

Xanthos Ruins on the UNESCO World Heritage List

Don't Miss



Patara



Patara 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

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The Capital of Lycia





Lycians, who had chosen Teke Peninsula in the southwest Turkey as their home, built a unique culture, and with their settlements on this beautiful coast, they changed the flow of history. As one of the most important cities of Lukka Country mentioned in Egypt and Hittite sources, Patara was first the capital of Lycian League which was founded in 168 BC and then Lycian State in 43 AD during the Roman Empire Period. With its richness, the city had become the most popular city in the whole region.

Triumphal Arch

Being the symbol of Patara, the Triumphal Arch dates back to the end of the first century AD. On the surface of this 19 metre long and 10 metre high arch, there is an inscription honouring the governor of that period and his family. Another significance of the arch is that it was an important part of a system that met the water requirements of Patara.



The Oldest Lighthouse Standing

The lighthouse in the Patara harbour, which was built by the Roman Emperor Nero two thousand years ago, holds the title of being 'the oldest lighthouse that has survived today'. It was originally 12 metres tall, but only 4.5 metres of the lighthouse has survived to day. Due to the fact that the harbour was loaded with sand, the lighthouse now stands about 500 metres farther back from the coast. According to its inscription it was built for the safety of sailors in 64-65 AD.

Ancient City

As evidenced by the findings, Patara, which was founded 5,000 years ago, has maintained its importance throughout the history and it has been the gateway to the Mediterranean Sea for many years with its harbour. Thanks to its location and climatic characteristics, its harbour which continued its importance in the sea trade is the main reason for development of Patara. The settlement was formed and enriched around the harbour. Conquered by Alexander the Great after the Persian rule, Patara served as a naval base in the following years. Enjoyed its heyday in the Roman Period, the city became one of the episcopal centres of early Christianity. However, Patara whose population had been decreased because of epidemic diseases and wars was discredited in time. One of the reasons for losing its reputation is the nature itself which made the city popular once. The city lost its port and its importance when Patara Bay was filled with the sands, carried by the Xanthos or today's name Eşen River in addition to the biggest earthquake occurred in 1481.



Santa Claus was born here While

Demre is the most associated settlement with Saint Nicholas as he was the bishop there, and the church bearing his name and his grave are there, his birth place Patara where he spent his youth also upheld the memory of the saint. The city where Saint Paul travelled to Rome by sea and played one of the most important roles in the spread

of Christianity was Patara as well. One of the events that showed the importance of Patara as the episcopal centre during the Byzantine Period was that the Bishop of Patara had participated in the Council of Nicaea where decisive decisions were made in Christianity.

Traces of the Ancient City

Granarium or Hadrian's Granary is one of the most popular structures in Pata-

ra. The granary which was built during the rule of Hadrian proves that the crops to be sent from Anatolia to Rome were stored here. The Palace in the Tepecik Acropolis which is the oldest settlement in Patara, the Parliament Building of the Lycian League, Corinth Temple, Vespasian Bath, Colonnaded Street and a theatre with a capacity of 5,000 spectators are among the sights worth a visit.