



Western Anatolia

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Pamukkale	308
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Eğirdir	315
Sagalassos	320

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Kebapçı İskender (p299)
- ➔ Köfteci Yusuf (p291)
- ➔ Mezze (p304)
- ➔ Sagalassos Lodge & Spa (p322)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Kitap Evi (p297)
- ➔ Fulya Pension (p317)
- ➔ Armistis Hotel (p302)
- ➔ Abacı Konak Otel (p304)
- ➔ Melrose House (p312)

Why Go?

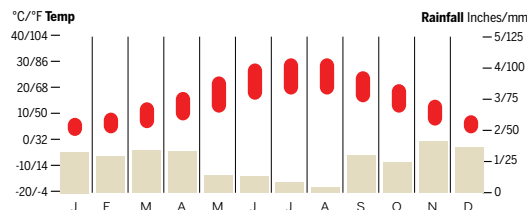
Durable, diverse and down to earth, western Anatolia combines everything from ancient sites and spectacular mountain terrain to some of Turkey's heartiest food and friendliest people.

The region's diversity of ancient civilisations can be experienced directly: hike the rock-carved Phrygian Valley; pound marbled 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 travertine pools of Pamukkale, on the other hand, are just great for splashing in.

The region's lesser-known attractions constitute its secret weapon: escapist Eğirdir, set on a tranquil lake, is perfect for hiking, taking a jaunt in a local fisher's boat or for 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 travertine pools, without the summer crowds.



Western Anatolia Highlights

- 1 Pamukkale** (p308)
Lazing in calcite travertines on snow-white ridges beneath the ruins of ancient Hierapolis.
- 2 Eğirdir** (p315) Finding B&B bliss by the idyllic lake and tackling the St Paul Trail through the Taurus Mountains.
- 3 Afrosodias** (p313)
Channelling the exhilaration of

- a Roman gladiator as you gaze from the ancient site's tunnel onto the vast stadium.
- 4 Sagalassos** (p320)
Ascending the lonely heights of this ruined mountain city with its magnificent rebuilt fountain.
- 5 Uludağ** (p301) Riding the world's longest cable car up the ski resort's leviathan slopes.

- 6 Bursa** (p291) Winding your way through bazaars and unwinding in a thermal hamam in the first Ottoman capital.
- 7 Eskişehir** (p302)
Indulging in the nightlife, Ottoman quarter and all-around good vibes of inner Anatolia's most European city.