



Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Limon Aile Lokantası (p264)
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- ➔ Nazik Ana (p258)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Mehmet Ali Ağa Konağı (p274)
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- ➔ Villa Konak (p241)
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Why Go?

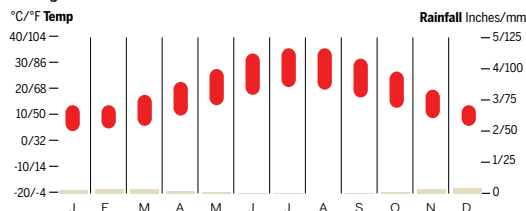
Turkey's sparkling Aegean coast boasts 4000 years of civilisation – and it's got the ruins to prove it, the most famous being the capital of Roman Asia Minor itself: Ephesus. Nearby, the ancient ports of Priene and Miletus, and the temple at Didyma, give the complete picture of the Aegean in centuries past.

In summer, the coast's population swells as millions of tourists descend on Marmaris, Kuşadası and, especially, Bodrum, Turkey's most glamorous seaside getaway. This whitewashed town beneath a 15th-century castle somehow maintains an air of refinement through the non-stop partying, while boutique hotels and elegant eateries keep springing up, both here and in the sophisticated coastal villages of the Bodrum Peninsula. On the remote Datça and Bozburun Peninsulas, more elemental pleasures await in the rugged terrain and fishing villages with spectacular Aegean views.

The coast is most peaceful in spring or fall (when prices drop, too).

When to Go

Selçuk



May & Jun Tour ancient sites while it's splendidly sunny but not oppressively hot.

Jul & Aug Party with Turkish jet-setters and foreign hoi polloi in Bodrum and Marmaris.

Sep Enjoy the coastal villages' fish restaurants and beaches, while the sea is still warm.



Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean Highlights

- 1 Walk the marble streets of **Ephesus** (p220), Europe's best-preserved ancient city.
- 2 Indulge in the sophisticated dining and nightlife of **Bodrum** (p253).
- 3 Enjoy sea views over fresh fish in Bodrum Peninsula villages such as **Gümüşlük** (p262).
- 4 Feel miles from anywhere on the rugged **Datça and Bozburun** Peninsulas (p272).
- 5 Gape in wonder at the soaring columns of Didyma's **Temple of Apollo** (p248).
- 6 Toast sunset in a village among Byzantine ruins on **Lake Bafa** (p249).
- 7 Survey rolling fields where the sea once lay from the ancient port of **Priene** (p245).
- 8 Escape the Aegean crowds in **Akyaka** (p277), a river-mouth beach town among pine-clad mountains.
- 9 Try seasonal produce at the region's weekly markets in **Selçuk** (p230).