



Troy (Truva, Troia, Tros) is located at the mound 'Hisarlik' on the east side of the river Scamander, where the Dardanelles strait join with the Aegean Sea. Different names, depending on the period, were given to Troy such as Ilium or, in Latin, Ilium. Troy is about 32 km away from the city of Canakkale.

The roots of the city can be traced back to more than 4000 years, and known as the center of ancient civilizations. Thus, Troy was selected as the World Cultural Heritage by international legislative bodies. Wooden Horse and the Archilles' Hell come from here.

Troy is famous for different reasons. First, it is associated with the sagas of the Trojan War told by Homer in the "Iliad" and the "Odyses". Second, it is linked with the German excavator Schliemann who dug the ground the first time.



Hierapolis (Pamukkale) is one of the most extraordinary natural wonders in Turkey.

The big attraction is a vast white cliff side with scallop-shaped basins of water and frozen waterfalls. It looks as if it's made out of snow or cloud or balls of cotton.

The scientific explanation is that hot thermal springs pouring down the hillside deposit calcium carbonate, which solidifies as travertine. If you take off your shoes, you can gingerly roam the terraces or paddle in the pools.



Pergamum was a major city in western Asia Minor in New Testament times. It lies in a spacious valley, sixteen miles from the Aegean Sea.

In the centuries before Christ, Pergamum was the capital of an independent kingdom. Its impressive temples, library, and medical facilities made Pergamum a renowned cultural and political center.

Pergamum's dominant feature is its acropolis, the hill on which the highest portion of the city was built.

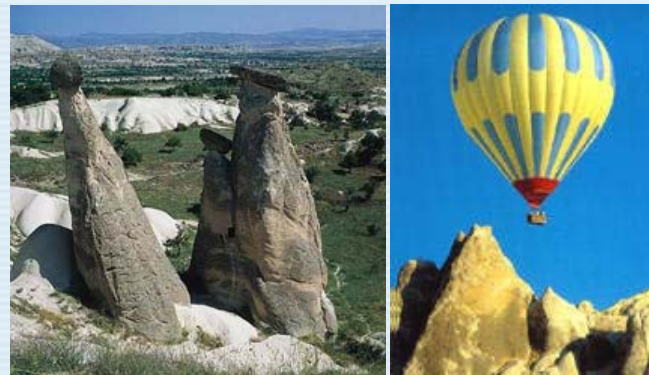


Ephesus is considered one of the great outdoor museums of Turkey, in fact perhaps of the world.

It is located on the south of Izmir's Selcuk county. During its long history, which extends back into the third millenium before Christ, Ephesus has always played a significant role in the sciences, in culture, and in the arts.

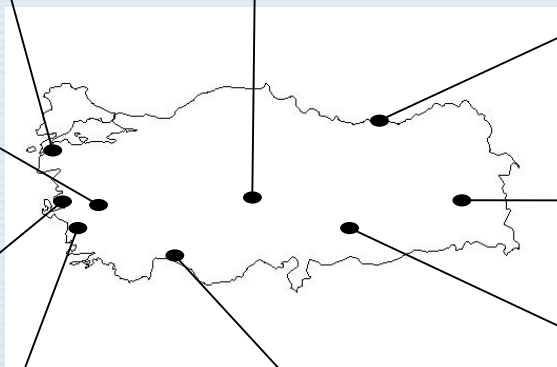
It was also a cult center attracting thousands of pilgrims for traditional worship of the female, first Cybele, then Artemis and finally the Virgin Mary.

Ephesus was also home for the early philosopher Heraclitus.



Cappadocia is the name of the ancient province in central Anatolia. The irresistible region (with fairy chimneys) is created through violent eruptions of the volcanoes Mt. Erciyes (3,916 m.) and Mt. Hasan (3,268 m.) three million years ago.

Places which are visited most in the region are : The Göreme Open -air museum with its carved churches, the Ihlara Valley, the underground cities of Kaymaklı or Derinkuyu, the fairy chimneys, Avanos with its handicrafts, Zelve and Ürgüp.



Aspendos was the only city, besides Side, that minted silver coins in 5th C.AD. The city walls were built in the Hellenistic period and were repaired restored in the late Roman period and in the Byzantine period.

Aspendos is known for his best-preserved theater of antiquity with seating for 15,000. Still used today, the theater's galleries, stage decorations and acoustics all testify to the architects success. Nearby stand the remains of a basilica, agora and one of the largest aqueducts in Anatolia.



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A magnificent setting for the 14th century **Sumela (Virgin Mary) Monastery**, perched high on a cliff face 270 meter above a deep gorge. It is built upon a mountain and as one approaches the edifice now one can not hide the awesome feeling one feels. Once you arrive at the top, Sumela is still there to surprise you: Frescos, paintings made on wet plaster still cover the facade and interior of the 'Cave Church,' bright and somewhat intact after hundreds of years.

This Greek-Orthodox monastery is 45 minutes away from Trabzon.



The 10th-century **Armenian Church of the Holy Cross** stands alone on Akdamar Island amid the alkaline waters of Lake Van.

Besides the marvelous views of the church, the island, the lake and the mountains beyond, there are ruins of an Armenian monastery which once served the church. The interiors of the church walls are decorated with frescoes showing religious themes, which are practically disappearing today. These wall paintings have a special significance as the most comprehensive and oldest examples found in this region. The stone reliefs of Biblical scenes on the church exterior are the main reason for making the trip to Akdamar.



At the junction of the East and West civilisations, **Mount Nemrut** is one of the most astounding sites in Turkey: A collection of colossal statues on a remote mountain 2,150 m high, adorning the temple and tomb of King Antiochus.

Unknown until 1881 when an Ottoman geologist discovered these 10 meters-high stone heads, archaeological work began in 1953 to uncover their history. Mount Nemrut has since been a significant attraction, with thousands coming at sunrise and sunset to see the stones in the best possible light. It has been designated a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO, and is one of the most important National Parks in the country.

