants from blackberries to cranberries and garden sage while reaching to highlands from village in which cherries, grapes, olives and figs lead to the agricultural goods.

The variety of plant species in Kirazlı, which opened in February, is rich enough to attract botanical enthusiasts. After the Dilek Peninsula - Great Menderes Delta National Park, the richest natural resources of Kirazlı are ideal for botanical tourism. In addition, there are hundreds of bird species in Kirazlı for birdwatchers who want to observe the behavior of birds in their natural habitats and listen their sounds. Around the ecological village there are olive trees over 1000 years old and plane trees over 500 years old.



Kirazlı Village

KARİNA DOĞANBEY (Söke)

A wonderland abandoned due to its location, which is far from the plains, the working area of the local villagers... A place where the flowers of all colors encapsulate the historical artifacts of the region...

Doğanbey neighborhood is a place where Greek people lived until the population exchange period. It is perhaps the most characteristic and interesting point of visit of the Aegean, which carries the beauties of Greek architecture, where the master stonemasonry stands out at first sight.

From 1924 onwards, Turks from the Balkans were replaced in their homeland by the exchange of Greeks. However, due to the limited infrastructure and expansion opportunities, the neighborhood was moved to the New Doğanbey in 1985. The village was completely evacuated, but now restored to its former glory and charm by its new owners who realize the beauty of it.

The history of Doğanbey dates back to the 7th century BC. Its name was Domatia during the ancient times. Old Greek houses, Şarлак falls, and the Fauna Museum are some of the places to visit. Built as a hospital at the end of the 19th century, the building has been operating as the visitor promotion center of the Dilek Peninsula - Great Menderes Delta National Park since 2004. It serves the needs of the visitors. Another reason to go to Doğanbey is to reach the unique taste of local fish on the road to village.

The village is inside the Dilek Peninsula which is 53 km to Kuşadası, 41 km to Didim and 75 km to Aydın through Söke.

The village complemented with both Greek and Turkish architectural elements is almost like an open-air museum that it was declared as an urban site. The village is not only a different alternative for those who like serenity but also it looks like a natural film set for photography enthusiasts.





LAKE BAFA

Nature Park

Lake Bafa, located southeast of the Great Menderes Delta, is a lake made up of slightly salty waters. More than 200 thousand bird species adorn the lake among tamarisk, olive and red pine trees. The park has an important bird area status with the breeding populations of pratincole and spur-winged lapwing. The dalmatian pelican from the Great Menderes Delta can be seen in the lake throughout the year.

Lake Bafa is a hotspot for overwintering birds. Some of those bird species are; little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), black-necked grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), microcarbopygmaeus (Pygmy cormorant), the gadwall (*Anas strepera*), common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*), the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), flamingos (*Phoenicopterus*) and the eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*).

The lake, deepest point of which is 25 meters, was formed thanks to the alluvial mass brought by the Great Menderes River which gradually closed the sea passage.

To the east of the lake, one can see the ancient city of Herakleia, and in the northwest there is Myus Ancient City. Also, to the southwest, you can see the ancient city of Aissessos.

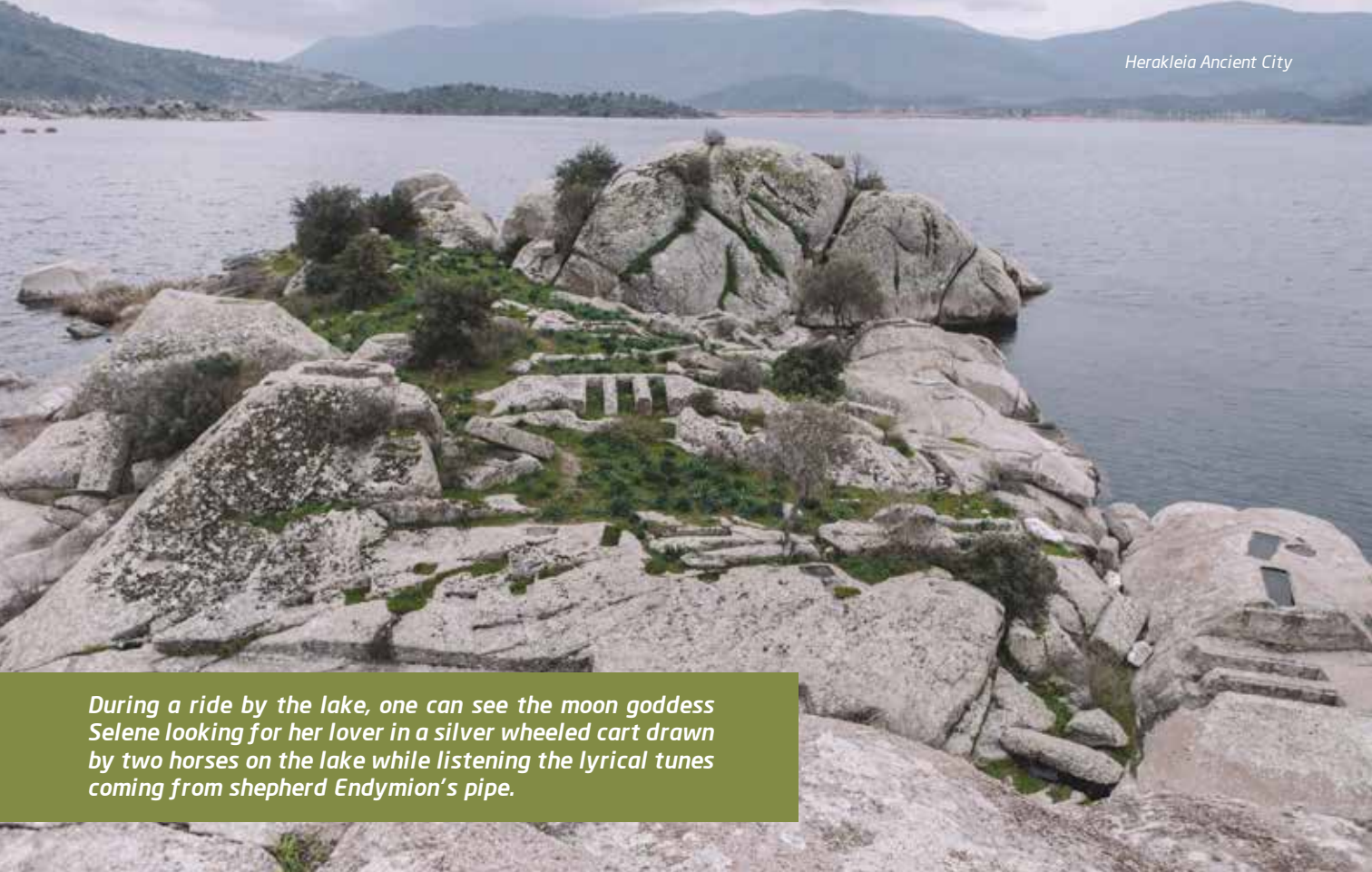


Podiceps Cristatus



The bird sanctuary within ancient cities...





During a ride by the lake, one can see the moon goddess Selene looking for her lover in a silver wheeled cart drawn by two horses on the lake while listening the lyrical tunes coming from shepherd Endymion's pipe.

Herakleia-Latmos

The conjunction of the ancient city of Herakleia and Lake Bafa, where is located on the border of Aydın's Söke district and Muğla's Milas district, is one of the most glamorous beauties of the region.

Founded on the shores of Lake Bafa, the open-air museum, that still bears traces of the prehistoric period, always fascinates its visitors. Many monasteries were built in this area thanks to the concealing landscape.

Besides cilehane/chila (suffering houses) were built by carving holes in rocks. It is possible to see unique frescos, painted on the rocks of these sanctuaries. Herakleia was an important worship center for Christians during Byzantine period.

Once a coastal town in Aegean Region, Herakleia started to lose its significance when two sides of Latmos gulf were united by the alluvial mass which was brought by Great Menderes River.





The proof of creativity of humankind...

Latmos Rocks

Peschlow-Bindokat who was studying the mountain of Beşparmak, which is around the Lake Bafa, discovered an inscription with Luwian hieroglyphs around Surat Kaya location in the east of mountains where is a thousand feet above sea level.

On the foothills of Mount Latmos, the existence of prehistoric rock paintings, dating back to the 5th and 6th century BC, shows the richness of cultural life in the region and the depth of human history. Unlike rock paintings in other regions, predominantly used human figures prove that people adopt settled life back then.





CANYONS *and* HIGHLANDS

KARABAĞLAR CANYON

Remarkable view seen from the village road awaits visitors...

The canyon's depth starts off shallow, but is known to reach about 50 m in some parts. In some parts, the width is extremely narrow, and can only fit one person at a time. The 2.5 km long canyon connects to the Görle Canyon, and its water is poured into Kemer Reservoir.



Karabağlar Canyon



Arapapıştı Canyon

ARAPAPIŞTI CANYON

The canyon, which extends for 6 km, is at the intersection of Aydın, Denizli and Muğla. It astonishes those who see its vibrant colors and clarity.

The canyon, formed by abrasion of the Akçay River, which is fed to the Kemer Reservoir, gave people the opportunity to live or hide their religion. In the canyon, there are caves, hidden monasteries and Körteke Castle. The rock tomb on the slope is also Persian and is estimated to be about 2500 years old.





PLATEAUS

There are many highlands in Aydın surrounded by mountains. The plateaus, which are frequently visited by nature lovers and plateau tourism enthusiasts, offer both relaxation and sports. The Paşa (Pasha) Plateau, the Madran Plateau, and the Kahvederesi Plateau are among the plateaus that stand out as prime tourism centers due to their magical atmosphere with clean air and uniquely green hued landscape.


The Paşa Plateau, which is only 25 km from Aydın's city center, is bejeweled with Turkish pines, Austrian pines, and junipers. There are picnic and camping areas in the plateau where Evliya Çelebi (a famous Turkish traveler and writer lived in 17th century) mentioned as 1,200 m high walnut mountains.

Paşa Plateau, or in other words the plateau of pashas, was named because the pashas, who ruled the city during the Ottoman period, spent their summers in the plateau.

Madran Plateau is famous for its snow wells. The villagers, who press the snow in the wells in winter, later use it to make a traditional food called snow halva in summer.

The Kahvederesi Plateau has an inclined hiking trail. The plateau is located 120 km away from Aydın's city center. Also, Bulgurlu, Sarıcova, Ömür, Korumaz, Kavşit and Necippazar are attractive alternatives for those who want to get away from the tempo of the city.





SUN SAND SEA *and* EXTREME SPORTS

SEA TOURISM

Aydın is a Western Anatolian city with 148 km of coastline where marine tourism activities are intense. Kuşadası, which is the stopover of cruise ships, is visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists all year round.

Aydın has a Mediterranean climate, hot months are the majority. At the same time, sea water temperature provides water sports and swimming in the half of the year covering May to October.

Some of the beaches frequented by tourists;

Pigale Beach (Kuşadası),

Ladies (Kadınlar Denizi) Beach (Kuşadası),

Güvercinada Beach (Kuşadası),

Yavansu and Aslanburnu Beach (Kuşadası),

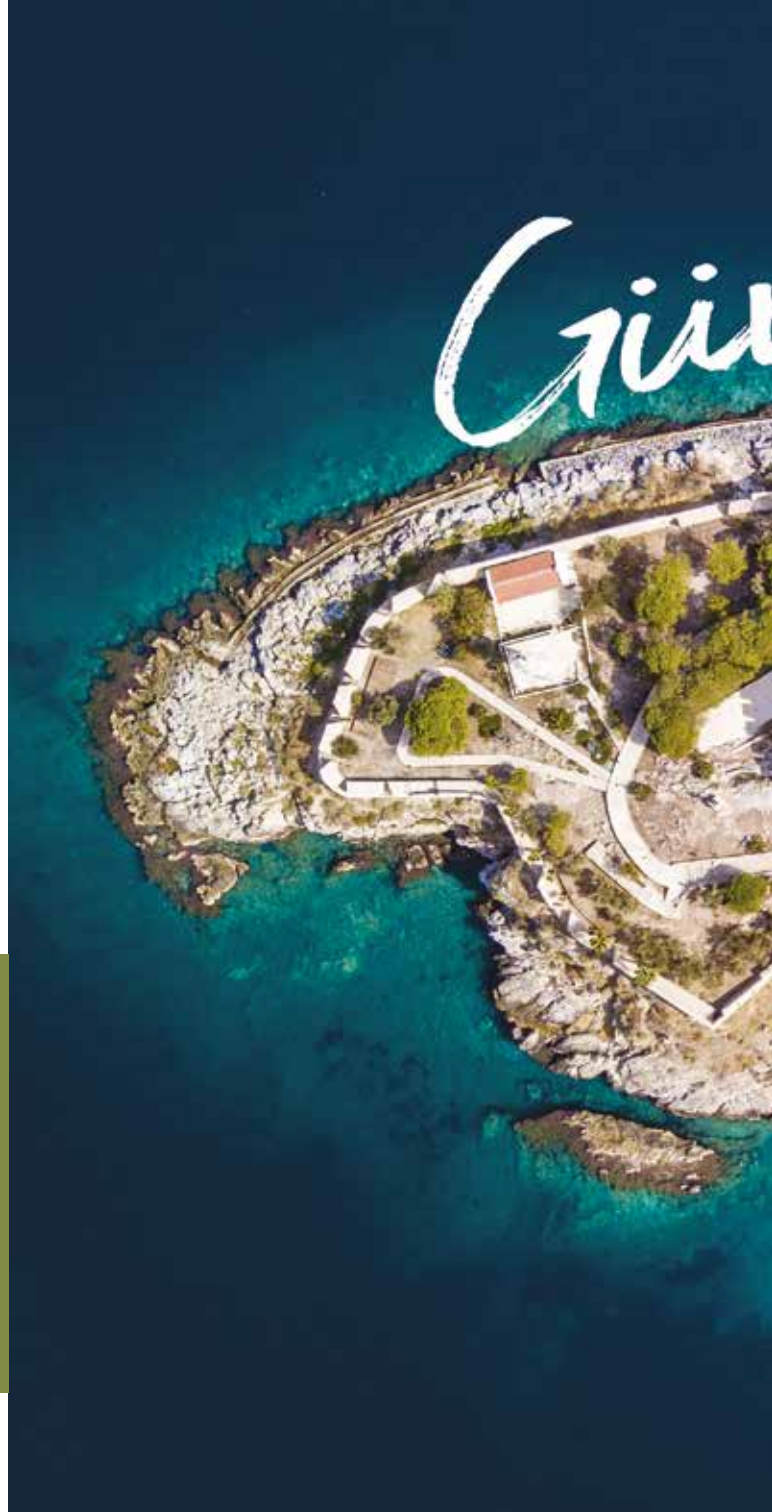
Güzелçamlı Beach (Kuşadası),

Altinkum Beach (Didim),

Tavşanburnu Beach (Didim),

Gevrek ve Akbük (Didim).

Aydın fascinates people with its fertile soils, natural beauties inspired mythology and art besides historical and cultural values refined in time. Jewellery like Aydın coasts adorn the foothills of the city. Emerald like stones that look like just a fathom away although they are meters away in the depths of still water... Pearly sands drawn into the sea with the intensity of foamy waves... Aydın's coast embraces people from all over the world. It truly is an unforgettable atmosphere full of joy for those who wish for entertainment besides a peaceful place for whom in need.



Güvercinada



CRUISE TOURISM

Rich history and natural beauty as well as early acquaintance with tourism set Kuşadası apart from other touristic centers.

Historical and sacred sites such as Ephesus, Artemis Temple, Virgin Mary House, St. John's Basilica, Priene, Miletus, Didim and Claros are only a few minutes from the city center. Therefore, Kuşadası is one of the most important cruise tourism locations in the Mediterranean.

Kuşadası is one of Turkey's biggest ports, where cruise ships arrived. Thousands of tourists visit Kuşadası each year with cruise ships that travel on a plan for two or more days and typically have at least 100 passengers.

During the Kuşadası tour, those who want to taste Turkish coffee and the traditional Aegean dishes in a nostalgic atmosphere can visit restaurants of the Aegean Cuisine and Turkish Coffee House, which has been opened in two restored historic houses.







Kuşadası / Marina

THE KUŞADASI MARINA

How about a break at the Kuşadası Marina?

Kuşadası marina is an ideal accommodation and shopping area for yachts and cruise ships. The yacht harbor welcomes tourism with a capacity of approximately 600 beds. In the spring and summer months, the Greek Island of Sisama, which is a marina, offers daily passenger services. In winter, these flights continue as charter. There are charter motor launches in the marina. In addition, blue voyage yachts and boats meet visitors to the harbor with blue and cool water.



DİDİM MARINA

Didim Marina has a capacity of 580 ships in the harbour, as well as a capacity of docking 600 ships on the land. The port covers an area of 1.5 km² along the coast beside the 1000 m² repair and maintenance unit on the land.



Adventures *Await You* in the Deep Blue

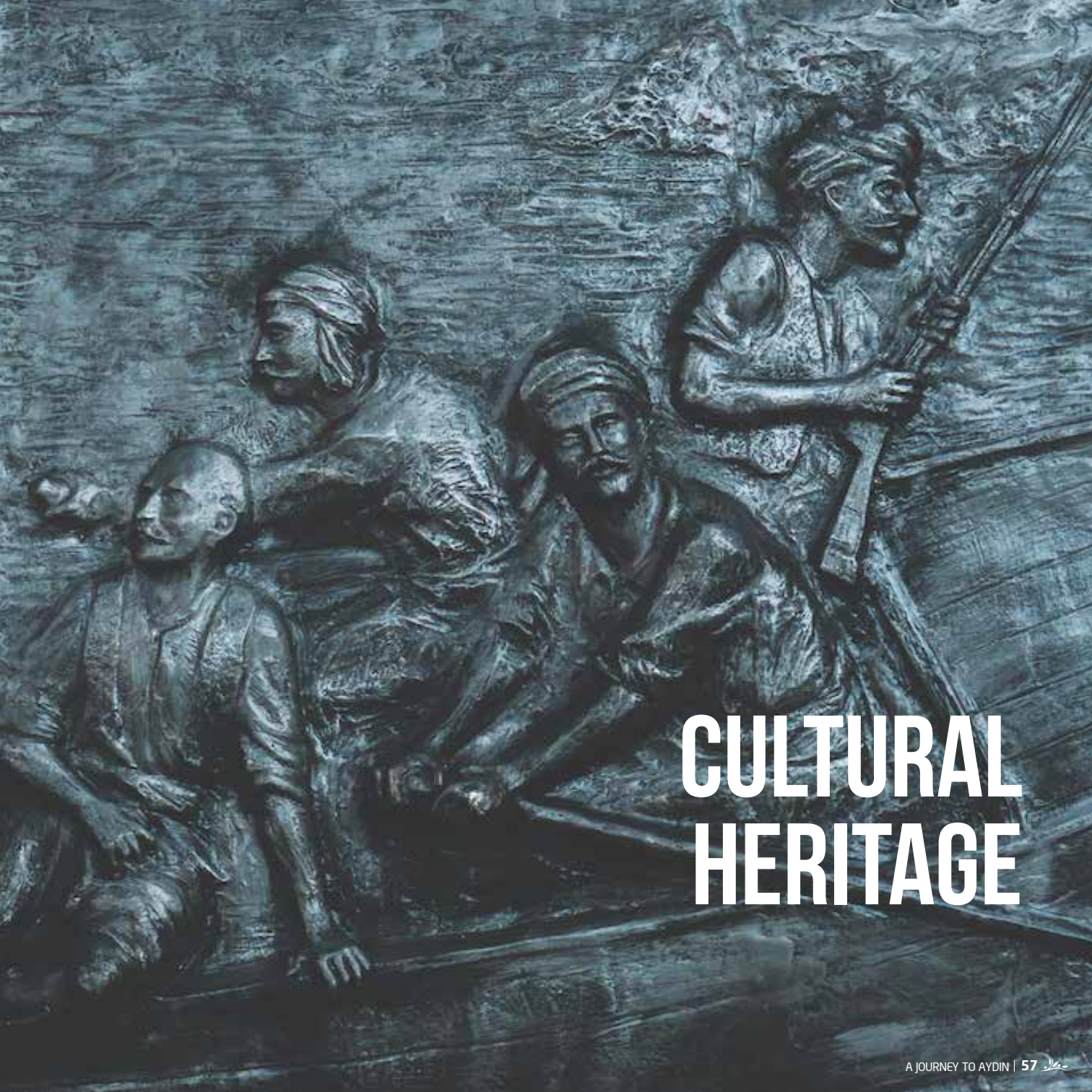
Explore the depths of Kuşadası Bay while **underwater diving**
Watch the shores which seem like a lace from the sky as you **parasail**
Dance joyfully against the wind through **kite surfing**
See beautiful bays while cruising the waves on your **boat trips**







Kuşadası/ Relief, Güvercinada Castle



CULTURAL HERITAGE

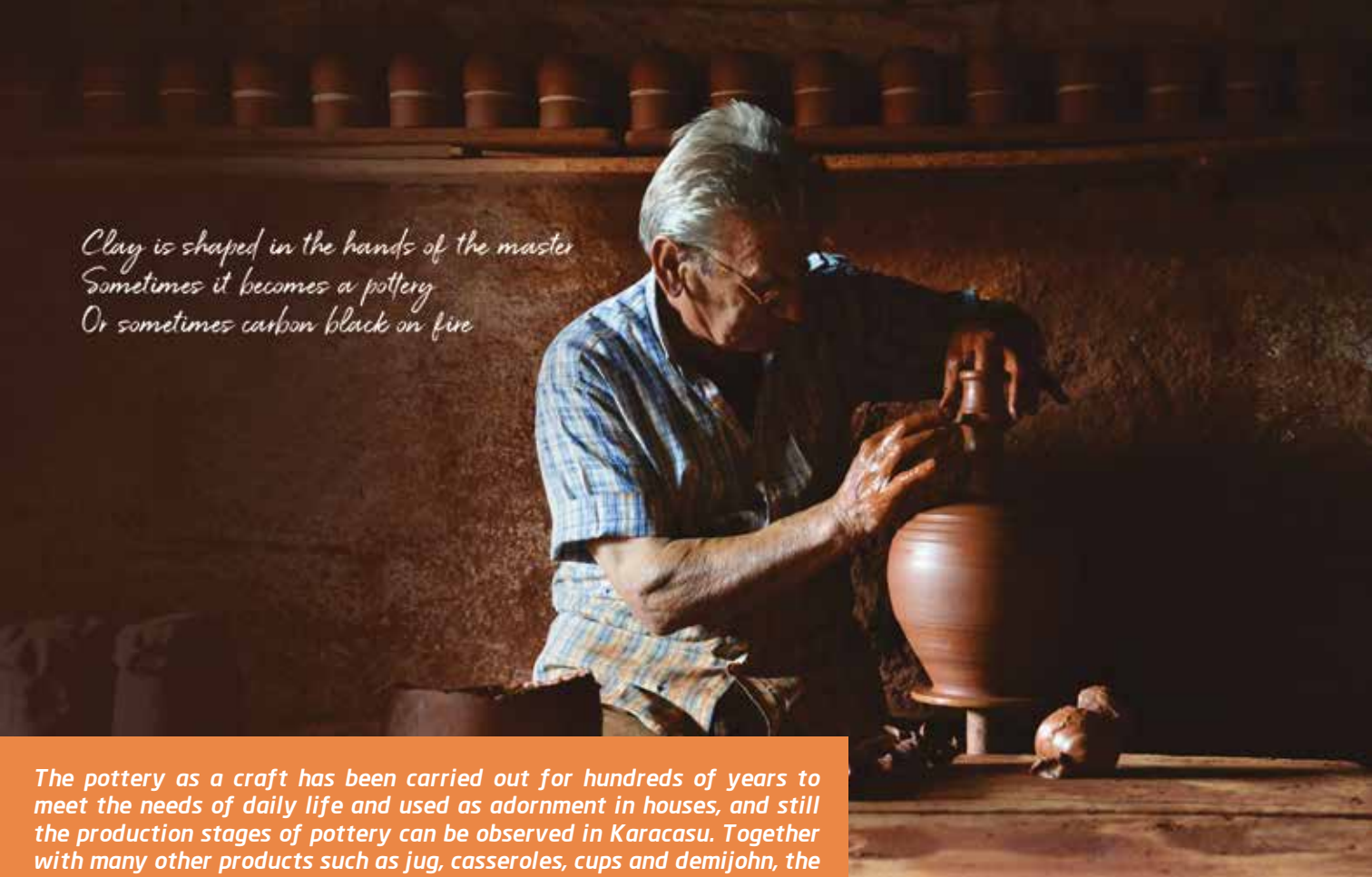
POINT LACE

Expression of Anatolian women who cannot express their love...

It is known that point lace, which is also named as Turkish lace in the world literature, spread from Anatolia to the Balkans and from Italy to Europe in the 12th century. Knitting technique lace, which is a handicraft art, has been used as a means of communication with the messages it carries as well as the purpose of decoration and bijouterie.

Leaf, tree and flower motifs are usually used in these laces. For example, the most elegant features of the art of embroidered at point lace were displayed on the materials such as saddle sets, sheaths, pouches, seals and clothes of Efe the heroes in the Karacasu.



A photograph of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a blue and white checkered shirt, working on a pottery wheel. He is shaping a reddish-brown clay vessel. The background is a rustic workshop with shelves holding many finished pottery pieces.

*Clay is shaped in the hands of the master
Sometimes it becomes a pottery
Or sometimes carbon black on fire*

The pottery as a craft has been carried out for hundreds of years to meet the needs of daily life and used as adornment in houses, and still the production stages of pottery can be observed in Karacasu. Together with many other products such as jug, casseroles, cups and demijohn, the tradition which was refined from history is still alive today.



POTTERY

Pottery begins its life when water becomes mud as it is mixed with soil. The oily part of the mud is collected in a separate place. Craftman gives shape to the rested soil on the Petros board. The pottery that the master hands touch is baked at 700°C .




FELT TENT

The haircloth tent, originally made of goat hair, has maintained its traditional way in Aydın. The goat hair is trimmed and processed during shearing season (known as “kırkımklı” in Turkish) every year. They are later processed in tannerie. The haircloth is used in production of saddlebags, horse clothes, pouches besides sacks, flour sacks, and fodder sacks. Haircloth products are then exported to the Middle East.

Today, the textile of the felt tent is maintained in Olukbaşı, Dutağaç and Kızılca villages in the Bozdoğan district.





The Symbol of Stateliness and Nobility

BOOT WITH BELLOWS

Boot with bellows is an essential accessory of Efe, the hero of Aydın. No artificial material is used in the production of it. The sole of the boot is stout leather and it is a total handicraft. On the outer surface of the boot; calf leather and inside the boot; goat skin is used which was processed with acorn named as "sahtiyan" in Turkish.

The boot production starts with measuring the foot. The ankle part of the boots is prepared by giving the curve of the bellows. The curvings provide the foot to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

The boots shapes can be bent in the form of an accordion, a bagel or rhombus, and the boots will take the form of the wearer's foot. Only those who wear these traditional boots will be able to understand their durability and comfort.

*The boot with bellows is a symbol of bravery and stateliness of Efe the hero,
Who is as enduring as a stone, brave at heart, and
friend of the aggrieved.
The boot with bellows has been armor for Efe the hero,
Who goes one war to another and lays fear
at the heart of the foe.*





Aydın, the Land of Efes



EFE: THE SYMBOL OF THE CITY

Efe the heroes, will greet you along the way into the city. Sometimes you see them at the entrance of a district, sometimes on a shop sign, and sometimes from the window of a car. Along with their dignified posture and sharp eyes, they protect the city just as they did during the War of Independence. They are known to frighten the enemy and give confidence to the friend. The culture of Efe is a mindset more than just a symbol.

ZEIBEK: THE FOLK DANCE OF EFE, THE HERO OF AYDIN

The dance of the brave men who have delicate but steady steps...

Zeibek folk dance is a symbol of the power, courage, elegance and talents of the people in Aydın which has been displayed in weddings, holidays and various celebrations from past to present.

At the beginning of the folk dance, the player puts his hands on the soil and makes sure that his fingers make a good sound besides receives strength and fertility from the soil.

Later on, by drawing a circle on the ground he puts forth the claim; "The lands that I draw boundaries, this place, this country is mine. Don't set your eyes on these lands. No one can shelter on this land but me!".

The dance which starts with slow and steady moves, later gains speed and excitement. At the point where it reaches

the peak, the dancer lets out a yell and gingers up the audience.

Efe means bravery, agility, audacity, and solid character, so the dance of Efes is built upon the same notion. The domination of rationality, calmness and determination are observed during the folk dance "zeibek".

Generally, the dance is accompanied by at least one drum and two zurna (shrill pipe) instruments. Master dancers do not step out if there is only one zurna among the instruments saying "my foot does not turn". Some instruments go along with zeibek dance that only men participate are jura, baglama, drum, shepherd's pipe, violin, clarinet, metal mandolin and dilsiz kaval which can be translated as mute pipe. Darbuka which is a kind of drum is only played for women dancers who are more curvy and elegant than men.



SO MANY CAME AND PASSED IN AYDIN

Hidden Heroes of the War of Independence

Yörük Ali Efe

Yörük Ali Efe was born in Kavaklı village in Sultanhisar in 1886. He is famous, along with Malgaç Raid, as his bravery during The War of Independence. He dealt a big blow to the enemy with hopes of creating a national conscience.

The Ballad of Yörük Ali Efe

Did you go through Dalma?
Did you drink from its cold waters?
Among Efe the heroes
Did you notice Yörük Ali?
How brave Ali is
The master of Efe the heroes.
Yörük Ali is coming
Whose spangles glow on his vest.
Open the roads of Aydın.
Aydın province is smoky
Look, Greek is running away.
How pleasant to drink
From the fountain of Dalma.
If you ask Yörük Ali,
He is chosen from all other Efe the heroes.
How brave Ali is
The master of Efe the heroes.
The mountain of Aydın is carved,
A mauser rifle is put in it.
Named Yörük Ali
As Prophet Ali.
How brave Ali is
The master of Efe the heroes.



Sultanhisar / The Statue of Yörük Ali Efe



Nazilli / The Statue of
Mehmet Efe the Blacksmith

Mehmet Efe the Blacksmith

Mehmet Efe was born in Aydin in 1885. He was given the nickname Blacksmith since he was a blacksmith in the Pirli Bey village. He attended and fought in the national forces of Aydin on 11 July 1919 with his team of 200 people.

*The heart of Efe is stiff against enemy
As much as it is delicate to a friend.
While stepping on the battlefield
His boots with bellows on his foot
Everybody witnesses his bravery and fame.*

The One Who Left His Mark on the History of Democracy

Adnan Menderes

Adnan Menderes was born in Aydin in 1899. His father, Katipzade Ibrahim Ethem, was from İzmir, and his mother was Tevfika. Adnan Menderes lost his parents at a young age, so he was raised by his grandmother.

Adnan Menderes, who studied law, was elected as a member of parliament in 1931. Until 1945, he served as commission rapporteur in the Turkish Grand National Assembly. And he was one of the founders of the Democrat Party in 1946. From 1950 to 1960, he was the only prime minister in a ten-year Democratic Party ruling power.

There had been major developments in Turkey's internal and external politics during the period. Industrialization and urbanization had accelerated; transport, energy, education, health, insurance and banking again had been revived. The number of tractors which were brought to villages increased; while they were 1600 tractors in 1950, in 1955 they were over 40,000.

Important steps, such as the transition to multi-party life, the abolition of village institutes, the opening of new universities, the understanding of mass education, and increase of foreign language course hours in schools were adopted during Menderes period.



Also, variability principle included in statism for the progress in the economic field contributing to the economic reforms.

The Prime minister's powers was abolished during military coup on 27 May 1960. Menderes was sentenced to death in 1961 by the Supreme Court of Justice that was found by Government National Unity Committee. However, The Grand National Assembly of Turkey has returned the reputation to Adnan Menderes, and those who were executed along with him, by the law which was enacted in 1990. In 1992, the university in Aydin was founded by the name of Adnan Menderes University, dedicated to the former Prime Minister.



MUSEUMS



AYDIN ARCHEOLOGY MUSEUM

The scope of the museum covers most of Aydın; the southern part of the ancient Ionian region and the northern part of the Caria region. The museum displays a rich collection of ancient monuments uncovered in Alinda, Amyzon, Piginda, Harpasa, Mastaura, Pigale and Orthosia. Thanks to those and the excavations of Tralles, Nysa, Panionion, Kadikalesi (Anaia), Magnesia, Alabanda and Tepecik mound; the museum has a rich and various collection. In the displaying room, equipped with new technology, 3D simulation games and historical gladiator fights can be watched.





APHRODISIAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The artifacts unearthed during the excavations of the ancient city of Aphrodisias are exhibited in the museum. It is one of the rare examples where the ruins and the museum are intertwined. The works of famous sculptors who lived in Aphrodisias can be seen in the museum. Mount Babadağ, the source of the white, blueish-grey marble that skilled sculptors used to shape works, enchants the eyes of its visitors today as it had inspired artists in the past.





MILETUS MUSEUM

The museum is named after the ancient city of Miletus, which is located just north of the Balat District of Didim. There are artifacts found during the excavations of the archeological sites of Miletus, Didim, and Priene.

The museum consists of 2 main sections: the garden exhibition and indoor exhibition. The lion statues, the symbols of the ancient city of Miletus, as well as inscriptions, sarcophagi, column heads, and many other architectural elements are displayed in the museum.





OLEATRIUM THE OLIVE AND THE OLIVE OIL MUSEUM

Olive is the symbol of health and olive branch is the symbol of peace. Olive is maybe the most delicious pillar of Mediterranean culture. The olive is an indispensable part of the dining tables as it was yesterday. In the museum, the production methods used since antiquity as well as the different uses of olive and olive oil are exhibited. Thousands of years of olive culture is kept alive in museum. The museum reflects the past as it details the ways how olive oil passes through the production stages until it reaches to the table.



NATIONALIST FORCES MUSEUM

Built by Sultan Abdülhamid in 1906-1909, the building served as a military branch from 1919 to 1979. During the years of national struggle, the liberation plans of the Greek occupation were prepared in this building. It was restored by the Municipality of Çine, and today, it serves as the Nationalist Forces Museum. The museum reflects the atmosphere of the years of national struggle. In addition to weapons and goods, a display of wax sculptures of Yörük Ali Efe and Colonel Şefik Aker, while planning the Malgaç Raid, are being exhibited.





YÖRÜK ALİ EFE MUSEUM

Yörük Ali Efe and his alliance fought against the enemies during the War of Independence. His heroism is still awed to this day. After the war, he left İzmir and retired in his house in the Yenipazar district of Aydın. The house was burnt down in 1980. His family donated it to the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism where it was converted into the Yörük Ali Efe Museum. The museum exhibits belongings of Yörük Ali Efe.



NAZİLLİ MUNICIPALITY ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

The memory of the district is preserved and displayed in the museum in the center of Nazilli. Among these items, the ones belonged to the War of Independence period and the Sümerbank Printed Cotton Factory are especially remarkable. The heroes, that worked to raise public awareness and organize resistance before the War of Independence, are recreated as mannequins. Original Efe clothes and weapons are kept alongside the heroes in the museum.

In addition, an ordinary Aegean village house, which can be found in the Ottoman period, was given life with mannequins. The centuries-old building takes visitors to the time travel with souvenirs such as floor table, sofa, dowry chest and gas lamps of that time. The sewing machines, tools, gadgets, pattern works of the printing factory can be seen in the museum as well as the first and last prints weaved in the factory which affect the district's social and cultural aspects as well as the economic aspect.



GÜVERCİNADA CASTLE

The castle was built in the 16th century by the famous Turkish Sailor Barbaros Hayrettin Pasha in Güvercinada (Pigeon Island) which is connected to Kuşadası with a breakwater. During the Ottoman Empire period, the building functioned as a lookout for attacks from other islands. It was also used to defend the city against pirates, thus it is also known as the “pirate castle” amongst the locals.



Finback Whale Skeleton



The image shows three white plates on a wooden surface. The top-left plate contains sautéed green leafy vegetables. The top-right plate features a single rolled-up item, possibly a spring roll or a stuffed vegetable. The bottom plate is filled with a large portion of dumplings, likely gyoza, which are pan-fried and topped with a dark, glossy sauce. The text "Local Dishes" is written in a black, cursive script across the center of the image.

Local Dishes



DISHES FROM THE AYDIN CUISINE

After a day's journey filled with nature and culture it is time to kick back and taste delicious local dishes. You can take these delicious foods with you on your way back home and share them with your loved ones.

Turkish Pitta

Pitta can be prepared with various ingredients such as cheese, minced meat, egg, or tahini. These tasty pastries are made all over Aydin, but the most delicious of them all are baked by deft chefs from Yenipazar, Karacasu, and Bozdoğan districts.

There are so many chefs who bake Turkish Pitta in Aydin since the area is famous for its pitta. The flavor of the pitta cooked on wood fire with the combination of dough and exactly the proper amount of mince, cheddar, egg, cheese or tahini processed in the hands of the master is legendary.



Keşkek (The Keşkek Ceremony)

In Aydin, keşkek is prepared cooperatively by volunteers for many local events such as, weddings, circumcision ceremonies, charities, etc. It is prepared with wheat, meat, butter, salt, and water. The washed wheat is boiled in a large saucepan, and later, water is strained and the wheat is crushed thoroughly. Meat is cooked in a separate saucepan until the fibers of the meat are divided. Soon after that, the meat is added to wheat's saucepan. They are mixed with a wooden spoon and mashed together. It is cooked until it has a gummy appearance. At the same time, the sauce is prepared with butter and redpepper are fried together on the stove. Finally, keşkek is served with the sauce on top.

One of the oldest traditions of Anatolia is the keşkek charity events. The oldest accounts of this tradition has been said to be seven hundred years ago in Dedebağ in the Karacasu district.



Yuvarlama (Rounding)

Rounding is one of the indispensable tastes of Aydin dishes. If there are 1 kg minced meat, 150 grams butter, 2 onions, 2 eggs, black pepper, red pepper, salt, water and flour in your kitchen, it means that you have all the ingredients ready to make yuvarlama.

The mince is kneaded together with eggs, grated onion, salt and pepper and later some flour is added to the mix, it is kneaded until it becomes as thick as an earlobe. Mince pieces are rolled as big as a hazelnut and then they are fried in a pan. The butter is melted in a saucepan. After salt, red pepper and water are added, the sauce is boiled. Later, the mince pieces are mixed with sauce and cooked about 45 minutes. It is served with strained yoghurt and the sauce which is prepared with some butter and red pepper are added on top.

Pasha Pastry

Aydin's countless local delicacies seem to never end! The pasha pastry is worth being mentioned. The dough is made of 3 eggs and 1kg flour. After kneading and separating in pieces, the dough is spread and rolled thin as big as a plate and as thick as a half cm. Then fried and soaked in meat broth. Meanwhile, pine nuts, parsley, black pepper and half a kilogram of minced meat are cooked. 3 dough sheets and the minced meat are placed respectively on a platter. After, the minced meat is spread on top with strained yoghurt, the sauce of butter and red pepper are put on top of the dish. Those who want to serve the dough faster, prepare and fry the dough in bulk. Therefore, after frying, wrap the dough sheets in a cloth and always be ready for those who want to make pasha pastry.



FOOD FROM THE BLESSINGS OF NATURE

The secret of longevity is a healthy life. The secret of a healthy life is a healthy diet.

Sauteed Dalgan (Dead Nettle)

Dalgan, widely known as dead nettles, is consumed with pleasure by the people in Aydin. In other regions of Turkey, people generally stay away from it because the plant makes skin feel itchy. Dead nettle are prepared with 1 bond of dead nettle, 1 onion, 2 leeks, 1 table spoon of red pepper, ¼ glass of olive oil and a pinch of salt. Dead nettles are cut after washing. Later, the onion and leeks are chopped then lightly fried. When they turn a pinkish hue, dead nettles are added into the pan with onions and leeks. They are cooked at medium heat after red pepper and salt is added to the pan. A few minutes later, it is taken from the stove and serviced with yoghurt or plain. Preferably an egg can be broken thereon.



Stuffed Artichoke

The dish is made with 3 cups of rice and 1 onion, pine nut, currant, dill, parsley, mint, lemon are combined inside the artichoke. Sugar, salt and olive oil are added into the mixture. Finely chop the onion and fry with a little olive oil and add to the pot with pine nuts. Rice boiled in hot water for 15 minutes is added to the pan by filtration. They are then fried together for 5 minutes. Add the salt, sugar, currants and hot water and cook at a low temperature until no water is left in the pot. When cooked, remove from the stove and allow to cool for a while. Finally, finely chopped parsley, dill and mint are added to the mixture. And the food is ready to fill the artichokes. Meanwhile, the artichoke heart is boiled with lemon juice for 10 minutes. Then, it is placed in a tray and filling starts. Before cooking, add some olive oil, hot water, lemon juice and a pinch of salt and sugar to the tray. The tray is closed and cooked for 15 minutes until the artichoke softens. Served cold.



Sauteed Kedirgen

Kedirgen, which is also called tilki kuyruğu (fox' tail), is a wild asparagus. If you have 1 or 2 bond of kedirgen, 2 or 3 eggs, 1 leek, red pepper, olive oil and salt in your kitchen, it is easy to cook the dish. Hard parts of the shaft are disposed, and the soft parts are first washed then chopped. After the leeks are chopped they are lightly fried in olive oil together. Later, red pepper and salt are added to the pan, it is not stirred until they are cooked. When the dish is cooked, the 2-3 eggs are cracked into it. It is served warm, yoghurt or lettuce salad can be preferred as a side dish.



Pumpkin Dessert

A must taste dessert of Aydin

The pumpkin dessert is prepared with 2 kg pumpkin and 2 and half cup sugar. Pumpkin is peeled and cut into large pieces then the seeds are removed. Later, the pumpkin is chopped in the size of 2-3 finger width and in a desired length. The pieces are finely put side by side in a large pan and sugar is spread among the pieces. The pan is left overnight. The other day, it is cooked at a medium heat. At the end, it is cooked without a lid so that the sherbet thickens. Finally, it is cooled for a while and served preferably with tahini, crushed walnuts or hazelnuts.

Snow Halvah (Shaved Ice)

The refreshing taste of summer

When it snows in winter, snows are buried and kept in wells, and when the summer comes, the snow is sweetened with fruit syrups or molasses. It is refreshing and together with the fruity taste, it is an essential dessert for summer. The dessert, is obtained by mixing natural snow with sour cherry syrup is called "Nazilli Snow Halvah", also has geographical indication.



UNFORGETTABLE TASTES

Dalama Tandoor Kebab

As well as the meat dishes and kebabs competing with the vegetable dishes of Aydin, Dalama tandoor kebab is one of the most famous local kebabs. The flavor of the kebab comes from the meat, young lambs and goats fed with plants as oregano, acorn and cistus in a natural environment. Because these types of aromatic plants affect the flavor and smell of meat and improve the quality. One of the distinctive features of the Dalama tandoor kebab is the freshness of the meat, the well in which it is cooked, the cooking time and the way of serving. Young lamb or goat should not be less than 13 kilograms or heavier than 20 kilograms. After the cut, it's only the giblets, the rumen, and lungs that are removed. It is then prepared to cook after the breast is separated, so that the meat tender. Dalama tandoor kebab is cooked in a well. The wall of it is one meter in height and width. Well is shaped like a glass bell which is made of Madran Brook stone, limestone, and firebrick. The meats are put on a hook and hung down in the well. Then the mouth of well is closed carefully. This cooking method is to prevent the well to lose warmth from the mouth. After being cooked one and half hour, the entrance is opened. The kebab is placed in the clay pot for 15 more minutes to cook. Dalama tandoor kebab is served with green peppers, scallions, tomatoes, onions, arugula, etc. Ayran (airan, a drink made of water and yoghurt) is preferred as drink, and cacik (a dish of seasoned diluted yoghurt and cucumber) is brought to table as a side dish. The meat is presented with pitta and enjoyed by the whole table. Dalama tandoori, which is both a local and cultural heritage, has also been registered for geographical indication.



Mallow

The self-raising mallow from the fertile lands of Aydin either can be picked from the land or bought from the bazaars. The mallow is known for its wide ranging health benefits. One bond of it is enough to cook a dish. The dish is prepared with one chopped onion fried in a pan until it sauteed to a pinkish hue. The mallow is washed, boiled, and added to the pan with onions. It is served hot with red pepper and salt. Preferably, yogurt or egg is added to the top.

Çingene Pilaf

Çingene pilaf is one-of-a-kind cheese salad, especially served for breakfast. A refreshing meal perfect for hot summer days... Included in the çingene pilaf is 1 glass of skim-milk cheese (çökelek), 2 tomatoes, 4 peppers, 1 cucumber, 1 onion, and a little parsley. Also, don't forget the olive oil which is an essential ingredient for every Aydın cuisine! Çingene pilaf is prepared by cutting all the ingredients in small pieces and then mixing all in one plate. It is preferably served on a plate decorated with the delicious Aydın olives.



Arapsaçı

If you encounter fine-leaved dills during your visit to Aydın, don't be surprised. What you see is probably not dill weed, it is arapsaçı (also known as baby's tear in English) which is a sort of fennel that can be prepared as a salad or a dish. The dish includes two bonds of arapsaçı, one leek, two eggs and olive oil. Chop the leek and arapsaçı. First fry the leek until it turns a yellowish hue, and then add the arapsaçı. Cook them on a medium-to-low heat for about 10 minutes. Add one glass of water to the pot, and continue cooking until there is no water left in the pan. Lastly, crack the eggs into the pan, and add a dash of red pepper and salt. The dish is accompanied with with strained yoghurt.



Ortaklar Çöp Şiş (Thin Skewer Kebab of Ortaklar)

If you end up travelling to Aydın via the İzmir route, chances are you will become hungry. The fast-cooked and tasty kebabs of the Ortaklar Neighborhood in the Germencik district will fill you right up with their exquisite dish known as çöpşiş! Local beef or lamb cuts are rolled into small pieces and lined on a skewer about 18-24 cm called a "kargı". They are cooked in the oven stock with coal fire. The secret to this dish is the size of the non-treated-meat. The pieces are taken with the fat and placed on each stick. It is served with cumin, oregano, cooked onions, tomato, and pepper. It is eaten together with thin bread known as lavash or pitta.





AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Aydın's Nostrum Fruit



“ In 2006, Aydın fig was granted the geographical indication in Turkey. As result of a process completed in 2016, it was also registered in European Union and became the first Turkish product geographical-ly indicated in EU. ”

OLIVES and OLIVE OIL

Olive cultivation, which has been cultivated since the first civilization that settled in the region, is one of the Aydın's leading agricultural activities today. It has been an important food and trade material throughout history, and its ubiquity is depicted in myths, legends, religions, and art. Olives, the symbol of immortality with its tree that can live up to a thousand years, were an essential element in rituals of blessing, purification, light, health, sport, and beauty.

Spoons and toys are made from olive tree, fuel from its pomace, and medicine from its leaves. They also serve a permanent place of olive on the tables for consumption. The olive has a very high nutritional value adding to its contribution. Being the only fruit which oil can be extracted by simply squeezing, the list of uses continues. The benefits of olives and olive oil are a pure gift from nature often emphasized in the medical sector and suggested to be consumed for health.

FIG

A fruit peculiar to Aydın, the fig has become the symbol of the province. 65% of the figs exported from Turkey are produced in Aydın. Aydın takes first place in fig production in Turkey thanks to its superiority of quality and quantity. Figs, which are cultivated in the most suitable conditions in Menderes Basin, have an important place in Aydın's agriculture and economy. Ecological conditions of Aydın, especially the temperature, humidity, and wind during the period of efflorescence of the fig attribute to the bountiful cultivation of these fruits.

Every year, between 140-170 thousand tons of fresh figs are produced. Some are kept fresh where most of them are dried.

Annual dried fig production ranges from 34 to 37 thousand tons. Almost all of the dried "sarı lop" type of figs are provided in the world come from Aydın.

The Symbol of Mediterranean Civilization



“ Olive oil, has no negative effect on health. It also has protective agents that fight against cardiovascular diseases and cancer thanks to its antioxidant properties. ”



A Taste from Harvest that the Palate Can Enjoy the Whole Year

STRAWBERRY

Turkey has an important potential in strawberry cultivation in terms of different climate and soil characters. Strawberry is an important agricultural product of the Aegean and Marmara regions, especially the Mediterranean region.

The strawberries of Sultanhisar are exported to Romania, Ukraine, Serbia and Russia. In recent years, exports to Middle East and Iran have started as a new market. Sultanhisar strawberries differ from all other strawberries because it preserves its freshness from the harvest to the table.

CHESTNUT

Aydin is where most of Turkey's chestnuts are grown. 30% of Turkey's chestnuts are produced in Aydin.

14% of world's chestnuts are distributed from Turkey. In terms of weight, yearly production is roughly 65-70 thousand tons all over Turkey. 13-18 thousand tons are cultivated in Aydin each year. Approximately 1,500 tons of which are exported. Chestnut cultivation is common in the mountains and plateaus, especially on slopes facing north.

Three large or six small chestnuts contain as much energy as one slice of bread. It contains a high amount of starches (carbohydrates). The chestnut is known to contain a protective agent that help fight against cancer. Furthermore, it is an appropriate source of potassium and carbohydrate for those who have a gluten allergy or celiacs disease.

Unknown Star of Aydin's Agriculture





Aydin: Just like An Open-Air Museum...



SO MANY THINGS TO DISCOVER DURING YOUR AYDIN ADVENTURE

- ✦ The only piece of music from the ancient era survived to the present day was found in the ancient city of Tralles in the center of Aydın. Engraved in the stone of Seikilos of Tralles, the lyrics and compositions of the melody were written besides the epitaph, dated in 1st or 2nd century AD. Lyrics on the engraved stone read:
"Shine as long as you live,
Don't worry about anything,
Life is fleeting and time makes you pay the price,
When the day comes"
- ✦ Two important architects, Anthemios from Tralles and Isidoros from Miletus, who designed the Hagia Sophia in İstanbul were also from Aydın.
- ✦ Aydın was one of the addresses which practiced earliest financial, administrative, and military innovations by the reforms in Ottoman Tanzimat period in 19th century. For example, Aydın's Cihanoğlu Mosque embellished with baroque decorations, was built just one year after the first baroque mosque in İstanbul.

- ✦ The Atça Neighbourhood in Sultanhisar is the first settlement of modern urban city planning in Turkey. During the War of Independence, the city was ruined. While in the process of renovating Atça, all buildings were demolished, and the radial city planning of Paris was used as a template. Since 1924, the urban development of Sultanhisar has been continued in line with this plan.
- ✦ The world's largest technological village, known as the TEKKÖY Project, was launched in Çine, in 2009. The aim of the project was to facilitate the daily life of the farmers, to increase the production efficiency of the villages, and to develop innovative solutions to social problems through the practices of technology and qualified information.
- ✦ 55% of the population in Aydın earns a living via the local agriculture. 29 of all the plants grown in Aydın are ranked in top 10 list of most annual production among all cities of Turkey. Aydın is ranked number 1 for the production of fig, chestnut, olive, triticale, and celery. The province is ranked as the second for the production of artichoke, cotton, and strawberry.
- ✦ Aydın fig, Aydın chestnut, Nazilli Snow Halvah, Dalama tandoor kebab and boot with bellows of Söke are the products of Aydın that have geographical indication. The specifications of these products are defined and differentiated from similar products.
- ✦ Although agriculture is one of the first economic activities, Aydın is rapidly advancing in industrialization. Some featured sectors are food production for processing agricultural production, manufacture of textile products, manufacture of machinery and equipment, mining and quarrying, automotive supply industry, white appliances and chemicals manufacture.



Aydın is a city where women figures come to the forefront. Ayşe Efe was considered the leader of all women heroines in the Aydın Front of War of Independence. Equally celebrated is that the first woman mukhtar (local authority) of Turkey was from Aydın.





✿ The first printing textile factory in Turkey that the government supported was Sümerbank Printed Cotton Factory in Nazilli which was unveiled by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (the founder of Turkish Republic) on 9 October, 1937.

✿ In the province with a remarkable geothermal energy potential, exploration and operation activities are carried out in a total of 84 sites. Electricity is produced with a total of 46 facilities, including 27 geothermal, 9 wind, 6 hydroelectric, 2 biogas, 1 solar, and 1 natural gas power plant.

✿ Lake Bafa which is rich in terms of natural life is one of the most important bird sanctuaries in Turkey that is ranked among the top in the list of "International Important Bird Habitats". It is a favorite amongst the bird watcher community. Pygmy cormorant and sea eagles are endangered animal species that are still found nesting in the region. The lake provides nutrition and shelter for 224 kinds of bird species. Various ducks and water birds can be observed here such as pelicans, little grebes, kingfishers, cormorants, dalmatian pelicans, spur-winged plovers, coots, and flamingos.

✿ Underground treasures and gems such as feldspar, quartz and marble are uncovered here and exported worldwide.



Feldspar



✿ There are 23 archaeological sites and 1,529 registered cultural assets in the lush lands that were once home to many ancient civilizations. These sites look like open-air museums.

✿ There are two thermal tourism development zones in Aydın, one of which is Buharkent and the other is Tralles. Among the prominent thermal tourism centers in the city, which has high geothermal tourism potential by means of geothermal resources, there are Natur-Med - Davutlar, Germencik - Alangüllü, Kızıdere, Sultanhisar - Salavatlı and Ortaklar - Gümüşköy hot springs.

✿ There are many suitable stops for underwater diving in Kuşadası. Furthermore, the world's largest submerged plane is in Kuşadası.

✿ The citizens of Aydın enjoy some of the longest and healthiest lives in all of Turkey. Nazilli is especially acclaimed as the district where people live up to a 100 years and older.

✿ In terms of birdwatching, Didim offers ideal conditions. 470 species of birds can be observed in Didim due to Turkey's presence on important bird migration routes and large wetlands.

✿ Dilek Peninsula and the Great Menderes Delta National Park is one of the world's most acclaimed national parks. The mouth of the Great Menderes Delta is an international wetland filled with many lagoons and marshes due to the rapid morphological development. This lagoon system, where fresh and salty water mix, is home to a rich biodiversity with 209 bird species including endangered Dalmatian pelican and Pygmy cormorant. The international park is the last location where endangered plant and animal species find the opportunity to live and breed. For example, the Mediterranean monk seal and sea turtles, which are under protection by the Mediterranean countries, live on the shores of the national park.





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Didim



