Antalya is the pearl of the Turkish Riviera -- an exciting major city, and a paradise for vacationing families from all over Europe. The coast features innumerable delightful beaches, with hotels and restaurants to suit all budgets peppering it in abundance. Those looking to break the streak of all-inclusive days by the pool will find a fascinating many ancient sites to explore in close vicinity.

Top 5

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THE CITY

In the 14th century, the explorer Ibn Batuta, the Muslim counterpart of Marco Polo, wrote that Antalya is one of the most beautiful cities you will ever see. Nowadays, visitors to the city can easily understand this point of view. Antalya - chief city on the eastern part of the Mediterranean coastline - is located on fertile and flat land with high and often snow-covered mountains in the background.

Those who want to make something extra with their holiday and really get acquainted with the history of the city will not be disappointed with Antalya. Karain, a cavern just north of the city, contains remnants of the oldest settlement in Turkey. Romans, Byzantines and “Seldjiks” have always characterised Antalya.

Today, Antalya is a mixture of a modern metropolis and an old-fashioned small town. In Kaleici, the visitor will experience the original Antalya. It is an oasis with its small mosques and its muddle of both renovated and ramshackle Ottoman wooden houses from the turn of the century. In the harbour, Yat Liman, there is a multitude of cosy small cafes and bars where you can sit down and relax as you enjoy the boat life in the bay nearby.

DO & SEE

There are must sees in Antalya for every age and every taste. Those who are interested in history there can visit plenty of historical sites like Hadrianus Triumphal Arch, Hierapolis or Yivli Minareli. For families with children there is the aqua park called Troy Aqua and Dolphinarium, or why not explore the sea life at Antalya Aquarium? There are also many exciting places outside Antalya to discover like Side and Belek. All you need to do is find your favourite attractions.

Antalya Museum

Here you will find great exhibitions such as well-preserved Roman statues, enormous sarcophagi and remnants of the theatre in Perge. In a small showcase among the icons, you will find a jawbone that belonged to the Santa Claus, who was born in Patara and buried in Demre. The Museum also contains a collection of folk costumes and very beautiful rugs.

Photo: markara/Shutterstock.com
Address: Konyaalti Cad, Antalya
Opening hours: 9.00 - 19.30 April to October, 8.30 - 17.00 November to March, Closed on Mondays
Phone: +90 242 238 5688
**Yivli Minareli**

This ribbed minaret was built by Sultan Keykubat in the 13th century, and is the city's landmark. Nearby you can find a vibrant city center as well as an expressive riding statue of Kemal Atatürk.

Photo: eFesenko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Kaleiçi, Antalya

**Hadrianus Triumphal Arch**

This Triumphal Arch was erected prior to the Roman Emperor’s visit in 130 AD and is part of the medieval town wall—a dignified entrance to the old district of Antalya.

Photo: Igor Zh/Shutterstock.com
Address: Atatürk Cad, Kaleiçi, Antalya

**Perge**

Perge, 11 miles east of Antalya, was the home of the Hittites about 1500 AD, before the Greeks colonized the region after the Trojan War. On a very large area of ruins, there is a Roman theatre, an enormous stadium and several streets with columns dating back to the days when the apostle Paul supposedly has stopped here on one of his missions.

Photo: Oquzum/Shutterstock.com
Address: Perge
Public Transport: Take a local bus or “dolmus”—a minibus—to get there.

**Belek**

The seaside resort Belek is located on the road to Alanya. Here, you will find a famous golf course if you feel like swinging your clubs for a while. In addition to this, Belek offers many fine hotels and restaurants. The bus to Alanya stops in Belek.

Photo: E. O./Shutterstock.com
Address: Belek
Phone: +90 242 725 4051

**Side**

Side, between Antalya and Alanya, is one of the innumerable places where Cleopatra and Markus Antonius are said to have had a rendezvous.

At almost every street corner, you stumble over ruins. The theatre, which has a capacity of 25,000 persons, is located on a plain piece of land and is supported by strong walls. The Roman bath next to the theatre is a very beautiful archaeological museum.

Photo: Ridvan Ozdemir/Shutterstock.com
Address: Side
Public Transport: Local buses run regularly to Side

**Manavgat**

Manavgat is a town which is located 72 km from Antalya. At this sunny coastal city you can explore sandy beaches, historical sites, a waterfall and caves. There are also plenty of restaurants, accommodations and shops in...
Manavgat.

Photo: MaximSY/Shutterstock.com
Address: Manavgat

Beskonak
The National Park (between Antalya and Alanya) is very beautiful and has several interesting ruins and trout farms. Here, it is always colder than along the coastline. Why not try white water rafting?

Photo: Serj Malomuzh/Shutterstock.com
Address: Beskonak
Internet: www.turkeyrafting.com

Hierapolis & Pamukkale
Hierapolis is an ancient city and a popular tourist attraction located on the top of Pamukkale cliff. There are many ruins to explore, an amphitheatre, thermally heated Sacred Pool where you can swim and the amazing white cliffs of Pamukkale. Hierapolis and Pamukkale is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and should not be missed.

Photo: isa_ozdere/Shutterstock.com
Address: Pamukkale, Antalya

Antalya Aquarium
Discover the magical underwater world at Antalya Aquarium, a place where you can admire ten thousands of underwater creatures, make snowballs from real snow in "Snow World" or why not swim with sharks and rays? Also features the world’s biggest underwater tunnel that should not be missed.

Photo: Kot Kot/Shutterstock.com
Address: Dumlupinar Bulvari Arapsuyu Mahallesi 502, Antalya
Opening hours: Every day of the week 10am-11pm
Phone: +90 242 245 6565
Internet: www.antalyaaquarium.com
Email: info@antalyaaquarium.com

Outdoor Adventure - River Rafting
If you are looking for some adventure, then river rafting might be something for you. Novaraft is an Antalya-based adventure company and organise activities like river rafting, canyoning and river kayaking. The professional team are always there to guide you and give you information.

Photo: francesco de marco/Shutterstock.com
Address: Fener Mah. Bülent Ecevit Bulvari No:65/1, Muratpasa, Antalya
Phone: +90 242 324 2555
Internet: www.novaraft.com
Email: info@novaraft.com

Rixos Royal Spa
Relax and pamper yourself with a spa treatment at this beautiful oasis where you can experience traditional Turkish culture. Here you can enjoy the Turkish bath section which is inspired by “Arabian Nights” stories or take a Turkish bath massage. There are also other treatments like chocolate massage, Thai massage and manicure. All you need to do is to unwind.
Termessos

About 30 km northeast of Antalya lies the ancient city of Termessos. Besides breathtaking views and a rare flora and fauna, here you can find the remains of once great temples, forts and city walls. A walk along the mountain fortress will lead you across impressive sights such as the Necropole or the Odeion Theater.

Konyaalti Beach

West of Antalya you will find refreshment in the cool water of Konyaalti Beach and Aqualand. While there is a great offer for kids to play in the waterpark, it promises a fun experience for the whole family. Relax in a beach chair with a drink in hand or drop in the Migros MMM shopping center nearby. The Konyaalti neighborhood will be worth a visit.

Tünektepe

Climb the hill of Tünektepe which lies 618 m above sea level. It is a light hike for the whole family and once you’ve reached the top you can enjoy a breathtaking view of Antalya at its best. If you get tired, you can refresh yourself as there is a hotel with a restaurant situated on the hill.

Karaalioglu Park

One of the city’s biggest parks provides the ideal rest in the shadow on a hot day. During a stroll through Karaalioglu Park you can take in major sights such as the mayor’s office, a city theater and also the old tower of Hidirlik Kulesi is nearby.

Karain Cave

This cave is located 400 meters above sea level and has 3 chambers that were reportedly inhabited approximately 400,000 years ago -- several finds support the assumption, among which artefacts like ceramics and animal bones. Located 27 km northwest of Antalya, the cave offers a glimpse into our distant ancestors living.
BEACH LIFE

The best way to get to the different beaches is by “dolmus” - the minibuses run often, stop frequently and are a cheap way to travel. Most beaches in the region are very family friendly and offer sport activities, such as surfing and water skiing.

Kemer

The Kemer area has two beaches, Moonlight Beach on one side of the marina and Public Beach on the other. Other fine beaches are located north of Kemer in Göynük, Beldibi and Kiziltepe, or towards the south in Camyuva and Tekirova.

Photo: Viktor Hladchenko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Kemer, Antalya
Public Transport: From the marina, boats will take you to the different beaches but you can also take the “dolmus.”

Mermerli

Mermerli Beach is a very small sandy beach close to the harbour, if you get hungry you can pop in to the Mermerli Restaurant. An area close by is the Adalar Swimming Area next to the cliffs of Karaalioglu Park. There is an entrance fee to both these places.

Photo: ThomasJe/Shutterstock.com
Address: Mermerli Beach, Antalya

Lara

Lara Plaži, about 6 miles east of Antalya, is a nice shallow sand beach. The rubble-stoned beach, Konyaalti, lies a little bit closer west of the city.

Boat excursions start in the harbour and go to the Düden Waterfalls and the Lara Beach.

Photo: JelenaG74/Shutterstock.com
Address: Lara, Antalya

Side

The small beach of Side has wide sand beaches and an impressive harbor. To the east, you will find the resorts of Sorgun, Kizilagaç and Titreyen Göllü, a beach with a blue EU-flag, as well as hotels and bars. Towards the west, you will find Kumköy and Colakli with many bars and cafés.

Photo: Ridvan Ozdemir/Shutterstock.com
Address: Side, Antalya

Büyük Calticak

About 11 kilometres west of the town you’ll find real sandy beaches - Büyük Calticak and Küçük Calticak. Here you can enjoy a sunny day at the sea or take a hike in one of the many pine forests. Perfect for a day trip!

Photo: leventparlak/Shutterstock.com
BARS & NIGHTLIFE

Nightclubs with belly dancing and other entertainment are easy to find—especially in the luxury hotels. In most cases, people who don’t stay at the hotel are also welcome to larger hotels’ bars. Many of the bars in the city centre also function as discos and having a good time is an easy task.

Along the narrow street called Hesapci Sok, you will find several music restaurants and garden bars serving beer. Go where the music sounds loudest—or where it is least disturbing.

Olympos Disco

This is one of the most popular places on the south coast. It attracts the young and restless from all over the world. What do you get? A good laser show and unbelievably loud music.

Photo: melis/Shutterstock.com
Address: Konyaalti Falez Mevkii, Antalya
Phone: +90 242 238 51 58
Internet: www.ozkaymakotels.com
More Info: Located at Falez Hotel

Club Arma

Club Arma has a beautiful location at the point of the Marina. At this exclusive place you can enjoy a good meal, tasty cocktails and the panoramic views of the Old City and the Mediterranean Sea.

Photo: Maxim Blinkov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Kaleiçi Yat Limani Iskele Cd. 75, Antalya
Opening hours: Monday -Sunday: 11.00 - 23.30
Phone: +90 242 244 9710
Internet: www.clubarma.com.tr

The Tudors Arena

Since 2011 the Tudors Arena is entertaining locals and tourists alike. On hot evenings you can get cool drinks in the garden or hang out in the open air area. A must visit for music lovers, as there is live music on 7 days a week.

Photo: Panint Jhonlerkiet/Shutterstock.com
Internet: www.tudorsantalya.com

James Dean Bar

This nightbar breathes the spirit of the rebel without a cause. The indoors space is wallpapered with James Dean movie posters and turns into a dance hall at nights. During day time you can relax on their comfy sofas and enjoy half price drink offers.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com
**Jolly Joker Pub**

Jolly Joker is a meeting point for the young Antalya crowd. While the place is mostly a cozy pub, from time to time it turns into a music venue with international live performances. The open space provides plenty of room for dancing and partying and you can enjoy a variety of cocktails and bar drinks for reasonable prices.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Sirinyali, Antalya  
Phone: +90 242 316 75 15  
Internet: www.jj.com.tr

**SHOPPING**

Turkey has an old tradition of manufacturing rugs and tapestry. The values of the rugs are decided by the density of the knots: the more knots, the higher the cost. Rugs made of silk are more expensive than cotton rugs. Avoid the big department stores and people who sell to tourists—they usually sell inferior quality at exorbitant prices.

The exclusive brand name shopping in Antalya is located along Konyaalti Cad. More everyday ready-made clothing is sold along Atatürk Cad. and Isiklar Cad. In the old district of Kaleiçi, you will find souvenirs, leather products and rugs.

**Migros Mall**

One of the biggest malls in the area has also got one of the greatest choices of quality shops in Antalya. Over 128 boutiques and stores offer you a variety of brand clothes, jewelry or books. Besides spending money on things that make life a little more fun you can enhance your shopping experience by dropping by at their cinema or by enjoying a bite at the great food-court.

Photo: Andresr/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 100. Yil Bulvari Arapsuyu Mevkii, Antalya  
Opening hours: Monday-Sunday: 10.00 - 22.00  
Phone: +90 242 230 1111  
Internet: www.migros.com.tr  
More Info: The shopping center has a free of charge parking space

**Özdilek Park**

This shopping plaza offers you four floors to live out your shopping dreams. No matter what you’re looking for, you can be sure to make a find in Özdilek. While the mall does not only offer stores, it was designed as a whole entertainment center. You can rest your feet in one of the many cafés and restaurants, catch an 8D movie, go bowling or enjoy regular events within.

Photo: michaeljung/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Fabrikalar Mah. Fikri Erten Cad. 2 Kepez , Antalya  
Public Transport: Buses number TC 49, VC 53, VC 59, R207, R211, 502, 503, MC 12 are on the route to Özdilekpark, On Tram lines closest stop is Dokuma.  
Opening hours: Summer Time (15 June- 16 September): 10:00 - 23:00, Winter Time (17 September- 14 June): 10:00 - 22:00  
Phone: +90 242 335 3230  
Internet: www.ozdilekparkantalya.com
Deepo Outlet Center

Deepo Center opened its doors in 2004 and is one of the largest mall in the Mediterranean area. On over 38,000 square meters you can shop, eat, drink or watch a movie all year round. Deepo’s specialties are its outlet stores that attract tourists and locals for exclusive bargains. What are you waiting for?

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: Altinova Sinan Mh., Antalya
Public Transport: Take busses AC 42, AC 03, AF04, 530-530A, 600, 511, or the Deepo Customer Bus
Phone: +90 242 340 5470
Internet: www.deepo.com.tr
Email: info@deepo.com.tr

TerraCity

Whether you are looking for a superb shopping experience, or whole day of entertainment and fun, TerraCity has got it all. The biggest shopping center in Antalya offers you over 150 shops including gift stores, exclusive brands, book shops as well as children’s stores. In between trying clothes and window shopping you can grab a bite at one of the 30 restaurants within or rest your feet during a quick coffee. If you want to bring your kids the mall also has an entertainment area for the little ones.

Photo: Elwynn/Shutterstock.com
Address: Tekelioglu Cdl., Antalya
Opening hours: Monday - Sunday: 10.00 - 22.00
Phone: +90 242 318 18 18
Internet: www.terracity.com.tr
Email: info@terracity.com.tr

Doğu Garajı Market

Take in the flavours and aromas for Turkey and visit Doğu Garajı Market. Next to a great variety of vegetables, fruit and spices the place offers hand-made ceramics and crafts form all over Turkey. Don’t miss this authentic Antalya shopping experience.

Photo: Anna Cinaroglu/Shutterstock.com
Address: Doğu Garaji Taksi Çaybasi, Antalya
More Info: This everyday market is located in the city center

Selekler Çarşıısı

Located in the center of Antalya, this mall is the ideal opportunity for a quick shopping tour in between a busy sightseeing schedule. Be it clothes, souvenirs or kitchen ware, just drop in and grab what you need. Afterwards you can rest in the green parks nearby.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: Cumhuriyet Caddesi, Antalya
Phone: +90 543 618 9538
More Info: Located in the city center

Atatürk Street

If you’re looking for something that makes you shine, this is the right address for your. Along Atatürk Street you can find many talented goldsmiths, numerous jewelry stores and leather products. Treat yourself with something nice and enjoy a hot beverage in one of the many coffees or food stalls in the streets.
**Shemall**

This shopping center is a favourite of elite travellers and luxus lovers. Positioned in the Lara area, the mall provides shopping and entertainment for young and old alike. You can enjoy long opening hours and do all your shopping without any hurry. If you’ve got some time left, why not catch a movie at Cinemapink within?

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**Antalium Shopping Mall**

This premium mall provides a high class shopping experience. Better check the limits of your credit cards before entering, the prices can get high.

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**Passport / Visa**

Visa-free entry for the purpose of tourism is granted to citizens of 78 countries, which includes nearly all of Europe and further countries around the world. Those who do require a visa can now take advantage of the online e-Visa application system, which is easy to use and allows applicants to obtain an electronic visa within a few minutes. Travellers’ passports should generally be valid for 6 months following the end of the trip, but there are exceptions to the rule, and nationals of some countries may even enter the country with an ID card rather than passport.

At the time of writing, nationals of the USA were temporarily not eligible to apply for any kind of Turkish visa (please consult the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website for current information).
Best Time to Visit

Since most travellers choose to go to Antalya when they can take advantage of warm sea water temperatures, the best months to go are between April and September (July and August being the hottest). Weather conditions are rather favourable throughout the whole year.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Taxi

The taxi cars are yellow and carry easy-to-see taxi signs. They have a fare meter with two different rates from 00.00-06.00 it may cost up to 50 percent more than during daytime.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Pharmacy

You will find a few pharmacies along The Lara Beach strip and in the city centre. There is always an "on-call" pharmacy open at night.

The local drugstores are called “Eczane” in Turkish and often have a sign with a red cross on a white background.

Photo: Gemma Garner

Post

The Turkish post offices can be recognized through the PTT-symbol. The main post office is called Merkez Postanesi in Turkish. There is a post office in the city district of Selekler.

Photo: Andy Fuchs
Internet: www.ptt.gov.tr

Telephone

County code: +90 Area code: 0242

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

220V

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population
1,203,994

Currency
Turkish Lira, TL1 = 100 kuruş

Opening hours
Usually the bank offices are open from 8.30am-12pm. In the tourist districts they’re also open 1.30pm-5pm, there are a great number of cash dispensers. With some exceptions, the opening hours of the shops are Monday-Saturday 9.30am-1pm and 2pm-7pm.

Newspapers
Turkish news in English: