

The magnificent city of the Roman Empire,
Aspendos

Don't Miss

Side Archaeological Site



Side Archaeological Site Visiting Hours

April 1-October 1						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30
19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00

October 1- April 1						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30
17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30

[f](#) TurkishMuseums [i](#) officialturkishmuseums [t](#) TurkishMuseums [y](#) TurkishMuseums [c](#) TurkishMuseums

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Please visit the website for current information.



www.muze.gov.tr



The City of True Love





Side was one of the most important cities of the region during the Roman period. It is believed that the Roman emperor Marcus Antonius, who lived an epic love with the famous Queen of Egypt, had a swim together with her and watched the beautiful sunset. The city which became famous as a slave trade center in the following years, has lost its importance since the 10th century due to wars and natural disasters. However, many ruins from the ancient city, especially the Temple of Apollo and Athena, continue to fascinate visitors.



Side Theater

Rome founded an empire that spanned three continents in its most glorious years and with its military and political activities, it built magnificent monuments for the people living in the cities. The most remarkable buildings were theaters in the whole of the lands that spans from Spain to the Middle East and North Africa.



A part of the best examples of Roman theater, providing important clues about the cultural and social life in its era, is located in the territory of Turkey. One of the most famous of these theaters, which is in almost all of the ancient cities lying on the Mediterranean, is in the ancient city of Side. The theater, one of the best preserved artifacts of Old Side and located in the center of the city, was built in the 2nd century A.D. for 9,000

people. What distinguishes it from other Roman theaters in Anatolia is that it was not built on the hill slope. Just one section based on the hillside and floors were raised with columns and arches. The theater is single sample with this direction in the territory of Turkey. The performances were staged in the theater, which was converted into an arena with gladiatorial fights in third century A.D. Then, it served as an open-air church during the Byzantine

period and it continues to be used by hosting concerts today. In addition to its magnificent architecture, which is similar to the famous Colosseum in Rome, it also attracts attention with its ornaments revealing the talents of artists of the period. The frieze, seen on the first floor, about Dionysus's life chronologically from west to east, is fascinated by its elaborate and details.