



Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean

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Why Go?

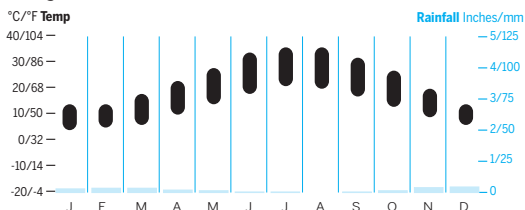
Turkey's sparkling Aegean coast boasts 4000 years of civilisation – and it's got the ruins to prove it, the most famous being ancient sites such as Ephesus, Priene, Miletus and Didyma, where excavations continue to yield astonishing new treasures every year.

In summer, the coast's population swells as millions of foreign and Turkish tourists descend on Marmaris, Kuşadası and, especially, Bodrum, the most glamorous of all Anatolia's seaside getaways. Yet despite the nonstop partying, this white-washed town beneath a castle somehow preserves a unique air of refinement, while new boutique hotels and elegant eateries keep springing up, both here and in the exclusive (but easily visited) coastal villages of the Bodrum Peninsula.

Nevertheless, all of the commotion aside, it's still possible to experience the elemental pleasures of rugged terrain, village life and spectacular Aegean views on the more remote Bozburun and Datça Peninsulas. The coast is most peaceful in spring or autumn (when prices drop, too).

When to Go

Selçuk



Best Places to Eat

- » La Pasión (p247)
- » Lemon Tree (p250)
- » Terzi Mustafa (p256)
- » Ship Ahoy (p257)
- » Zekeriya Sofrası (p266)

Best Places to Stay

- » Atilla's Getaway (p223)
- » Su Otel (p246)
- » Maçakızı (p256)
- » Mavi Konak (p263)
- » Villa Aşina (p265)

May & Jun Tour ancient sites while it's splendidly sunny but not yet oppressive.

Jul & Aug Party with the Turkish jet set and foreign hoi polloi at hot spots Bodrum and Marmaris.

Sep & Oct Enjoy the coastal villages' fish restaurants and beaches, with the Aegean waters at their warmest.



Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean Highlights

- 1 Join the masses in bringing new life to **Ephesus** (p211), Europe's best-preserved ancient city
- 2 Indulge in sophisticated dining and nightlife in **Bodrum** (p242), with its castle and evocative harbour
- 3 Learn how the Romans bathed, and see priceless

- 4 Party with the Turkish glitterati at the beach bars of **Türkbükü** (p256), on the Bodrum Peninsula
- 5 Gape in awestruck wonder at the soaring columns of Didyma's **Temple of Apollo** (p238)

- 6 Wander the white-plastered old town, and savour the traditional cafes and shops in friendly **Muğla** (p262)
- 7 Get your motor running on a scooter trip down the spectacular coastline of **Bozburun Peninsula** (p264), near Marmaris