



Thrace & Marmara

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Barba Yorgo Taverna (p174)
- ➔ Kilye Suvla Lokanta (p161)
- ➔ Mustafanın Kayfesi (p173)
- ➔ Sardalya (p165)
- ➔ Umurbey Winehouse (p153)

Best Places to Sleep

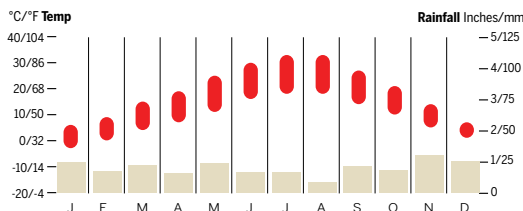
- ➔ Anemos Hotel (p173)
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- ➔ Son Vapur Konuk Evi (p172)

Why Go?

Grand narratives have unfolded in this corner of Turkey for millennia, leaving an extraordinary archaeological site (Troy), a city of Ottoman buildings (Edirne), historically significant battlefields (Gallipoli) and a culturally fascinating and physically beautiful island outpost (Gökçeada) for visitors to explore. It was here that Alexander the Great crossed the Hellespont on his conquering march to Persia, and where the Achaeans (Greeks) and Trojans fought the war immortalised by Homer in the *Iliad*. Mehmet II launched his campaign to conquer Constantinople from the Ottoman capital of Edirne, and nearly 500 years later Allied forces landed on the Gallipoli (Gelibolu) Peninsula, triggering a bloody stand-off with Turkish troops that would drag on for nine long months and help to define the modern nations of Turkey, Australia and New Zealand. History continues to echo, but there is an increasingly contemporary verve in the student bars of Çanakkale and the vineyards of Thrace.

When to Go

Edirne



Apr & May
Multicoloured wildflowers carpet hillsides on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

May & Jun
Organic black cherries and semi-deserted beaches on Gökçeada island.

Aug Locals party on Çanakkale's waterfront during the Troia Festival.

EDİRNE

☑ 0284 / POP 173,000

Capital of the Ottoman empire before Mehmet II conquered Constantinople, Edirne is blessed with imperial building stock, a notable culinary heritage and a lingering and much-cherished sense of civic grandeur. Close to the Greek and Bulgarian borders, the city has a European flavour that is best

appreciated in summer, when locals party on the banks of the Tunca and Meriç Rivers and cheer on the contestants at the world-famous Kırkpınar oil-wrestling festival (p149).

History

Emperor Hadrian made Hadrianopolis (later Adrianople) the main centre of Roman Thrace in the early 2nd century AD. In the



Thrace & Marmara Highlights

- 1 Selimiye Mosque** (p146) Visiting this exquisite World Heritage-listed building in the former Ottoman capital of Edirne.
- 2 Thrace Wine Route** (p153) Sampling local wine and food at vineyards along stunning scenery.
- 3 Gökçeada** (p171) Investigating the fascinating Greek heritage and windswept landscape on this Aegean island.
- 4 Gallipoli (Gelibolu) Peninsula** (p153) Walking in the footsteps of WWI soldiers and contemplating the horrors of war.
- 5 Çanakkale** (p164) Lazing away an afternoon while admiring the view over the Dardanelles at a waterfront *çay bahçesi* (tea garden).
- 6 Ruins of Troy** (p170) Exploring the many layers of ancient history at this ancient archaeological site.