

North Aegean



Once the scene of some of the bloodiest and most epic battles in human history – and with the ruins and remains to prove it – the North Aegean is a very different place today.

As the road takes a turn through scented mountain pines, you may have to stop to let a Turkish tortoise cross the road or a shepherd marshal his woolly charges. Farmers with thick moustaches sit by the roadside selling jars of mountain honey, and in the meadows women in heavy skirts and patterned headscarves gather wild herbs for the evening's stockpot.

Around another corner, a sheltered cove or beautiful beach beckons from the cliffs far below. The Aegean, ever darkening with the day, provides a dramatic backdrop to the beautiful old stone houses of the mountain villages. Out at sea, a couple of *gülets* (wooden yachts) slowly head eastwards, shimmering and hazy in the heavy heat of the afternoon.

Combining some spectacular ancient sites such as Bergama's Pergamum with the lovely low-key coastal resorts of Foça, Yeni Foça or Sığacık, the region also boasts some postcard-perfect villages, including Alaçatı, and pretty landscapes such as those found on the Biga Peninsula.

Then there's laid-back Bozcaada, the ultimate island getaway with good beaches, luscious local wines and charming cobbled streets, and lively İzmir with its buzzing bazaar, cafés and bars, and a fascinating old quarter a world away from the new. Many travellers also find the people of the north friendlier than their more visited southern neighbours. Certainly you'll soon get to sample the legendary Turkish hospitality. For one region, the North Aegean offers a complete package.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Roam the ruins of ancient **Pergamum** (p217), among the Mediterranean's most magical
- Explore the cobbled alleyways of **Alaçatı** (p239) and lap up luxury in its boutique hotels
- Idle away hours, or sip the village vino on beautiful, laid-back **Bozcaada** (p206)
- Hunt out **İzmir's** (p226) heart in its beguiling, bustling bazaar, or captivating old quarter
- Wander the pretty fishing town of **Foça** (p224) and feast on fish at the seafront
- Admire the amazing **Temple of Athena** (p210) at Behramkale and its stunning sea setting



BANDIRMA

☎ 0266 / pop 109,670

The port town of Bandırma is one of Turkey's many 20th-century *betonvilles* (concrete cities). However, it's an important transit point as the junction between İzmir trains and the Bandırma–İstanbul ferry line, so you may well need to pass through it.

The otogar (bus station) is 1.8km southeast of the centre, out on the main highway and served by *servis* (shuttle minibuses) from the centre.

Getting There & Away

At least two daily **İstanbul Deniz Otobüsleri** fast ferries (İDO; ☎ 444 4436; www.ido.com.tr; per car €52.50,

per pedestrian or passenger €12) connect Bandırma with İstanbul's Yenikapı docks (two hours). It's a comfortable service, with assigned seats, trolley-dollies selling fresh orange juice and cheese cake, a business-class lounge and a lift for disabled passengers.

In theory, the ferry connects with the morning train from İzmir. However, in reality it does so only from mid-July until August. The rest of the year you'll have to cool your heels in Bandırma for a couple of hours.

The **Marmara Ekspresi** train to İzmir's Basmane station (€8.35, 6½ hours, 342km) departs from Bandırma *Gar* (the main station) at 10.39pm.

Bandırma is midway on the bus run between Bursa (€5.55, two hours, 115km) and Çanakkale (€6.65, 2¾ hours, 195km).

TROY (TRUVA) & TEVFIKİYE

☎ 0286

The ruins of ancient Troy may not be as breathtaking as those of Ephesus (Efes; p251) or Afrodias (p329) but, for anyone who has ever read Homer's *Iliad* or who has heard the tales of the Trojan Wars, they have a romance few places on earth can hope to match. It's hardly surprising that Troy is one of Turkey's World Heritage sites.

Today the approach to Troy is across what was once the Troad, an area of low, rolling grain fields dotted with villages. But until German-born Californian amateur archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (1822–90) came along it had always been assumed that the great poetry of Homer was based on legend, rather than history. But Schliemann got permission from the Ottoman government to dig at a site that resembled Homer's description of Troy and where evidence of buried ruins had been uncovered. His excavations, made at his own expense, uncovered four ancient towns, but he more or less destroyed three others in the process.

At the site, Schliemann is sniffily dismissed as a 'treasure-hunter' who learnt on the job, and certainly his primary interest lay in uncovering the treasure of King Priam. On the last day of excavations he quite literally hit gold. However, what he at first thought dated back to Homeric Troy he eventually had to accept belonged to a queen or princess living in Troy II. Schliemann's treasure disappeared during WWII and was only recently

rediscovered in Russia. It's now in Moscow's Pushkin Museum, the subject of an ongoing ownership dispute.

Recently, Troy has become a popular destination for weekending school parties. Do yourself a favour and visit midweek.

History

Troy is an especially tricky site to understand because excavations have revealed nine ancient cities, built one on top of another and dating back to 3000 BC. The first people lived here during the Early Bronze Age. The cities called Troy I to Troy V (3000–1700 BC) had a similar culture, but Troy VI (1700–1250 BC) took on a different character, with a new population of Indo-European stock related to the Mycenaeans. The town doubled in size and carried on a prosperous trade with Mycenae. As defender of the Dardanelles, it also held the key to the prosperous trade with the Greek colonies on the Black Sea. Archaeologists argue over whether Troy VI or Troy VII was the city of King Priam who engaged in the Trojan War. Most believe it was Troy VI, arguing that the earthquake that brought down the walls in 1250 BC hastened the Achaean victory.

Troy VII lasted from 1250 to 1000 BC. The Achaeans may have burned the city in 1240 BC. An invading Balkan people moved in around 1190 BC, and Troy sank into a torpor for four centuries. It was revived as a Greek city (Troy VIII, 700–85 BC), then as a Roman one (Novum Ilium; Troy IX, 85 BC–AD 500). Before eventually settling on Byzantium, Constantine the Great toyed with the idea of building the capital of the eastern Roman Empire here. As a Byzantine town, Troy didn't amount to much.

The misguided Fourth Crusaders sometimes claimed that their behaviour in Turkey was justified as vengeance for Troy, and when Mehmet the Conqueror visited the site in 1462 he, in turn, claimed to be laying those ghosts to rest. After that, the town simply disappeared from the records.

Ruins of Troy

The ticket booth for the ruins of **Troy** (☎ 283 0536; admission per person/car €5.55/2.25; ☎ 8.30am–7pm May–15 Sep, to 5pm 16 Sep–end Apr) is 500m before the site.

Two guides are available for tours (€40 to €50 per group depending on the size, 1½



hours); enquire at the ticket booth or restaurants. You can also email in advance Mustafa Askin, author of one of the guidebooks (troyguide@hotmail.com). Illustrated guidebooks (€5 to €34) and maps (€2.75) are sold at the souvenir shops.

The first thing you see as you approach the ruins is a huge replica of the wooden Trojan horse, built by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and now a tourism attraction for children in its own right!

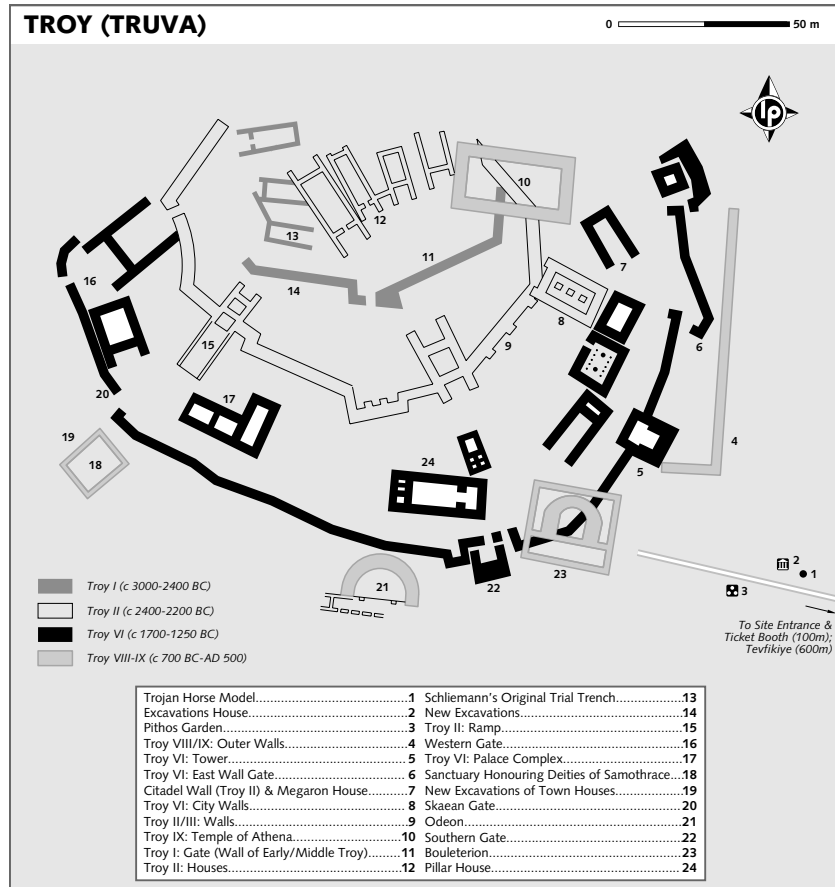
Excavations House, to the right of the path, was used by earlier archaeological teams. Today, it holds models and superimposed pictures to give an idea of what Troy looked like at different points in its history, as well as information on the importance of the Troy

myth in Western history. Opposite is the small **Pithos Garden**, with a collection of outside storage jars and drainage pipes.

Although the site is still fairly confusing, the circular path around the ruins has signboards to help you understand what you're seeing.

As you approach the ruins, take the stone steps up on the right. These bring you out on top of what was the **outer wall of Troy VIII/IX** from where you can gaze on the fortifications of the **east wall gate** and **tower of Troy VI**.

Descend the stairs and start following the path round the walls to the right. Eventually, more steps lead up to a knoll from where you can look at some original and some reconstructed red-brick **walls of Troy II/III**.



THE TROJAN WAR

Everyone knows the tale of the Trojan War – most probably from the silver screen with Brad in the starring role. A rapid retell goes something like this: claiming that Aphrodite has awarded him this prize, Paris, a Trojan prince, steals Helen, a woman world-famous for her beauty. But she's already married to Menelaus, the king of Sparta, who's not amused. Miffed Menelaus appeals to the Achaeans for help and so begins the epic, decade-long battle.

Hector kills Patroclus. Achilles kills Hector. Paris kills Achilles. Bored with the bloodshed and fed up with the siege's lack of success, the Achaeans finally formulate a cunning plan. Building a huge wooden horse, they stuff it with soldiers and wheel it to the walls of Troy. Brought in by the trusting Trojans, the Achaean soldiers inside the horse emerge in the night and torch the Trojan town. Troy falls at last to the Greeks.

That Homer's story is more fairytale than fact is well known. Indeed some historians hold that it was in fact the earthquake of 1250 BC that brought down Troy's tremendous walls. But desirous of demonstrating their great gratitude to Poseidon, the Achaeans did apparently build an incredible construction. A monumental wooden statue of a horse...

Immediately above them was the site of a Graeco-Roman **Temple of Athena**, of which only traces of the altar remain.

Continue following the path, past traces of the **wall of Early/Middle Troy (Troy 1 Gate)**. Opposite are remains of the **houses of Troy II**, inhabited by a literal 'upper class' while the poor huddled on the plains.

The path then sweeps past **Schliemann's original trial trench**, carved straight through all the layers of the city. Wooden steps lead down past ongoing excavations to a great stone **ramp** that is believed to have led into Troy II.

Just round the corner is a stretch of wall from what is believed to have been the two-storey-high **Troy VI Palace Complex** and then, to the right, traces of an ancient **sanctuary** to unknown deities. Later, a new sanctuary was built on the same site, apparently honouring the deities of Samothrace. Nearby are remains of the **Skaean Gate** in front of which Achilles and Hector fought the duel that is the focal point of the film *Troy*. Eventually, the path passes in front of the Roman **Odeon**, where concerts were held, and the **Bouleterion** (Council Chamber). Finally you pass the stone slabs of the road that lead into Troy VI before arriving back where you started.

Sleeping & Eating

Most visitors stay in Çanakkale (p192) and visit Troy in passing, leaving their gear at the ticket office or at one of the restaurants opposite the gate. However, the atmosphere of the nearby farming village of Tevfikiye, 500m north of the gates, makes a pleasant change

from the hassle of Çanakkale, especially if you want to spend longer at Troy.

Varol Pansiyon (☎ 283 0828; s/d €14/28) Right in the heart of the village, this pension is clean, lovingly cared-for and homely. Rooms are of a decent size, and guests can also use the kitchen.

Hotel Hisarlık (☎ 283 0026; troyguide@hotmail.com; s/d €21/31) Opposite the gate to the ruins, this hotel has comfortable rooms with the names of characters from Greek myths. The restaurant (open 8am to 11pm), though popular with tour buses, serves good Turkish home cooking. Try the hearty *güvec* (beef stew) or the delicious *imam bayıldı* (stuffed eggplant).

Getting There & Away

From Çanakkale, dolmuşes leave from a dolmuş station under the bridge over the Sarı River. Dolmuşes to Troy (€1.65, 35 minutes, 30km) leave every hour on the half hour from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

From Troy to Çanakkale, dolmuşes leave every hour on the hour from 7am to 5pm in high season and from 7am to 3pm in low season. If you miss the last bus, try the **Hotel Hisarlık** minibus (€1.65), which ferries the shopkeepers back to their homes in Çanakkale. It leaves at 7pm to 8pm in high season, 5pm in low season.

The travel agencies offering tours to the Gallipoli battlefields also offer tours to Troy if enough people sign up (around €25 per person). This is worth considering if you want a guided tour of both sites at an affordable rate. For details of the various tour companies, see p190.

BOZCAADA

☎ 0286 / pop 2700

Beautiful little Bozcaada. The second of Turkey's two inhabited Aegean islands, it's the sort of place where you arrive planning to spend a night and wind up wishing you could stay forever. A trip here also makes a good break from the usual tourist trail.

Windswept Bozcaada (formerly Tenedos) has always been known to Anatolian oenophiles for its wines (Ataol, Talay and Yunatçılar), and vineyards still blanket its sunny slopes. As in Bodrum (p272), a huge medieval fortress towers over the harbour. In its wake huddles one of Turkey's least-spoilt small towns, a warren of picturesque vine-draped old houses and cobbled streets.

The island is small (about 5km to 6km across) and easy to explore. Lovely unspoilt sandy beaches line the coast road to the south.

Be warned that outside the school-holiday period (mid-June to mid-September) you may find cafés and the like closed, except at weekends and on Wednesdays, when a market fills the main square.

Information

A tourism office (as well as some information panels) are planned for the island in the near future. Until then, you can pick up a rough map (€0.85) from some of the hotels, pensions and cafés.

There's a Ziraat Bankası ATM in Bozcaada town, right beside the PTT. The **Captain Internet Café** (☎ 697 8567; Trüya Sokak; per hr €1.10; ☎ 9am-midnight) is a new place.

Sights

Bozcaada is a place for hanging out, rather than doing anything specific. The one official tourist attraction is the impressive **fortress** (☎ 0543-551 8211; admission €0.55; ☎ 10am-1pm & 2-7pm May-Nov), in Bozcaada town, which dates back to Byzantine times. Most of what you see survives from the reconstructions of the Venetian and Genoese castle by assorted sultans. Inside the double walls you will find traces of a mosque, several ammo dumps, a barracks and an infirmary.

The **church**, in the old Greek neighbourhood directly behind the castle, is sadly rarely open.

Though not officially open for tours, some **wineries** allow visits. **Talay** (☎ 697 8080; www.talay.com.tr; Lale Sokak 5; ☎ 8.30am-6pm), founded in

1948, is one. It lies one block west of the *belediye* along Lale Sokak. You can visit the bottling unit and fermentation tanks and also taste and buy wines (€3.40 to €11) at the little shop opposite.

The best **beaches** – Ayana, Ayazma and Habbele – straggle along the south coast, although Tuzburnu and Sulubahçe, to the east, is also passable. Ayazma boasts several cafés and a small, abandoned **Greek monastery** uphill.

Sleeping BUDGET

In summer – particularly at weekends – you're advised to reserve a room well in advance.

Kale Pansiyon (☎ 697 8617; www.kalepansiyon.net; per person high/low season €22/17) Uphill behind the Ege Otel, the Kale has simple but fastidiously clean rooms and an open-buffet breakfast (on a terrace with lovely views) that gets top marks from travellers. Pakize, the owner, is keen to please and makes delicious jam.

Güler Pansiyon (☎ 697 8454; Tuzburnu Yolu Üzeri; per person €23) Though simple, the 120-year-old farmhouse has an authentic island feel and a beautiful setting amid vineyards. There's a quiet beach 100m away with tables, sunloungers and a shower. It lies about 2.5km from town on the Tuzburnu road.

Apart Akarsu Otel (☎ 697 0435; www.akarsuapartpansiyon.com.tr; Gürsel Sokak 36; per person incl breakfast €25; ☎) With four spotless, quiet and spacious one-bedroom apartments, this place also boasts a fabulous rooftop terrace with views over the fortress and sea. Reserve at least two weeks in advance.

Gümüş Otel (☎ 697 8252; gumusotel@ttnet.tr; Yalı Caddesi 28; s/d high season €25/50, low season €20/40; ☎) If the others are full, try this place. It has clean, quite spacious rooms.

Rehgigül (☎ 697 8171; rehgigul2@superonline.com; Atatürk Caddesi 31; s/d with shared bathroom €28/56) Positively infested with trinkets and old antiques, this characterful 130-year-old Greek house has five traditionally decorated rooms and a lovely, peaceful, walled garden where you can eat breakfast.

MIDRANGE

Otel Ege Bozcaada (☎ 697 8189; www.egehotel.com; Bozcaada Kale Arkası; s/d €39/78; ☎ 10 Apr-15 Nov; ☎) An old 19th-century primary school, this cavernous hotel has 35 attractively furnished rooms, each with the name of a poet engraved on the

BOZCAADA



door. Six rooms have balconies with gorgeous views over the fort.

Otel Kaikias (☎ 697 0250; www.kaikias.com in Turkish; per person €42; ☎) Though the building's new, it's artfully decorated to appear old and elegant, complete with antique Greek furniture, paintings and photos. Rooms boast four-poster beds (draped with bronze-coloured voile!) and marble bathrooms. Four rooms have fort views.

Eating

Vahit'in Yeri (☎ 697 0130; Plaj Sokak; snacks €1.90-5.50; ☎ 8am-midnight mid-May to Oct) Overlooking the beach at Ayazma 7km from town, this is a good quick-eats option, or you can just drop by for a sundowner and soak up the view.

Café at Lisa's (☎ 697 0182; Liman; ☎ 8am-9pm) At the southern end of the harbour 200m from the disembarkation point, this charming café is run by Lisa, an Australian, who also runs the local rag (so is very *au fait* with all the island goings-on!). It's a great place for breakfast (€1.95 to €4.75) – Lisa's omelettes are legendary – cake (€1.95 to €3), soup (€2.50) or salad (€4 to €5).

Koreli (☎ 697 8098; Yalı Caddesi 12; ☎ 9am-midnight) Near the Yakamoz, this charming little place is another excellent choice. It roars with regulars who come for the *köfte* (€2.80) or fresh seafood such as *kalamar tava* (fried squid; €5.55) or stewed fish (€8 for 0.5kg).

Yakamoz Restaurant (☎ 697 0398; Yalı Caddesi 10; fish mains €4.45-6.65; ☎ 9am-1am) At the southern end of the seafront, this new and atmospheric place is packed with locals who come for delicious fish dishes at decent prices.

Sandal Restaurant (☎ 668-1025; Alsancak Sokak 31; ☎ 6.30am-10pm) Decorated like a Mediterranean café, complete with checked tablecloths and a whole boat strung up on the wall, this place does good fish dishes. The *kalamar tava* (€4.50) are finger-lickin' good.

Güverte (☎ 668-9582; İstiklal Caddesi Sokak 7; ☎ 8am-10pm) The bistro-style Güverte offers similar food and prices to the Sandal, which is diagonally opposite.

Ada Café (☎ 697 8795; Çınar Çeşme Sokak 4; meals €5-8; köfte €3.45, beer €1.95; ☎ 8am to noon May-Sep) Popular locally, the café also serves breakfast and good snacks. The red poppy cordial (€8 for a bottle) is a speciality.

Lodos Restaurant Café (☎ 697 0545; Postahane Arkasi; mains €8-10; ☎ 8.30am-midnight, mid-Apr to Sep) Lying inland behind the PTT, this nautically themed 110-year-old Greek house is well known for the quality of its food. Among its specialities, try *füme ahtapot* (smoked octopus).

Around 50m from the Sandal restaurant, **Bozcaada Tüketim Market** (☎ 697 8046 Alsancak Sokak 20; ☎ 8am-1am high season, 9am-9pm low season) with fresh bread, fresh fruit, cheeses and meats, is great for getting up a picnic.

Drinking

Polente (☎ 697 8605; Yali Sokak 41; ☎ 9pm-2am) Off the main square, this is Bozcaada's hottest nightclub at the time of writing. It plays an eclectic mix of music and attracts an equally eclectic mix of locals and visitors (mostly twenty- and thirty-somethings).

Salhane Bar (Liman Sokak 4; ☎ 9am-3am high season) A converted warehouse on the waterfront, this is probably Bozcaada's hippest hotspot and is a good place for a drink and a dance; it really starts rocking after midnight

Café Ali (☎ 697 8001; Çınar Çarşısı Caddesi 12; ☎ 8am-2am high season) Looking straight out onto the sea from the inland side of the castle, this café gets packed with a young crowd in summer.

Getting There & Away

Ferries depart from Yükyeri İskelesi (Yükyeri harbour) 4km west of Geyikli, south of Troy. Dolmuşes from Çanakale otogar run to Geyikli (55km) about every 45 minutes during the day (€2.50, one hour); tell them to drop you off at the harbour. Coming back from Bozcaada, minibuses from the harbour go to Çanakale, Geyikli and Ezine.

In low season, boats leave Yükyeri İskelesi daily at 10am, 2pm and 7pm. In high season, there's an extra daily service at 9pm, and on Friday to Sunday at midnight. From Bozcaada to Yükyeri İskelesi, boat leave at 7.30am, noon and 6pm in low season. In high season, there's an extra daily service at 8pm, and on Friday to Saturday at 11pm. Note, however, that the 6pm service becomes a 4.30pm service in August. Return tickets per person/car cost €1.65/12.20 and the journey takes 35 minutes.

For confirmation of ferry departures and times, phone **Geyikli ticket office** (☎ 0286-632 0263) or **Bozcaada ticket office** (☎ 0286-697 8185).

If you're coming to Yükyeri İskelesi with public transport from the south, go first to Ezine where dolmuşes usually connect with

the ferries. In high season many intercity buses connect with the first boat and so go straight to the port.

Getting to Behramkale/Assos by public transport is not straightforward. You may have to take a bus from Yükyeri İskelesi to Ezine otogar (€1, 30 minutes), then walk out to the main Çanakale-Ayvacık highway and flag down an Ayvacık minibüs (€1.40, 30 minutes). In Ayvacık you'll have to get a third minibüs on to Behramkale (€1.40, 30 minutes).

Getting Around

Frequent dolmuşes connect Bozcaada town with the Ayazma, Sulubağçe, Habbele and Mermer Burno beaches in high season (€0.85, 15 minutes). Otherwise you can hitchhike on tractors. To walk from Bozcaada town to Ayazma takes about 1½ hours.

BIGA PENINSULA

☎ 0286

With your own transport you may want to visit the isolated Biga Peninsula and its assorted, all-but-forgotten ruins along the way. You can go by public transport too, but be prepared for lots of waiting along exposed roadsides.

Alexandria Troas

Ten kilometres south of Geyikli, take a peek at **Alexandria Troas** (admission €2.50), ruins scattered around the village of Dalyan.

After the collapse of Alexander the Great's empire, Antigonos, one of his generals, took control of this land, founding the city of Antigoneia in 310 BC. Later, he was defeated in battle by Lysimachus, another of Alexander's generals, who took the city and renamed it in honour of his late commander. After a period of Roman occupation, an earthquake eventually destroyed much of the city.

Archaeologists have identified bits of the theatre, palace, temple, agora (marketplace), baths, necropolis, harbour and city walls, but for most visitors Alexandria Troas is an atmospheric place that conjures up a feeling of great antiquity slowly fading away.

Infrequent dolmuşes run between Ezine and Dalyan, or you can get here by bus from Çanakale otogar.

Gülpınar

Gülpınar is a one-street farming town south of Geyikli with few services beyond a petrol

station. However, it was once the ancient city of **Khrysa**, famous for its 2nd-century BC Ionic temple to Apollo and its mice. An oracle had told Cretan colonists to settle where 'the sons of the earth' attacked them. Awaking to find mice chewing their equipment, they decided to settle here and built a temple to Smintheion (Lord of the Mice). The cult statue of the god, now lost, once had marble mice carved at its feet.

The remains of the **Apollon Smintheion** (admission €2.80 including museum; ☎ 8am-5pm) lie 300m down a side road off the main road (look for the sign 100m after the post office if coming from Babakale). The wonderful reliefs with illustrated scenes from the *Iliad* found amid the ruins are kept in the site's **museum** (☎ Jul-end Aug).

Buses to Gülpınar run from Çanakale and Ezine. From Gülpınar there are buses to Babakale (€0.60, 15 minutes) and onwards to Behramkale (€1.50, one hour).

Babakale (Lekton)

From Gülpınar a road heads 9km west for Babakale, passing through a line of coastal development. Babakale itself is a small village clustered at the base of a vast Ottoman **fortress** (recently restored) overlooking an attractive small harbour.

The fort was built to combat pirates and is important as the last Ottoman castle built in present-day Turkey. There's not much else to look at, but it's a pleasant place to unwind for a day or two.

The **Uran Hotel** (☎ 747 0218; s/d €14/28; ☎) on the seafront has simple but sea-breeze-fresh rooms of a reasonable size. Three have direct harbour views. There's also a large terrace overlooking the fortress ramparts and harbour and a good and very reasonably priced **fish restaurant** (☎ 747 0218; ☎ 7.30am-midnight). Try the speciality, *kalamar* (€4).

Buses from Gülpınar (€0.60, 15 minutes) to Behramkale (€1.50, one hour) stop at Babakale.

BEHRAMKALE & ASSOŞ

☎ 0286

Behramkale is a pretty little village that straggles up a hill towards the ruins of a famous temple to Athena. Assos is the name given to a cluster of half a dozen old stone houses-turned-hotels overlooking a picture-perfect harbour reached by a zigzag road down from behind Behramkale (see boxed text, p210).

From the beginning of April to the end of August, avoid the weekends and public holidays if you can, when İstanbullus and İzmirliis pour in by the coachload to visit both the temple and the Hüdavendigar Camii mosque.

Villagers set up quaint stalls all the way up the hill to the temple, touting herbs, woolen socks and locally made kilims (woven rugs). Look out for women in vividly coloured dresses and headscarves, the descendants of nomads who were forced to settle in nearby villages by previous governments.

History

The Mysian city of Assos was founded in the 8th century BC by colonists from Lesvos, who later built its great temple to Athena in 530 BC. The city enjoyed its greatest prosperity under the rule of Hermeias, a one-time student of Plato who also ruled the Troad and Lesvos. Hermeias encouraged philosophers to live in Assos. Aristotle himself lived here from 348 to 345 BC and ended up marrying Hermeias' niece, Pythia. Assos' glory days came to an end with the advent of the Persians, who crucified Hermeias.

Alexander the Great drove the Persians out, but Assos' importance was challenged by the ascendancy of Alexandria Troas to the north. From 241 to 133 BC the city was ruled by the kings of Pergamum.

St Paul visited Assos briefly during his third missionary journey, walking here from Alexandria Troas to meet St Luke before taking a boat to Lesvos.

In late-Byzantine times the city dwindled to a village. Turkish settlers arrived and called the village Behramkale. However, only the coming of tourism revived its fortunes.

Orientation & Information

Approaching the village from Ayvacık, look out for the 14th-century Hüdavendigar bridge, to the left of the road. At the crossroads, the road left leads to the scruffy beach at Kadırğa (4km), the road right to Babakale and Gülpınar. Go straight ahead until you reach a fork in the road, then left (uphill) along the rough road for the old village, or straight on (downhill) to the harbour.

The village road winds up through a small square, with a tea house and a bust of Atatürk, to the peak of the hill, which offers a spectacular view towards the Greek island of Lesvos (Mytilini or Midilli in Turkish).

Note that there's no bank or ATM, no post office, no petrol station, no tourist office and no pharmacy in Behramkale or Assos.

Sights & Activities

Right on top of the hill in Behramkale village is the 6th-century Ionic **Temple of Athena** (admission €2.75; ☞ 8am-dusk), with its particular Doric features. The short tapered columns with plain capitals are hardly elegant, and the concrete reconstruction hurts more than helps, but the site and the view out to Lesbos are spectacular and well worth the admission fee.

Beside the entrance to the ruins, the 14th-century **Hüdavendigâr Camii** is a simply constructed Ottoman mosque – a dome on squinches set on top of a square room – built before the Turks had conquered Constantinople and assimilated the lessons of Sancta Sophia. The lintel above the entrance bears Greek inscriptions incorporating parts filched from a 6th-century church. It's one of just two remaining Ottoman mosques in Turkey (the other is in Bursa).

Ringling the hill are stretches of the **city walls** of medieval Assos, among the most impressive mmedieval fortifications in Turkey. Scramble down the hillside to find the **necropolis**. Assos' sarcophagi (flesh-eaters) were famous. According to Pliny the Elder, the stone was caustic and 'ate' the flesh off the deceased in 40 days. There are also remains of a late-2nd-century BC **theatre** and **basilica**. An exit gate emerges on the road that winds down to the harbour.

VILLAGE OF MULTIPLE NAMES

If asking directions or chatting to locals, be aware of the village's various names. Assos is actually the old Greek name, Behramkale the Turkish one. The town's official name is in fact Behram Köyü. The villagers sometimes refer to *Köyü* ('village') for the upper town and *Iskele* ('port') for the harbour area of the lower town, which is also Assos. They also talk of *Yukarıya* ('upstairs') and *Aşağıda* ('downstairs') and *Eski* ('old' – on the hill), and *Yeni* ('new' – where the modern buildings are). Got it?

With thanks to *Diana Elmacioğlu*, of Behramkale or Assos or whatever for clarifying the situation!

Sleeping

Where you sleep depends on whether you prefer the picturesque and lively Assos harbour, or the more peaceful and atmospheric Behramkale village.

In high season, virtually all the hotels around the harbour insist on *yarım pansiyon* (half-board), though you can try negotiating as the food is rarely anything to write home about.

ASSOS

Çakır Pansiyon (☎ 721 7048; s/d incl breakfast €14/28, half-board €20/39; camp site per person €4; ☞) Around 100m along the seafront from Hotel Assos Deluxe, the pansiyon has very simple but clean rooms in MDF-made bungalows. It also has a small camping site (with a shower) and rents out three two-person tents (€10). Set right on the beach, you can hear the water lapping on the shore. It also has a delightful lantern-lit restaurant of the same name.

Hotel Nazlıhan (☎ 721 7385; www.assosedengroup.com; s/d with half-board from €31/44) Traditional-meets-modern in this comfortable hotel, which is spread across two restored stone houses with rooms around central courtyards. It's part of a hotel group and is well managed, but gets busy with tour groups.

Yıldız Saray Hotel (☎ 721 7025; www.yildizsaray-hotel.com; s/d incl breakfast €20/39; with half-board €28/56; ☞) Though rooms are on the small side, they're traditionally furnished, attractive and good value. All eight have direct sea views overlooking the harbour, and three have access to a small terrace. The brasserie-style restaurant has a good reputation and boasts its own nesting swallow in spring.

Hotel Assos Kervansaray (☎ 721 7093; www.assoskervansaray.com; s/d with half-board high season €61/84, low-season €39/67; ☞ ☞ ☞) Rooms, set around a covered neoclassical-style courtyard, are comfortable albeit a little dated; 22 have sea views. The big attraction here is the lovely outdoor pool set amid the stone houses, and a stretch of beach it calls its own.

Hotel Assos Deluxe (☎ 721 7017; www.assosgroup.com; s/d/ste with half-board from €47/94/156; ☞) Set back from the seafront, the boutique Assos is a slightly quieter option, and its rooms are very attractively decorated in an Orientalist style, all with four-poster beds. Four also have Jacuzzis and six have sea views.

Biber Evi (☎ 721 7410; www.biber-evi.com; s with half-board €110-139, d €139-167; ☞) Newly restored, this

old stone house boasts a peaceful courtyard, a small terrace with lovely views and a gourmet restaurant. Rooms are Ottoman-rustic in style complete with *gusulhane* – washing facilities hidden in a cupboard! – and under-floor heating. Bed and breakfast is €28 less per person than the half-board prices quoted. From mid-June to mid-August bookings need to be for a minimum of two nights.

BEHRAMKALE

Dolunay Pansiyon (☎ 721 7172; s/d €14/28) Right in the centre of the village, the Dolunay is a homely affair with six spotless, simple rooms set around a pleasant courtyard. There's also a pretty terrace with sea views where you can have a scenic breakfast.

Timur Pansiyon (☎/fax 721 7449; timurpansiyon@yahoo.com; s/d €17/33; ☞ Apr-mid-Sep) Remote, rustic and rather ramshackle, the 200-year-old Timur's not unlike a shepherd's croft. Its best asset is its fabulous setting above the village right beside the temple, with gorgeous sea views towards Lesbos (Lesvos in Turkish). Its characterful rooms may prove a bit basic for some, but a drink (beer €2.75) on the blissfully peaceful vine-shaded terrace is well worthwhile.

Old Bridge House (☎ 721 7426; www.assos.de/obh; dm €10, d high season €50-70, low season €30-50, bungalow per person €15; camp sites €5; ☞ Mar-Nov; ☞ ☞) Near the Ottoman bridge at the entrance to town, the Old Bridge House is a long-time travellers' favourite. The helpful and hospitable owner, Diana, is a mine of information about the area and is happy to offer travel tips. It has a cosy salon, a garden (where BBQs happen and fires are lit), a library, free internet access, free use of two mountain bikes, free excursions and even a telescope for star- or moon-gazing! BBQ or dinner costs €12.50 per person. Call ahead during low season.

Eris Pansiyon (☎ 721 7080; www.assos.de/eris; Behramkale Köyü 6; s €45, d €56-67; ☞ Apr-Nov) Set in a stone house with pretty gardens at the far end of the village, the Eris has fairly ordinary (at the price) but pleasant and peaceful rooms. Afternoon tea is served on a terrace with spectacular views over the hills, and it claims the best breakfast in town. It also has a library and book exchange, and Clinton, the retired American owner, needs only the smallest excuse to tell you all about the history of the area. There's a minimum stay of two nights and a deposit is usually required.

Assos Konuk Evi (☎ 721 7081; s/d/t €60/100/150) In a lovely, rather aristocratic-looking old stone house hidden away behind heavy wooden doors, the Konuk Evi offers traditionally and attractively decorated rooms in either the main building or the cosy self-catering cottages. The garden and some rooms have good views towards the mosque and temple. The charming owners show you typical Turkish hospitality.

Eating & Drinking

ASSOS

Uzunev (☎ 721 7007; meze €2; mains €5-6; ☞ 10am-midnight) Considered the best fish restaurant in town, Uzunev has pleasant tables on the terrace and seafront. Try the succulent speciality 'Sea Bass à l'Aristotle' (steamed in a special stock) or the delicious seafood meze (€5.55 to €6.65). In high season after 10pm, it metamorphoses into a disco-bar.

Çakır Pansiyon (☎ 721 7048; meze €1.65, fish €6-9; ☞ 7am-midnight) Also serves fresh fish in its charming, lantern-lit, beach-hut style restaurant right above the water.

BEHRAMKALE

Assos Kale Restaurant (☎ 721 7430; ☞ 8am-1am Apr-Oct) Centrally located in Behramkale and with a pleasant shaded terrace, the Kale is a great place for a quick eat, offering good home cooking at unbeatable prices. Try the delicious *mantı* (Turkish ravioli, €1.95) or homemade creamy *ayran* (yogurt).

Assos Restaurant (☎ 721 7050; köfte & kebabs €3.90-4.45; Main Square; ☞ 7am-midnight) Widely recommended and much-loved, the diminutive but endearing Assos provides excellent home cooking at pleasing prices. It offers no less than 25 dishes including veggie options. Take a table on the tiny terrace overlooking the main square.

Öğretmenin Yeri (Assos Köyüm Restaurant; ☎ 721 7145; Main Square; ☞ 7.30am-midnight Jul-Sep) Offering enticing home cooking at pleasing prices, the Yeri competes with the Assos next door.

Biber Evi Restaurant (☎ 721 7410; Biber Evi hotel; meze €4-7, mains average €11; ☞ 7.30am-10pm) Taking third prize recently for 'Best Meze in Turkey', this new restaurant serves superb Turkish cuisine made from ingredients fresh from its kitchen gardens. It even smokes its own fish. The charming owner, Lüte (an ex-actor and theatre director), also boasts a famous collection of malt whiskies.

For a coffee or Coke on the main square, the **Assos Aile Çay Bahçesi** (☎ 721 7221; soft drinks

€0.85; ☎ 7am-midnight) has a pleasant shaded terrace offering attractive views. It serves *gözleme* (savoury crepes, €1.40) good enough to gobble, and drinks.

Shopping

Behramkale is a good place to find some traditional craftwork. Though made for the tourism market, the quality is high and prices are quite reasonable. One supplier with a good reputation for carpets is **Öz Antik Hanlıclık** (☎ 618 7480; kilims €20-350; ☎ 9am-dusk) on the main street just off the main square. Ask for Yusuf.

For decent-quality silver jewellery made with local minerals, head for **Pyramit** (☎ 721 7207; jewellery €11-33; ☎ 9am-5pm). The talented Levent, a geologist, makes 80% of the pieces.

Getting Around

In summer, there's a regular shuttle service throughout the day between Behramkale and Assos (€0.55), which also connects with buses from Assos to Ayvacık. When there's demand, an extra dolmuş is put into service that leaves when it's full. The latter can also act as a contract taxi (€2.75 from the port to Behramkale). In winter, workers shuttle to and forth and you can normally jump on one of their buses.

Getting There & Away

Regular buses run from Çanakkale (€3.50, 1½ hours) to Ayvacık, where you can pick up a dolmuş (which leaves when full) to Assos (€1.50, 20 minutes).

Alternatively, you can get to Behramkale from Gülpınar (€1.50, one hour) or Küçükkuuyu (€2, one hour).

Off season, dolmuşes run much less frequently and you can have trouble getting away from Behramkale. If you do visit then try to get to Ayvacık as early in the day as you can to catch a dolmuş to Behramkale. If you miss the last one, Ayvacık has a couple of hotels, or a taxi will cost around €25 to €30.

At the time of writing, boat services to Lesvos had been suspended by the Turkish army. Services may resume in the future; in the meantime, you can get to Lesvos from Ayvalık.

AYVACIK

☎ 0286 / pop 6950

Heading to or from Behramkale you may have to transit Ayvacık, which has a big **Friday market** where women from the surrounding villages sell fruit, vegetables and baskets.

Look out for those in long satiny overcoats or brightly coloured headscarves; they are the descendants of Turkmen nomads who settled in this area.

In the centre of Ayvacık near the bus station, there's an excellent **carpet cooperative** (☎ 9am-5.30pm) run by the municipality. Quality is controlled and the prices are excellent. All revenue (minus 10%, which goes to the cooperative) goes to the women weavers.

Two kilometres out of Ayvacık on the Çanakkale road you can also visit the **Doğal Boya Arştırma ve Geliştirme Projesi** (Dobag, Natural Dye Research & Development Project; ☎ 712 1274, fax 712 1705; ☎ 9am-6pm), which was set up in 1981 to encourage villagers to return to weaving carpets from naturally dyed wool. At about €245 per sq metre, the rugs in the upstairs exhibition hall are certainly not cheap (about five times the prices in the Ayvacık carpet cooperative) and the great majority are exported, but it's quite an interesting place to visit. Unfortunately, the women weavers are paid little, their working conditions aren't great and they are tied to the project. Nevertheless, the project has achieved some good things for the women and community. For more information on traditional weaving, check out www.returntotradition.com.

Getting There & Away

Regular buses run to/from Çanakkale (€3.50; 1½ hours). There are also regular buses to Ayvacık from Ezine, Behramkale and Küçükkuuyu.

BAY OF EDREMIT

☎ 0286

From Behramkale a new four-lane highway heads east along the shores of the Bay of Edremit. There are several camping grounds out here and several hotels right on the lengthy beach at **Kadrga**, 4km east of Behramkale (firmly package-holiday territory).

The road continues east to rejoin the main coastal highway at **Küçükkuuyu** where you could pause to inspect the **Adatepe Zeytinyağı Museum** (admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm). Housed in an old olive-oil factory, it explains the process of making olive oil.

From Küçükkuuyu, head 4km northeast up into the hills to visit the pretty village of **Adatepe**, a cluster of old stone houses, many of them restored as second homes for wealthy Istanbulites. Here the blissfully tranquil **Hünnap Han** (☎ 752 6581; hunnaphan@myynet.com; half-board per

person €39.50) is a wonderfully restored house with a lovely garden and stone courtyard.

Alternatively, you could travel 4km north-west into the hills to **Yeşilyurt**, which has not been quite so sensitively restored but where the **Öngen Country Hotel** (☎ 752 2434; www.ongen.country.com; s/d with half-board €64/104) offers rooms with attractive modern décor and spectacular views over the wooded hillsides.

In high season, four or five buses a day run back and forth between Behramkale and Küçükkuuyu, passing through Kadrga. To get to Adatepe and Yeşilyurt from Küçükkuuyu you'll need to take a taxi (around €6 return to either).

The road continues east along the Bay of Edremit, passing a depressing sprawl of holiday villages, hotels and second-home developments aimed at the domestic tourist market. Around 2km inland is the **Etnografya Galerisi** (☎ 266-387 3340; admission €0.55; ☎ 9am-5pm) in Tahtakuşlar village, which has a small collection of local clothing and artefacts, many of them Turkmen.

At Edremit, the road turns south towards Ayvalık. **Edremit** is little more than an important local transport hub. Coming from Ayvacık to Ayvalık, or from Bandırma via Balıkesir, you may well have to change in Edremit. South of Edremit there's a fine, 5km-long beach with sulphur springs at **Akçay**, while the beach at **Ören** stretches for 9km, making either of them possible places to break your journey.

AYVALIK

☎ 0266 / pop 35,830

Ayvalık (meaning Quince Orchard) is a seaside resort, fishing town, olive oil- and soap-making centre, and a terminus for boats to and from the Greek island of Lesvos. The coast is cloaked in pine trees and olive groves, and the offshore waters sprinkled with islands. But

there has also been some unfortunate high-rise development, especially around Sarımsaklı.

Ayvalık is also proud of the fact that it was here that the first shot of the Turkish War of Independence was fired. Until after WWI the town was inhabited by Ottoman Greeks, but during the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey in 1923 (see p41 and the boxed text, p214), Ayvalık's Turkish-speaking Greeks went to Greece, and Greek-speaking Turks came here from Lesvos, the Balkans and Crete. A few locals still speak Greek, and most of the local mosques are converted Orthodox churches: the Saath Camii was once the church of Agios Yannis (St John); Çınarlı Camii used to be the Agios Yorgos (St George) church.

Olive-oil production is still big business around here, and lots of shops sell the end product. The skyline is studded with the tall brick chimneys of abandoned olive-oil factories. One such factory now houses the Tansaş supermarket.

Orientation & Information

Ayvalık is small and manageable, although the otogar is 1.5km north of the town centre and the **tourist office** (☎ 312 2122; Yat Limanı Karşısı) is 1.5km south of the main square, just beyond the yacht marina. In high season, you can get information from a **kiosk** (Yat Limanı; ☎ Jun-Sep) on the waterfront south of the main square, Cumhuriyet Meydanı. New and decent town maps are available. The post office lies to the north of town just to the west of the main street, Atatürk Caddesi.

Ç@fein Café Net (☎ 312 3597; Cumhuriyet Meydanı; per hr €0.85; ☎ 8am-midnight) is a few doors north of the police station.

Alibey Island (Alibey Adası), known to the locals as Cunda, faces the harbour. It's linked to the mainland by a thin causeway, although it's more pleasant getting there by boat.

DIVING OFF AYVALIK

Ayvalık is famed among the diving fraternity for its red coral. Lying at depths between 30m and 42m, it's not for beginners, however. The best dive sites to see it are at Deli Mehmetler, Ezer Bey and Kerbela. Other marine life you might come across includes moray eels, grouper, octopus, encrusting anemones and, occasionally, sea horses. There are various dive companies in Ayvalık who can organise trips to see the coral including **Korfez Diving Center** (☎ 312 4996; www.korfezdiving.com; ☎ Mar-Nov). A day's diving (including two dives, lunch, all equipment hire and insurance) costs €50 per person. For those keen to learn or to improve, the company runs various PADI courses, including the four-day open-water course (€450).

MOVING MEMORIES

My grandmother was a young girl of just 13 when she first heard that there was going to be an exchange. Her home at that time was in a small village near the town of Drama, Thessaloniki.

'After the agreement was signed by the officials, they started sending Greeks to my grandmother's village. For a while they actually had to share their house with the Greek immigrants who were arriving.

'Every week we had to give up another of our rooms. In the end we were all confined to one room. The family was large: me, my four brothers and sisters, my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles...

'Of my grandmother's last day in the village she said: 'We packed up everything and loaded it onto the carts. I thought we were all going together with our animals and all, but they told me that I couldn't take my dog along. The only thing I could do was to leave him a loaf of bread. I cried all the way.'

'She also told me about her cousin. Like my grandmother, she had to leave her village with her family on carts to board the ship to İzmir. There was chaos at the harbour, and as they were boarding my grandmother's cousin suddenly realised that one of her twins was missing. There was absolutely nothing the mother could do, and the ship left without her missing daughter. Months after they had arrived at İzmir, a relative found the child and brought her to their new home. My grandmother used to cry every time she told us about the joy in the family that day.

'My mother still has a copper pan that my grandmother brought with her from their house in Greece. It's a black, worn-out old pan, but my mother still likes to use it. She says that no other pan is as good as that pan for frying aubergines...

In 1924, a total of two million people had to leave their homes. The majority were Turkish people living mainly in northern Greece and the Aegean islands and Greeks living in Anatolia.

With thanks to Zeynep Ozis who recounted this story about her grandmother, Ayse Yalaz

A road lined with grand mansions leads a few kilometres south of Ayvalık to Çamlık and Orta Çamlık, which have a scattering of pensions and camping areas popular with holidaying Turks. Sarımsaklı Plaj (Garlic Beach), also called Küçükköy, is 6km south of the centre. Packed with hotels and pensions, Sarımsaklı is hard-core, package-holiday country, although the beach gets wilder and more deserted if you stay on the bus to the end of its run.

Driving through the narrow and one-way streets of Ayvalık is stressful and there are few places to park. Car parks (marked on the map) generally cost €3/7.50 per day/night.

Sights & Activities

In summer, boats jostle on the quay to offer daytime or evening cruises (incl meal per person/with student card around €8/€5.50; ☹ May-Oct) around some of the bay's islands. Some can be visited or you can stop to swim. The bigger boats have a party atmosphere; for a quieter trip, you'll need to pay more for a smaller boat. Sunday excursions to Assos and back cost a similar bargain price.

Named after a hero of the Turkish War of Independence, **Alibey Island (Cunda)** boasts abandoned Greek churches, seaside restau-

rants in old stone houses and hundreds of condominiums. The northern part of the island forms the **Patriça Nature Reserve**; you'll see the ruins of the Greek **Ayişığı Manastırı** (Moonlight Monastery) on an offshore island as you head out there.

The place to be at sunset is **Şeytan Sofrası** (Devil's Table), a hilltop 9km south of town that offers panoramic views of the surrounding islands. Dolmuşes travel here only from July to mid-September. Otherwise, you'll have to walk, hitch (unlikely) or take a taxi. A couple of cafés wait to serve drinks and light meals to sunset-watchers.

Sleeping

AYVALIK

Bonjour Pansiyon (☎ 312 8085; Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi, Çeşme Sokak 5; www.bonjourpansiyon.com s/d with shared bathroom €13/26; ☹) Centrally located in a lovely house that once belonged to a French priest who was ambassador to the sultan, it boasts a pleasant courtyard, simple but immaculate rooms and, above all, a terrific welcome from Hatice and Yalcin, the friendly owners. Two rooms have bathrooms. Breakfast is available for €4.50. To find the pension, take the side

street off the main road bang opposite the post office and follow the signs.

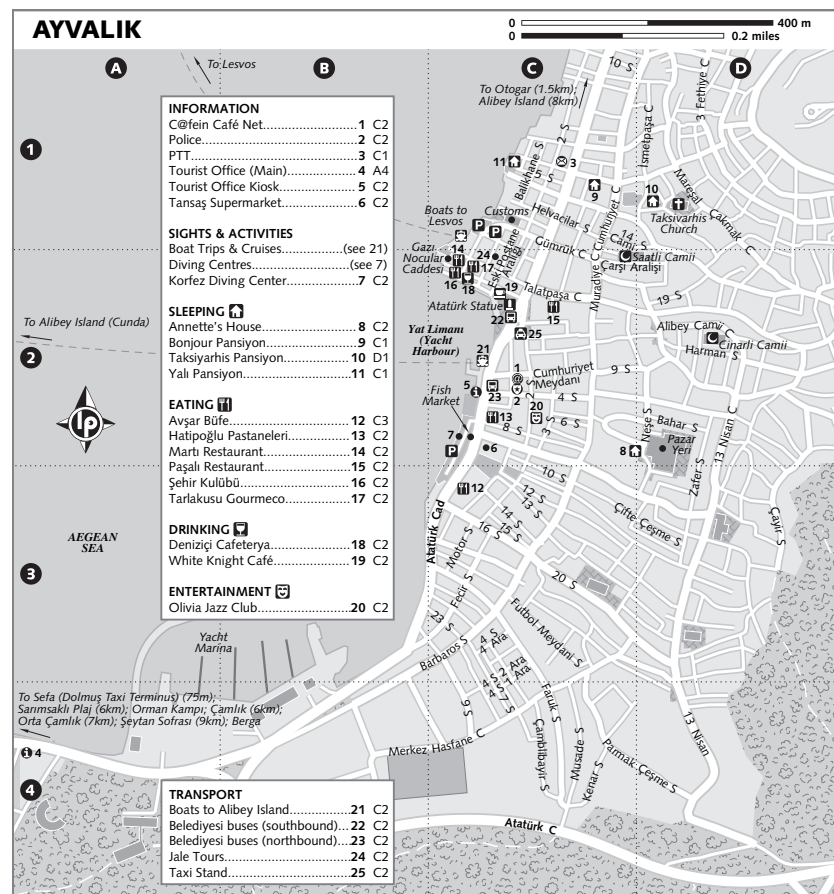
Yalı Pansiyon (☎ 312 2423; fax 318 3819; PTT Arkası 25; s/d with shared bathroom €14/28; ☹ mid-May-Oct) Though an Ebenezer-like figure may open the imposing doors of this grand old house, don't be put off. And although the sweeping staircase, *trompe-l'oeil* paintings and chandeliers contrast with rather ordinary rooms, the waterfront garden with its own jetty is a gem. Four rooms have direct sea views and breakfast is available for €3. It's on the seafront, behind the PTT.

Annette's House (☎ 312 5971; annstei@hotmail.com; Neşe Sokak 12; per person incl breakfast €22) Owned by the efficient Annette, a retired German teacher, the hotel lies oasis-like amid a war-

ren of streets about 250m east of Atatürk Bulvarı. Rooms are simple, but the garden is the biggest boon. Cool, verdant and peaceful, it's a million metaphorical miles from the city centre. If you can't find it, ask for *köyü pazarında* (the villagers' market) or the *pazar yeri* (bazaar), which is next door.

ALİBEY ISLAND

Alibey has some decent places to stay, though most are over the restaurants and likely to be noisy. In a lovely location right beside Cunda's Taksiyarhis church, **Zehra Teyze'nin Evi** (☎ 327 2285; www.cundaevi.com; Namik Kemal Mahellasi 7; r high season €61, s/d low season €28/39; ☹) is a pension in a 136-year-old house with attractive, traditionally decorated rooms.



The best camping is on Alibey Island, with the camp sites located inconveniently but quietly outside the village, mostly to the west. The ubiquitously advertised **Ada Camp** (☎ 327 1211, www.adacamping.com; Alibey Adası; per person/car €4/1.50 per tent €1.50-4.50, r in caravan/bungalow €23/34; ☞ Apr-Nov) lies 3km to the west. The air-conditioned bungalows are simple but spotless. Clean, well-run and with its own beach (with pedalos and rowing boats too) and restaurant, this is a great place. Guests can also use the kitchen. Yufuk, the manager, is friendly and accommodating.

Eating

AYVALIK

Restaurants

Paşalı Restaurant (☎ 312 5018; off Fotoğrafçılar Aralığı 18; meals €4; ☞ 5.30am-midnight high season, to 8pm low season) Tucked down side streets, but with a devoted following among those in the know, the new Paşalı does great Turkish home cooking at unbeatable prices. Dishes (including good veggie options for €1.10 to €2.75) change every day, and there's a useful pick-and-point counter.

Şehir Kulübü (☎ 312 1088; Yat Limanı; fish mains €4-10; ☞ 10am-2am) With a gorgeous setting jutting into the sea, this restaurant is the top local pick for fresh fish at feasible prices.

Martı Restaurant (☎ 312 6899; Gazinolar Caddesi 9; mains €5-8; ☞ 7.30am-midnight). A smart new place with an excellent reputation, it specialises in Ayvalık and regional specialities as well as fish.

Cafés & Quick Eats

Hatipoğlu Pastaneleri (☎ 312 2913; Atatürk Caddesi 12; tea/coffee €0.55/1.10; ☞ 6.30am-midnight; ☞) With a great selection of traditional Turkish puds, pastries and cakes served in the air-conditioned interior or on tables on the seafront, this popular patisserie makes a terrific breakfast or tea stop. Try the Ayvalık speciality, *lok* (sponge oozing honey, €1.40) or baklava (1kg €10).

Avşar Büfe (☎ 312 9821; Atatürk Caddesi 67; tost €0.85-1.10; ☞ 24 hr high season, 8am-2am low season) Famous throughout Turkey is *Ayvalık tost* (Ayvalık 'toast') and this is the place to get it. Traditionally they're filled with *sucuk* (Turkish sausage), cheese, tomato, ketchup and mayonaise, but you can opt just for one or two ingredients if you prefer! Though not exactly *haute cuisine*, they're delicious if you're hungry enough.

THE AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Taksiyarhis Pansiyon (☎ 312 1494; www.taksiyarhis.com; r with shared bathroom per person €11) Filling a pair of 120-year-old Greek houses off Maraşlı Çakmak Caddesi, this pansiyon's a veritable warren of simple but characterful rooms, corridors and handicrafts that decorate the walls. There are also two delightful vine-shaded terraces, one with gorgeous views of the town and sea. It lies five minutes' walk east of the PTT, behind the former Taksiyarhis church, and fills up quickly in summer. Guests can use the kitchen, and there's a book exchange.

Tarлакusu Gourmeco (☎ 312 2141; Gazinolar Caddesi 4/C; ☞ 8am-10pm Mon-Sat, 8am-6pm Sun) Newly opened by a burnt-out İstanbullu couple, this fabulous, mellow, traditional coffeehouse serves a large range of flavoured Turkish coffees and herbal teas (€1.40), as well as food fashioned from local ingredients, ranging from to-die-for *brovna* (chocolate brownies; €2.50) to *otlu piliç* (chicken with veg). It's located underneath the Ayvalık Palas Otel.

White Knight Café (☎ 312 3682; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 3; iced coffee €1.65; ☞ noon-midnight) Has previous-day European newspapers as well as the *Turkish Daily News*.

ALİBEY ISLAND

Taking a boat over to Alibey Island for lunch or dinner is a favourite local pastime.

Bay Nihat (Lale Restaurant; ☎ 327 1063; seafood meze €6.50; ☞ noon-midnight) In a very attractive 150-year-old Greek house, this restaurant is considered Alibey's best for fish and has well-positioned seafront tables. It has a huge range of excellent mezés (its fish mezés have won several pan-Turkey awards).

Papalina Restaurant (☎ 327 1041; Sahil Boyu 7; meze €3, fish mains €11-28) For a table on the seafront without paying a premium, head for the cheerful and popular Papalina on Alibey Island, with its chequered tablecloths and lovely position right next to the fishing boats. Try the *papalina balık*, a fish speciality of Ayvalık (one portion €3.50).

Drinking & Entertainment

AYVALIK

Denizçi Cafeterya (☎ 312 1537; Gazinocular Caddesi 1; beer €1.95; ☞ 7.30am-12.30am) At the far end of

the quay, past the fish restaurants, it has a fabulous position on the corner of the seafront and is great for a sundowner.

Olivia Jazz Club (☎ 327 1750; ☞ 8pm-3am Jun-Sep) Currently considered Ayvalık's brightest nightly star, it plays live music daily. It lies one block off Atatürk Bulvarı; take the side street bang opposite the fish market then take the first left onto 2 Sokak.

ALİBEY ISLAND

Dinazor Bar (☎ 327 2194; Sahil Boyu 49; beer €3; ☞ 8pm-4am high season, to 2am low season) Set in a 19th-century olive oil warehouse, this stunning and super-cool bar is Ayvalık's best. In summer, there's live music nightly from 11pm to 2am.

Nargileli Kahve (☎ 327 1186; Ayvalık Caddesi 16; coffee €1.10, nargileh €7; ☞ noon to 11pm) If it's mellow you're after, head for this old stone house where you can chill out on cushion- and kilim-covered benches.

Taş Kahve (☎ 327 1166; Sahil Boyu 20; coffee €0.40; ☞ 7am-midnight) In a 180-year-old building, it's a local institution. Smoky, cavernous and very atmospheric, all the town tittle-tattle takes place here. It's also good for a cheap Turkish breakfast (€3.30).

Getting There & Away

BUS

Coming from Çanakkale (€6, 3¼ hours, 200km) some buses drop you on the main highway to hitch to the centre. Çanakkale/Truva and Metro bus companies should have a *servis* to run you into town. Coming from Edremit (€3, one hour, 56km) you'll be dropped in a smaller terminal, just 200m from the harbour.

When leaving Ayvalık, you can hop on a bus to Edremit and transfer there to services for Çanakkale. Alternatively, book your ticket in advance at one of the bus company offices around the main square and use their *servis* to get you out to the highway again. Buses leave roughly every hour (until around 7pm).

There are frequent buses from İzmir to Ayvalık (€5, three hours, 240km).

It's also possible to make a day trip to Bergama from Ayvalık (€3, 1¼ hours, 45km). Hourly Bergama buses leave from the main terminal and drive slowly south through town so you can pick them up in the main square.

BOAT

From June to September, at least one boat sails daily to Lesbos, Greece (passenger one

way/return €40/50, car €60/70, 1½ hours). From October to May, boats sail twice a week (Wednesday and Thursday), returning from Lesbos to Ayvalık on Thursday and Friday. Note that you *must* make a reservation (in person or by telephone) 24 hours before. When you pick up your tickets, bring your passport (details need to be noted).

For information and tickets, contact **Jale Tours** (☎ 312 2740; www.jaletour.com; Gümrük Caddesi 24).

CAR

You can hire a car from **Avis** (☎ 312 2456; Talatpaşa Caddesi).

Getting Around

Ayvalık *belediyesi* (town) buses run right through town from the otogar to the main square, then south to the tourist office and on to Çamlık, Orta Çamlık and Sarımsaklı, for €0.40. They also run to Cunda (€0.40) via the causeway. On summer weekends there is a bus service to Patriça as well.

New in 2006 are the dolmuş taxis (white with red stripe running around them) which behave like little buses, stopping to put down and pick up passengers. They run back and forth along the same route from a spot known as 'Sefa' 100m south of the marina, to Armutçuk, 1km to the north of town; they don't go to Alibey Island. All journeys cost €0.55.

Minibuses (€0.70 to €0.85) depart for the beaches from beside the Tansaş supermarket sign south of the main square. Küçükköy Belediyesi buses also run to the beaches.

Boats to Alibey Island (€0.85, 15 minutes; June to August) leave from behind the tourist kiosk just off the main square.

A taxi from the otogar to the town centre costs €4; to Alibey Island from the town centre costs €6.

BERGAMA (PERGAMUM)

☎ 0232 / pop 58,170

The bustling market town of Bergama is most famous as the home of the Asclepion. Though arguably it has as much as Ephesus to occupy travellers, it's far less visited. This, together with its laid-back and friendly feel and excellent attractions, make it a must for the independent traveller. Many visitors end up falling for Bergama.

There has been a town here since Trojan times, but Pergamum's heyday was during the period between Alexander the Great and the

Roman domination of all Asia Minor when it was one of the Middle East's richest and most powerful small kingdoms.

History

Pergamum owes its prosperity to Lysimachus, one of Alexander the Great's generals, and also its downfall. Lysimachus took control of much of the Aegean region when Alexander's far-flung empire fell apart after his death in 323 BC. In the battles over the spoils Lysimachus captured a great treasure, which he secured in Pergamum before going off to fight Seleucus for control of Asia Minor. But Lysimachus lost and was killed in 281 BC, whereupon Philetarus, the commander he had posted in Pergamum to protect the treasure, set himself up as governor.

Philetarus was a eunuch, but he was succeeded by his nephew Eumenes I (263–241 BC), and Eumenes was followed by his adopted son Attalus I (241–197 BC). Attalus declared himself king, expanded his power and made an alliance with Rome.

During the reign of his son Eumenes II (197–159 BC), Pergamum achieved its greatest glory. Rich and powerful, Eumenes added the library and the Altar of Zeus to the buildings already crowning the acropolis, and built the 'middle city' on terraces halfway down the hill. He also expanded and beautified the Asclepion. Inevitably, much of what the Pergamese kings built hasn't survived the ravages of the centuries (or the enthusiasm of Western museums), but what has is impressive, dramatically sited and well worth visiting.

Eumenes' brother Attalus II kept up the good work but under his son, Attalus III, the kingdom began to fall apart again. With no heir, Attalus III bequeathed his kingdom to Rome, and the kingdom of Pergamum became the Roman province of Asia in 129 BC.

Orientation & Information

The most handsome part of town flanks the Galinos River to the north: the Muslim neighbourhood is on the west bank, the Ottoman Greek one on the east.

Of Bergama's four main sights, only the museum is located in the town centre. The two main archaeological sites are several kilometres out of town.

Modern Bergama largely consists of one long main street, İzmir Caddesi, along which almost everything you'll need can be found,

including hotels and restaurants, the banks, PTT, museum and otogar (though the otogar may move; see p223). Most of the pensions and hotels allow guests internet access.

The **Tourist Office** (☎ 631 2851; İzmir Caddesi 54), just north of the museum, offers little more than a sketch map.

Sights & Activities

Bergama's attractions open in high season from 8.30am to 6.30pm daily and from 8.30am to 5pm in low season (except the museum, which is closed on Monday). Parking at the acropolis or Asclepion costs €1.65.

ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

Right in the centre of town, the **Archaeology Museum** (☎ 632 9860; Arkeoloji Müzesi; İzmir Caddesi; admission €2.75) boasts a small but substantial collection of artefacts for so small a town. Look out for the sculptures from Pergamum, influenced by the Afrodiasis school, which was known for its expressive features and lavish detailing. Look out also for the model of the Altar of Zeus (the original is in Berlin).

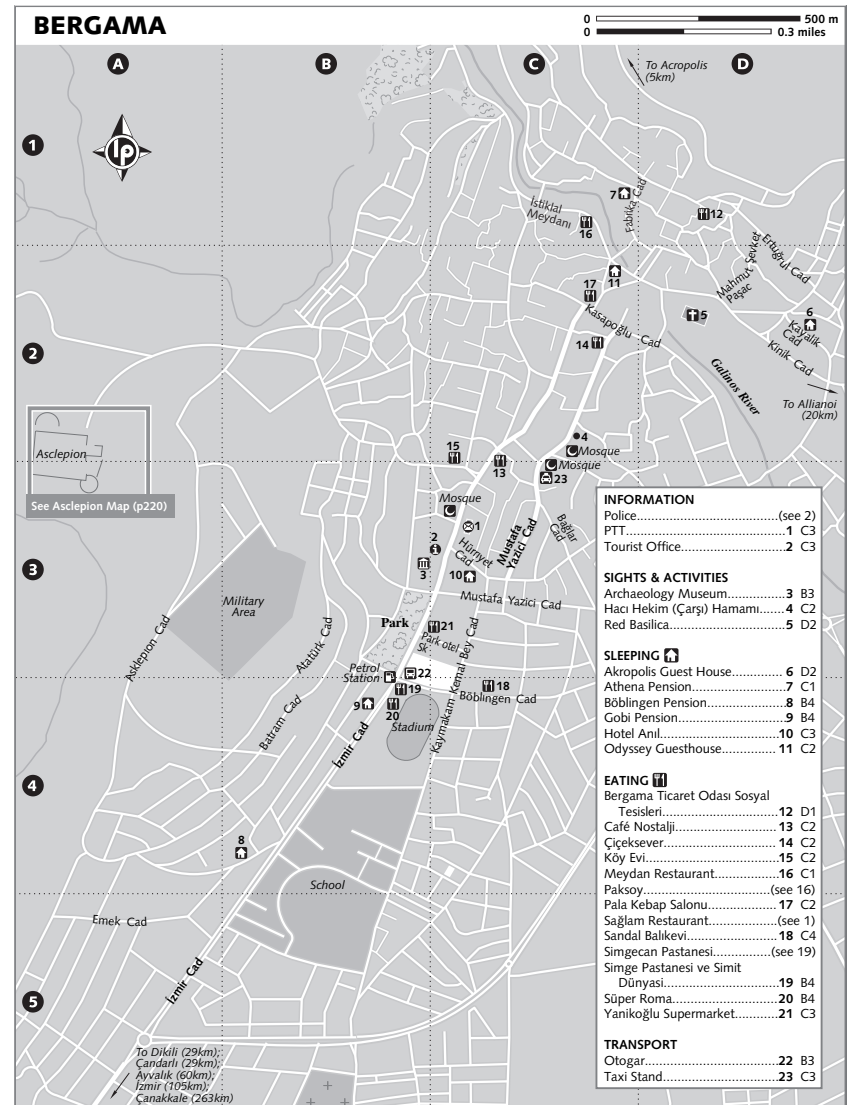
Also housed here are finds from the site of Allianoi (see p223). The ethnography section (currently under restoration) will reopen by the end of 2006. It contains textiles, costumes, rugs and manuscripts dating from the Ottoman period.

ASCLEPIION

An ancient medical centre, the **Asclepion** (Temple of Asclepius; admission €5.55) was founded by Archias, a local citizen who had been cured at the Asclepion of Epidaurus (Greece). Treatments included massage, mud baths, drinking sacred waters and the use of herbs and ointments. Diagnosis was often by dream analysis.

Pergamum's centre came to the fore under Galen (AD 131–210), who was born here, studied in Alexandria, Greece and Asia Minor, and set up shop as physician to Pergamum's gladiators. Recognised as perhaps the greatest early physician, Galen added considerably to knowledge of the circulatory and nervous systems, and also systematised medical theory. Under his influence, the medical school at Pergamum became renowned. His work was the basis for Western medicine well into the 16th century.

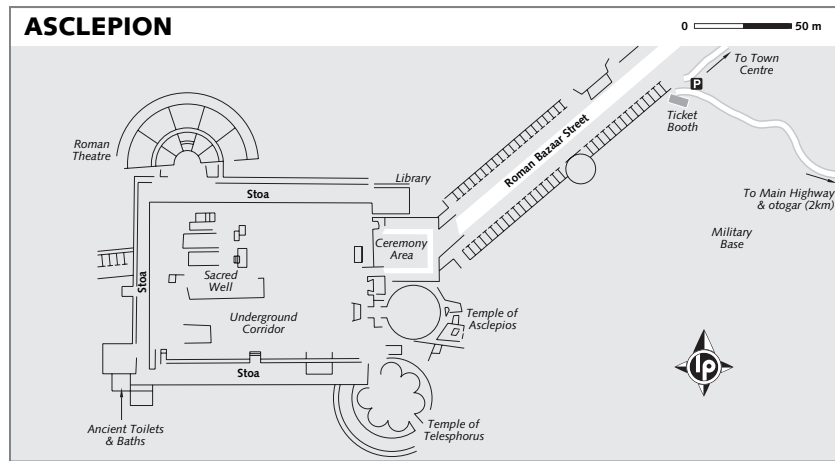
Two roads head up to the Asclepion. One runs from the centre of town. The other is



at the western edge of town, cutting up in front of the Böblingen Pension. Taking the latter road, the ruins are about 2km from the otogar. This road passes through a large Turkish military base; be off it by dusk and don't take photos.

A Roman **bazaar street**, once lined with shops, leads from the car park to the centre

where you'll see the base of a column carved with snakes, the symbol of Asclepius (Aesculapius), god of medicine. Just as the snake sheds its skin and gains a 'new life', so the patients at the Asclepion were supposed to 'shed' their illnesses (but not take on new ones). Signs mark a circular **Temple of Asclepius**, a **library** and a **Roman theatre**.



Take a drink from the **Sacred Well**, then pass along the vaulted underground corridor to the **Temple of Telesphorus**, another god of medicine. Patients slept in the temple hoping that Telesphorus would send a cure or diagnosis in a dream. The names of Telesphorus' two daughters, Hygeia and Panacea, have passed into medical terminology.

You can buy soft drinks at the Asclepion, although at a hefty premium.

RED BASILICA

The cathedral-sized **Red Basilica** (Kinik Caddesi; admission €2.75) was originally a temple to the Egyptian gods Serapis, Isis and Harpocrates built in the 2nd century AD. In Revelations, St John the Divine wrote that this was one of the seven churches of the Apocalypse, singling it out as the throne of the devil.

Look for a hole in the podium in the centre, which allowed someone to hide and appear to speak through the 10m-high cult statue. The building is so big that the Christians didn't convert it into a church but built a basilica inside it. One tower now houses the neatly converted, small Kurtuluş Camii.

The curious red flat-brick walls of the large, roofless structure are visible from midway down the road to the acropolis. You can easily walk to the Red Basilica, or stop your taxi there on your way to or from the acropolis.

ACROPOLIS

The road up to the **acropolis** (admission €5.55; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm) winds 5km from the Red Ba-

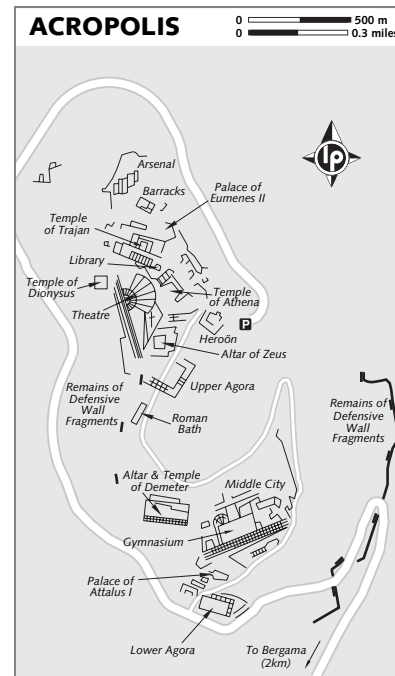
silica, around the northern and eastern sides of the hill, to a car park (€1.50) at the top. Next to the car park are some souvenir and refreshment stands. If you're planning to walk to the site, take plenty of water as you won't be able to stock up on the way.

Blue dots mark a suggested route around the main structures, which include the **library** as well as the marble-columned **Temple of Trajan**, built during the reigns of the emperors Trajan and Hadrian and used to worship them as well as Zeus. It's the only Roman structure surviving on the acropolis, and its foundations were used as cisterns during the Middle Ages.

The vertigo-inducing, 10,000-seat **theatre** is impressive and unusual. Its builders decided to take advantage of the spectacular view and conserve precious building space on top of the hill by building the theatre into the hillside. In general, Hellenistic theatres are wider and rounder than this, but at Pergamum the hill-

PERGAMUM'S PHENOMENAL PHYSICIAN

Under the guidance of Galen (AD 131-210), chief physician to the gladiators, the Asclepion (Pergamum's ancient medical centre) grew to achieve world renown. So also did Galen. His knowledge of the nervous and circulatory systems remained the basis for Western medicine right up to the 16th century.



side location made rounding impossible and so it was increased in height instead.

Below the stage is the ruined **Temple of Dionysus**. The **Altar of Zeus**, south of the theatre and shaded by evergreen trees, has an idyllic setting. Originally, it was covered with magnificent friezes depicting the battle between the Olympian gods and their subterranean foes, but the sultan allowed 19th-century German excavators to remove most of this famous building to Berlin, leaving only the base behind.

Piles of rubble on top of the acropolis are marked as the **Palaces of Attalus I and Eumenes II**, and there's an **Upper Agora**, as well as fragments of the once-magnificent defensive walls.

To see everything, walk down the hill behind the Altar of Zeus, passing the **Roman bath**, the **Middle City** and the **Altar & Temple of Demeter**, the **gymnasium** (with bath, auditorium and cult hall) and **Lower Agora**. Take care as the path down is steep and not always clearly marked.

While you're on the acropolis, look across the valley to the Asclepion in the west. You'll also see the ruins of two **theatres** (one small

and one large), an **aqueduct** and a **stadium** in the valley below.

HAMAM

Situated near the Kulaksız Cami, **Hacı Hekim (Çarşı) Hamamı** (☎ 8am-11pm; men only) charges €10 for the full works.

Sleeping

In Bergama, there are really two options: to sample Turkish hospitality in one of the excellent family-run pensions, or opt for one of the lovely, characterful hotels converted from old houses.

Odyssey Guesthouse (☎ 653 9189; www.odysseyguesthouse.com; Abacıhan Sokak 13; dm high/low season €5.50/4.50, s/d without bathroom high season €8/16.50, low season €5.50/11) In a converted 180-year-old Greek house in the heart of the old town, this tranquil guesthouse has seven rather sparse but clean and atmospheric rooms. Run by the bookish Ersin, it also has a good selection of books, as well as a pleasant tea salon and small terrace with views.

Gobi Pension (☎ 633 2518; www.gobipension.com; İzmir Caddesi 18; s with/without bathroom €14/11, d €20/22; ☎) On the main road around 150m south of the otogar, the family-run Gobi is set in a modern block but is spotless, well maintained and very welcoming. Mustafa, the helpful son, speaks English and often plays guide. Rooms are traditionally decorated, and all have wireless internet connection; five have air-con and four have balconies over the little garden at the back.

Böblingen Pension (☎ 633 2153; dincer-altin@hotmail.com; Asklepion Caddesi 2; s/d €14/28; ☎ P) Run by

LIBRARY WARS

Under Eumenes II, Pergamum's library became world renowned. Said to have held more than 200,000 volumes, the library soon came to challenge the world's greatest, Alexandria's library in Egypt. Afraid that Eumenes' library would attract famous scholars away from Alexandria, the Egyptians decided to cut off Pergamum's supply of papyrus from the Nile. Eumenes simply set his scientists to work, and they soon came up with *pergamum* (Latin for parchment), a writing surface made from animal hides, which quickly did away with the need for pressed papyrus reeds.

the friendly Altun family, this pension is also spotless and well looked after. Set on the hill (just off Asklepiion Caddesi) above the main road, it's also quieter than most and has a comfy sitting room. To find it, watch for the sign to the Asclepiion off the main road.

Athena Pension (☎ 633 3420; www.athenapension.8m.com; İman Çikmazı; d with shared/private bathroom €17/28, dm €8, airbed on roof terrace €5) Situated just off Fabrika Caddesi near the foot of the acropolis, the Athena has eight characterful rooms around a pretty courtyard. Aydin, the friendly manager, is also pretty characterful. Room 3 has distant views of the acropolis, as does the roof terrace. To find it, head down Fabrika Caddesi and it's on the left.

Hotel Anıl (☎ 631 1830; www.anilhotelbergama.com; Hatuniye Caddesi 4; s/d €34/45; 🏠) The Anıl's attraction is its central location (near the BP station). If you're after peace, privacy or anonymity, it's a good choice and rooms are comfortable if rather soulless. The covered roof terrace has great panoramic views.

Akropolis Guest House (☎ 631 2621; www.akropolisiguesthouse.com; Kayalık Caddesi 5; s/d €20/49, f €44; 🏠 🚿) This 150-year-old stone house is the closest Bergama gets to boutique. Eight attractively decorated rooms surround a peaceful pool and garden. There's also a restaurant set in a lovely old barn and a terrace at the top of a small tower with views of the acropolis. It's a gem and is good value too.

Eating

RESTAURANTS

Sandal Balıkevi (☎ 631 6116; Böblingen Caddesi 51; fixed menu €2.25; 🍴 8am-midnight) A new fish restaurant with tables inside and out, it's well run, clean and popular locally. Fish is fresh and prices are reasonable. Try the speciality sardines (400g €3.90 to €5). There's live music on some evenings.

Meydan Restaurant (☎ 633 1793; İstiklal Meydanı 4; mains €2.25-2.75; 🍴 6am-midnight) One of Bergama's oldest restaurants and a local institution, this simple but sparkling place serves good, regional food at fair prices. It also has tables outside. Try the Bergama speciality, *lahmacun* (wheat cakes with minced meat).

Bergama Ticaret Odası Sosyal Tesisleri (☎ 632 4522; Ulucamii Mahallesi; meze €1.65, mains €3.35 🍴 10.30am-11pm) Set up and run by Bergama municipality, this new restaurant is located in a beautifully restored 200-year-old Greek house 100m north of the Ulu Camii (mosque) where you

can eat great food in great surroundings at great prices (kept low by the municipality). To get here cross the bridge around 100m east of the Athena Pension and follow the road up the hill then bear left (for about 200m).

Sağlam Restaurant (☎ 632 8897; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 47; meals €5; 🍴 8am-11pm) A few doors down from the post office, this large but simple place is well known in town for its high-quality home cooking. It does a good selection of mezes that change daily, and specialises in delicious kebabs, such as the *beyti sarma* (lamb with parsley, pistachio nut and hot spices). There's also an open buffet for €4.45. Upstairs there are two traditional-style salons.

QUICK EATS

Süper Roma (İzmir Caddesi, Sitaat Dükkanları 19; 2 scoops €0.85; 🍴 8am-1am Apr-Aug) Head here on a hot summer's day for ice cream.

Paksoy (☎ 633 1722; İstiklal Meydanı 39; pide €1.10-1.95; 🍴 7am-11pm) This popular place has some tables outside. Pides are made in front of you, freshly to order. Try the speciality *kıymalı yumurtalı pide* (pide with meat and egg).

Pala Kebap Salonu (☎ 633 1559; Kasapoğlu Caddesi 4; kebab €2.20; 🍴 8am-11pm Mon-Sat) Though small and simple, this place is terrifically popular in Bergama and the food's delicious. Try the spicy Bergama *köfte* (€1.95).

Çiçeksever (☎ 633 3822; Banklar Caddesi 71; 🍴 7.30am-10.30pm) Near and similar to the Pala.

CAFÉS

Köy Evi (Village House; ☎ 632 4816; Galinos Caddesi 12; 🍴 7.30am-9pm) This is a new, fabulous family-run traditional place with cosy seating inside or among the family out in the courtyard. Menus change daily, but regular specialities include *gözleme* (crêpes, €0.85) and *mantı* (Turkish ravioli).

Café Nostalji (☎ 632 7910; Ahmet Kuduğ Çikmazı 3; soft drinks €1.10; coffee €0.85-1.10; 🍴 9am-2am high season, to midnight low season) Lying 20m north of the post office, this gem of a place lies hidden down a side street off Bankalar Caddesi. With walls decorated with musical instruments and old records, it has a great atmosphere particularly at night. There's live Turkish music on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9pm to midnight (to 2am in high season). Alcohol is not served.

For a coffee and a cake in between the sightseeing, the **Simge Pastanesi ve Simit Dünyası** (☎ 631 1034; İzmir Caddesi 19; couple of pastries €1; ice cream €0.55; 🍴 7am-midnight) and, next door, the

Simgecan Pastanesi (☎ 631 1034; Böblingen Caddesi 4; 🍴 7.30am-1am) are considered the best patisserie in town and are run by two brothers. There's a good selection of pastries, cakes and Turkish puddings. The *baklava* is delicious.

SELF-CATERING

Bergama has a bustling Monday market (🍴 8am-6pm), which stretches for about 3km from the otogar to the Red Basilica. It's great for fresh fruit and veg. Böblingen Caddesi and the area around the old bus station is good for picnic-hunting. Cheese, olives, fresh bread and dried fruit are all sold. Near here also is **Yanikoğlu Supermarket** (☎ 632 7942; Merkez Çamıpark Karş. 21, İzmir Caddesi; 🍴 8am-midnight).

Getting There & Away

Buses run to İzmir (€4.45, two hours, 110km) every 45 minutes, to Ayvalık (€3.35, 1¼ hours, 60km) at least every hour, to Ankara (€21, eight to nine hours, 916km). For İstanbul, there are nightly (and daily too in high season) buses, but it's cheaper and quicker, surprisingly, to go to İzmir first and take an express bus from there. For Bursa, take the Ayvalık bus.

A new otogar is currently under construction at a junction 7km from town. It should be ready by the end of 2007 (though wrangling between the municipality and bus companies are holding things up). A dolmuş service should shuttle regularly between the new otogar and town (€1 to €1.50). A taxi should cost around €8 during the day, €12 at night. Dolmuşes to Dikili, Ayvalık and Çandarlı also leave from here at least every half hour.

Getting Around

Bergama's sights are so spread out that it's hard to walk round them all in one day. The Red Basilica is over 2km from the otogar, the Asclepiion is 2km away and the acropolis is over 6km away. If you like walking but have limited time, take a taxi to the top of the acropolis (€8 to €9 from the town), then walk down the hill to the Red Basilica, either following the tarmac road or cutting down the slope beneath the theatre. Then stroll through the shopping area into town, have lunch and take another taxi, or hitch or walk to the Asclepiion. Bergama's taxis have meters, but it's much better to try and negotiate a rate for a 'City Tour'. From the centre to the acropolis, basilica, Asclepiion and museum, it should

cost around €25 to €28 in high season, €20 to €23 in low season. Taxis wait near some of the mosques and around the otogar.

AROUND BERGAMA Allianoi

In 1999 local farmers made an exciting discovery in the Valley of Kaikos at Allianoi, 20km east of Bergama. Excavation began and the remains of a Roman spa town were discovered. Although not dramatic as those in Bergama itself, they are nonetheless interesting and impressive. The fine statue of Aphrodite on display in Bergama Museum (p218) came from Allianoi.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing the archaeological site is at the centre of controversy. The Valley of Kaikos is the proposed site for the new Yortanlı Dam, which will bring vital water reserves to the region but submerge the archaeological site under 17m of water in the process. There is a campaign to save Allianoi, but ultimately it will depend on the politicians; it's not looking too hopeful. In the meantime, 90% of the site remains unexcavated, and Turkish archaeologists and students continue to come here each summer. For more information on Allianoi, visit www.europanostr.org/save_allianoi.html.

There is no bus service, but you could try taking the infrequent bus from Bergama to Paşakoy (€2, 45 minutes), which can drop you at the turn-off to Paşaka, and then walk the 1km to Allianoi. Returning to Bergama is tricky. You can only try hailing a passing bus. A taxi here from Bergama costs €34 to €39.

ÇANDARLI

☎ 0232

The small and tranquil resort town of Çandarlı (ancient Pitane) stands on a peninsula jutting into the Aegean, 33km south of Bergama. It's dominated by a small but stately 14th-century restored Genoese castle (admission free; 🍴 24 hr Jul-Aug), which has sporadic opening hours outside the high season, and it has a sandier beach than some of its neighbours. It makes a good base for a couple of days off.

Local tourism fills most of the pensions in high summer. From late October to April/May it's pretty much a ghost town.

Most of the shops, internet cafés and the PTT are within spitting distance of the bus stop. The castle, the restaurants and the pensions line the seashore. Market day is Friday.

Sleeping

Most of the hotels and pensions lie west of the castle, facing a thin strip of coarse sand.

Bağış Pansiyon (☎ 673 2459; Barbaros Sokak 19; s/d €10/20) If the others are full, this place, one block inland and two blocks west of the Samyeli, swaps the sea views of the swankier places for a verdant courtyard and lower prices.

Hotel Samyeli (☎ 673 3428; www.otelsamyeli.com; Sahil Caddesi 18; s/d high season €17/33, low season €14/28; 🍴) Located in the middle of the bay, it has simple, spotless and smiley rooms painted canary yellow; 20 have little balconies, 14 also with direct sea views. Reserve one in advance (a week in summer).

Hotel Emigran (☎ 673 2500; www.otelsamyeli.com; Talat Emmi Caddesi 1; s/d half-board €22/44; 🍴) This new place 150m west of Hotel Samyeli is situated right on the beach. It's tranquil and quiet and all rooms have direct sea views; from some you can hear the waves lapping on the shore. There are future plans to build a pool and sunbathing terrace.

Eating

For fresh fruit, the daily *çarşı* (market), in the shadow of the town mosque, is a good place to replenish.

Ünal Usta'nın (☎ 673 2772; PTT Sokak 1; 🍴 7am-2am) This quick-eats place is three doors from the post office just off the market square and specialises in delicious pide (€1.95 to €2.75).

Köşem (☎ 673 2132; Çarşı 14; 🍴 5.30am-midnight, 24 hr high season) With little benches and parasols right on the market square, it serves locally loved soups (€1.35) and kebaps (€2.25 to €3.35).

Samyeli Restaurant (☎ 673 3428; Sahil Caddesi 18; small portion fish & seafood €4.45-5.55; 🍴 8am-midnight) Belonging to the hotel of the same name, but with a good reputation for fish, the restaurant has tables right on the seafront. Prices are good value, and the obliging owner can also tailor your meal to your budget! Try the house speciality *karides* (prawns; €8.35).

Drinking & Entertainment

Pitaneou Cafe-Bar (☎ 673 3916; Sahil Plaj Caddesi 27; beer €2.75; 🍴 11am-midnight, to 3am high season) A trendy hangout with pleasant tables under vines on the seafront, it claims to play 'the best music in Turkey'. Snacks are available.

Musti Bar (☎ 673 3991; Sahil Plaj Caddesi 38/A; beer €2.75 🍴 11am-3am) On the seafront one block west of the castle, this is currently Çandarlı's one and only dancing 'hot spot'.

Getting There & Away

Frequent buses run between Çandarlı and İzmir (€4.15, 1½ hours) via Dikili (€0.85; 15 minutes). At least six minibuses run daily to and from Bergama (€1.95, 30 minutes).

YENİ FOÇA

☎ 0232 / pop 3470

A delightful small resort set around a harbour, Yeni Foça boasts a strip of coarse beach and an unusually large number of crumbling Ottoman mansions and old Greek stone houses. Long-discovered by second-home hunters, Yeni Foça now has its fair share of marvels alongside monstrosities, enough to make the great Ottoman architect Sinan himself shudder. Nevertheless, it's a pleasant place to laze away a day or two.

The traditionally styled **Otel Naz** (☎ 814 6619; Sahil Caddesi 113; s/d €17/33) is at the far, western end of the bay about 500m from the harbour. It has large, quite attractively decorated rooms, seven with sea views and three with balconies. It's good value, and there's a café-bar out front.

On the far eastern side of the bay, the endearing little **Tansay Restaurant** (☎ 814 8080; Kordon Caddesi 11; meals €8-12; 🍴 9am-10pm) looks like a kind of Turkish bistro. There are a couple of tables on the seafront, and the food and prices are impressive. Try the *karides güvec* (prawn casserole; €8) or *kalamar dolma* (stuffed squid, €9). A more upmarket (and slightly pricier) alternative is **Veli Usta Orfoz Balık Ve Et Restaurant** (☎ 814 9192; Kordon Caddesi 16; meals €8-12; 🍴 8am-midnight) with a pleasant salon and lots of tables right on the harbour front.

Buses leave every half hour to İzmir (€3.35, 1¾ hours) and every two hours to Eski Foça (€1.95). Taxis to Eski Foça cost around €16.

FOÇA

☎ 0232 / pop 14,600

If Çandarlı is a bit too quiet and Kuşadası too noisy, Foça could be just the ticket. Sometimes called Eski Foça (Old Foça) to distinguish it from its newer, smaller neighbour (Yeni Foça) over the hill, Foça hugs twin bays and a small harbour. Graceful old Ottoman-Greek houses line a shoreline crowded with fishing boats and overlooked by a string of restaurants and pensions.

Eski Foça, the ancient Phocaea, was founded before 600 BC and flourished during the 5th century BC. During their golden

age, the Phocaeans were great mariners, sending swift vessels powered by 50 oars into the Aegean, Mediterranean and Black Seas. They were also great colonists, founding Samsun on the Black Sea, as well as towns in Italy, Corsica, France and Spain.

More recently, this was an Ottoman-Greek fishing and trading town. It's now a prosperous, middle-class Turkish resort with holiday villas gathering on the outskirts.

Foça is also famous for the rare Mediterranean monk seals that lurk on the offshore islands (currently around Siren Kayalıkları and Hayırsız islands in particular), but as there are thought to be only 400 of them left in the world you shouldn't bank on seeing one; they're also very shy.

Orientation & Information

Foça's circular bay is partially divided by a peninsula cutting in from the southeast, dividing the eastern part of the bay into the Küçük Deniz (Small Sea) to the north and the Büyük Deniz (Big Sea) to the south. The Küçük Deniz, ringed with restaurants, is the more picturesque part, while bigger fishing vessels pull into the Büyük Deniz.

The otogar, on the edge of the Büyük Deniz, is just south of the main square. Walk north through the square, passing the **tourist office** (☎ /fax 812 1222; Cumhuriyet Meydanı), the PTT and several banks. After 350m you'll arrive at the bay and the restaurants and, just behind them, **Kaptan Net** (☎ 812 3411; Fevzi Paşa Mahallesi 210 Sokak 26/A; per hr €0.85; 🍴 9am-1am); continue along the right-hand (eastern) side to find the pensions.

For more information on the Mediterranean monk seals, visit the **Mediterranean Seal Protection Office** (Akdeniz Foku Foça Yerel Komitesi Bürosü; ☎ 812 3062; Atatürk Mahallesi 123) in the same building as Foça library.

Sights & Activities

Little remains of **ancient Phocaea**: a ruined theatre, remains of an aqueduct near the otogar, an *antı mezarı* (monumental tomb), 7km east of town on the way to the İzmir highway, and traces of two shrines to the goddess Cybele, one on the hillside on the road to İzmir, the other not far from the Anfitiyatro Café.

Recently, the townsfolk made an exciting new discovery near Foça high school. Known as the Temple of Athena, the site was found to contain, among other things, a beautiful

griffin and horse's head believed to date to the 5th century BC. Excavations continue there every summer.

If you continue past the outdoor sanctuary of Cybele you'll come to a partially rebuilt fortress called **Beşkapılar** (Five Gates), which was built by the Byzantines and repaired by the Genoese and the Ottomans in 1538-39. Another fortress, the **Dişkale** (External Fortress), guards the town's approaches from the end of the peninsula that shapes the southwestern arc of the bay. It's best seen from the water (on a boat trip) as it's inside a military zone.

Foça's **hamam** (bathhouse; ☎ 812 1959; Atatürk Mahallesi 115 Sokak 22; massage €15; 🍴 8am-11pm) has separate men's and women's sections.

BOAT TRIPS

In summer (beginning of May to end of September) boats leave daily between 10.30am to 11.30am from both the Küçük Deniz and Büyük Deniz for day trips around the outlying islands. Trips cost €8 to €11 (but negotiate prices) and include lunch and water.

Sleeping

Foça has plenty of budget sleeping places but few mid- or top-range options. At the time of writing, billed to open soon was the four-star, British-run **Club Phokaia** (☎ 812 8080; 3 Merkinsak); call to check progress and prices.

Iyon Pansiyon (☎ 812 1415; www.eskifoca.com; 198 Sokak 8; d high/low season €22/17) Inland from the seafront, it's run by the enterprising tourism graduate, Umut. Small, simple but endearing rooms are set around a garden-courtyard and there's a sunbathing terrace. Six windsurfers can be rented to guests (€30 per day). Guests can also use the kitchen, and future plans include a beer and BBQ garden.

Siren Pansiyon (☎ 812 2660; www.sirenpansiyon.com; 161 Sokak 13; s/d €14/25) Set off the seafront and so quiet, the Siren makes a spotless, pleasant and good-value choice. Guests also have use of the kitchen. Seven rooms have balconies, and there's a roof terrace.

Hotel Villa Dedem (☎ 812 2838; Sahil Caddesi 66; dedemomer@yahoo.com; s/d from €17/28; 20% more in high season 🍴) Though not the cheapest in the budget category, its central location and lovely quayside views over the boats are well worth the price. Just eight rooms have balconies with seaviews – be sure to bags one.

Hotel Grand Amphora (☎ 812 3930; İsmetpaşa Mahallesi 206 Sokak; s/d high season €33/44, low season €23/34;

☎ ☎) The only hotel in town with a pool (albeit small), it's good for sun-soaking on the sunloungers. Rooms are small but comfortable. It's located just beyond Foça hospital on the seafront.

Foçantique Boutique Hotel (☎ 812 4313; www.focantiquehotel.com; Sahil Caddesi 154; d high season €98-118, low season €85-98) Lying at the far end of Küçük Deniz, this beautiful old Greek stone house is well worth the walk. Rooms are individually decorated with genuine 19th-century Turkish antiques, and compete for the most-beautiful-bathroom-in-Turkey prize.

Eating

Foça has a decent Tuesday market, which is a good place to stock up for a picnic. There are also various grocery stores.

Rıdvan Ustanın Yeri (☎ 812 6867; İş Bankası; stews €1.40-2.25; ☎ 24 hr) One door down from the post office, the perennially popular chain serves good staple cooking at pleasing prices at outdoor tables just off the main square.

Fokai Restaurant (☎ 812 2186; Sahil Caddesi 11; ☎ 10am to midnight) Recommended for fish, it's a little cheaper than Celep. Specialities include fish slow-cooked in yogurt and garlic (€5.50).

Celep (☎ 812 1495; Sahil Caddesi 48; meals €25-35 ☎ 9am-midnight) If you're after atmosphere or romance and fancy some fish, head here: it's considered the best restaurant in town. Tables are right on the seafront, and waiters pluck lobsters direct from the pots!

Drinking

Anfityyatıo Café (☎ 812 3334; Sahil Caddesi 33; köfte/kebab €2.25, cappuccino €1.10; ☎ 8am-10pm) A good place to break a stroll along the seafront, this peaceful place is about 60m beyond the Atatürk statue on Büyük Deniz.

Kokoloz Café (☎ 812 5255; Atatürk Mahallesi 194 Sokak 14; köfte €1.65, beer from €1.95; ☎ 9.30am-midnight) Owned by two archaeologists and set in an old Greek warehouse, this café is mellow, atmospheric and fun.

Neco Café & Bar (☎ 812 5020; Sahil Cad 10; snacks €1.10, beer €2.25; ☎ 24hr) For refreshments on the seafront without paying for the privilege, head here. It's relaxed, unpretentious, cheap and much-loved locally.

Keyif Café & Bar (☎ 812 2313; Sahil Caddesi 42/A; beer €2.25; ☎ 9am-4am) Slightly trendier and livelier than Neco, it often plays Western music.

Getting There & Away

Frequent buses connect Foça with İzmir (€3.33, 1½ hours, 86km), passing through Menemen (for connections to Manisa). To get to Bergama, go to Menemen, wait on the highway and flag down any bus heading north.

Three to five city buses run daily from Foça to Yeni Foça (€1.95, 30 minutes, 25km); the timetable is in the otogar. These buses also pass the pretty, small coves, beaches and camping grounds north of Foça.

If you're staying in the area for a few days you might want to hire a car from **1Bir Tour** (☎ 812 5050; www.birtour.com; Favzi Paşa Mahallesi 193/1), near the harbour.

İZMİR

☎ 0232 / pop 2.6 million

Although it has a dramatic setting around a bay backed by mountains, most of İzmir is modern, which makes it a hard city in which to fall in love at first sight. Give it a chance and you may find Turkey's third-largest city growing on you.

İzmir owes a huge debt to the late, much-lamented mayor, Ahmet Piriştina, who saved it from potentially disastrous plans to run a motorway along the seafront and gave large parts of the centre back to the locals by overseeing pedestrianisation schemes. Nowadays the sea-facing Kordon is a great place for jogging, cycling, walking the dog and just plain lounging about, while the northern district of Alsancak is being steadily restored, its lovely old houses reminiscent of the Greek island of Chios, metamorphosing into inviting restaurants and bars.

With a day to spare, you can take in the few antiquities and museums, loiter in cafés along the waterfront, and enjoy the sweeping views from Kadifekale castle. The labyrinthine bazaar also remains a colourful area to get lost in.

History

İzmir used to be Smyrna, the most Westernised and cosmopolitan of Ottoman-Turkish cities, where more citizens were Christian and Jewish than Muslim, and where there were thousands of foreign diplomats, traders and sailors.

The first settlement, at Bayraklı near the eastern end of the bay, was begun in the 10th century BC, but there were probably people here as far back as 3000 BC. Things really

began to look up for Smyrna after the Ottomans grabbed it in 1415. In 1535 Süleyman the Magnificent signed a commercial treaty with François I of France, permitting foreign merchants to reside in the sultan's dominions. Smyrna rapidly became Turkey's most sophisticated commercial city, and its streets and buildings took on a quasi-European appearance.

After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire at the end of WWI, the Greeks invaded Smyrna. In fierce fighting on the outskirts of Ankara, they were eventually repelled. Unfortunately, during mopping-up operations, a disastrous fire destroyed most of the old city. But the day that Atatürk recaptured Smyrna (9 September 1922) marked the moment of victory in the Turkish War of Independence, and it's now the biggest local holiday. The events of 1922 are commemorated in the rather top-heavy monument gracing the waterfront.

Orientation

İzmir's two main avenues run parallel to the waterfront. The waterfront street is officially Atatürk Caddesi (Birinci Kordon or First Cordon), but locals just call it the Kordon. Just inland is Cumhuriyet Bulvarı, the İkinci Kordon (Second Cordon).

The city's two main squares – Konak Meydanı (Government House Sq) to the south and Cumhuriyet Meydanı – are along these two parallel avenues.

Konak opens onto the bazaar and Anafartalar Caddesi, the bazaar's main street, winds all the way to the train station, Basmane Garı, which is also linked to Konak by the metro. The Basmane-Çankaya area is home to dozens of small and medium-priced hotels, restaurants and bus ticket offices.

İzmir's shopping, restaurant and nightclub district of Alsancak is to the north, while the UFO-like otogar stands in splendid isolation, 6.5km northeast of the centre.

Information

There are branches of the PTT on Cumhuriyet Meydanı and on Fevzi Paşa Bulvarı. Banks with ATMs can be found on Fevzi Paşa Bulvarı in Basmane and around Cumhuriyet Meydanı.

Artı Kitabevi (☎ 421 2632; Cumhuriyet Bulvarı 142/B) English-speaking, friendly bookshop with a good selection of English-language books.

Internet Café (1369 Sokak 9; per hr €0.83; ☎ 8am-1am) New, friendly and helpful.

İzmir Döviz (☎ 441 8882; Fevzi Paşa Bulvarı 75, Çankaya; ☎ 7am-7pm Mon-Sat) Moneychanger where no commission is charged.

T@skin Internet C@fé (Fevzi Paşa Bulvarı 118; per hr €0.85; ☎ 8am-1am) Opposite the hospital (Şifa Hastanesi) up a spiral staircase on the 1st floor, it's smoky and noisy but has quick connections.

Tourist office (☎ 483 5117; fax 483 4270; Akdeniz Mahallesi 1344 Sokak 2) Inside the ornately stuccoed İl Kültür ve Turizm Müdürlüğü building just off Atatürk Caddesi. Has English-, German- and French-speaking staff who are keen to help.

Yuk@rnet (☎ 463 9308; Kıbrıs Şehitleri Caddesi 68, Alsancak; per hr €0.83; ☎ 9am-1am) Internet access, on the 2nd floor.

Dangers & Annoyances

İzmir is a fairly safe town, but travellers should take care around the train station at night. Bag snatchers have been reported in the alleyways. The area's also something of a red-light district, so lone women should take care. In the bazaar, be alert to pickpockets and thieves.

Sights & Activities

THE KORDON

By the Alsancak docks and further south near Konak Meydanı, huge concrete struts stand as a monument to the human folly of a mayor who thought building a motorway right along İzmir's waterfront would be a great idea. He was stopped in the nick of time, and the Kordon is now one of İzmir's main attractions, a great place to come to watch the sun setting over the bay.

During İzmir's 19th-century heyday the Kordon was lined with stately offices and the fine houses of the wealthy. Most of these have long since vanished, although at the Alsancak end of the waterfront the preserved wooden **Atatürk Evi** (admission free; ☎ 8.30am-noon & 1-5pm) gives an idea of what the homes of the wealthy would have looked like.

KONAK MEYDANI

A pedestrianised plaza named after the Ottoman **government mansion** (*hükümet konağı*), **Konak** has been landscaped with a rather unexpected cactus garden. Also here is a late Ottoman **clock tower** (*saat kulesi*) given to the city in 1901 by Sultan Abdül Hamit II. Its ornate Orientalist style may have been meant to atone for 'infidel Smyrna's' European ambience. Beside it the pretty **Konak Camii**, dating from 1748, is covered in Kütahya tiles.

İZMİR

0 500 m
0 0.3 miles

A	B	C	D
INFORMATION			
Art Kitabevi.....11 B3	Balık Pijiricisi.....31 C3	SHOPPING	48 B5
Banks.....2 C5	Café de Bugün.....32 B4	Bus Companies City Offices.....50 C5	51 A6
Internet Café.....3 C5	Deniz Restaurant.....(see 26)	Green Car.....52 C4	53 A6
İzmir Döviz.....4 C5	Dört Mevsim et Lokantası.....33 C5	Bus to Kadifekale.....51 A6	54 C4
PTT.....5 B4	Gül Kebap.....34 B5	Konak Bus Terminal.....53 A6	55 B4
PTT.....6 C5	Güney Dog.....35 C5	Montrö Meydanı Bus Terminal.....54 C4	56 B4
Sifa Hastanesi (Hospital).....7 C5	Kemal'in Yeri Deniz Mahsülleri.....36 C2	Taxi Stand.....55 B4	
T@şkin Internet C@fé.....8 C5	Kirçigöçü.....37 C2	Turkish Airlines.....56 B4	
Tourist Office.....9 B4	Neşe Köfte.....38 B5		
Yük@nnet.....10 C2	Rıza Aksüt.....39 B5		
	Selanik Lokantası.....40 B5		
	Simorg Café.....41 B5		
	Tabaklar.....42 B5		
	Tuğba.....43 C5		
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES			
Ağora.....11 C5			
Archaeology Museum.....12 A6			
Atatürk Evi.....13 C2			
Clock Tower.....(see 17)			
Ethnography Museum.....(see 12)			
Government Mansion.....(see 17)			
İzmir Kültür Vakfı.....14 A6			
Kadifekale (Castle).....15 D6			
Kizlaragasi Han.....16 B5			
Konak Camii.....17 A5			
Museum of History & Art.....18 C4			
Şifalı Lux Hamam.....19 C5			
DRINKING			
Dergah Nargile Ve Çay Evi.....44 C5			
Emin Çay Evi.....45 C5			
Kalamsı.....(see 32)			
Passport Café & Bar.....(see 32)			
ENTERTAINMENT			
Barcelona.....46 B4			
Café Baryum.....47 C3			
SLEEPING			
Grand Zeybek Hotel.....(see 20)			
Güzel İzmir Oteli.....20 C5			
Hilton İzmir.....21 B4			
Hotel Alican 2.....22 C5			
Hotel Baylan.....23 C5			
Hotel İsmira.....24 B4			
Imperial Hotel.....25 C5			
İzmir Palas Oteli.....26 B3			
Otel Antik Han.....27 C5			
Otel Hikmet.....28 C5			
Otel Karaca.....29 B4			
Otel Killim.....30 B4			

AGORA

The ancient **Agora** (Marketplace; Agora Caddesi; admission €1; ☎ 8am-5pm), built for Alexander the Great, was ruined in an earthquake in AD 178, but rebuilt by the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. Colonnades of Corinthian columns, vaulted chambers and a reconstructed arch give you a good idea of what a Roman bazaar must have looked like. Later, a Muslim cemetery was built on the site and you can see many of the old tombstones around the perimeter of the Agora. Ask for the free brochure, which gives a good introduction.

To reach the Agora, walk down Anafartalar Caddesi, the bazaar's bustling main street, then skirt the perimeter of the site to find the gate.

BAZAAR

İzmir's **bazaar** (☎ 9.30am-9pm Mon-Sat high season, to 5pm low season) is a little slice of fast-vanishing Turkey; this is also the place to head for İzmir's heart and soul. It's a great place to get lost for a few hours amid the stalls, sound of caged songbirds, wedding dress shops and spice stalls. Seek out if you can the flower and bead markets, then stop for a reviving shot of Turkish coffee in one of the delightful cafés at its core.

On the Konak side it's fun trying to find the restored **Kızlaragasi Han** (☎ 9.30am-9pm Mon-Sat high season, to 5pm low season), a covered market built in 1744 and rather like a smaller, calmer version of İstanbul's famous Covered Bazaar. When you're ready to be found again, ask the way back to Basmane or Konak.

SYNAGOGUES

Newly restored and open to the public are some of İzmir's beautiful old **synagogues** (guided tour €23-31) located in the same quarter as the Asansör Restaurant. To visit or tour, call the tourist office (p227), which can arrange access.

ARCHAEOLOGY, ETHNOGRAPHY & HISTORY OF ART MUSEUMS

İzmir's Archaeology and Ethnography Museums are a short, unsignposted walk up the hill from Konak along Anafartalar Caddesi and Millikütüphane Caddesi.

The **İzmir Archaeology Museum** (Arkeoloji Müzesi; ☎ 489 0796; Arkeoloji Müzesi Caddesi; admission €2.75; ☎ 8am-5pm Tue-Sun) contains a fine collection of Greek and Roman artefacts. The displays are

a little dry in places, but look out in particular for the beautifully decorated sarcophagi, the head of a gigantic statue of Domitian that once stood at Ephesus, and the impressive frieze depicting the funeral games from the mausoleum at Belevi (250 BC). To get here, exit the metro and at the crossroads head left up the hill towards the red-tiled, grand building half way up the hill.

More interesting is the **İzmir Ethnography Museum** (Etnografya Müzesi; ☎ 489 0796; admission €1.65; ☎ 8am-5pm Tue-Sun), next door. Originally built in 1831 as the St Roche Hospital, this lovely old four-storey stone building houses colourful displays (including dioramas, photos and information panels) demonstrating local arts, crafts and customs. You'll learn about everything from camel wrestling, pottery and tinsplating to felt-making, embroidery and the art of making those curious little blue-and-white 'evil eye' beads (see also the boxed text, p232). Other displays include weaponry, jewellery and beautiful illustrated manuscripts.

A newly opened museum in the Kültür Park is the **Museum of History & Art** (Tarih ve Sanat Müzesi; ☎ 489 7586; admission €2.75; ☎ 8am-5pm Tue-Sun). Containing three separate departments, Sculpture, Ceramics, and Precious Artefacts, it gives a good overview of the region's artistic heritage. Look out in particular for the 2nd-century AD high relief of Poseidon and Demeter and the large hunting mosaic from Kadifekale. It also has a small but quite well stocked bookshop with publications on Turkish art, cooking and culture.

KADIFEKALE

Alexander the Great refounded Smyrna on Kadifekale (Mt Pagus) in the centre of the modern city, erecting the fortifications that still crown the hill. It's well worth taking a bus up to the 'Velvet Fortress' to see the view, especially just before sunset. During the day you can watch women migrants from Mardin in south-eastern Turkey hard at work on horizontal carpet looms, an increasingly rare sight.

Bus 33 from Konak will carry you up the hill and you can easily walk some of the way back down again. However, the surrounding neighbourhood is pretty rough – don't walk back alone after dark.

HAMAM

If bathing facilities at your hotel are rudimentary, you can patronise the **Şifalı Lux Hamam**

(bath/massage €5.50/11; ☎ 7am-11pm for men, 8am-6pm for women) off Anafartalar Caddesi. It's clean, with a lovely domed and marble interior.

Festivals & Events

From mid-June to mid-July the annual **International İzmir Festival** offers performances of music and dance in Çeşme and Ephesus as well as İzmir (in the Kültür Park). Call the **İzmir Kültür Vakfı** (İzmir Culture Foundation; ☎ 463 0300; Mithatpaşa Caddesi 50/4) south of town to find out what's on where.

Sleeping

İzmir's hotels are often holed up with local businessmen attending trade shows; reserve a few days in advance, more in high summer.

There are lots of small, cheap hotels and several mid-priced places close to the train station. Recently the municipality helped fund the restoration of some old Ottoman houses (now converted hotels) immediately southwest of the train station (1296 Sokak) and, though the façades are very pretty, the interiors are unfortunately generally grungy and uninviting.

BUDGET

Otel Hikmet (☎ 484 2672; 945 Sokak 26; s with/without shower €11/8, d €22/16) If you're after 'atmosphere with authenticity', head for the Hikmet. Tucked away in cobbled streets in old İzmir near the Agora, this simple, family-run three-storey house is chock-full of character. Though longing for a lick of paint, the rooms are spotless.

Imperial Hotel (☎ 425 6883; fax 489 4688; 1294 Sokak 54; s/d €14/22; ☎) Though the grandiose entrance columns, marble floors and purple carpets all live up to the hotel's name, the rooms are much more modest. But they're still of a decent size, spotless and terrific value.

Güzel İzmir Oteli (☎ 483 5069; 1368 Sokak 8; s/d €14/28; ☎) Quieter than many, this characterful place (with its carpet-clad walls and rose-tinted statuettes) offers small but clean rooms at good value. Rooms vary; ask to see several.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

İzmir's best hotels boast all the usual bells and whistles but aren't great value; check whether a travel agent can't get you a better deal.

Vaunted to open soon (possibly with a new name) is the freshly refurbished, five-star Grand Ephesus Hotel, a Swiss-Turkish venture, which aspires to be İzmir's best.

Hotel Alican 2 (☎ 425 2912; alicanotel@hotmail.com; 1367 Sokak; s/d €19/31; ☎) Off the main road, conveniently located, newly opened (and so in good nick), and with decent-sized rooms and modern bathrooms (complete with scalloped sink and toilet!), the 13-room hotel offers great value. Breakfast is included.

Hotel Baylan (☎ 483 1426; hotelbaylan@ttnet.net.tr; 1294 Sokak 8, Basmane; s/d €28/45; ☎) Built by two brothers to fulfil their father's dream, the Baylan prides itself on its reputation as a 'well-managed place with a friendly, family feel'. Off the main street and so quieter than most, it's also got a small but attractive terrace at the back. Ask for a room with a window on the outside. It costs €11 to have an extra bed in the room. To find it, walk up 1294 Sokak (entry opposite the Basmane mosque) and enter through the car park on the left.

Grand Zeybek Hotel (☎ 441 9590; www.grandzeybekhotels.com; Fevzi Paşa Bulvarı 1368 Sokak 5-7, Basmane; s/d €28/50; ☎) Central, but quieter than many, it's less grand than it purports to be but is a good option if the others are full.

Otel Kilim (☎ 484 5340; www.kilimotel.com.tr in Turkish; Atatürk Caddesi, Çankaya; s/d €47/56; ☎) Apart from the central, seafront location, recent renovation and good value, the real draw of this hotel is the lovely views from the rooms and restaurants. Only 12 rooms have full sea views, so book one week in advance.

Otel Antik Han (☎ 489 2750; www.nisanyan.com.tr; Anafartalar Caddesi 600; s/d €40/65) Once belonging to Atatürk's father, this is one of İzmir's very few historic hotels. Boutique in style and stylish in décor, it's set around a tranquil courtyard and is a world away from the hustle and bustle of the bazaar outside. The hotel also has six charming little 'flats' (in fact rooms with a mezzanine floor) that cost the same price as rooms.

İzmir Palas Oteli (☎ 465 0030; www.izmirpalas.com.tr; Atatürk Caddesi 2, Çankaya; s €53-64, d €72-83; ☎) Established in 1927, the Palas is İzmir's oldest hotel. Modern-oriental in style, it's elegant and well run. Its biggest boon is its location; most rooms have balconies overlooking the bay.

Hotel İsmira (☎ 445 6060; www.hotelismira.com; Gaziosmanpaşa Bulvarı 28; s/d €75/100; ☎) If you're after the comfort and anonymity of an international, three-star hotel, the İsmira hits the mark. It also boasts good facilities including a sauna, massage service, jazz bar and restaurant with good views.

Otel Karaca (☎ 489 1940; www.otelkaraca.com.tr; 1379 Sokak 55, Sevgi Yolu; s/d €110/138; ☎) Offering three-star comfort but with a local flavour, the cosy Karaca resembles an Ottoman official's home. Neighbouring a park, it's also quieter than most.

Hilton İzmir (☎ 497 6060; www.hilton.com; Gaziosmanpaşa Bulvarı 7; s/d €267/295; ☎) Luxuriating in grey marble, the Hilton stands out above all for fabulous views from rooms, restaurants and bars, and good facilities (including health club, pool, tennis and squash courts).

Eating

For fresh fruit, veg or freshly baked bread and delicious savoury pastries (€0.13), head for the canopied market along Anafartalar Caddesi.

RESTAURANTS

The place to be seen on a summer's evening, but also atmospheric, romantic (if you're so inclined) and fun is the sea-facing Kordon. Though you pay for the location – most restaurants have street-side tables with views of the bay – some serve excellent food as well.

In Alsancak, you lose the sunset views but gain on atmosphere. Try in particular 1453 Sokak (Gazi Kadınlar Sokağı).

Kemal'in Yeri Deniz Mahsülleri (☎ 422 3190; 1453 Sokak 20/A; meals €15-17; ☎ 6am-midnight) Friendly, informal and fun, this restaurant in the Alsancak district prides itself on 'customer satisfaction', and serves good fish dishes at great prices. Try the grilled *kalamar* with the secret – and sumptuous – house 'mayonnaise'.

Balık Pişiricisi (☎ 464 2705; Atatürk Caddesi 212/A; meals €17-23; ☎ noon-11.30pm) The queues of diners on the street and waiters galloping from table to table tell much about this fish restaurant. Though simple and modern, its reputation for good seafood at reasonable prices is unsurpassed. Try the speciality, *dil şiş* (grilled sole).

Asansör (☎ 261 2626; Dario Moreno Sokağı; meals €20-30; ☎ 8am-midnight) Housed at the top of a 40m lift (built in 1907 by a local philanthropist to help people travel between the Karataş and Halil Rifat Paşa areas of town), the location is İzmir's best. Apart from the stunning panoramic views, it also makes a cool refuge in summer. There's live Turkish music nightly from 8pm to midnight. If you can't afford to eat at the main restaurant, try the smaller Café Moreno opposite (meals €6 to €10, open for

the same hours) or come for a beer (from €3). It's about 2km from the town centre.

Deniz Restaurant (☎ 464 4499; Atatürk Caddesi 188/B; meals from €30; ☎ 11am-11pm) Founded by a father and run by his three sons, the family has firmly held onto Deniz's ranking as İzmir's premier fish restaurant. Try the house speciality, *tuzda balık* (fish baked in a block of salt that's dramatically broken at your table) or the sumptuous seafood.

QUICK EATS

Güney Doğ (☎ 446 7662; 1294; Sokak 39; meals €2; ☎ 10am-midnight) Away from the hustle and bustle of the train station on a pretty street under a leafy wall, the charming, elderly owner serves delicious *köfte* and meat and veggie kebabs at heart-breakingly modest prices.

Gül Kebap (☎ 425 0126; Anafartalar Caddesi 415, Kemeraltı; meals €2-3; ☎ 6.30am-5pm Mon-Sat) For a fuel stop in the bazaar, head for this perennially popular place, feeding the good people of İzmir since 1949.

Neşe Köfte (☎ 445 3868; 906 Sokak 28; meal €3; 11am-6pm Mon-Sat) At the other end of the bazaar, this place claims İzmir's 'best-köfte-in-town' crown. Try also the *piyas* (white beans and onion in olive oil and lemon juice) – an Aegean speciality. Later, have a coffee at one of the pretty cafés nearby.

Kırçıçeği (☎ 464 3090; Klibns Şehitleri Caddesi 83; kebaps €4-5; ☎ 24 hr) Simple, large and bright but spotless and with exemplary service, this is the place in Alsancak to come for good Turkish food at great prices. The pick-and-point menu may help new arrivals or those keen to try out other dishes.

Selanik Lokantasi (☎ 446 5378; 851 Sokak 9; meals €5-6; ☎ 7.30am-5.30pm) Another local favourite is Selanik, which serves hearty, homemade fare.

Tabaklar (☎ 482 2708; 872 Sokak 132, Kemeraltı; meals €5-8; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat) In the thick of the bazaar, and serving fish at affordable prices, this simple but hugely popular place is one of İzmir's best kept culinary secrets. Try the speciality: *dil şiş* (grilled sole).

Dört Mevsim Et Lokantasi (☎ 489 8991; 1369 Sokak 51/A; meals €6-10; ☎ 9.30am-midnight) Famous as far afield as Ankara and Istanbul, this award-winning *lokanta* serves excellent food at reasonable prices. From the open *ocakbaşı* (grill), try the delicious chargrilled-melted cheese, stuffed aubergine kebab or *köfte* with chilli (the house specialities).

THE EVIL ALL-SEEING EYE

However short your trip to Turkey, you can't fail to notice the famous 'evil eye' watching you wherever you go. This age-old superstition is thought to find its roots in pre-Islamic Anatolia. Though ancient, the belief is still remarkably persistent throughout Turkey today, and the beads, pendants and other artefacts emblazoned with the eye are made just as much for the local market as they are for the tourists. No wedding, funeral or baptism, party or any other event goes by without its manifestation in multiple forms.

In a nutshell, certain people are thought to carry within them a malevolent force that transmits to others via the eyes. This destructive – sometimes fatal – force is considered harmful to humans (particularly children) as well as to animals, houses and even individual objects. To combat it, eyes are made to reflect the evil look back to the originator.

Look out for the eyes handmade in many materials ranging from glass, shell and wood to gold, silver and leather, and keeping safe everything from cars to hotel lobbies, restaurant kitchens and *hamams*.

When in Rome... we bought one to dangle from her hired-car mirror! Given the coast's high accident rate, and her safe return (bar one minor incident), it seemed to do its job!

The majority of the evil eye production takes place in the Aegean region, and İzmir is a great place to buy them (see opposite).

CAFÉS & PÂTISSERIES

Tuğba (☎ 441-9622; Gazi Osman Paşa Bulvarı 56, Çankaya; ☎ 8.30am-11pm). For dried fruit, Turkish delight and all things nice.

Rıza Aksüt (☎ 484-9864; 863 Sokak 66, Kemeraltı; homemade ice cream €4; pastries €1.40-2; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat) Open since 1957 and hugely popular locally, the patisserie offers stunning Turkish puds and pastries. Try the swoon-inducing *bal kaymak* (buttermilk drizzled with honey) or *supangle* (chocolate and milk pudding).

Café de Bugün (☎ 425 8118; Atatürk Caddesi 162 1-2; ☎ 8am-11pm) Along the seafront and in complete contrast to the little cafés and patisseries in the bazaar is the posh Café de Bugün, which rather resembles a French Regency salon.

Simorg Café (☎ 445 7449; 895 Sokak 2/A; meals €5; 8am-9.30pm Mon-Sat) With its Orientalist interior (complete with carpets, old maps and portraits of sultans and their harems), this café makes a great place to recline and rest after a run around the bazaar. The 'coffee made in cup' is a speciality of the area as is the *mantı* (Turkish ravioli). There's live Turkish music on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 7pm to 9.30pm.

Drinking

Emin Çay Evi (☎ 484 0820; Anafartalar Caddesi; coffee €0.25; ☎ 24 hr) A great, old-fashioned teahouse set on a lovely square, this place is in the heart of the bazaar. You can join the locals for a nargileh (water pipe; €2), gossip and people-watch.

Dergah Nargile Ve Çay Evi (☎ 441-0937; Anafartalar Caddesi; ☎ 5am-9pm) Nearby and similar is the Dergah with little tables on the street.

Kalamış (☎ 425 3901; Atatürk Caddesi 144, Konak; nargileh €3; ☎ 24 hr) For a nargileh over a game of backgammon or *okey* (kind of Turkish dominoes) head for this atmospheric institution. Old men line the yellowed interior, but students (of both sexes) occupy the 1st floor.

Passport Café & Bar (☎ 489 9299; Atatürk Caddesi 140; beer €1.65; ☎ 8am-2am) More modern and more central is this new and funky place with tables on the seafront.

Entertainment

The locals start their evening's entertainment with a *passeggiata* (stroll) along the Kordon, which is also good for a sundowner on the seafront. For more trendy café-bars, head for the Kordon and Alsancak. Spots particularly popular currently are the row of bars around the Balık Pişiricisi Restaurant and along Sokak 1482 in Alsancak. For dancing, head for Alsancak, the hub of the club scene.

Barcelona (☎ 464 1936; Atatürk Caddesi 220/C; admission free, beer €5.55; ☎ 11pm-4.30am Wed, Fri, Sat Oct-Apr) Split new, this chrome and blue club boasts a large – and usually heaving – dance floor and a good mix of Turkish and European music.

Café Baryum (☎ 463 4902; Atatürk Caddesi 230/A; beer inside/outside €2.25/2.75; ☎ 8am-2am) The lively and popular Baryum plays live music from 9pm to 2am nightly.

Shopping

İzmir's bazaar is a great place for a spot of shopping at sensible prices.

Sipahi Okey (☎ 446 0830; Anafartalar Caddesi 447) For traditional Turkish souvenirs, try this place with lovely *tavla* (backgammon sets from €8), strings of Turkish chillies to cheer up your kitchen or your cuisine, or lovely beaded jewellery.

Alp (☎ 487 0317; 856 Sokak 51, Kemeraltı; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Sat) This amazing shop specialises in the famous evil eye beads (€1 to €5.5; see the boxed text, opposite).

Getting There & Away

AIR

İzmir's airport is expanding rapidly. Recently both British Airways and KLM started flying here directly from Europe.

Turkish Airlines (☎ 484 1220; www.thy.com; Halit Ziya Bulvarı 65, Çankaya) offers nonstop flights to İstanbul (€85, 50 minutes) and Ankara from **Adnan Menderes Airport** (☎ 274 2424), with connections to other destinations.

Onur Air (www.onurair.com.tr), **Atlasjet** (www.atlasjet.com), **Fly Air** (www.flyair.com.tr), the new domestic carrier **Sun Express Airlines** (www.sunexpress.com.tr) and İzmir Airlines (about to be launched at time of writing) also fly to İzmir. See p679 for more details.

A good local ticketing agent for all these airlines is **Green Car** (☎ 446 9131; www.greenautorent.com; Şair Eşref Bulvarı 18/A, Çankaya).

There are also flights between İzmir and Europe on various European airlines (see p672). With the launch of İzmir Airlines, direct flights to Europe will greatly increase, and İzmir is billed to become one of Turkey's biggest hubs.

BUS

İzmir's mammoth otogar lies 6.5km northeast of the city centre. Inside you'll be confronted with a bow-shaped row of bus companies, cheek-by-jowl and all fiercely competing for business. Choose a reputable company (rather than letting them find you – see p679). For travel to coastal towns on Friday or Saturday, buy your ticket a day in advance; in the high season, two days in advance. Tickets can also be bought from the bus company offices in the city centre.

Long-distance buses and their ticket offices are found on the lower level; regional buses (Selçuk, Bergama, Manisa, Sardis etc) and

their ticket offices are on the upper level. City buses and dolmuşes leave from a courtyard in front of the lower level.

From İzmir there are frequent local buses to Bergama (€4.45, two hours, 110km), Çeşme (€4.45, 1½ hours, 116km), Foça (€3.35, 1½ hours, 86km), Kuşadası (€4.70, 1¼ hours, 95km), Manisa (€2.20, 50 minutes, 45km), Salihli (for Sardis; €3.35, 1½ hours, 80km) and Selçuk (€2.75, one hour, 80km).

Short-distance buses (eg to the Çeşme Peninsula) leave from a smaller local bus terminal in Üçkuyular, 6.5km southwest of Konak. Recently short-distance buses started picking up and dropping off at the otogar also.

Details of daily long-distance bus services to important destinations are listed in the table, below. There's a **left-luggage office** (emanetçi; depending on size of bag per 24hr €0.85-1.65; ☎ 24 hr) on the ground floor.

SERVICES FROM İZMİR'S OTOGAR

Destination	Fare	Duration	Distance	Frequency (per day)
Ankara	€14	8hr	550km	every hour
Antalya	€14	7hr	450km	at least hourly
Bodrum	€8	3¼hr	286km	every 30 min in high season
Bursa	€9	5hr	300km	every hour
Çanakkale	€14	6hr	340km	at least hourly
Denizli	€8	3¼hr	250km	every 30 min
İstanbul	from €20-30	from 9hr	575km	at least every hour
Konya	€17	8hr	575km	every one to two hours
Marmaris	€11	4hr	320km	hourly

TRAIN

Though İzmir has two train stations, **Alsancak Garı** (☎ 464 7795) and **Basmane Garı** (☎ 484 8638 information, 484 5353 reservations), most intercity trains as well as the airport train arrive at the latter.

The *Marmara Ekspresi* train to Bandırma (€8.35, 6½ hours) departs from İzmir Basmane at 8.35am and arrives in Bandırma Gar (main station) at 2.50pm.

The Express trains run to Ankara (sleeper €35.60, 13 to 15 hours) daily at 5.45pm, 6.25pm and 7.30pm via Eskişehir (sleeper €7.20 to €8.90, 11½ to 13½ hours). For İstanbul, change at Eskişehir.

Express trains also depart for Denizli (for Pamukkale, €5, five hours) three times daily

at 9am, 3.15pm and 6.30pm; Selçuk (€1.70; 1½ hours) at 9am, noon, 3.15pm, 6.30pm and 9.30pm; Nazilli (for Afrodiasias, €2.80, four hours) at 9am, noon, 3.15pm, 6.30pm and 9.30pm; Isparta (€7.20, 10 hours) at 9.30pm; Burdur (€6.10, nine hours) at 9.30pm; and Kütahya (€6.70 to €7.80, eight hours) at 1pm and 7.30pm.

For trains to northern or eastern Turkey, change at Ankara.

Getting Around

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

The airport is 18km south of the city near Cumaovası on the road to Ephesus and Kuşadası. Frequent Havaş airport buses (€7, 30 minutes) leave from Gaziosmanpaşa Bulvarı, north of the Hilton, and from the airport (where they meet flights).

More or less hourly suburban trains (€1.10, 30 minutes) connect the airport with Basmane Garı (€1.10), but a taxi (€20 to €30, 30 minutes) is likely to be faster and more dependable.

TO/FROM THE BUS STATIONS

If you've arrived at the main otogar on an intercity bus operated by one of the larger bus companies, a free shuttle *servis* is provided to Dokuz Eylül Meydanı in Basmane. If you arrive on a local bus, you can catch a dolmuş (€0.80, 25 mins) that runs every 15 minutes between the otogar and both Konak and Basmane Garı, or you can take buses 54 and 191 (every 20 minutes), bus 64 (every hour) to Basmane (€0.85) or bus 505 to Bornova (€0.85). Tickets can be bought either on board the bus or at the white booth beside the bus stop.

To get to the otogar, the easiest way is to buy a ticket on an intercity bus at Dokuz Eylül Meydanı and then take the bus company's *servis*. However, if you need to take a local bus from the otogar (eg to Salihli), you'll need to take a dolmuş or bus from Basmane or Bornova.

To get to the bus station at Üçkuyular, catch bus 11 (€0.85) from the Konak bus terminal. Soon, you can also take the metro (right).

BOAT

The nicest way to get about İzmir is by **ferry** (☎ 7am-11pm). Frequent timetabled services link the piers at Konak, Pasaport and Al-

sancak. *Jetons* (transport tokens) cost €1.10 each.

BUS

City buses lumber along the major thoroughfares, but the one-way system and lack of numbering on the bus stops makes them hard for outsiders to use. Two major terminal or transfer points are Montrö Meydanı, by the Kültür Park, and Konak, beside the Atatürk Evi. You can buy a ticket (€0.85) from a white kiosk in advance or on board from the driver.

CAR

The large international car-hire franchises and many smaller companies all have desks (open 24 hours) at the airport, and many have a desk in town.

Avis (☎ 274 2174; www.avis.com.tr)

Europcar (☎/fax 274 2163)

Green Car (☎ 446 9131; www.greenautorent.com; Şair Eşref Bulvarı 18/A, Çankaya) A good local company and the largest in the Aegean region.

Hertz (☎ 274 2193; fax 274 2099)

METRO

İzmir's **metro** (☎ 6.30am-11.30pm; jeton €0.83) is clean and quick, but there is no route map. It runs from Üçyol to Bornova via Konak (though you're most likely to use it to get from Basmane station to Konak or Bornova). When the new extension opens, it will also run between Üçyol and Üçkuyular (the short-distance bus terminal).

TAXI

You can either hail a taxi or pick one up from a taxi stand or from outside one of the big hotels. Fares start at €0.70 and depend on distance; prices are 50% more at night. Make sure the meter is switched on.

AROUND İZMİR

If you are staying in İzmir for a few days, a number of destinations make good day or half-day excursions. Local buses leave from the upper level of İzmir otogar.

Manisa

☎ 0236 / pop 250,080

Backed by craggy mountains, the mainly modern town of Manisa was once the ancient town of Magnesia ad Sipylus. Although the early Ottoman sultans left Manisa many fine

mosques, retreating Greek soldiers wreaked terrible destruction during the War of Independence. Today the main reasons to visit are to inspect the mosques and the finds from Sardis in the museum or to take in the Mesir Şenlikleri festival.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Of Manisa's many old mosques, the **Muradiye Camii** (1585), the last work of the famous architect Sinan, has the most impressive tilework. The adjoining building, originally constructed as a soup kitchen, is now **Manisa Museum** (admission €1.10; ☎ 9am-noon & 1-5pm Tue-Sun), which houses some fine mosaics from Sardis.

More or less facing the Muradiye, the **Sultan Camii** (1522) features some gaudy paintings. The **hamam** (admission €5; ☎ 10am-9pm) next door has separate entrances for men and women. Perched on the hillside above the town centre is the **Ulu Cami** (1366), ravaged by the ages and not as impressive as the view from the teahouse next to it.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Should you be able to visit during the four days around the spring equinox, you would be able to catch the **Mesir Şenlikleri**, a festival in celebration of *mesir macunu* (power gum).

According to legend, over 450 years ago a local pharmacist named Müslühiddin Celebi Merkez Efendi concocted a potion to cure Hafza Sultan, mother of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent, of a mysterious ailment. Delighted with her swift recovery, the queen mother paid for the amazing elixir to be distributed to the local people. In fact, the Ottomans had a long-standing custom of eating spiced sweets at Nevruz, the Persian New Year.

These days townsfolk in period costumes re-enact the mixing of the potion from sugar and 40 spices and other ingredients, then toss it from the dome of the Sultan Camii. Locals credit *mesir* with calming the nerves, stimulating the hormones and immunising against poisonous stings.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

It's easiest to get to Manisa by hourly bus from İzmir (€2.25, 45 minutes, 30km). You can continue direct from Manisa to Salihli (€1.60, 1½ hours) to see the ruins at Sart.

To get to Manisa's historic mosques, take dolmuş 5 from in front of the otogar (€0.25) and hop off at Ulu Parki.

Sardis (Sart)

Sardis was once the capital of the wealthy Lydian kingdom that dominated much of the Aegean before the Persians came along. Its ruins, 90km east of İzmir, make a particularly worthwhile excursion destination.

Sardis was near the Pactolus River, which carried specks of gold that the Lydians collected with fleece sieves. Croesus (560-546 BC) was a king of Lydia, and the Greeks presumably thought him abnormally rich because he could store so much wealth in his seemingly bottomless pockets rather than in the form of vast estates and livestock. Coinage seems to have been invented here, hence the phrase 'rich as Croesus'. Sardis became a great trading centre partly because its coinage facilitated commerce.

The then Persian town was sacked during a revolt in 499 BC. After the Persians, Alexander the Great took the city in 334 BC and embellished it even more. Unfortunately, an earthquake brought down its fine buildings in AD 17, but it was rebuilt by Tiberius and developed into a thriving Roman town. The end for Sardis happened soon after Tamerlane visited in 1401 in his usual belligerent mood.

The ruins of Sardis are scattered around the village of Sart (Sartmustafa) in a valley overshadowed by a strikingly craggy mountain range.

SIGHTS

The most extensive **ruins** (admission €1.10; ☎ 8am-5pm, high season to 7pm) lie at the eastern end of Sart village, immediately north of the road. Information panels dot the site.

You enter the site along a **Roman road**, past a well-preserved **Byzantine latrine** and rows of **Byzantine shops**, many of which once belonged to Jewish merchants and artisans because they backed onto the wall of the great synagogue. Note the elaborate drainage system, with pipes buried in the stone walls. Some of the buildings have been identified from inscriptions and include a restaurant, Jacob's Paint Shop, an office, a hardware shop, and shops belonging to Sabbatios and Jacob, an elder of the synagogue. At the end of the Roman road an inscription on the marble paving stones was

done in either AD 17 or 43 to honour Prince Germanicus.

Turn left from the Roman road to enter the **havra** (synagogue), impressive because of its size and beautiful decoration: fine geometric mosaic paving and coloured stone on the walls.

Beside the synagogue is the grassy expanse of what was once the **hamam** and gymnasium. This complex was probably built in the 2nd century AD and abandoned after a Sassanian invasion in AD 616.

Right at the end is a striking two-storey building called the **Marble Court of the Hall of the Imperial Cult**, which, though heavily restored (and somewhat hideous), gives an idea of the former grandeur of the building. Note the finely chiselled Greek inscriptions and the serpentine fluting on the columns. Behind it you'll find an ancient **swimming pool** and rest area. Look out also for the Roman altar with two Roman eagles on either side and lions back-to-back.

Across the road from the enclosed site continuing excavations have uncovered a stretch of the **Lydian city wall** and a **Roman house** with painted walls right on top of an earlier Lydian residence.

TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

A sign points south down the road beside the teahouses to the **Temple of Artemis** (admission €1.25; ☎ 8am-5pm), just over 1km away. Today, only a few columns of a once magnificent but never completed building still stand. Nevertheless, the temple's plan is clearly visible and very impressive. Next to it is an **altar** used since ancient times, refurbished by Alexander the Great and later by the Romans. Clinging to the southeastern corner of the temple is a small brick **Byzantine church**.

As you head back to İzmir, look to the north of the highway and you'll see a series of softly rounded **tumuli**, the burial mounds of the Lydian kings.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Buses for Salihli (€3, 1½ hours, 90km) leave from İzmir otogar at least every 30 minutes. You must then take an onward dolmuş to Sart (€0.35, 15 minutes, 9km) from the back of Salihli otogar.

Buses also run between Salihli and Manisa (€1.60, 1½ hours), making it possible to visit both places in the same day.

ÇEŞME PENINSULA

The Çeşme Peninsula is İzmir's summer playground, which means that it can get very busy with Turkish tourists at weekends and during the school holidays. The main place to visit is Çeşme itself, which is also a transit point for getting to the Greek island of Chios. Alaçatı, with its lovely Greek-village feel, is well worth an excursion; it's also fast becoming a mecca for windsurfers. There are pleasant beaches all around the peninsula.

ÇEŞME

☎ 0232 / pop 21,300

Çeşme, 85km due west of İzmir, has perked up considerably in recent years and now makes a good base for a few days' holiday, especially when travelling to and from the Greek island of Chios, 8km away across the water. Inevitably it's popular with weekendening İzmiris and can get busy during the school holidays, when prices rise accordingly.

Orientation & Information

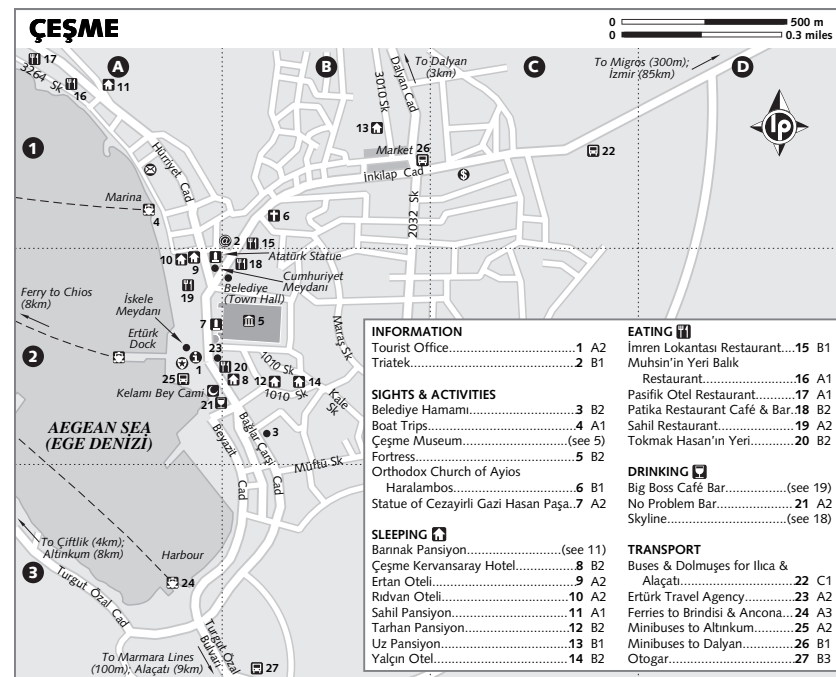
The **tourist office** (☎ /fax 712 6653; İskele Meydanı 6), ferry and bus ticket offices, banks with ATMs, restaurants and hotels are all within two blocks of Cumhuriyet Meydanı, the main square near the waterfront with the inevitable statue of Atatürk.

Just off the main square is the new **Triatek** (3048 Sokak; per hr €1.65; ☎ 10am-1am) internet café with fast connections and modern machines.

The otogar is almost 1km south of Cumhuriyet Meydanı, although you can just as easily pick up transport to İzmir, Ilica or Alaçatı from the western end of İnkilap Caddesi.

Sights

The Genoese **fortress**, whose dramatic walls dominate the town centre, was built in the 16th century and repaired by Sultan Beyazıt, son of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror (Mehmet Fatih), to defend the coast from attack by pirates. Later the Knights of St John of Jerusalem based on Rhodes also made use of it. The battlements offer excellent views of Çeşme but otherwise the interior is disappointingly empty. The one exception is the north tower, which houses the **Çeşme Museum** (Çeşme Müzesi; admission €1.65; ☎ 8am-5pm), displaying some archaeological finds from nearby Erythrae.



Facing İskele Meydanı, with its back to the fortress, is a **statue of Cezayirli Gazi Hasan Paşa** (1714–90), who was sold into slavery but became a grand vizier. He is shown caressing a lion.

To the north, the imposing but redundant 19th-century **Orthodox Church of Ayios Haralambos** (İnkilap Caddesi) is used for temporary exhibitions of arts and crafts during the summer months.

Past the Çeşme Kervansaray Hotel on Bağlar Çarşısı Caddesi is Çeşme's restored 18th-century **Belediye hamamı** (☎ 712 5386; Bağlar Çarşısı Caddesi; ☎ 10am-10pm Jun-Sep; wash & massage €18). With its dome and marble interior, it's an attractive place. Bathing is mixed (though *peştemals* – *hamam* bath towels – are used). Opening hours are sporadic at other times of the year.

Boat Trips

From June to September, *gülets* offer one-day **boat trips** (€12 to €14 including lunch) to the nearby islands of Wind Bay, Black Island and Donkey Island, where you can swim and snorkel. Browse the waterfront to compare prices

and negotiate. Boats usually leave around 10am and return around 5pm.

Sleeping BUDGET

Yalçın Otel (☎ 712 6981; www.yalcinhotel.freeservers.com; 1002 Sokak 10; s/d €17/22; ☎ May-Oct; ♿) Perched on the hillside overlooking the harbour, the hotel has 18 spotless, well-maintained rooms. The biggest drawcards are the two large terraces with sunbeds and fabulous views, and its midrange quality for a budget price. Out of season, you may be able to stay here if you call in advance.

Uz Pansiyon (☎ 712 6579; Sokak 3010 11; s/d high season €14/28, low season €11/19; ♿) Close to the bus station and 450m from the centre, this is one of Çeşme's cheapest, but it's spotless and terrific value.

Sahil Pansiyon (☎ 712 6934; www.sahilpansiyon.com; 3265 Sokak 3; d high/low season from €28/22; ♿) This is a peaceful place up the stairs beside the Barınak in a rambling house and garden. The immaculate rooms have small balconies, some with sea views (ask for room 9). The family's very accommodating and keen to please.

Tarhan Pansiyon (☎ 712 6599; Kervansaray Yanı; s/d €14/28) Lying 30m off Beyazıt Caddesi, this tiny but rather sweet pension clings to the hillside. Basic, cheap but clean and central, it also has a pretty little roof terrace.

Barınak Pansiyon (☎ 712 6670; 3052 Sokak 58; s/d high season €17/33, low season €14/28; 🚻) Uphill from the marina, 600m north of Cumhuriyet Meydanı, this is a family-run pension with glorious vistas of the whole bay from the two terraces shared by six of the rooms – make sure you get one. Rooms are simple.

MIDRANGE

Ertan Oteli (☎ 712 6795; Hurriyet Caddesi 12; d high/low season €50/33; 🚻) Though rather institutional in smell and feel, the rooms have decent-sized balconies from where you can see and hear the sea lapping the shore.

Rıdvan Oteli (☎ 712 6336; ridvanotel@ttnet.net.tr; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 11; s/d high season €39/56, low season €22/33; 🚻) Slap in the centre and somewhat smart, the real boon is the room balconies with side views of the sea.

The old **Çeşme Kervansaray Hotel** (Bağlar Çarşı Caddesi), formerly the town's top hotel, is currently closed, but may reopen in the distant future under private ownership.

Eating

There's a row of cheap eateries along İkilap Caddesi. For self-caterers, there's a **Migros** (☎ 712 6668; Atatürk Bulvarı 68; 🕒 8am–8pm) supermarket about 1km from the city centre heading northeast on the İzmir road.

Tokmak Hasan'ın Yeri (☎ 712 0519; Çarşı Caddesi 11; mains €1.65–3.35; 🕒 7am–8pm Mon–Sat) Hidden away except to those in the know, this simple place serves terrific home cooking at unbeatable prices. Head straight for the little garden at the back; it's cool and quiet and oasis-like.

İmren Lokantası Restaurant (☎ 712 7620; İnkilap Caddesi 6; meals €6; 🕒 noon–9pm) Çeşme's first restaurant and set in a bamboo-roofed atrium with fountain and plants, it's famous locally for its traditional, high-quality Turkish food, which changes daily.

Patika Restaurant Café & Bar (☎ 712 6357; Cumhuriyet Meydanı; meals €5–10; 🕒 3pm–midnight) A well-kept local secret, this is the place for fish at affordable prices. Alcohol is not served. Between 9pm and 1am daily there's live Turkish music and sometimes belly dancing.

Pasifik Oteli Restaurant (☎ 712 7465; 3264 Sokak; fish & salad €6; 🕒 noon–9pm) If you fancy a walk

and some fish, head here, around 1km from the centre on the seafont. It offers a great-value three-course fixed menu (with fish) for €7.25 on tables just metres from the beach; the locals love it.

Sahil Restaurant (☎ 712 8294; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 12; meals €10–12; 🕒 8am–midnight) Right on the waterfront, this Mediterranean-styled place is known for its fish (though its meat dishes are also good). But make sure you ask the fish prices in advance; for some travellers, the bill's been a nasty surprise. *Barbun* (red mullet, €20) is the house speciality.

Muhsin'in Yeri Balık Restaurant (☎ 712 9405; 3264 Sokak 3; meals €14; 🕒 10am–midnight) This new place to the north of town is also recommended for its fish.

Drinking & Entertainment

Big Boss Café Bar (☎ 712 1886; seafont; beer €1.65, coffee €1.40; 🕒 8am–midnight) With tables on the seafont and English newspapers, this new café is a relaxed and (with its competitive prices) cheap way to enjoy the seafont.

Skyline (☎ 712 7567; Cumhuriyet Meydanı; beer €2.75; 🕒 10am–3am, later in high season) Calling itself a 'dance-bar', this tiny place (in the same building as Patika Restaurant Café Bar) was Çeşme's best when we visited. It has a lovely terrace.

No Problem Bar (☎ 712 9411; Çarşı Caddesi 14; beer €1.65; 🕒 7.30am–3am high season only) Unashamedly traveller-trapping, it nevertheless offers beer at competitive prices and bacon butties to boot!

Getting There & Away

BUS

Unfortunately, you have to transit İzmir to get to Çeşme (and from Çeşme to most other places) as there's no longer any onward public transport from Urla to Çeşme.

Buses from Çeşme's otogar run at least every 45 minutes to İzmir's main otogar (€4.45, two hours) and its smaller, western Üçkuyular terminal (€4.15, 1¼ hours, 85km).

There are daily direct buses to İstanbul (€25, nine hours) and to Ankara (€45, seven hours).

Dolmuş for Ilıca and Alaçatı leave from a spot 200m northeast of the town centre; minibuses to Dalyan from near the Hükümet Konağı (Government Building) on Dalyan Caddesi. Minibuses to Altınkum leave from near the tourist office.

FERRY

Many travellers visit Çeşme on their way to or from the nearby Greek island of Chios. Ferries sail between Çeşme and Chios (one way €25, day return €40, open day return €50, car €70 to €90, 50 to 60 minutes) at least five times weekly in high season and twice a week in low season (usually Tuesday and Saturday), generally leaving Çeşme at 9.30am and returning from Chios at 5pm. You don't need to buy your ticket in advance unless you have a car.

During the summer (and sporadically throughout the rest of the year) ferries also leave at least once a week to one or more of the Italian ports of Ancona (low season from €77 to €102, high season €255 to €306, car high/low season €158/122, 36 to 40 hours), Brindisi or Bari. Prices and journey durations to Brindisi and Bari are similar to Ancona. As times (and destinations) change every year, check the current timetables. Note that the ferries to Italy do not currently stop off in Greece.

Buy tickets direct from the ferry companies along Turgut Özal Bulvarı such as **Marmara Lines** (☎ 712 2223; www.marmaralines.com; Turgut Özal Bulvarı) as travel agents usually charge commission. Tickets to Chios can be bought from **Ertürk Travel Agency** (☎ 712 6768, www.erturk.com.tr; Beyazıt Caddesi 6/7).

AROUND ÇEŞME

Altınkum

Southwest of Çeşme, Altınkum consists of a series of delightful sandy coves easily reachable by regular dolmuşes that leave from behind Çeşme tourist office (€1.10, 15 minutes, 9km).

There's mercifully little development out here, just simple restaurants and camping grounds (open June to end of September). A few places offer rental equipment for water sports, especially windsurfing (boards from €40/140 per day/week). **Tursite** (☎ 722 1221; per tent/caravan €10/15), 8.5km from Çeşme and 500m before Altınkum, is pleasant and clean with a nice beach and camping ground.

Alaçatı

☎ 0232

Southeast of Çeşme, Alaçatı is a lovely village of old stone houses populated by Ottoman Greeks a century ago. The nearest beach is 4km away (see the boxed text, p240).

Alaçatı is now one of Turkey's most unabashedly upmarket holiday spots, catering primarily for well-heeled İstanbullular and İzmirli. Many of the hotels and restaurants have been done up in almost painfully good taste. It's still a lovely place to wander – through the cobbled streets, antique shops, boutiques, cafés and old stone houses decorated with colourful flowerpots and window baskets.

Note that most hotels (and restaurants) open only from mid-May to mid-October and for Christmas and New Year. Some restaurants open at weekends in low season. Reservations in hotels are recommended; they're essential in the high season.

SLEEPING

Hünnap Pansiyon (☎ 716 7686; bistrohannover@hotmail.com; Kemalpaşa Caddesi 67/A; d with/without bathroom high season €83/67, low season €56/42; 🚻) Almost the only 'cheap' option in town, it's nevertheless spotless, traditionally decorated, friendly and pleasant.

Değirmen Otel (☎ 716 6714; info@alacatidegirmen; Değirmen Sokak 3; d high/low season €111/89) Signposted off Kemalpaşa (at the western end about 50m from the post office) is this new boutique hotel set in three converted windmills. Rustic in feel but beautifully decorated – right down to old telephones and original stone hearths – it's a gorgeous place.

Alaçatı Taş Otel (☎ 716 7772; www.tasotel.com; Kemalpaşa Caddesi 132; s/d high season €95/117, low season from €67/89; 🚻 (P)) At the eastern end of Kemalpaşa, rustic meets refinement in this lovely old Greek mansion furnished like a private house – which it also is. Zeynep, the dynamic owner, attends to every detail and is a mine of information on the town. It's also got a lovely walled garden, pool and peaceful shaded terrace and is open all year.

O Ev Hotel (☎ 716 6150; www.o-ev.com, in Turkish; Kemalpaşa Caddesi; d with half-board high/low season from €158/128; 🚻) In a restored olive-oil warehouse, this beautiful boutique hotel now rather resembles a small Moorish palace. There's a small pool set in pretty walled gardens and the gourmet restaurant has an excellent reputation.

EATING

Rasim (☎ 716 8420; Kemalpaşa Caddesi 44; meals with salad €3.35–5; 🕒 8am–11pm) Established in 1962, this simple but cheerful restaurant (the town's

WINDSURFING IN ALAÇATI

Made up of a strip of sand around a small bay, Alaçatı beach (4km from the town of Alaçatı, 70km from İzmir) is fast becoming known among the windsurfing fraternity as one of the best places in and outside Europe for windsurfing.

The bay's natural geography is said to provide good windsurfing conditions. In some areas, the water is just 1m deep, the wind generally blows from the north (allowing for a surfing angle of 19°) and keeps a constant speed: at least 16 to 17 knots (though it can blow up to 27 knots). Waters are also relatively flat.

The main season is from mid-May to the beginning of November. A few hotels and around a dozen windsurfing clubs have sprung up. Note that, in high season, equipment and lessons should be booked at least one week in advance:

The largest windsurfing club in Turkey, the German-run **ASPC** (Alaçatı Surf Paradise Club; ☎ 716 6611; www.alacati.de; Liman Yolu; boards per day €40-60, per week €140-220, harness per day/week €12/40; storage €12/50; 📅 15 Mar-Oct) is well designed and professionally managed. It offers good courses and high-quality equipment, with over 160 boards and sails for rent (including kites). A 10-hour beginners' course costs €180; a four-hour advanced course €100; kite instruction costs €180 for six hours. There's also a surf shop, a good café serving drinks and meals, and a spot for caravans (€10 to €15). A camping site is due to open in 2008. For a group of five or more, the centre can also open outside the season.

Orsa Club (☎ 0532 336 3355) boasts a beautiful and peaceful setting on the other side of the bay and is attractively designed and ever-expanding. There's also a windsurfing school, which charges similar prices for courses and equipment to the ASPC, and a camping ground (€10 per person per day). It lies 4km from Alaçatı and 2½km off the main road (signposted) to the bay, along a gravel road.

Hotels are on the main road, between 250m and 700m from the ASPC. Most open from mid-March to mid-December, but some open out of season upon reservation. Most can also pick you up from İzmir's airport (€20).

Çark Pansiyon (☎ 716 7309; fax 716 9738; Liman Yolu 3; s/d with shared bathroom €25/50, 3-person apt €100) Run by a friendly Turkish family, the hotel is modest but quiet and peaceful with good views across the bay. There's also a small restaurant.

Shaka Pension & Bar (☎ 716 0506; www.shaka-alacati.com; s/d high season €60/70, low season €50/60; 🍷) This whitewashed Greek-style house is set in attractive gardens and offers guests regular BBQs, parties, live music and movie shows.

Herman Hotel (☎ 716 6295; www.hermanpension.com; Liman Yolu 4; r Jun-Sep €85, s/d May & Oct €60/75; 🍷) With its blue and orange décor and striped curtains, the place is summery, bright and cheerful. Though simple, the 11 rooms are spotless and have pleasant balconies overlooking the bay.

The only restaurant currently on the bay is the nautically themed and family run **Fahri'nin Yeri Liman Restaurant** (☎ 716 7691; Liman Yolu; meal €20, beer €2; 📅 10am-11pm all year) serving fish only. Set off the main road near the seafront around 100m from the Çark Pansiyon and with tables under a large willow and awnings, it's a pleasant and peaceful place.

Dolmuşes (€0.85, 10 minutes) run every 30 minutes between Alaçatı bus terminus and Alaçatı bay, normally from the beginning of May to the end of September.

first) is still serving hearty Turkish fare at excellent prices. There's also a 'point-and-pick' counter.

Şişarka (☎ 716 8902; Kemalpaşa Caddesi 97; mains from €2.50; 📅 9am-1am) With tables shaded by fig trees beside a well in a pleasant open courtyard, it serves good, local home cooking at good prices. Try the speciality *güveç Alaçatı* (casserole served in a clay pot). It also has

Turkish/European pizza for €3/5 and is open all year.

Delice (☎ 716 6260; Kemalpaşa Caddesi; meals €5-12) This is an arty little café, boasting a small but attractive garden. Try the delicious home-baked cakes.

Lavanta (☎ 716 6891; Kemalpaşa Caddesi 99; meals €23; 📅 9am-midnight) If you're tired of Turkish, this Mediterranean bistro-style place serves good

Italian- and French-inspired dishes. There are also tables outside.

Cafe Agrilia (☎ 716 8594; Kemalpaşa Caddesi 75; meals €20-25; 📅 9am-midnight) Considered Alaçatı's best restaurant, the Agrilia has an impressive setting in a cavernous old tobacco warehouse. Italian-inspired, the speciality is homemade ravioli (€8).

Tuval Butik Restaurant (☎ 716 9808; Kemalpaşa Caddesi 83; meals €25-30) With its lovely wooden beams and whitewashed interior, the Tuval serves good Mediterranean-style food in lovely surroundings.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Frequent dolmuşes run from Çeşme to Alaçatı (€0.95, 10 minutes, 9km), and from İzmir to Çeşme via Alaçatı (€4.45, one hour, 75km).

SİĞACIK

☎ 0232

More remote and much less spoilt than many coastal towns, Sığacık is a pretty port village, tucked inside crumbling medieval walls. With no beach (which deters the crowds), there's not much to do here except stroll the picturesque waterfront, take a boat trip and watch the fishermen returning with their catch. But, tranquil and peaceful, it's a lovely place to relax.

Sığacık is also famous for its fish, particularly *barbun*, and *kalamar*. If you haven't yet indulged in Turkey's wonderful fresh fish, now might be the time.

Sleeping & Eating

Sığacık's hotels are situated on the waterfront. To find them head towards the harbour then follow the waterfront promenade to the right beside the city walls.

With a great family feel and well-maintained, attractive rooms, **Teos Pansiyon** (☎ 745 7463; 126 Sokak 14; d €28; 🍷) is great value. Four rooms have sea views, six are like little suites. You can also buy fresh fish from the market and ask the obliging family to cook it for you.

Around 60m beyond the Teos at the far end of the bay, **Sahil Pansiyon** (☎ 745 7199, fax 745 7741; 127 Sokak 48; d small/large €22/28) has 10 simple but cheerful rooms, five with gorgeous Aegean views.

Dominating the harbour, the **Yeni Bur Restaurant** (☎ 745 7305; Liman Meydanı 17; 📅 8am-

1am) and **Liman** (☎ 745 7011; Liman Meydanı 19; 📅 9am-11pm) are slightly soulless and touristy. They're not cheap (€5.5 to €14 for 500g of fish), but the fish is fresh and seafront views are good.

Without the views but serving great Turkish food with French flair is **L'Escale** (☎ 745 7650; Liman Meydanı 15; 📅 8am-midnight). The restaurant specialises in fish, and the fixed menus (€10/15/20/35) with wine, salad and fruit are excellent value.

For cheaper eats, cut inland behind the Burg Pansiyon to find **Çerkezağa** (☎ 745 7421; Sığacık Çarşı içi 7; kebaps €3.35-3.80; 📅 8.30am-midnight) next to the teahouse, with tables in a delightful courtyard around an old drinking fountain.

Getting There & Away

To get to Sığacık from İzmir you must first take a bus to Seferihisar from the Üçkuyular otogar (p233; €1.95, 50 minutes); buses leave every 20 minutes. From Seferihisar there are regular dolmuşes and buses to Sığacık (€0.55, 10 minutes, 5km).

Coming from Çeşme you will have to travel via İzmir; no dolmuşes run along the coast road from Çeşme to Urla.

AKKUM & TEOS

☎ 0232

Two kilometres over the hills from Sığacık is the turn-off west to Akkum. A protected cove, it used to attract windsurfers in their thousands in summer but has recently been rather eclipsed by Alaçatı (see opposite). Because of this, it's quieter and cheaper here than in Alaçatı and Akkum has larger waves (for wave-jumpers).

Of its two smooth, sandy beaches, Büyük Akkum has the better facilities, but Küçük Akkum is likely to be quieter.

A few kilometres past Akkum are the scattered ruins at Teos, primarily a few picturesque fluted columns re-erected amid grass and olive groves left over from a temple to Dionysus, the Greek god of wine. Teos was once a vast Ionian city, and you can roam the fields in search of other remnants (including a theatre and an odeon). It's a good place to come for a picnic.

To get here, follow the road from Sığacık, turn left off the main road where signposted, then keep left all the way to the bottom of the hill (around 5km from Sığacık).

Sleeping & Eating

A couple of large resorts dominate the bay.

With two pools, a PADI dive centre, windsurfing school, mountain biking, water sports facilities, fitness centre, beach volleyball, basketball and tennis courts, **Club Resort Atlantis** (☎ 745 7456; www.club-resort-atlantis.de; s/d high season from €68/90, low season from €45/60; 🚻) is a great place for an activity holiday! Windsurfer hire (all inclusive) costs €20/50 per hour/day. A beginners' course lasting six hours costs €110.

From Akkum, head up to the main road and turn right to the **Teos Orman İçi Dinlenme**

Yeri, a pine-shaded forestry department picnic grove about 1km east of the turn-off. Here you can buy snacks and cold drinks to enjoy beneath shady pine trees overlooking the sea.

Getting There & Away

In summer, frequent dolmuşes and city buses run to Akkum from Seferihisar (€1, 20 minutes) via Sığacık.

Taking a taxi to Teos (3km) shouldn't cost more than €10 to €15 including waiting time (but negotiate).