

The Castle of Beçin





Castle of Beçin Visiting Hours

April 1 - October 31

Thursday 9.00 19.00 Friday 9.00 Saturday 9.00 Monday 9.00 Tuesday 9.00 **Wednesday** 9.00 Sunday 9.00 19.00 19.00 19.00 19.00 19.00

October 31 - April 1

Saturday 8.30 17.00 Monday Tuesday 8.30 Wednesday Thursday Friday Sunday 8.30 8 30 8.30 17.00 17.00 17.00 17.00

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Address Beçin Mah. Beçin Kalesi, Milas/Muğla Please visit the website for updated information.





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The Center of **Menteşe Principality**





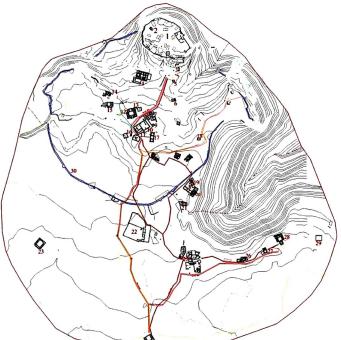


In antiquity, Caria was the south-western part of Anatolia, called Menteşe province in the Ottoman period, and was under the control of the Menteşe Principality from the second half of the Thirteenth to the beginning of the fifteenth century. Beçin (Peçin), about 5 kilometres near Milas, was among the places where the principality was governed.

The name of this city, which was also referred to as Barçın or Berçin in ancient scriptures, was recorded as Petzona in a treaty made by Ilyas Bey of Menteşeogulları with the Venetians in 1414.

In spite of Milas's cosmopolitan structure, which was a mixture of Christians, Jews and finally Muslims with the arrival of Turks, Beçin must have been selected as the administrative centre of the Principality, taking into account its more sheltered topographic structure. The city, which took its final form in the Byzantine period and later in the Turkish period, consists of the lower city surrounded by the walls and the inner castle, which rises on the rocks in the North and dominates the plain. The inner castle is from the Hellenistic period and apart from the abandoned houses today there are public buildings such as Turkish bath and cistern with remains of grave monument.

The city square is surrounded by Ahmed Gazi Madrasa, Orhan mosque, shrines, Hanikah, Kizilhan and the domed Fountain. The street texture that has been unearthed in recent years provides valuable information in terms of the plan of the medieval Turkish city. The city walls, the Madrasa of Yelli (Kepez) and the Madrasa of Karapasa, the Forest Dervish Lodge and other lodges suggest that it was the intended to transform Becin into a centre of science in the Mentese Principality.



- 1. Beçin Castle
- 2. The Bath of Castle
- 3. The Fountain of Castle
- 4. The Big Bath
- 5. The Anonym Shrine Numbered 1
- 6. Zaviye (Islamic Monastery) 7. Mültezim House
- 8. The Anonym Shrine Numbered 2
- 9. The Anonym Shrine Numbered 3
- 10. Orhan Mosque 11. Hankâh
- 12. Ahmet Gazi Madrasa
- 13. Ahmet Gazi Fountain
- 14. Bey Bath
- 15. Bey Mansion
- 16. The Fountain with Dome 17. Kızıl Inn
- 18. Chapel
- 19. Seymenlik Zaviye (Islamic monastery)
- a. Masjid
- b. Meeting room
- 20. Seymenlik Bath
- 21. Deve Damı İnn 22. Emir Courtyard
- 23. Orman Tekke
- (Islamic Monastery)
- 24. Karapaşa Madrasa
- 25. Menteşe Cemetery
- 26. Yelli Bath
- 27. Yelli Mosque 28. Yelli Madrasa
- 29. Kepez Fountain
- 30. City Walls







The city, which was under the rule of Menteşeoğullari until 1424, ultimately came under the rule of the Ottoman State after this date. The population of the city, which did not show much development during the Ottoman period, gradually decreased. At the beginning of the 17th century, during the Jelali revolts, the inhabitants of the city were completely displayed to the inner castle; after the 1950s, the last families living in the castle left Becin.

Ahmet Gazi Madrasa: The Madrasa, the only structure whose construction plate preserved in Beçin to date, was built by Mr. Ahmed Gazi of Mentese in 1375

Karapaşa Madrasa: It is outside the city walls to the south of the city of Beçin. Only part of the walls of the structure, whose cover and facades were ruined, are preserved. Within the group of madrasas with open courtyards, the structure, which we include in a single-story and single-bay scheme, has an almost square shape rectangular plan. There are three student cells on the eastern and western edge. The madrasa, built with rubble stone, is located outside the city walls, is thought to be built in the first half of the 15th century.

Orhan Mosque: Opposite Ahmed Gazi Madrasa, it is located on the west of the Refugee House and Sofuhane. Few parts of the mosque were able to reach to the present day. The entrance door consists of a part of the body walls, the niche of the mihrab, the marble door frame and lintels on the north facade.

The epitaph of Orhan Mosque, which is one of the two inscriptions in the city of Beçin, has not been reached to the present day. However, we learn the contents of the epitaph of the mosque from the Travel Book of Evliya Çelebi (1611-1682), the famous traveller of the 17th century. Evliya Celebi used the following statements in his work for Orhan Camii:

"This blessed mosque was constructed by the enormous, grand, triumphant and the victorious Emir, Sultan of the Turkish Veterans, Şucaü'd-devle'd-din Orhan Ibn. Massoud in 732. May Allah bless his victories. The mosque has no minaret and is an ancient mosque, which is now covered with earth. It is raised on along and floating feet, and within the mosque there are sixteen pine pillars".