



Western Anatolia

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Why Go?

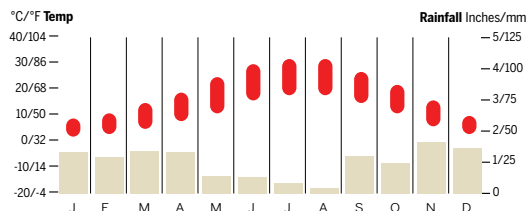
Durable, diverse and down to earth, Western Anatolia combines everything from ancient sites and mountain terrain to some of Turkey's heartiest food and friendliest people.

The region's diversity of ancient civilisations can be experienced directly: hike the rock-carved Phrygian Valley, pound marble pavements in the ancient cities of Sagalassos and Afrodiasias, or take a woodland pilgrimage on the St Paul Trail. Original Ottoman capital Bursa, meanwhile, is a cornerstone of Turkish identity, with mosques, imperial mausoleums and the İskender kebab. The shimmering travertines of Pamukkale, on the other hand, are just great for splashing in.

The region's lesser-known attractions constitute its secret weapon, however: escapist Eğirdir, set on a tranquil lake, is perfect for hiking, a jaunt in a local fisherman's boat or doing nothing at all; while vibrant Eskişehir, a student city with an atmospheric old town, offers river gondola rides and happening bars and restaurants.

When to Go

Bursa



Jan & Feb Breathe in the alpine air while skiing on Uludağ, near Bursa.

May Fresh and sunny weather for hiking and exploring ruins around mountain-ringed Lake Eğirdir.

Sep Enjoy Pamukkale's crystal travertines, without the summer crowds.



Western Anatolia Highlights

- 1 Laze in calcite travertine pools on the snow-white ridges of **Pamukkale** (p304), beneath the ruins of ancient Hierapolis.
- 2 Find B&B bliss by the idyllic lake in **Eğirdir** (p314), and tackle the St Paul Trail through the Taurus Mountains.
- 3 Channel the exhilaration of a Roman gladiator, gazing from

the tunnel onto **Afrodiasias's** (p312) vast stadium.

- 4 Ascend the lonely heights of **Sagalassos** (p320), a ruined mountain city with a magnificent rebuilt fountain.
- 5 Hike deep into a civilisation lost in the desolate, rock-hewn **Phrygian Valley** (p299).

- 6 Wind through the bazaars and unwind in a thermal hamam in the first Ottoman capital, **Bursa** (p285).
- 7 Indulge in the nightlife, Ottoman quarter and all-round good vibes of **Eskişehir** (p296), inner Anatolia's most European city.