

# Antalya Turkey

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**SEISMIC PROTECTION OF  
CULTURAL HERITAGE**

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Turkish Chamber  
of  
Civil Engineers



European Council  
of  
Civil Engineers



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# Antalya, Turkey

## History

- Evidence of human habitation dating back over 200 000 years has been unearthed in the Carain caves 30 km to the north of Antalya city. Other findings dating back to Neolithic times and more recent periods show that the area has been populated by various ancient civilizations throughout the ages.
- Records from the Hittite period (when the first recorded political union of Anatolian cities was set up calling itself the Lycian league) refer to the area as the Lands of Arzarwa and document the lively interaction going on between the provinces in 1700 BC.
- Historical records document how cities developed independently, how the area as a whole was called Pamphilia and how a federation of cities was set up in the province. There is also a record of the migration of the Akha Clan to the area after the Trojan war.
- The reign of the Kingdom of Lydia in the west Anatolia came to an end in 560 BC after the Persians defeated it during the battle of Sardis in 546 BC.
- From 334 BC until his death, Alexander the Great conquered the cities of the area one by one - leaving out Termessos and Silion- and so continued the sovereignty of the Persians.
- With the defeat of the Seleucid army at Apamea began the reign of the Kingdom of Pergamon. In 150 BC Attalos the 2nd, king of Pergamon, founded the city of Attalaia (today's Antalya) to base his powerful naval fleet.
- When Attalos the 3rd, the last king of Pergamon, died in 133 BC he left his kingdom to the Romans. The Roman and subsequent Byzantine Empires ruled the area for the next 13 centuries.
- In 1207 A.D. the Selchuk Turks conquered Antalya and then Alanya in 1220 A.D. This marked the end of Roman/Byzantine rule.
- Ottoman rule began in 1391. The brief occupation of the area by the Italians came to an abrupt end after the First World War with the founding of the Turkish Republic in 1923. The area is now registered as a province of the Republic of Turkey.



## Climate

Antalya province has Mediterranean climate with hot summers and moderately warm and rainy winters. The area has sunny weather for 10 months a year, in summer the average temperature is between 28-36 degrees. In January the average temperature varies between 10-20 degrees. Snow doesn't fall in Antalya center except for the high mountains which surrounds Antalya. It is very rare for the temperature to drop below zero. During the last 40 years the highest recorded temperature was 44.6 °C. In Antalya the average humidity rate is 64%, whereas the seat temperatures are 17.6 °C in January, 18.0 °C in April, 27.7 °C in August and 24.5 °C in September.

ANTALYA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Average Temperature	9,6	9,9	12,2	15,8	20,3	25,3	28,3	27,8	24,3	19,5	14,2	10,8
Average Sea Water Temperature	17	17	18	18	19	24	27	29	27	26	22	19

## Historical Places

### Olympos & Çıralı

After passing Phaselis on the Kemer to Kumluca road you will see a sign for Çıralı and Olympos. Çıralı is the name of the small village near the ancient ruins of the port city of Olympos, which was founded in the 2nd century BC and was abandoned in the 6th century A.D. The myth of Bellerophontes slaying the Chimera is said to have taken place here. An hours walk up a steep path will bring you to the natural phenomenon of the Chimera. Dubbed the “burning mountain” by locals the flames you see escaping the ground are the result of natural gas emissions from beneath the earth’s crust.



### Thermessos

Perched high up at over a 1000m on a plateau in the Beydag National Park the city of Thermessos, which resisted all attempts at capture by Alexander the Great commands breath-taking views over the plains of Antalya.

### Perge

The ancient city of Perge can be found along the Antalya to Alanya main road after turning north at Aksu. Founded in around 1200 BC its saving grace was its distance from the sea which allowed it to grow without interruption from sea pirates. The cities of Perge and Side signed an agreement with Alexander the Great in 332 BC who thus spared them the usual ravages of battle.

Perge, which enjoyed prosperity throughout the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine eras, boasts an impressive Amphitheatre and large stadium each with a seating capacity of 15 000 and 2 000 respectively, both well preserved and thus of great significance to archaeologists today.

One point of interest are the 30 or so open chambers situated beneath the stadium seating area which are thought to have been used as shops.

### Aspendos

Situated a little way off the Antalya-Alanya main road just after Serik the city of Aspendos dates back to the 5th century BC. This extremely well preserved Roman amphitheatre, which was built around the 2nd century AD, was later used by the Seljuks as a caravanserai. With a seating capacity of over 17 000 it is still used today to host spectacular concerts, ballets and other significant events. The 10 mile long pressurised aqueduct you can see running along side Aspendos is a feat of Roman engineering.



### Kirkgöz Han

Situated 31 km north-west of Antalya. It was built in 1247 by the Seljuk Sultan Giyasettin Keyhusrev II and still survived almost intact.

The entry gate to the south is without much ornamentation. Around the central courtyard is a large number of rooms there was a well in the centre. On the north side is also a very large hall.

#### **Alara Han**

30 km before reaching Alanya on the Antalya-Alanya highway is the turn-off to Alara Han. It is a very solid construction entered by a gate with inscriptions and lion's heads. It has somewhat the appearance of a fortress as it looks as though it was meant to ward off aggressors.

#### **Alara Tower**

Built on a rock rising, straight up from the bed of the Alara stream it is also not known when it was built and was repaired by the Seljuks when they captured this tower in 1231. It was also used for a long period in the Ottoman era. It is reached by a staircase inside a tunnel cut in the rock.



## **Getting there**

#### **Bus**

Antalya's otogar (Yeni Garaj), about 4km north of the city centre, consists of two large terminals fronted by a park. Looking at the otogar from the main highway or its parking lot, the Şehirlerarası Terminali (Intercity Terminal), which serves long-distance destinations, is on the right. The Provincial Terminal, serving nearby destinations such as Side and Alanya, is on the left. Buses heading to Olympus and Kaş depart from a stop directly across the street from the Sheraton Voyager Hotel.

#### **Air**

Antalya's small but busy airport is 10km east of the city centre on the Alanya highway. A helpful tourist information desk is located in the lobby; a number of car-hire agencies have counters here as well. Turkish Airlines (243 4383; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 91) has at least eight nonstop daily flights in high season to/from İstanbul and at least two from Ankara. Its office is across the street and two blocks west from the recently relocated tourist office. Across the street is the office of the more affordable Atlas Jet (330 3900, Cumhuriyet Caddesi), which also has daily nonstop flights to/from İstanbul.

