



Eastern Mediterranean

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Hatay Sultan Sofrası (p413)
- ➔ İskele Sofrası (p387)
- ➔ Öz Asmaaltı (p405)
- ➔ Çağlayan Restaurant (p413)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Bosnalı (p405)
- ➔ Centauera (p387)
- ➔ Liwan Hotel (p412)
- ➔ Hotel Esya (p392)

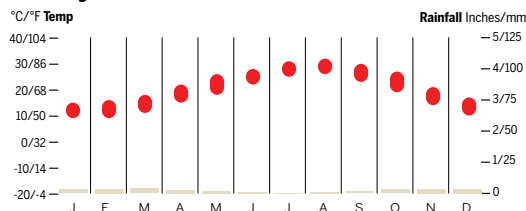
Why Go?

This is Turkey's non-airbrushed slice of Mediterranean coastline. A handful of distinctly local-style beach resorts lie between the industrial port cities. Crumbling ruins sit among acres of intensely farmed countryside with nary a tourist in sight. In the ancient towns of Tarsus and Antakya, atmospheric old-town fragments cling on amid the modern hubbub.

The southern Hatay province's fascinating melding of religions, languages and foods is reason enough for many to linger. For others, the wealth of important early Christian sites is the eastern Med's ace up its sleeve. The area's historical riches though encompass a dizzying timeline of kings and conquerors that stretches from Karatepe's late-Hittite remnants, through Roman Anemurium, to the cliff-top castles of once-mighty Cilicia. The stretch of the Mediterranean that most people miss is full of surprises for those that make the trip.

When to Go

Antakya



Apr–May Munch on Anamur's bananas and strawberries during the spring harvest glut.

Jul–Aug Thermometers shoot sky-high and Turkish families hit Kızkalesi beach.

Oct Autumn is ideal for exploring Antakya's old town between cafe stops for syrupy *künefe*.



Eastern Mediterranean Highlights

- 1 Marvel at Roman and Byzantine artistry while view while sitting on the craggy, crumbling ramparts of the world's finest mosaics at the **Hatay Archaeology Museum** (p410).
- 2 Admire the stupendous view while sitting on the craggy, crumbling ramparts of **Yllankale** (p407).
- 3 Explore the beautiful, remnants of **Anemurium** (p410).
- 4 Swot up on Hittite history amid the stone reliefs and statue of **Karatepe** (p407).
- 5 Soak up the ramshackle atmosphere of bygone days in the compact old centres of **Tarsus** (p402) and **Antakya** (p411).

- 6 Take a beach break in tiny **Arsuz** (p408).
- 7 Swot up on Hittite history amid the stone reliefs and statue of **Karatepe** (p407).
- 8 Soak up the ramshackle atmosphere of bygone days in the compact old centres of **Tarsus** (p402) and **Antakya** (p411).