



Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean

Includes ➔

Ephesus	223
Selçuk	234
Kuşadası	243
Priene	249
Miletus	251
Didyma (Didim)	252
Bodrum	257
Marmaris	275
Datça & Bozburun Peninsulas	279

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Orfoz (p266)
- ➔ Kaplan Dağ Restoran (p239)
- ➔ Culinarium (p281)
- ➔ Limon (p271)
- ➔ Ney (p278)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Nişanyan Hotel (p242)
- ➔ Mr Happy's Liman Hotel (p245)
- ➔ El Vino Hotel (p265)
- ➔ Sabrinas Haus (p284)
- ➔ Big Blue Otel (p286)

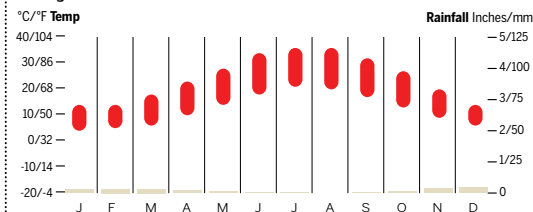
Why Go?

Civilisation on Turkey's sparkling Aegean coast looks back thousands of years. Indeed, cave paintings discovered in the Beşparmak Mountains above Lake Bafa date to 6000 BC, the earliest evidence of human settlement in Turkey. Among the region's embarrassment of ruins is Ephesus, the celebrated capital of Roman Asia Minor. Nearby, the ancient ports of Priene and Miletus, and the temples at Euromos and Didyma, offer an evocative picture of the ancient past.

In summer the population swells as millions of tourists descend on Marmaris, Kuşadası and, especially, Bodrum, Turkey's most chichi seaside getaway. This whitewashed town beneath a 15th-century castle somehow maintains an air of refinement through the nonstop partying, while new boutique hotels and elegant eateries spring up, both here and in the sophisticated coastal villages of the Bodrum Peninsula. On the remote Bozburun and Datça Peninsulas, more elemental pleasures wait in the rugged terrain and fishing villages.

When to Go

Selçuk



May & Jun Tour ancient sites while it's sunny but not oppressively hot or crowded.

Jul & Aug Party with Turks and foreigners till dawn in Bodrum and Marmaris.

Sep Enjoy the coast's beaches while the sea is still warm and costs are lower.



Ephesus, Bodrum & the South Aegean Highlights

- 1 Ephesus** (p226) Walking the marble streets of Europe's best-preserved ancient city.
- 2 Bodrum** (p257) Indulging in this resort town's dining and nightlife.
- 3 Gümüşlük** (p270) Enjoying sea views over fresh fish in Bodrum Peninsula villages like this one.
- 4 Datça & Bozburun** (p279) Feeling miles from anywhere on these rugged peninsulas.
- 5 Didyma** (p252) Gaping in wonder at this ancient settlement's Temple of Apollo.
- 6 Lake Bafa** (p253) Toasting sunset from a hilltop littered with Byzantine ruins.
- 7 Priene** (p249) Surveying rolling fields where the sea once lay from this ancient port.
- 8 Akyaka** (p285) Escaping the Aegean crowds at this river-mouth beach town among pine-clad mountains.
- 9 Selçuk** (p234) Trying seasonal produce at this regional centre's markets.