

OUR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND VALUES

ANTALYA

Historically

During the Hellenistic period, King Attalos II of Pergamon (159–138 BC) said to his soldiers, “Go and find heaven on earth for me.” Pleased with the place shown by his soldiers, Attalos II considered the strategic importance of the region and had a port city established there. The city was named “Ataleia” after its founder Attalos. Ataleia means “Land of Attalos.”

In and around Antalya, there are traces of two lifestyles that have been passed down for centuries. When the Turks first arrived in the region, some settled immediately and established villages, towns, and cities. A portion of the population, however, continued a nomadic lifestyle as they had before the Turks came to Anatolia.

They raised animals such as camels and sheep and made a living by bartering or selling the products they produced with those of the settled population. They produced meat, milk, and butter, wove goat-hair tents, and naturally dyed wool carpets. Even in winter quarters, narrow plots of land were cultivated with grain and vegetables. There were also large nomadic groups (tribes and clans) that bred horses for the Ottoman army.

Natural Beauties

Manavgat Waterfall: Located in the Manavgat district of Antalya, Manavgat Waterfall offers a magnificent natural landscape. In the river flowing through the waterfall, which allows visitors to experience adventure within nature, various outdoor sports such as rafting and canoeing can be practiced in certain sections.



Saklıkent Canyon: Located between the borders of Antalya and Fethiye, Saklıkent Canyon has a total length of 18 kilometers. If you wish to plan a nature-immersed excursion, Saklıkent Canyon offers a highly enjoyable experience. Within the canyon, forested areas formed by red pine, cedar, and black pine trees can be observed.

Kurşunlu Waterfall Nature Park: Located within the boundaries of Antalya’s Aksu district, Kurşunlu Waterfall is formed by the merging of seven small ponds and cascades from a height of approximately 20 meters. With its refreshing atmosphere and impressive scenery, the waterfall—one of the must-see attractions of an Antalya holiday—was opened to visitors as a nature park in 1991.



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Göynük Canyon: Located in the Kemer district of Antalya, Göynük Canyon lies on the Lycian Way, which is recognized by various sources as one of the world's top 10 long-distance hiking routes. The pond's emerald-green waters create an impressive natural scenery.



Köprülü Canyon National Park: Located in the Bozyaka neighborhood of the Manavgat district, Köprülü Canyon National Park has a length of 25 km. Fascinating visitors with its natural beauty, Köprülü Canyon is Turkey's most popular rafting destination. Rafting is an exciting and entertaining river sport carried out with boats called rafts on rivers with strong currents.



Kekova Island: Kekova Island is located in the Demre district of Antalya. On Kekova Island, where you can both enjoy the sea and organize historical excursions during a Mediterranean holiday, there is no construction of any kind. Surrounded by turquoise waters and offering a striking visual experience, the island is also home to sunken ancient cities around it, where entry is prohibited.

İncekum Nature Park: Located in the Alanya district of Antalya, İncekum Nature Park stands out among the region's important natural attractions. Situated at a unique point where the greenery of forests meets the blue of the Mediterranean, the park is an ideal place to spend peaceful and quiet time away from city life.



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Çıralı Yanartaş: Located in the Kemer district of Antalya, Çıralı Yanartaş is situated on the slopes of Çatalağ Mountain, one of Kemer's natural beauties, and has highly impressive features. In the area where methane gas continuously burns between the rocks at the summit, flames can be observed burning 24 hours a day.

Düden Waterfall: Due to its enchanting natural beauty, Düden Waterfall is one of Antalya's most visited tourist attractions. According to a legend dating back to 334 BC, it is said that Alexander the Great watered his horses here while conquering the Pamphylia region. There are two waterfalls in total: Lower Düden and Upper Düden.



Tazı Canyon: Tazı Canyon is a canyon valley located in the Manavgat district of Antalya Province. Situated within the borders of Köprülü Canyon National Park, Tazı Canyon was formed by the deep erosion of the Köprüçay River valley. It is estimated that the canyon's formation dates back to the Ice Age. As ice masses separated and melted, and as erosion occurred with great force causing valleys to carve deeper into the land, the canyon was formed by hollowing out limestone rocks in non-calcareous areas. The canyon is 4 km in length.

Historical Sites

Antalya is home to many cultural heritage sites such as Kaleiçi (Old Town), Old Antalya Houses, Yivli Minaret, Şehzade Korkut Mosque, Karatay Madrasa, Perge Ancient City, Karain Cave, Hadrian's Gate, Phaselis Ancient City, Aspendos Theatre, Xanthos Ancient City, Sillion Ancient City, Alanya Castle, Myra Ancient City, Temple of Apollo, and Olympos Ancient City.

Agriculture and Livestock

Various agricultural products are cultivated on the fertile lands of the Antalya region. Among agricultural products, wheat, barley, and oats are the most commonly grown. In addition, cotton, sesame, onion, peanut, and chickpeas are cultivated, and vegetables are grown on more than 35,000 hectares of land. Antalya is the most advanced province in greenhouse farming; tomatoes, peppers, beans, eggplants, cucumbers, melons, and watermelons are grown in greenhouses covering 32,000 hectares and sold both domestically and internationally.

Antalya is also highly developed in fruit cultivation. Bananas and oranges are produced in large quantities, making Antalya the leading province in this field. Apples, pears, plums, quinces, peaches, apricots, grapes, figs, carob, cornelian cherry, and other fruits are also grown. Mandarin, lemon, and grapefruit are among Antalya's main sources of income, and olive cultivation is also well developed alongside citrus production.

The climatic characteristics of the Antalya region and its rich vegetation also support a diverse wildlife population. Deer, foxes, martens, squirrels, fallow deer, wild goats, jackals, hyenas, wolves, bears, partridges, quails, partridges, wood pigeons, quails, francolins, pheasants, rock partridges, and cranes constitute the main wildlife species of the province.

Atatürk

Our great leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is the founder and the first President of the Republic of Türkiye.

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Born in Thessaloniki in 1881. His mother was Zübeyde Hanım and his father was Ali Rıza Efendi. Following his military education, as the occupation of the homeland began, he went to Samsun on May 19, 1919, and initiated the National Struggle. With the opening of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, he was elected as the Speaker of the Assembly and Head of Government. Following the victory of the Battle of Sakarya, he was granted the titles of Gazi and Field Marshal. With the proclamation of the Republic in 1923, he became the first President of the Republic of Türkiye. He passed away on November 10, 1938.

National and Religious Values

National holidays such as April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day, May 19 Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day, August 30 Victory Day, and October 29 Republic Day, which are celebrated with enthusiasm, as well as our National Anthem İstiklal Marşı, recited during moments of silence, are among our national values. The İstiklal Marşı was written by Mehmet Akif Ersoy and was adopted by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on March 12, 1921. It was later composed by Osman Zeki Üngör.

Ramadan Feast (Eid al-Fitr) and Sacrifice Feast (Eid al-Adha) are among our religious values.

Local Folk Dances

The folk dances of the Antalya region have a regional characteristic known as "Teke Folklore." As in music, the influence of the Yörüks is strongly felt in folk dances as well. The region's dances include Mengi, Samah, Teke, Spoon Dances, and Zeybek, which are performed without dancers holding onto each other. In the eastern districts of Antalya, dances such as Konya Spoon Dance, Boğaz Tunes, Serenler Zeybek, Anamur Roads, Silifke's Yoğurdu, and Cezayir Tunes are performed. These dances can be performed individually or in groups.

Local Cuisine

The dietary habits of the Yörüks are mainly based on animal husbandry and wheat-based foods. Although fresh vegetables are produced to some extent along the coastline, wheat and dried legumes become more dominant as one moves inland. In Antalya, it is possible to find cuisines from all over the world in touristic hotels and restaurants. Local dishes specific to the region include Saç Kavrması, Tandır Kebab, Kölle (boiled wheat, beans, chickpeas, and broad beans), Tomato Stew, Hibeş, and Arapaşı.

Festivals and Celebrations

Various festivals and celebrations are organized in Antalya at different times of the year. These festivals are generally summer celebrations held on the high plateaus of Antalya (such as Feslikan Plateau Festival, Söbüce Plateau Festival, and Alanya Festivals). In addition, festivals are organized in the Elmalı region by communities that preserve Alevi-Bektashi-Turkmen culture (such as Abdal Musa Festivals).

In Antalya, festivals are held at local, national, and international levels. The largest national festival is the Antalya Television Awards, which began in 2010. At the international level, the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival is held every October. Additionally, the International Antalya Sand Sculpture Festival is among Türkiye's only and the world's largest sand sculpture events.

Traditional Handicrafts and Crafts in Antalya

Antalya, which has been a cultural center throughout history and continues to preserve this characteristic today, also stands out with the diversity of its traditional handicrafts. As a result of field research conducted at various times in the province, some of the identified handicrafts can be listed as follows:

- Wooden Boat Building
- Musical Instrument Making
- Coppersmithing
- Bell Making
- Knife Making
- Dowry Chest Making

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- Sock Knitting
- Blacksmithing
- Glass Cup (Bardak Figla Bardağı) Making
- Gilamik Weaving
- Carpet Weaving
- Silk Weaving
- Tinning
- Spoon Making
- Kilim Weaving
- Kolan (Çarpana) Weaving
- Lace Making (Oya Knitting)
- Gourd Carving
- Quilting

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History

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Antalya and its surroundings carry the heritage of both lifestyles that have been in existence for centuries. When the Turks first came here, they immediately adapted to the settled order and founded villages, towns and cities. A part of the population continued a nomadic life as it was before the Turks came to Anatolia.

They raised animals such as camels and sheep and made a living by exchanging or selling the products they produced from these with the products of the settled people. They produced meat, milk and oil, and weaved wool tents and natural root-dyed rugs. There were even those who planted grain and vegetables in narrow areas during the winter quarters. There were even large nomadic groups (tribes, clans) that trained horses for the Ottoman army

Natural Beauties

Manavgat Waterfall: Located in the Manavgat district of Antalya. The waterfall has a magnificent natural view and allows adventure in natural landscapes. Various nature sports such as rafting and canoeing can be done in certain stages of the river..

