ANTALYA CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND VALUES

History In the Hellenistic period, King Attalos II of Pergamon (159-138 BC) famously instructed his soldiers to "Go and find me heaven on earth." Impressed by the location they discovered, Attalos II, recognizing the strategic importance of the region, founded a port city there, naming it "Ataleia" in honor of its founder, Attalos. "Ataleia" means "Land of Attalos."

Antalya and its surrounding areas have inherited two distinct ways of life that have coexisted for centuries. When the Turks first arrived here, they readily adapted to a settled lifestyle, establishing villages, towns, and cities. Yet, a portion of the population continued the nomadic way of life that predated the Turkish arrival.

These nomads raised animals such as camels and sheep, deriving their livelihood by producing and trading goods from these animals with the settled population. They produced meat, milk, and fat, and wove kilims from natural dyed wool. Some even planted crops like grains and vegetables in winter quarters. There were even large nomadic groups (tribes, clans) that bred horses for the Ottoman army.

Natural Beauties



Manavgat Waterfall: Located in the Manavgat district of Antalya, this waterfall offers a magnificent natural landscape. Visitors can engage in various outdoor activities like rafting and canoeing along different stages of the river, providing an adventure amidst the beautiful scenery.



Saklikent Canyon: Situated between Antalya and Fethiye, Saklikent Canyon stretches over 18 kilometers. If you seek an outdoor adventure surrounded by nature, you can explore the forested areas created by red pine, cedar, and black pine trees.



Kursunlu Waterfall Nature Park: Located in Aksu, Antalya, Kursunlu Waterfall descends from a height of approximately 20 meters. Its refreshing atmosphere and breathtaking view have made it a must-visit destination in Antalya, designated as a nature park in 1991.



Goynuk Canyon: Found in Kemer, Antalya, Goynuk Canyon is known to be one of the top ten long-distance hiking trails along the Lycian Way. The lush green waters of the lake create a stunning landscape.



Koprulu Canyon National Park: Koprulu Canyon National Park, situated in the Bozyaka district of Manavgat, spans 25 kilometers. Known for its natural beauty, it's Turkey's most popular rafting area, offering an exciting and thrilling river sport called rafting, done with special boats called "rafts" on high-flowing rivers.



Kekova Island: Located in Demre, Antalya, Kekova Island is perfect for both enjoying the sea and organizing historical tours. It boasts turquoise waters and hidden underwater ancient cities that are off-limits for entry.



Incekum Nature Park: Situated in Alanya, Antalya, Incekum Nature Park is a unique spot where lush forests meet the deep blue of the Mediterranean, offering a serene escape from city life.



Cirali Yanartas: Located in Kemer, Antalya, Cirali Yanartas is a fascinating natural wonder. The flames of burning methane gas can be seen among the rocks at the top of the mountain, burning continuously 24 hours a day.



Duden Waterfalls: Duden Waterfalls, due to their enchanting natural beauty, are one of the most visited tourist destinations in Antalya. According to a legend, Alexander the Great watered his horses here

when he was heading to Pamphylia in 334 BC. There are two falls, Lower Duden and Upper Duden.



Tazi Canyon: Tazi Canyon, situated in the Manavgat district of Antalya, is a canyon valley formed by the erosion of the Köprüçay River. The formation of the canyon dates back to the Ice Age when melting ice masses eroded the valley through vigorous erosion.

To preserve our environment, please choose eco-friendly products such as sunscreen, perfumes, and skincare items. Remember that chemicals from sunscreen can harm underwater creatures in our oceans.

Historical Sites

Antalya is rich in cultural heritage, boasting numerous historical sites such as Kaleici (Old Antalya), Yivli Minaret, Karatay Medrese, Perge Ancient City, Karain Cave, Hadrian's Gate, Phaselis Ancient City, Aspendos Theater, Xanthos Ancient City, Alanya Castle, Myra Ancient City, Apollon Temple, Olympos Ancient City, and many more.

Agriculture and Livestock

The fertile lands of the Antalya region support the cultivation of various agricultural products, with wheat, barley, and oats being the most prominent crops. Additionally, cotton, sesame, onions, peanuts, and vegetables are grown on over 35,000 hectares. Antalya excels in greenhouse agriculture, producing tomatoes, peppers, beans, eggplants, cucumbers, melons, and watermelons in 32,000 hectares of greenhouses. The region is renowned for its fruit production, particularly bananas and oranges, and also grows apples, pears, plums, quinces, peaches, apricots, grapes, medlar, carob, dogwood, and other fruits. Mandarins, lemons, and grapefruits are a major source of income for Antalya, alongside the cultivation of olive trees, which is well developed in the region.

The Antalya region's unique climate and rich vegetation support a diverse wildlife population, including deer, foxes, martens, squirrels, fallow deer, wild goats, jackals, hyenas, wolves, bears, partridges, quails, sandgrouse, hoopoes, hawks, turtledoves, and cranes. It is strongly encouraged not to hunt the local wildlife.

Protected Plant and Animal Species

Mediterranean seals, sea turtles, and loggerhead turtles are protected species in these areas. Additionally, certain plant species like cyclamen, iris, sand lily, daffodil, and crocus are also protected. It is advised not to purchase souvenirs made from these protected species. Hunting is prohibited on dates other than those permitted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Activities involving animals such as circuses and dolphin shows, which separate animals from their natural habitat, should also be avoided.

National and Religious Values

Antalya commemorates and celebrates various national and religious events, including April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day, May 19 Commemoration of Ataturk, Youth, and Sports Day, August 30 Victory Day, and October 29 Republic Day, which are observed with respect and the national anthem, the "Independence March."

Religious holidays like Ramadan and Eid al-Adha are also significant in the region.

Behavior in Religious Places

There are certain rules to follow when visiting mosques for religious ceremonies:

- Remove your shoes or sandals before entering the mosque.
- For women, it is essential to cover their hair with a headscarf or veil, and they should dress modestly, ensuring their clothing covers their body.
- Avoid speaking loudly.
- Always be respectful to others.

National Anthem

During the singing or playing of the national anthem, the "Independence March," observe the following rules:

- Remove headgear if you are wearing any.
- Stand up if you are seated.
- Stay in your place until the anthem concludes.
- Do not engage in any other activities while the anthem is being played or sung.
- Do not laugh or show disrespect.

Rules at Historical Sites and Museums

When visiting archaeological sites, historical places, and museums:

- Do not touch or write on the displayed artifacts or pedestals.
- Keep the noise level down.
- Listen attentively to the guides and ask them any questions you may have.
- Follow the instructions given at the site.
- Do not eat inside museums or archaeological sites.
- Do not litter; use designated trash bins.

- Follow the photography rules of the specific museum or site.
- Do not step on historical remains in open-air museums or archaeological sites.

Traditional Crafts and Artisanry in Antalya

Antalya has a rich tradition of diverse crafts and artisanry. Some of the identified traditional crafts in the region include:

- Wooden Boat Building
- Coppersmithing
- Knife Making
- Musical Instrument Crafting
- Bell Crafting
- Bridal Chest Crafting
- Sock Knitting
- Blacksmithing
- Glass Fig Making
- Straw Mat Weaving
- Carpet Weaving
- Silk Weaving
- Tin Plating
- Spoon Making
- Kilim Weaving
- "Kolan" (a type of fabric) Weaving
- Lace Making
- Gourd Carving
- Pillow Making

Local Folk Dances

The Antalya region has its own regional folk dances known as "Teke Folklore," heavily influenced by the local Yörük (nomadic Turkmen) culture. These dances include Mengi, Samah, Teke, Spoon Dances, and Zeybek, where dancers perform without holding onto each other. In the eastern parts of Antalya, you can find dances like Konya Spoon Dance, Throat Dances, Serenler Zeybek, Anamur Roads, and Algeria Dances, which can be performed individually or in groups.

Local Cuisine

The dietary habits of the Yörüks, which rely on livestock and cereal crops, play a significant role in the region's traditional cuisine. While a variety of international cuisines can be found in Antalya's hotels and restaurants, there are also unique local dishes to try, such as "Saç Kavurması" (a meat dish cooked on a flat griddle), "Tandır Kebabı" (oven-baked kebab), "Kölle" (a dish made from wheat, beans, chickpeas, and broad beans), "Domates Civesi" (tomato stew), "Hibeş" (a spicy sauce), and "Arapaşı" (a type of soup).

Sports

Antalya is home to numerous registered sports clubs and approximately 200,000 licensed athletes, participating in various sports such as football, basketball, handball, volleyball, athletics, wrestling, judo, karate, taekwondo, tennis, table tennis, water polo, and swimming. Antalyaspor, known as the Scorpions, represents the city at the highest level in Turkish football, playing their matches at the 33,032-seat Antalya Stadium.

Festivals and Celebrations

Antalya hosts various festivals and celebrations at different times of the year. These festivals are often associated with the highlands (e.g., Feslikan Plateau Festival, Söbüce Plateau Festival, Alanya Festivals) and the cultural traditions of Alevi-Bektashi-Turkmen communities (e.g., Abdal Musa Festival) in Elmalı. Additionally, Antalya is home to national and international festivals such as the Antalya Television Awards, the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, and the International Antalya Sand Sculpture Festival, which is the world's largest event of its kind.

Mass Transit Directions

