



Eastern Mediterranean

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Kızkalesi.	393
Mersin (İçel)	398
Tarsus.	399
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Hatay Sultan Sofrası (p408)
- ➔ Deniz Kizi (p391)
- ➔ Öz Asmaaltı (p402)
- ➔ Çağlayan Restaurant (p408)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Hotel Bosnalı (p402)
- ➔ Centauera (p385)
- ➔ Liwan Hotel (p406)
- ➔ Hotel Esya (p389)

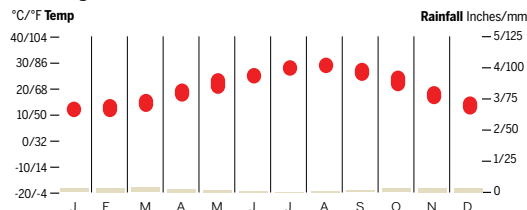
Why Go?

This is Turkey's non-airbrushed slice of Mediterranean coastline. A handful of distinctly local-style beach resorts lie between the industrial port cities. Crumbling ruins sit among acres of intensely farmed countryside with nary a tourist in sight. In the ancient towns of Tarsus and Antakya, atmospheric old-town fragments cling on amid the modern hubbub.

Southern Hatay Province's fascinating melding of religions, languages and foods is reason enough for many to linger. For others, the wealth of important early Christian sites is the eastern Med's ace up its sleeve. The area's historical riches encompass a dizzying timeline of kings and conquerors that stretches from Karatepe's late-Hittite remnants, through Roman Anemurium, to the clifftop castles of once-mighty Cilicia. The stretch of the Mediterranean that most people miss is full of surprises for those that make the trip.

When to Go

Antakya



Apr & May Munch on Anamur's bananas and strawberries during the spring harvest glut.

Jul & Aug Thermometers shoot sky-high and Turkish families hit Kızkalesi beach.

Oct Autumn is ideal for exploring Antakya's old town in between cafe stops for syrupy *künefe*.



Eastern Mediterranean Highlights

1 Hatay Archaeology Museum (p405) Marvelling at Roman and Byzantine artistry while surrounded by some of the world's finest mosaics.

2 Kızkalesi Castle (p393) Swimming to this perfect island castle.

3 Anemurium (p388) Exploring the beautiful, lonely remnants of an ancient city.

with grazing cows and sheep your only company.

4 Caves of Heaven & Hell (p395) Descending into the massive Chasm of Heaven and then test out your vertigo.

5 Narlikuyu (p395) Eating freshly grilled fish while turtles swim by your feet.

6 Karatepe (p404) Learning about Hittite history amid stone reliefs and statuary.

7 Tarsus (p399) Soaking up the ramshackle atmosphere of bygone days in the compact old town centre.