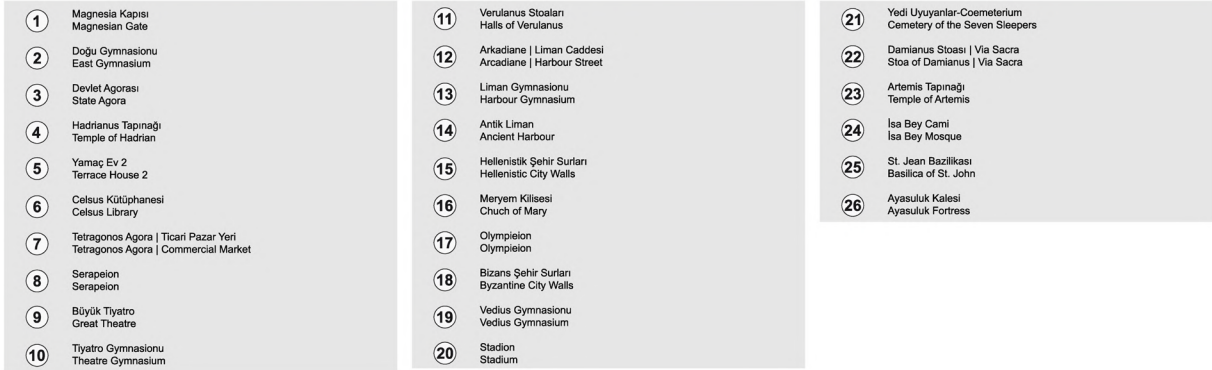






Ephesus, which is located in the Selçuk district of Izmir Province and welcomes 2 million people every year, is one of the favorite ancient cities among visitors interested in past civilizations. The first reason for its popularity is that it is the ancient city with the largest area that can be visited in the entire world.

Ephesus, which experienced its most splendid years in the 2nd century when it was enriched as an important port and trading city and its population reached 250 thousand, has managed to survive until today by being well preserved enough to take its visitors on a journey through time. In the city, which with all its aspects reflects how people lived 2,000 years ago, many ruins such as the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Serapis, the Theatre, the Colonnaded Street, the Terrace Houses, the Temple of Hadrian, the Traian Fountain and the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, hide clues to its former glory.

Another reason why Ephesus is a popular destination is that it is one of the leading pilgrimage centres of Christianity. Ephesus, where the mother of Jesus, Mary and his apostle St. John the Evangelist spent the last days, St. Paul, who played an important role in spreading Christianity throughout the world, visited twice, houses very important Christian monuments such as the house of Virgin Mary, the church of Virgin Mary, where the ecumenical council was held in 451, the cave of St. Paul and the Basilica of St. John of the Bible.



The house in which the Virgin Mary is said to have lived is on Mount Bülbül, about seven kilometres from Ephesus. The story of the adoption of this modest-looking historical building as the place where the Virgin Mary lived is based on a dream of the nun Catherina Emmerich in 1774. Although she could not get out of bed all her life because of her illness, the details of her tales enabled him to find the house. Visitors to this house, to which Christianity ascribes sanctity and where regular ceremonies are held daily, include Pope Paul VI, Pope Jean II and Pope Benedict XVI.



Ephesus was a great commercial city and an important centre of trade. The fact that it has the third largest library in the ancient world after Alexandria and Pergamon is the most important proof of this. The Celsus Library, which we can now call the landmark of Ephesus, is a 2nd-century building AD and one of the most popular places to visit for visitors to Ephesus.



St. John Monument Museum, the most attractive building in Ayasuluk, the first and last settlement in Ephesus, is another reason Ephesus is accepted by Christians as a pilgrimage center. Saint John, one apostle of Jesus who spent the last years of his life in Ephesus and wrote the Bible here, made a will to be buried in Ayasuluk and several churches were built on the site of his tomb in the Byzantine Period. Built in the 6th century CE by Byzantine Emperor Justinianus and his wife Theodora, the church was one of the most magnificent works of the time.



**Temple of Artemis One of the Wonders of Ancient world**

“Seven Wonders of the World,” a term first introduced by the historian Herodotus and then Antipatros of Sidon, and given its ultimate form in the 2nd century B.C., was a list of structures admirable at the time for their monumentality and architecture. The Temple of Artemis, one building on this list, was used as a place of worship that housed temples since the 11th century BC. The Temple of Artemis, which deserves to be included on this list, began construction around 570 BC and was never completed because of constant additions and was once one of the largest temples in the world. Built entirely of marble, the temple had 127 columns, 18 meters high and the size of a football field.