# PAMUKKALE
## TRAVEL GUIDE

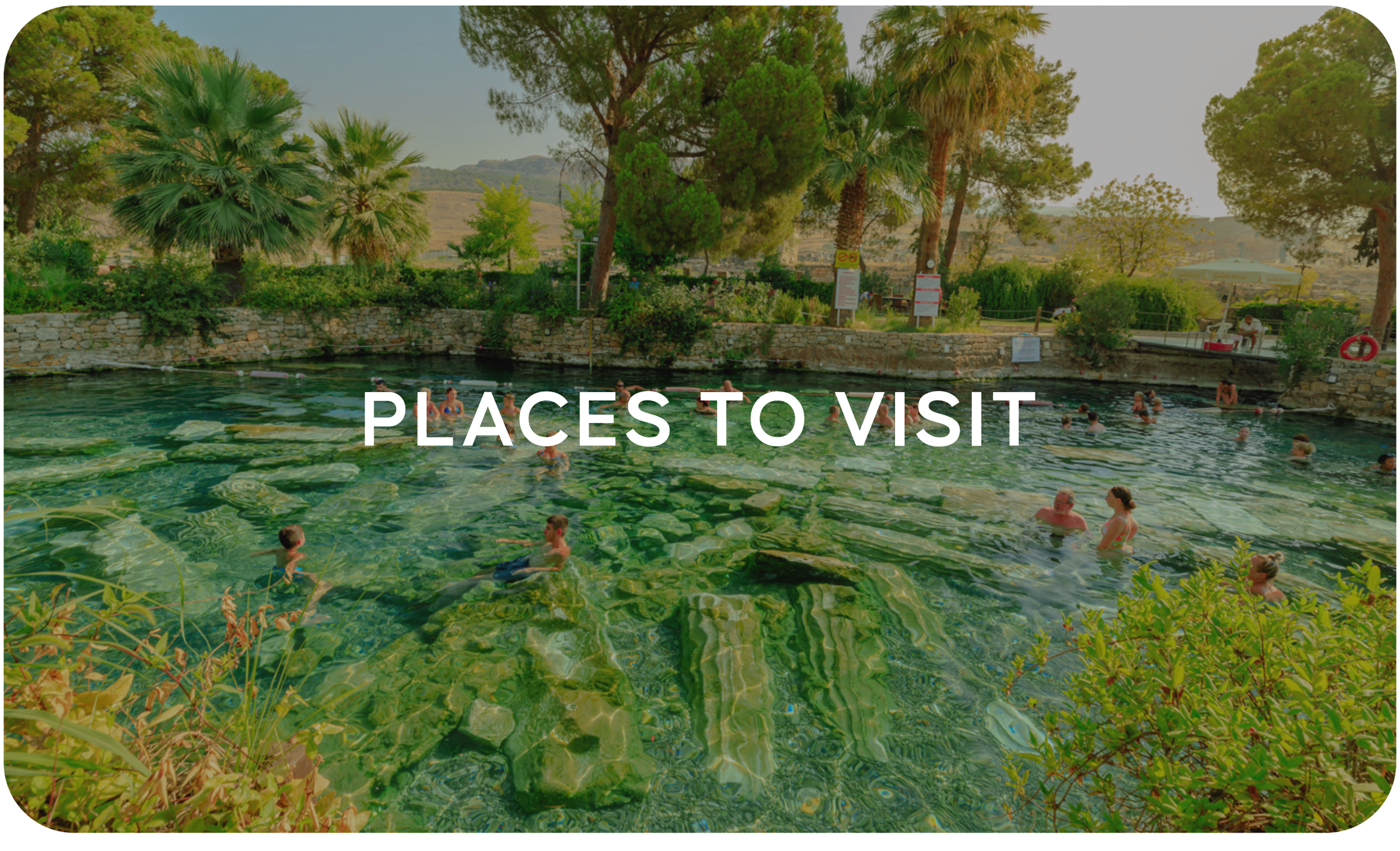
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# ABOUT PAMUKKALE



# PLACES TO VISIT



# GASTRONOMY

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TOURISM

# ABOUT PAMUKKALE

## DENİZLİ HISTORY

A city abundant in history and culture, Denizli is situated in the western part of Türkiye. With a history of hosting numerous civilisations from ancient times to the present, Denizli now holds significant importance as a tourist destination. Denizli was established by Seleucid King Antiochus II between 261 and 245 BC, It was originally located six km north of its current location, near the village of Eskihisar. Antiochus II designated the city in honour of his wife, Laodice. The city, known as 'Laodicea,' or 'city of Laodice,' was devastated by a significant earthquake in the 7th century AD. Afterwards it was moved to its present site in Kaleiçi. Following the conquest of the Denizli region by the Turks, the city was renamed 'Ladik.'



Denizli's storied history traces back to ancient times. Excavations in the region have revealed remnants from civilisations including the Phrygians, Lydians, Persians, Romans, and Byzantines. In ancient times, the Denizli region was referred to as Phrygia and served as a significant trading hub. In 333 BC, Alexander the Great triumphed over the Persians, leading to the rise of the Hellenistic culture as the prevailing influence in the region. The region continued to hold a crucial role during the Roman Empire which lead to the construction of numerous notable structures.

Throughout the time of the Ottoman Empire, Denizli continued to experience numerous civilizations. During the 19th century, many mosques, bazaars, inns, and caravanserais were constructed in the region. In its current location in the Aegean Region, Denizli serves as a transit point linking the two regions along the Mediterranean border. It is renowned for the Pamukkale Travertines, which have been recognized on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1988.

# ABOUT PAMUKKALE

## GEOGRAPHY

Denizli is situated in the southwestern part of the Anatolian Peninsula, to the east of the Aegean Region. The Denizli province spans across three regions acting as a bridge connecting the Aegean, Central Anatolian, and Mediterranean regions.

The province features a rolling landscape features of low plains, plateaus, and mountains which create a stunning landscape. Acıgöl, Denizli, is renowned for producing the world's cleanest sodium sulphate salt, which has a 99.5% purity rate. The area also boasts natural lakes that serve as mating grounds for many birds; hosting around thirty species including flamingos and ducks.



The climate characteristic of the region is not consistent here although the Pamukkale District of Denizli is in the Aegean Region. Denizli possesses climate characteristics that are more similar to those found in the Central Anatolia Region. Temperatures can be somewhat cooler, however the climate of the inland regions is experienced to a lesser degree, due to it being in a transition point between coastal areas and inland regions. With altitude, the weather can be more severe. Typically, summers in the province are characterized by dry heat and low precipitation, with winters tending to be mild and rainy. The months of December through March experience the highest levels of rainfall. The mountains in the province predominantly align perpendicular to the water, making them susceptible to sea winds. The mild climate and generally favourable conditions contribute significantly to Denizli's natural charm with the weather conditions facilitating the growth of plant species more characteristic of the Black Sea Region, such as red oak, linden, hazelnut, chestnut, willow, and fern.

# ABOUT PAMUKKALE

## TOURISM

Denizli is found at the end of the Ephesus-Izmir road which is recognized as a sacred pilgrimage route through the geography of the cradle of civilization It also boasts an abundance of natural, historical, and cultural treasures which highlight the city's considerable potential in tourism.

The Pamukkale Travertines are a remarkable natural wonder listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List along with Hierapolis, historically referred to as the 'Holy City'. This hub of beauty and health, and Pamukkale are significant attractions that entice tourists to Denizli. But the tourism potential of Denizli doesn't end there.

Denizli provides alternative tourism that encompasses many ancient cities, from Laodicea, where important archaeological remains have been unearthed, to Tripolis, another ancient city where excavations are ongoing; along with Attuta and Colossae, thought to be the residence of the first Christians which was referenced in the Bible as 'The Epistle to the Colossians'. In total this historical region is home to 19 ancient cities.



# ABOUT PAMUKKALE

## TOURISM

Renowned for the centuries-old healing waters of Pamukkale, Denizli also boasts the Karahayıt Hot Springs, famously known as the ‘Red Water’ hot springs where the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra indulged in mud baths. The Sarayköy Babacık Hot Springs are thought to offer relief for various ailments, whilst the Çizmeli (Yenice) and Beylerli Hot Springs contribute to the region's reputation for health and beauty. The healing thermal waters and muds of Sarayköy Tekkeköy and the Gölemezli Mud Hot Springs in Denizli showcase a remarkable potential for thermal and health tourism, enriched by plentiful healing resources. The medical centres, hospitals, eye hospitals, dental clinics, health and treatment centres, hotels providing thermal tourism services, guesthouses, and spas serve as key attractions in this city that drive interest from both local and international visitors.

The highest point of the Aegean Region, Denizli, is home to Honaz Mountain, which entices visitors with mythological stories that combine natural, historical, and cultural wealth alongside unique geomorphological features. The winter sports centre of Bozdağ, the legendary Keloğlan Cave, Tokalı Canyon, Bekilli Creek, one of Türkiye's prominent rafting destinations, the breathtaking Güney Waterfall, along with the lush highlands and vineyards of this region showcase a rich variety of activities, traditional flavours, and local products.

Hours from the sea, Denizli is known as the ‘water city’ as it is home to abundant water sources and lakes rich in diverse flora and fauna. These natural wonders provide stunning visual experiences, excellent birdwatching opportunities, and support a range of economically viable activities.

In conclusion, Denizli boasts a diverse array of untapped tourism opportunities, encompassing thermal and health tourism, eco-tourism, mountain tourism, winter tourism, as well as religious and cultural tourism, agro-tourism, and birdwatching.

# PLACES TO VISIT

HISTORICAL SITES & MUSEUMS

NATURAL BEAUTIES

# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### THE ANCIENT CITY of HIERAPOLIS

Commonly found on travel-bucket lists, the Pamukkale Travertines attract approximately two million visitors annually The allure of Pamukkale can be traced back to Roman times, where the white travertines, formed by the interaction of thermal waters with the air, create stepped formations resembling frozen waterfalls and, in certain areas, terrace-like pools. It is a destination where nature has truly embraced its artistic side.

Located adjacent to the travertines, the ancient city of Hierapolis' impressive ruins date back to the same period. Alongside the extraordinarily beautiful travertines the ruins of Hierapolis are part of the same UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage listing.

The ancient city of Hierapolis has survived to the present day in remarkably good condition. The ancient theatre, temples, and monumental fountains, the tombs, agora, and gymnasium are uncommonly preserved, visually transporting you to a city from 2,000 years ago.



# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

Hierapolis has served as a significant sacred Christian site primarily because St. Philip, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus, was killed and entombed here. Other significant Christian structures in this area comprise the Martyrium, constructed by court architects in the fifth century, which contains St. Philip's tomb; a sixth-century cathedral featuring a baptismal font and bishops' ceremonial chambers; and the seventh-century Church of the Columns. Numerous smaller churches are dispersed across the city as well. Together, these structures demonstrate that Hierapolis served as a significant religious centre during the Byzantine period.

### Important Sites to See in the Ancient City of Hierapolis

- Hierapolis Theatre
- Great Bath Complex
- Frontinus Street
- Agora
- North Byzantine Gate
- South Byzantine Gate
- Gymnasium
- Triton Fountain Building
- House with Ionic Capital
- Latrine
- Apollo Sanctuary
- Aqueducts and Nymphaea
- Plutonium
- Walls
- Cathedral
- Saint Philip Martyrion



# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### Getting There

The Ancient City of Hierapolis is in the Denizli province of Türkiye about 17 kilometres north of Denizli. Our hotel is less than five kilometres from Hierapolis. For those traveling by car, simply enter 'Hierapolis Ancient City' into your map application for directions. If you do not have access to a car, taxis are always available.

Travelers departing from Denizli in a private vehicle should proceed towards Pamukkale following the signs marked 'Ancient City', you should arrive at Hierapolis in about 20 minutes. Individuals using public transport can board the minibuses leaving from the Denizli bus station. The minibuses take about 25 minutes to arrive at Hierapolis. Special organized tours are also available.

The nearest airport to Hierapolis Ancient City is Çardak Airport located in Denizli.



### When are the best times to visit the Ancient City of Hierapolis?

The ideal times to explore Hierapolis are in spring (April-June) and autumn (September-November), as the weather is pleasant and temperatures are more comfortable for outdoor activities. The days are still sunny during this period but the likelihood of experiencing extreme temperatures are reduced. With a **MuseumPass,** you can visit this location as many times as you wish throughout the year.

### Hours:

*Open: 8:00 AM*
*Closed: 9:00 PM*
*The Ticket Office closes at 8:00 PM.*

**Hours may vary seasonally, confirm with the relevant institutions prior to arrival.*

# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### THE ANCIENT CITY OF LAODICEA

Established south of the Lycus River, the ancient city of Laodicea had an advantageous geographical position. Ancient sources refer to the city as 'Laodicea on the Lycus'. Other ancient sources indicate that the city was established between 261-263 BC by **Antiochus II,** who named it after his wife, Laodice. Laodicea stood out as a significant and celebrated city in Anatolia during the first century BC. This city's significance is underscored by the presence of one of the seven renowned churches of Asia Minor, highlighting the importance of Christianity in the region.

The city's significant artworks also originate from the first century. A collection of finely crafted coins was produced in Laodicea under the rule of Emperor Caracalla. The Romans established Laodicea as the centre of the Conventus of Kybyra (Gölhisar-Horzum). Additionally, contributions from the Laodiceans led to the construction of numerous monumental structures within the city. However, a significant earthquake in 60 AD utterly devastated the city.



# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### Important Sites to See in the Ancient City of Laodicea

- Great Theatre
- Small Theatre
- Stadium and Gymnasium
- Monumental Fountain
- Temple of Zeus
- Great Church

### Getting There

Travel six kilometres along the Denizli-Pamukkale road, then take the westward branching road from Korucuk Mahallesi. Continue on this road for about 500 metres to arrive at the Laodicea Ancient City Archaeological Site. Minibuses are available for transport from the Denizli bus station to Pamukkale, as well as the Korucuk minibuses.

### When is the best time to visit the Ancient City of Laodicea?

The best times to explore Laodicea are in spring (April-June) and autumn (September-November), as the weather is pleasant and temperatures are comfortable for outdoor activities. The days are sunny during these seasons but the likelihood of experiencing extreme temperatures are reduced. With a **MuseumPass,** you can visit this location as many times as you wish throughout the year.

### Hours:

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# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### THE ANCIENT CITY OF TRIPOLIS

The ancient city of Tripolis is located on a hillside beside the Menderes River. This city is among the ancient ones that provided access to the Aegean Sea (through the valleys extending to the west and north), as well as to Central Anatolia, and the Mediterranean (through the Çürüksu Plain, and the valleys to the southeast). Tripolis lies 30 kilometres from modern day Laodicea, which is south of the city in the Çürüksu Valley 20 kilometres from Hierapolis.

According to sources, Tripolis was initially named Apollonia then renamed during the Late Hellenistic Period. Its establishment is traced back to the era of the Lydian Empire. Tripolis, stood out as a significant border, trade, and agricultural hub, offering access to the regions of Phrygia and Caria. It is a city that significantly influenced a large portion of the Çürüksu Plain, enhanced by the Menderes River and the Çürüksu Stream, and was established as one of the wealthiest cities in the region with elegant urban planning.

Originally established in the Lydian era, The city reached its pinnacle of glory during the Roman era. Tripolis showcases surface remnants that reflect the architectural styles and structures typical of the Roman and Byzantine periods. The ancient city of Tripolis experienced significant destruction due to a series of earthquakes and conflicts during the late second century BC, the mid-first century AD, and the mid-fourth century AD.



# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### Important Sites to See in the Ancient City of Tripolis

- Tripolis Theatre
- Orchestra
- Stage and Stage Building
- Tripolis Baths
- City Hall
- Apsis Building
- Castle and Walls
- Waterways
- Necropolis

### Getting There

The ancient city of Tripolis lies within the Buldan district, just 22 kilometres away from our hotel. If you are driving, enter 'Tripolis' into your maps application. If you are taking public transport from the hotel, use the Pamukkale-Denizli bus from the hotel stop, located one kilometre away, to the Denizli bus station. From there, you can catch the minibus to Buldan.

Certain travel companies or tour operators provide tours to explore the Ancient City of Tripolis. Joining a tour allows you to easily tour the ancient city alongside a knowledgeable guide.

### When is the best time to visit the Ancient City of Tripolis?

The visiting hours and ticket office closing time for the Ancient City of Tripolis are as follows: Open every day.

**1 April - 1 October**
*Açılış Saati: 08:00*
*Kapanış Saati: 19:00*
*Ticket Office Closing Time: 6:30 PM*

**1 October–1 April**
*Open: 8:00 AM*
*Closed: 5:00 PM*
*The Ticket Office closes at 4:30 PM*

**Hours may vary seasonally, confirm with the relevant institutions prior to arrival.*

# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### APOLLON LAIRENOS TEMPLE

The Temple of Apollon Lairenos is perched on a small hill called Asartepe, that provides views of the Menderes Valley. This temple seems to resemble one of the local cult centres typically seen throughout various areas of Western Anatolia. Recently it has garnered interest from scholars focused on the history of religion. This is due to its status as the only repository of a specific type of inscription that holds significant importance in the history of religions and is unique to Anatolia. These inscriptions, known as katagraphe, denote the 'dedication to the god' of particular individuals or properties. Additionally, this unassuming temple is among only two locations where inscriptions confirming the tradition of confession (penance), once observed solely in Western Anatolia then subsequently embraced by Christians, have been discovered.



### THE ANCIENT CITY OF COLOSSAE

The ancient city of Colossae was established along the banks of the Aksu River, located to the north of Mount Honaz (Cadmos). It is found along a southern trade route that has been utilised since ancient times. It was a significant hub within Greater Phrygia; Xenophon stated that it was one of the six principal cities of Phrygia. It also thrived during the period of Persian rule. Its significance diminished with the founding of Hierapolis and Laodicea from the third century BC onwards, and it was ultimately destroyed by an earthquake during Nero's reign in the first century AD.

The city was established as Chonae between 692 and 787 AD in what is now the Honaz district centre but was entirely deserted following an earthquake. Ancient sources state that the Church of St. Michael was situated in the city of Chonae. Remnants of a castle from the Ottoman era have been found while the remnants of the ancient city of Colossae are located on the hilltop acropolis and its surroundings. To the north of the mound are rock-cut rooms and tombs resembling houses.

# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

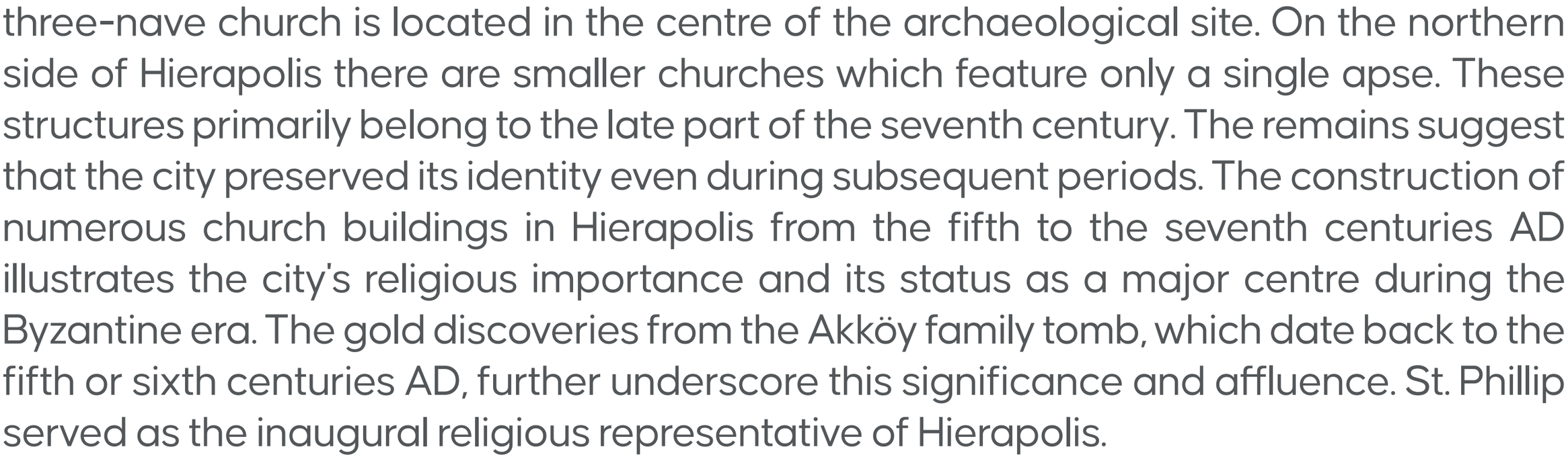
### ÇARDAK CARAVANSERAI

The seven-line inscription on the Çardak Caravanserai indicates that it was constructed during the reign of Alaeddin Keykubat by his freed slave and commander, Esededdin Ayaz bin Abdullah el Şahabi. Referred to as Hanabat when it was part of the Dinar district, the caravanserai later served as a grain storehouse during the War of Independence.



### DİREKLİ (PILLARED) CHURCH

The pillared church at the Pamukkale Archaeological Site, dates to the seventh century AD. It features three naves, with large and small pillars that separate the aisles between them with an apse at the end of the central nave. The structure is probably vaulted. The diakonon and protasis, which encompass the baptism and liturgy sections, are positioned on either side of the single apse at the end of the central nave. This three-nave church is located in the centre of the archaeological site. On the northern side of Hierapolis there are smaller churches which feature only a single apse. These structures primarily belong to the late part of the seventh century. The remains suggest that the city preserved its identity even during subsequent periods. The construction of numerous church buildings in Hierapolis from the fifth to the seventh centuries AD illustrates the city's religious importance and its status as a major centre during the Byzantine era. The gold discoveries from the Akköy family tomb, which date back to the fifth or sixth centuries AD, further underscore this significance and affluence. St. Phillip served as the inaugural religious representative of Hierapolis.



# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### ST. PHILIP'S BRIDGE

This expansive bridge is in the eastern section of the ancient city of Hierapolis, just beyond St. Philip's Gate. The structure is made up of 12 metre wide rectangular travertine blocks on its southern side, which is also paved with building stones, and is situated along the continuation of the road from the city centre. After crossing the bridge, you will arrive at the St. Philippus Martyrion, atop the hill.

On the northern side of the bridge, there is an octagonal structure, likely a baptistery, accompanied by ascending steps the path ends at the elevated resting site of St. Philip. This region served as a significant pilgrimage destination in Asia Minor during the pre-Byzantine era. An Italian archaeological team aims to reconstruct the bridge, thus restoring the functionality of the ceremonial route that connects the city to the Martyrion.



### HIERAPOLIS PAMUKKALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

A prominent structure in the city of Hierapolis, the Roman Baths have functioned as the Hierapolis Archaeological Museum since 1984. The museum features a variety of small and large artefacts and is comprised of three enclosed spaces. The artefacts showcased in the open area primarily consist of marble and stone works. The museum features artefacts not only from the Hierapolis excavations but also from cities in the Lycos (Çürüksu) valley, including Laodicea, Colossae, Tripolis, and Attuda. Constituting a significant aspect of the museum are the archaeological discoveries from the Beycesultan Mound, which showcase some of the most remarkable examples of the Bronze Age. Gathered artefacts excavated from settlements in the areas of Caria, Pisidia, and Lydia are also currently showcased at the Hierapolis Museum. Additionally, the three enclosed spaces, integral to the Hierapolis Baths, along with the open areas designated as the library and gymnasium on the eastern side, have also been organised as exhibition areas.

# PLACES TO VISIT

## HISTORICAL SITES and MUSEUMS

### ATATÜRK HOUSE ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM

Whilst there is no conclusive documentation about the construction date, information collected from the public suggests that the building was constructed in the late 19th century. The building served as party headquarters in the early years of the Republic, and the beloved leader Atatürk spent one night here during his visit to Denizli on 4 February 1931. After the 1950s, the building was assigned to the Ministry of Health and functioned as a Tuberculosis Dispensary. In 1977, it received recognition as a monument by the Ministry of Culture and was placed under national protection. The building underwent restoration beginning in1981, marking the centenary of Atatürk's birth, until the close of 1983, when it was prepared for exhibition, officially opening as a museum on 1 February 1984.

Located on the upper floor of the museum, two rooms showcase artefacts related to Atatürk, whilst additional rooms are designed to reflect a traditional Denizli house. The room where Atatürk resided during his visits to Denizli has been transformed into a study. The room features a divan for relaxation, a desk, photographs of Atatürk captured in Denizli, and a cabinet showcasing glassware. The second room, Atatürk's bedroom, features a brass bed with mattress, a telephone, and a mirrored wardrobe that once belonged to Atatürk. The lower floor of the Atatürk House and Ethnography Museum features a display of fascinating ethnographic artefacts.



**Visiting hours for the Atatürk House Ethnography Museum**

Admission is free.

| *Summer Season* | *Winter Season* |
|---|---|
| Open: 8:00 AM | Open: 8:00 AM |
| Closed: 7:00 PM | Closed: 3:00 PM |

**Hours may vary seasonally, confirm with the relevant institutions prior to arrival.*

# PLACES TO VISIT

## NATURAL BEAUTIES

### THE PAMUKKALE TRAVERTINES

Pamukkale and Hierapolis, were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as cultural and natural heritage sites in 1988. Naturally, this heightened interest in Pamukkale and its tourism potential. As Pamukkale received more visitors, a decrease in the travertines' renowned whiteness prompted the implementation of specific regulations for tourists to the site. The Pamukkale Travertines are composed of this sedimentary rock known as travertine. Travertine is a rock type that results from chemical reactions influenced by various factors including precipitation. In Pamukkale and its vicinity, there are 17 hot water sources, with temperatures varying from 35 °C to 100 °C. The source of Pamukkale's water is underground and is supplied in a controlled manner.

- Here is a more thorough explanation of the Pamukkale Travertines: The term 'travertine' originates from Italy, deriving from 'Tivertino,' , a name that was used during the Roman era to refer to Tivoli, Italy; known for its abundant travertine deposits.

- From their source, the thermal waters traverse an average distance of 300 metres through a channel, eventually arriving at the of Pamukkale travertines; where they then commence their descent down the terraces which stand at an average height of 70 metres.

- The underground waters that create the Pamukkale Travertines surface at temperatures ranging from 35.6 °C to 36 °C. When this underground water with high concentrations of calcium bicarbonate encounters the oxygen in the air, it precipitates calcium carbonate, leading to the formation of travertine rock. Initially, the precipitation process exhibits a jelly-like consistency, later the texture resembles that which you see in the Pamukkale Travertines.

- The white colour of the precipitate is affected by weather conditions, the distribution and duration of groundwater flow, and variations in the temperature of the water, whether under or aboveground. The precipitation process persists until the carbon dioxide in the thermal water sourced from under the ground reaches equilibrium with the carbon dioxide present in the atmosphere.

- The Pamukkale Travertines receive thermal water in a regulated manner, resulting in the travertine terraces not being consistently filled with water. The continuous influx of thermal groundwater to a single location, coupled with its abundant volume, promotes algae proliferation in the thermal water, adversely affecting the pristine whiteness of the travertine. Consequently, the travertine terraces are dried in a controlled manner to guarantee an attractive appearance as well as the solidification of the sediment.

# PLACES TO VISIT

## NATURAL BEAUTIES

### Getting There

There are various ways to access this archaeological site that one of Denizli's key attractions as it is close to the city centre.
The distance from our hotel to the travertines is less than five kilometres. When travelling by car, enter ‘Pamukkale Travertines’ into your map application. If you don't have access to a car, you can easily hire a taxi.

Buses and minibuses travel directly to Pamukkale from nearly every location in Denizli. Accessing the site is straightforward with the shuttle services that leave from the Denizli bus station.

When travelling by private car, you can conveniently access Pamukkale by taking the D585 highway and following the road signs along the way.



# NATURAL BEAUTIES

## ALSO IN PAMUKKALE

**You can hire golf carts and scooters.**

Pamukkale covers several kilometres. Plan for a minimum of 5-6 hours to explore the entire area on foot. It is advisable to begin early in the morning. However, if you're looking to navigate the area more efficiently, you have the option to rent golf carts and scooters. An exploration in a seven-seater golf cart lasts around one hour. A quick tour of the entire area of Pamukkale can be enjoyed in this way. For those interested in exploring by scooter, there are choices of two-hour tours. Exploring the entire area in a three-seater scooter is also an option.

**You can go paragliding**

Paragliding is available in Denizli, even if it isn't widely known. Paragliding classes are available for both beginners and experienced individuals, offering an opportunity to experience the region's stunning scenery firsthand whilst enjoying an exciting day outdoors. Even without prior experience, you can fly tandem under the guidance of professional instructors.

**You can take a hot air balloon tour**

An adventurous hot air balloon tour offers a breathtaking once-in-a-lifetime experience enabling you to explore Pamukkale from above. In recent years, Pamukkale has emerged as the second most sought-after destination for hot air balloon tours in Türkiye, following Cappadocia. The breathtakingly white terraces are even more magnificent when viewed from the sky. From above, you will have the opportunity to see history unfold as you view the remnants of the 2,000-year-old ancient city of Hierapolis, adjacent to the Pamukkale terraces, along with the vast agricultural fields stretching below.

Balloon tours in Pamukkale begin at dawn, offering a great opportunity to witness the sunrise from the sky. Balloon flights are operated by skilled pilots in baskets designed to carry up to 20 passengers. Balloons ascend to heights of around 1,000 metres and the ride typically last for about an hour. We highly encourage you to embark on this rare opportunity of a hot air balloon tour in the singular beauty of Pamukkale.



# PLACES TO VISIT

## NATURAL BEAUTIES

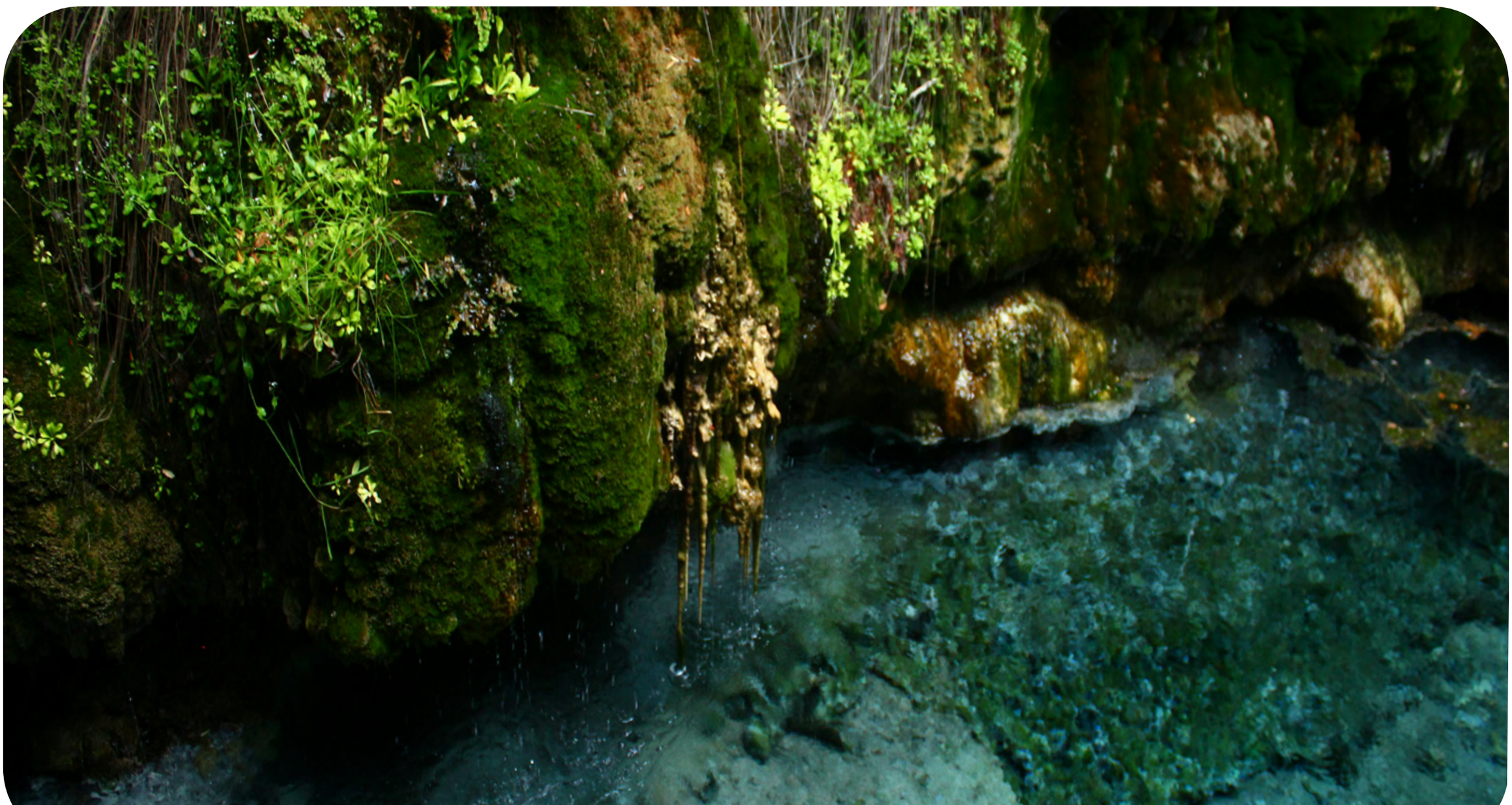
### HONAZ MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Honaz Mountain National Park encompasses Honaz Mountain and its surroundings. It is situated within the districts of Honaz, Pamukkale, and Serinhisar in Denizli. Honaz Mountain stands at an elevation of 2,571 metres, making it the highest point in the Aegean Region. This national park boasts a Mediterranean climate and is abundant in local flora, fauna, and interesting geological features. Adorned with greenery, the mountain boasts a diverse array of plant life, thanks to these unique climatic conditions and it stands out in the surrounding region through the variety of its plant species. This national park hosts a variety of rare endemic plant species, along with wild animals such as goats, boars, badgers, foxes, hares, and martens. Additionally, it is home to four species of reptiles and 64 species of birds. Honaz Mountain National Park features a distinctive landscape characterised by steep rocky slopes, waterfalls, and other notable geological formations. The park can be reached from the centre of the Honaz district on the Denizli-Antalya highway. Accommodations for day trips are available both within the national park and in the surrounding areas. There are numerous locations ideal for hiking and camping.

### KAKLIK CAVE

Found in Kaklık Mahallesi, within the Honaz district, approximately 30 kilometres from the centre of Denizli along the Denizli-Ankara highway is Kaklık Cave. The cave holds transparent, odourless water with a hint of sulphur that is recognised for treating certain skin conditions. Since May 2002, visitors have access to a swimming pool, a small amphitheatre, viewing areas, a cafeteria, and gazebos near the cave.

The walls of Kaklık Cave are perpetually dripping with water are bathed in direct sunlight and so are adorned with thick moss and delicate, vine-like plants with small leaves. Influenced by the changing light, these plants exhibit varying shades of green throughout the day, which only enhances the cave's already unique beauty.



# PLACES TO VISIT

## NATURAL BEAUTIES

### IŞIKLI LAKE

Found in the Çivril district of Denizli, Işıklı Lake, is at an altitude of approximately 800 metres and spans an area of around 3,500 hectares. The lake has been designated a Class A Wetland under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The lake is fed by the Büyük Menderes River, Karanlık Creek, and Kuti Creek. It was created by constructing an irrigation regulator on the sources feeding the Büyük Menderes River and, over time, Işıklı Lake become known as destination for nature lovers due to the visual beauty of the water lilies. Dikes have been built on the eastern, western and southern shores of the lake, which is fed by water sources coming from the east. As a result, the water levels of the lake have risen and the reeds have decreased.

The lake provides an important habitat for water birds year-round. Species nesting in the area include the Little Bittern, Squacco Heron, Little Egret, Great Egret, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis, Greylag Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Ferruginous Duck, Steller's Sea-Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Long-legged Buzzard, Black-winged Stilt, Common Gull-billed Tern, Whiskered Tern, White-winged Tern and Tawny Pipit to name just a few. Some of the water birds observed on the lake in winter are the Pygmy Cormorant, Great Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose, Greylag Goose, Eurasian Teal, Northern Pintail, Kepçel, and Wilson's Snipe.



### CLEOPATRA'S ANTIQUE POOL

The ancient Cleopatra's Pool in Pamukkale, recognised on the UNESCO's World Heritage List, is a significant draw for tourists exploring the area. Visitors can step into the warm waters of the ancient pool to enhance their beauty and well-being as others have done for centuries. The antique pool showcases historical artefacts and remnants from the Roman era, including column capitals and substantial marble fragments.

This venerable pool, once graced by Queen Cleopatra of Egypt, herself, provides a unique opportunity to bathe amidst ancient ruins. Sometimes referred to as 'Cleopatra's beauty pool,' this site captivates visitors with its warm, clear water while showcasing historical columns and ancient marble fragments. It is a favourite of both local and international tourists, as well as individuals in search of remedies for various ailments.

# PLACES TO VISIT

## NATURAL BEAUTIES

### BULDAN

The Buldan district of Denizli captivates visitors with its rich textiles, historic houses, important archaeological sites, and other charming attractions. Nearly every kind of textile imaginable is woven in Buldan; on which its economy has relied since ancient times. In some rural areas and lower neighbourhoods of Buldan, grape cultivation serves as a significant source of income along with the crops of chestnuts, apples, strawberries, thyme, tobacco, and other vegetables which are all significant contributors to the economy as well.

### BULDAN YAYLA LAKE

Around the pristine waters of Süleymanlı Lake, situated near Süleymanlı Mountain in the Buldan district, small livestock farming is still commonly practiced. The lake is inhabited by carp and catfish and serves as a temporary haven for migratory birds. Wild animals like rabbits, boars, porcupines, badgers, mallards, great white pelicans, and coots are often spotted here. A total of 95 plant groups can be found in the areas surrounding the lake. Among these, two species are endemic, 62 species thrive around the lake, and 33 species are either suspended or attached to the lakebed. Situated in a prime natural site, this lake provides an ideal setting for fishing and camping.

### KARAHAYIT SPRINGS

Found in the Karahayıt neighbourhood of Denizli are the Karahayıt Springs. Year-round, a distinctive, red-coloured healing thermal water and mud emanates from the primary source at a temperature of 58 ºC. A report from the Ege University Institute of Hydro climatology highlighted the unique health benefits attributed to its rich mineral content.



GASTRONOMY

# GASTRONOMY

## DENİZLİ KEBAB

Since the early 1900s, the Denizli kebab, a well-known variety of Turkish kebab originating from the Denizli province, are made from young male lamb meat. The lamb is divided into eight portions and roasted in ovens warmed by wood from mastic trees. The fat that renders from the meat while cooking is used to coat the pide bread which accompanies this main dish. The cooking time is not fixed, as it varies with the chef's expertise, but is typically between three to five hours.

## PEPPER TATAR

The original recipe for Denizli's famous biberli tatar (pepper tartar) is renowned for its peppers cultivated in the Kale district. Whilst it is a traditional pepper stew, the superior flavour of the locally grown peppers enhances its appeal.

## ÇAPUT AŞI

In restaurants that offer local cuisine, you will discover çaput aşı, a distinctive pilaf from Denizli that is favoured as a main dish. Çaput aşı features lamb and an array of spices mixed into rice. In contrast to traditional meat pilaf, this recipe also incorporates grapes and grape leaves.



## YEN BÖREĞİ

A local pastry from Denizli, the yen böreği, is prepared by mixing minced meat, onion, cumin, black pepper, and chilli flakes in dough and then baking the mixture. This delicious meal is served, in contrast to traditional börek which is often enjoyed as a snack or breakfast, as a substantial main dish that is quite satisfying.

## KUYU KEBABI

Kuyu kebab derives its name from the method of preparation, which involves cooking in a pit (kuyu) that is one and a half metres deep. This characteristic alone sets it apart from other Turkish kebabs.

# GASTRONOMY

## SUCUKLU UN KARIŞTIRMASI

Some of the flavours present in Denizli cuisine may be familiar to you from other regions. However, it is unlikely that you will have encountered sucuklu un karıştırması (Turkish sucuk with flour) in any other location. Chopped sucuk is fried in oil and placed aside, then flour is roasted in the same oil and served with the sucuk on top. This combination of Turkish sausage and flour is truly unique.

## ZEYTİNYAĞLI PATLICAN GÖMME

One of the cherished eggplant dishes of Denizli cuisine is zeytinyağlı patlıcan gömme (olive oil-baked aubergine). Setting it apart from traditional aubergine dishes this aubergine is cooked in embers. After it is finished it is topped with olive oil, lemon, and salt. It is hard to believe that the incredible aroma and flavours are crafted with only a handful of ingredients!

## BÖRÜLCE BÖREĞİ

Black-eyed peas are not commonly eaten in most regions of Türkiye, however, Denizli stands out as an exception. Black-eyed peas are a significant component of Denizli cuisine and are cooked in a variety of ways. One such local recipe, börülce böreği (black-eyed pea pastry), has come to be regarded as one of the region's most cherished dishes.



## HAMUR DOLMASI

One of the culinary experiences that will make your trip to Denizli memorable is to try hamur dolması. This dish is essentially a type of mantı. While it shares similarities with mantı in its preparation, the key distinction from the traditional mantı recipes is the inclusion of both minced and roasted meats.

## ARABAŞI ÇORBASI

This soup referred to as arabaşı çorbasi could sound familiar. However, in Denizli arabaşı soup stands apart from other local, traditional soups. This arabaşı soup has secured a notable position on Denizli's list of regional dishes because unlike other versions, it is made with rabbit meat.

# GASTRONOMY

## NOHUTLU DENİZLİ BÖREĞİ

Another cherished flavour of the region is the nohutlu Denizli böreği (local pastry with chickpeas). This pastry offers a heartier experience than traditional ones due to the inclusion of the chickpeas. This pastry, crafted from yufka, similar to phyllo dough, boiled chickpeas, onions, garlic, parsley, and a blend of herbs, is so beloved that it can be found at any hour of the day.

## KATMER

Present in every region, katmer, also occupies a significant position in the cuisine of Denizli. Katmer is made with flour, onions, sesame, and notably cheese, and it enjoys great popularity among locals for its simple ingredients and delicious flavour.

## PEKMEZLİ KABAK AŞI

Pekmezli kabak aşı (molasses-flavoured pumpkin stew) provides a unique taste experience. This recipe is distinct from traditional Turkish pumpkin dessert recipes because of the inclusion of onions. In a pumpkin stew infused with molasses, and olive oil, the onions are initially finely chopped and sautéed in the oil. Next, water and molasses are introduced and then the chopped pumpkin is added once the mixture reaches a boil. Unlike traditional pumpkin desserts, molasses pumpkin stew provides a uniquely aromatic flavour that has gained significant popularity among locals. This stew is often enjoyed as a side dish rather than a dessert especially in winter.

## ŞARAP

Boasting a history that traces back to the Roman era Denizli is a significant wine-producing region of Türkiye. In the Roman era, wine production took place near the ancient city of Hierapolis. Whilst wine production persisted in the region over the following centuries, it came to a halt during the Ottoman period. Today, numerous new wine producers are active in Denizli, where the climate and soil conditions are still conducive to the cultivation of high-quality grapes. The tourist destinations and popular thermal springs around Denizli have heightened interest in the wine region, allowing local wine producers to benefit from the new visitors.





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