



# Western Anatolia

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## 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 civilisations can be experienced directly: hike the rock-carved Phrygian valley, pound the marbled pavement of the ancient cities of Sagalassos and Afrodiasias, or take a woodland pilgrimage on St Paul's 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 kayaking, hiking, or doing nothing at all, while vibrant Eskişehir, a student city with a sublime old town, offers river gondola rides, cultural events and happening restaurants and bars.

## Best Places to Eat

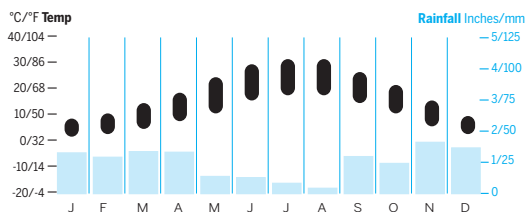
- » Kaplıkaya Kocamanlar Et Balık Restaurant (p282)
- » Passage (p289)
- » Seki Döner (p282)
- » Café Del Mundo (p289)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Kitap Evi (p281)
- » Abacı Konak Otel (p289)
- » Charly's Pension (p305)

## When to Go

### Bursa



**Jan & Feb** Take in the fresh forest air while skiing on Uludağ, near Bursa.

**Jul & Aug** Escape the heat at Lake Eğirdir, tucked between mountains.

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



## Western Anatolia Highlights

**1** Indulge in the nightlife, old-town ambience and all-around good vibes of **Eskişehir** (p286)

**2** Laze in calcite travertine pools on the snow-white ridges of **Pamukkale** (p295), beneath the ruins of ancient Hierapolis

**3** Channel the fated exhilaration of the Roman

gladiator, gazing from the tunnel onto **Afrodiasias'** (p301) vast stadium

**4** Find B&B bliss by the idyllic lake of **Eğirdir** (p303), and tackle St Paul's Trail through the Taurus Mountains

**5** Ascend the lonely heights of **Sagalassos** (p308), a

ruined mountain city with a magnificent rebuilt fountain

**6** Hike deep into a civilisation lost in the desolate, rock-hewn **Phrygian Valley** (p285)

**7** Marvel at the early Ottoman rulers' elaborate mausoleums and mosques in **Bursa** (p275), and shop for hand-woven silks