

BODRUM

The world famous Bodrum Peninsula is one of the favourite places on earth with its historical, cultural and natural beauties, climate, sea, magnificent bays, exciting nightlife and a very rich selection of accommodation facilities.

The region, which has been popular since the ancient times, carries traces of various civilizations including Lelegian, Carian, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman.



History

Halicarnassos referred to as the heaven of eternal blues by Homer, was founded on the intersecting lands of Greek and Anatolian civilizations. Various archaeological findings suggest that the region and its vicinity have a 7000-year-old history. Halicarnassos, which was an important harbour city in the Caria region in the antiquity, was the home of many important historical figures such as Herodotus, the father of history and Artemisia I, the first female admiral in history.

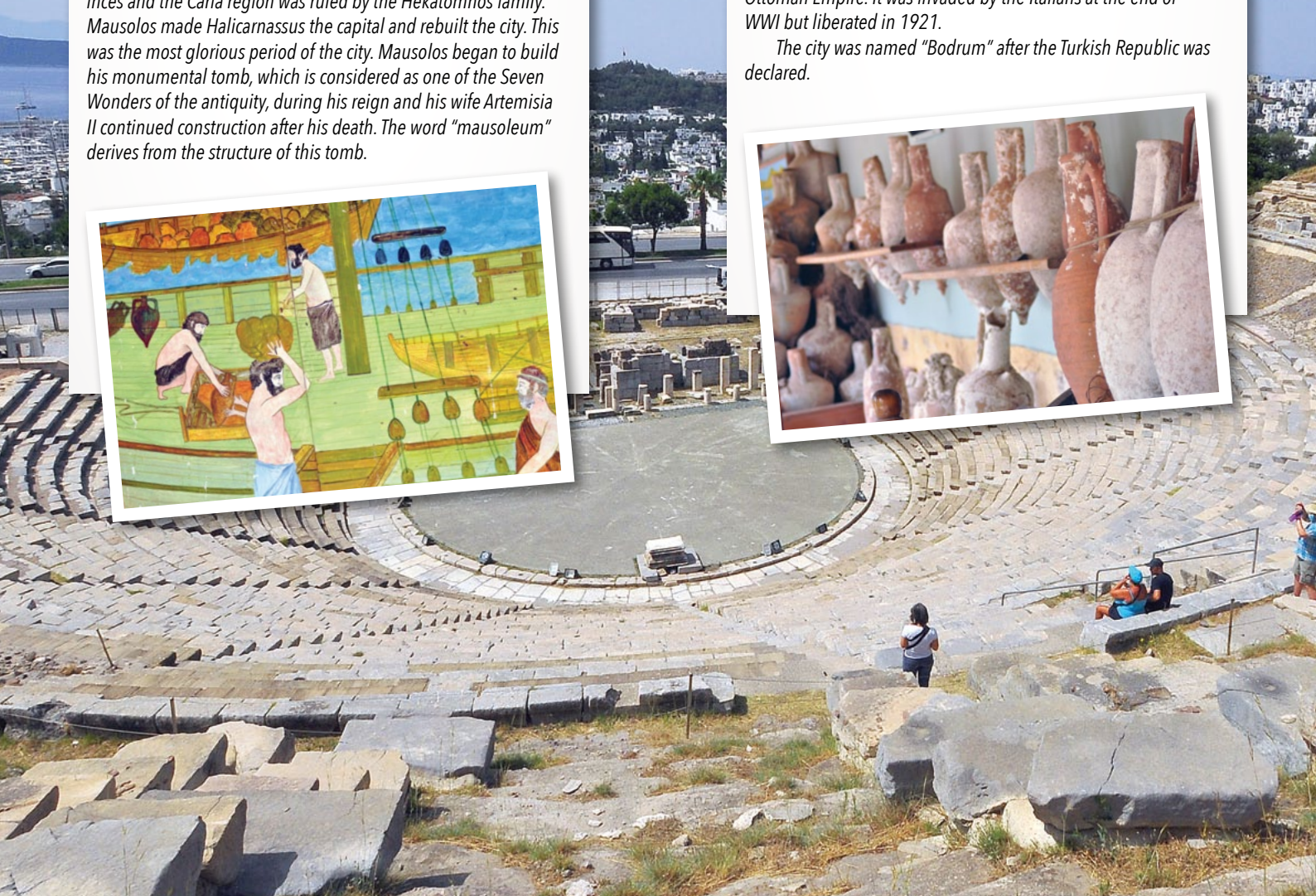
The Caria was first ruled by the Lydians in 6th century B.C. and then by Persians. The Persians divided Anatolia into provinces and the Caria region was ruled by the Hekatomnos family. Mausolos made Halicarnassus the capital and rebuilt the city. This was the most glorious period of the city. Mausolos began to build his monumental tomb, which is considered as one of the Seven Wonders of the antiquity, during his reign and his wife Artemisia II continued construction after his death. The word "mausoleum" derives from the structure of this tomb.



In 334 B.C. Alexander the Great invaded Anatolia and the city of Halicarnassos was devastated. The region was then ruled by Alexander's generals but Halicarnassos kept its independence just like other coastal cities. In 133 B.C., Caria was annexed to the Romans. After Roman Empire was divided into two halves Halicarnassos fell into the hands of the Byzantines and the city became an episcopacy centre.

The city was occupied by Turks during the last quarter of the 11th century and added to the lands of Menteşe Principality in the 13th century. In 1402, a castle for Saint Peter was built in the city by the Saint John Knights. After Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent conquered Rhodes, the town became a part of the Ottoman Empire. It was invaded by the Italians at the end of WWI but liberated in 1921.

The city was named "Bodrum" after the Turkish Republic was declared.



Bodrum Castle & Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum

Bodrum is a touristic hotspot especially in the summer with its town center and coastal towns such as Turgutreis, Gümüşlük, Yalıkavak, Gündoğan, Göltürkbükü, Torba, Yalçıftlık, Gümbet, Bitez and Ortakent. It amazes visitors with its unique white houses with blue windows and bewitching panorama. You can start your tour of Bodrum at the Bodrum Castle, the symbol of the town.

Bodrum Castle was built by Saint John Knights on a rocky peninsula, between two ports. Construction of the castle began in 1406 and continued nearly 100 years. The castle has French, Italian, German, British and Spanish towers. The knights used the stones and large marble blocks of ruined Mausoleum for the construction of the castle. When Rhodes was taken by Turks in 1522, the knights left Bodrum and its vicinity on January 5, 1523. The castle was used as a prison after 1895. It was abandoned in 1915 when the French and British battle ships bombed the city during WWI.

Today, the Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum is located inside the castle. The Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum is Turkey's only underwater archaeology museum and it is one of the world's most important underwater archaeology museums. The museum, which received an award of the European Museum Awards in 1995, exhibits artefacts found during underwater archaeological excavations and artefacts found during the excavations in and around Bodrum. Amphorae, the bath, the 7th century Eastern Roman ship, glasses, a sunken ship found in Serçe harbour dated back to the 11th century, the Snake Tower, coins and jewellery section, the Carian Princess, the British Tower, sunken ships from the Bronze Age, the dungeon and the Commander Tower are not to be missed.



Mausoleum

The mausoleum, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the World, was erected on a hill overlooking the city. The whole structure sat in the centre of an enclosed courtyard on a stone platform. At the centre of the platform was the marble tomb. This section was decorated with reliefs depicting scenes from mythology. On top of this section of the tomb stood thirty-six columns in Ionic order. The roof was in the form of a stepped pyramid with 24 levels, and on it there were the statues of Mausolos and Artemisia II on horse drawn carriages, symbolising victory. The height of the monument was approximately 55 meters.

The mausoleum was destroyed in an earthquake in 1303; and the ruins were used for the construction of the Halicarnassos Castle. Many statues and reliefs from the mausoleum were carried to the British Museum by archaeologist C. Newton, in 1856.

Theatre

Ancient theatre of Halicarnassos is another significant structure accredited to the reign of King Mausolos, although it wasn't completed until the Roman era. It is one of the oldest theatres in Anatolia. The theatre, whose capacity is 13.000 people, consists of three parts: the stage, orchestra and cavea. Some of the seats in the cavea have names of the owners of the seats.

Zeki Müren Art Museum

Famous Turkish classical music singer Zeki Müren's house in Bodrum was converted into a museum after his death and opened to public as the Zeki Müren Art Museum.

At The Zeki Müren Art Museum you can see the artist's personal belongings, clothes he wore on stage, jewelry, the awards he received, his photographs and his paintings accompanied by his songs.



Around Bodrum

GÜMBET

The first bay, Gümbet, just 5 minutes from the centre by minibuses, is a very popular bay with its hotels, bars, restaurants and shows that last until the wee hours of the morning. Reaching Gümbet is easy since there are minibuses running during the summer time until late hours.





BİTEZ

The next bay is Bitez and it is a favourite spot for both locals and foreign tourists with its long beach, shallow sea, hotels, and restaurants along the beach. Stone houses inside citrus groves are other richness in the area. Ortakent situated after Bitez, is 12 kilometres from Bodrum city centre. Bitez and Ortakent are ideal places for windsurfing. The bay boasts various accommodations and is ideal for water sports with its blue flag beach.



ASPAT

You can reach Aspat by passing through the hill in Bağla village, which is 14 kilometres from the centre. Even though it is partially demolished, you can see the Aspat Castle. The Art and Sculpture Symposium which is organized in the summer is one of the region's most important activities.



KARAINCİR

Karaincır, which was once known for the abundance of figs, is a serene bay with a 500 meter long coast and protected environment. You can visit the simple fish restaurants behind the shore.



AKYARLAR

Akyarlar Bay, which is 22 kilometres from Bodrum centre, is the southernmost point of the peninsula and is the closest place to Greek Island Kos with distance of 3 miles. Akyarlar is an ideal place for windsurfing and an ideal place for children due to its shallow sea.

Fish restaurants, Kemer village, Hüseyin Lighthouse built by the French in 1931 and the sand bath are other attractions in Akyarlar.



TURGUTREİS

Turgutreis is the biggest settlement on the peninsula after Bodrum.

The town gets its name from famous Turkish sailor Turgut Reis. There are many hotels and motels along its 2,5 kilometre beach. D-Marin Turgutreis is an amazing place to visit with its marina mall, supermarket, fitness centre, business centre and cafes. The 5000 square meter Şevket Sabancı Park next to the marina boasts a sports, travel and entertainment centre.

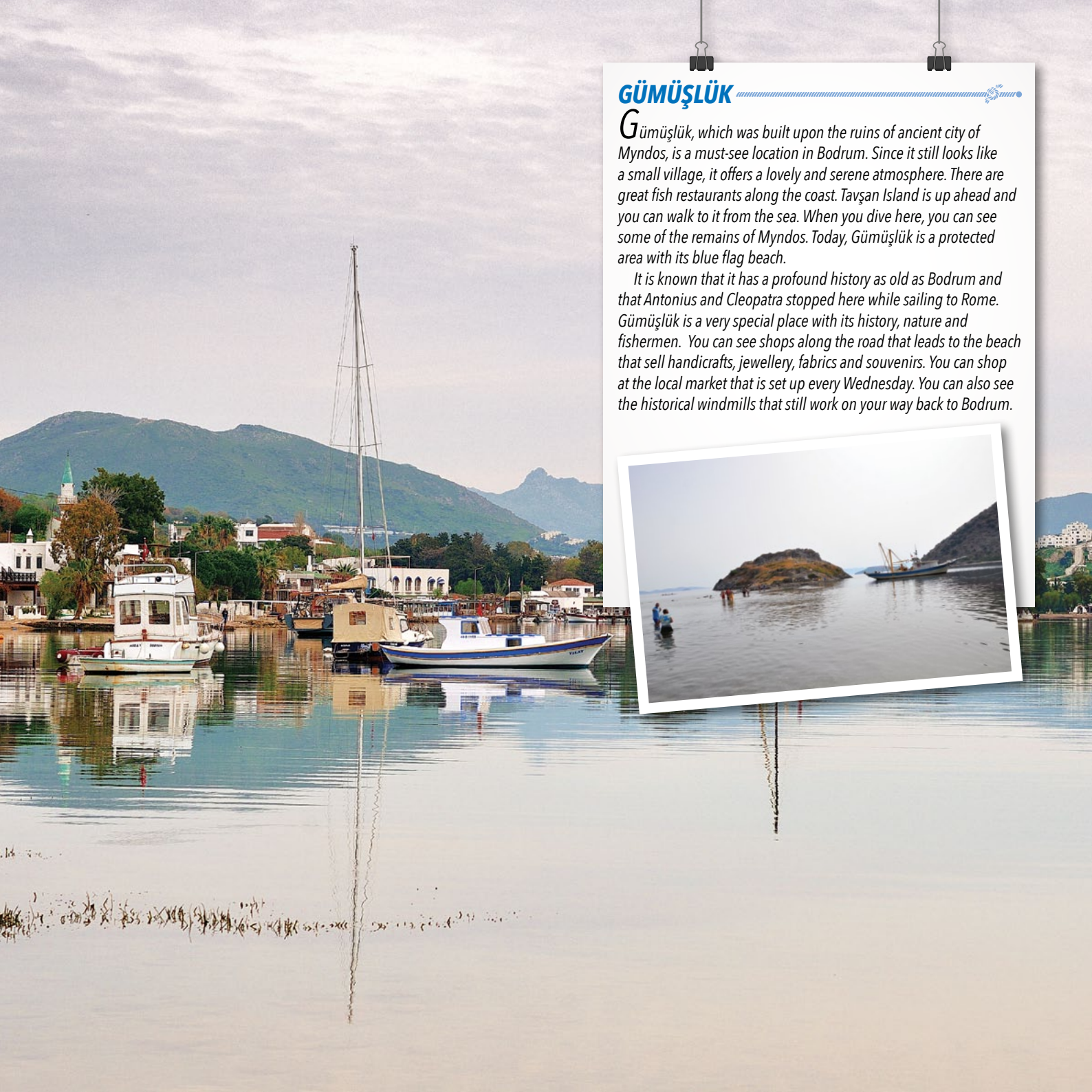
Kadıkalesi is located 4 kilometres to the south of Turgutreis. The foundations of the castle are from the Hellenistic age. It is believed that it got its name from a judge during the Ottoman period.



GÜMÜŞLÜK

Gümüşlük, which was built upon the ruins of ancient city of Myndos, is a must-see location in Bodrum. Since it still looks like a small village, it offers a lovely and serene atmosphere. There are great fish restaurants along the coast. Tavşan Island is up ahead and you can walk to it from the sea. When you dive here, you can see some of the remains of Myndos. Today, Güümüşlük is a protected area with its blue flag beach.

It is known that it has a profound history as old as Bodrum and that Antonius and Cleopatra stopped here while sailing to Rome. Güümüşlük is a very special place with its history, nature and fishermen. You can see shops along the road that leads to the beach that sell handicrafts, jewellery, fabrics and souvenirs. You can shop at the local market that is set up every Wednesday. You can also see the historical windmills that still work on your way back to Bodrum.



YALIKAVAK

Yalikavak is 18 kilometres from the town centre and is a popular touristic centre with its windmills, market and fish restaurants. As you approach the area from the hill what you can see is the amazing panorama. The peninsula, which is breathtaking with its special coastline and magnificent bays, is also an attraction centre with its touristic possibilities.

Yalikavak market, which is set up for the past 43 years and is a hit with tourists as well as locals, is a must-see when you are in town. The market, which is set up every Thursday on a 12 acre land, boasts fresh vegetables and fruits from the region, charcuterie, spices, desserts, dried fruits, herbs, pastries, colourful fabrics, leather goods, purses, silver jewellerys, casseroles and home textiles. Nearly 1200 vendors set up stands at the market which is quite popular with tourists from the Greek islands.



GÜNDOĞAN

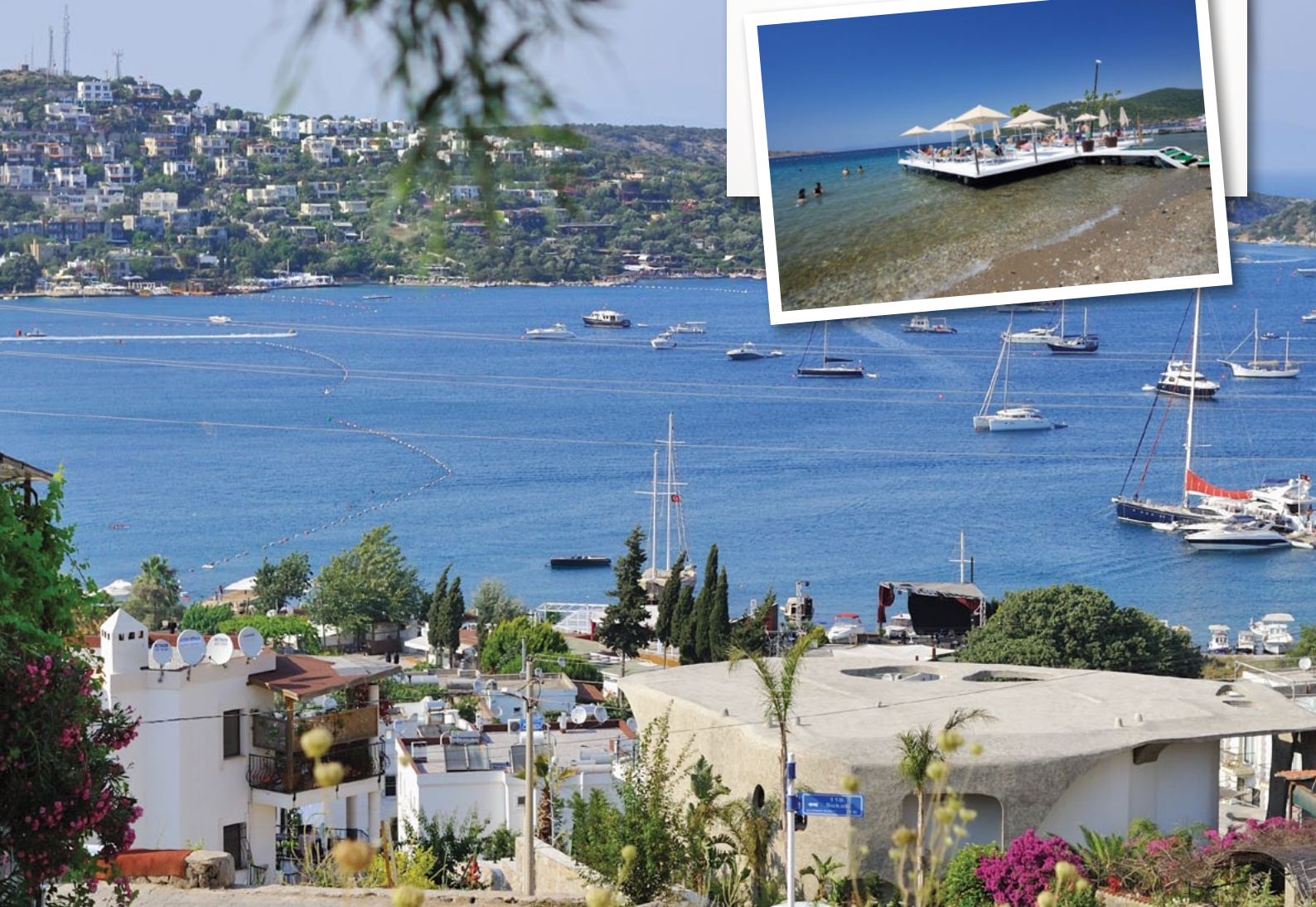
Gündoğan, which was known as Farilya (meaning sunrise in Greek), is located on the slope of a rocky hill on the road between Yalıkavak and Göltürkbükü. The town, famous for its elite building blocks, hotels and resort villages, has one of the longest beaches on the Bodrum peninsula. Rock monasteries, church and mosques reflect the rich history of the town. Gündoğan is an ideal spot for windsurfing, underwater fishing, sponge hunting, diving and underwater photography. You can also visit Apostle Island with a boat and that takes only 15 minutes. The island's green structure, interesting rock formations, the Byzantine Church on the hill and the frescoes on its wall, the cistern and the quarters used by monks are worth seeing. If you stay overnight you can dine at one of the fish restaurants on the shore. Traces found in Peynir Çiçeği Cave, which attracts attention with its stalactites and stalagmites, date back to 5000 B.C.



GÖLTÜRBÜKÜ

Göltürbükü, which is known as the St. Tropez of Turkey, is a favourite place for the high society and tourists as well. This is the address of magnificent villas, luxurious yachts, elite hotels, restaurants and clubs.

Göltürbükü is 14 kilometres from Bodrum and 45 kilometres from the airport. Torba Bay, 6 kilometres from the centre, is a lovely bay. The bay does not receive wind and is quite protected. While touring Torba, you will see resort villages, hotels and the magnificent stone houses of Bodrum.



TUZLA

You can reach Tuzla, a lovely fishing town that boasts ancient remains, by boats from Güllük. In Bargylia, ancient columns from the Hellenistic and Roman periods, walls, an altar with reliefs, remains of the theatre and stoa, city walls and the necropolis are worth seeing. Boğaziçi is a real fishing village and is right next to Bargylia.



GÜVERCİNLİK

In Güvercinlik, you can swim in a calm sea and take a boat trip. On the opposite side of the peninsula you will reach Yalıçiftlik through pine forests and Çiftlikköy, a typical Aegean village which is 4 kilometres away from. Orak Island is located across Kargıcak Bükü Bay in Yalıçiftlik, a popular spot for the blue voyage boats. If you want to swim in the clean sea of Gökova, sleep under citrus and olive trees, you need to go to Mazi and enjoy the sea and sun on İnceyalı beach, accompanied by the best seafood. Since the villagers here engage in carpet making, it will be fun to watch them at work. When you head down from Aşağı Mazi village you will reach Hurma shore. There are hiking paths in the area which are under protection. Çökertme shore near Mazi is also popular for blue voyagers. You can dine at one of the fish restaurants on the shore and buy a carpet on the way back.



GÜLLÜK

When you turn right from the Milas-Bodrum road, you will reach Güllük after 8 kilometres. There are cafes and restaurants along the shore of this harbour town. You can visit the ancient city of Bargylia which is located 6 kilometres from Güllük. Güllük is also the centre of shipbuilding. You will reach the village of Kıyıkışlacık by car 18 kilometres from the Milas highway. Lassos antique city next to the village was built by colonists from Argos in 5th century B.C. Agora, odeon, the temple of Artemis, the temple of Zeus, the theatre, the castle, thousands of years old mosaics, statues, column heads and magnificent marble and stone carvings are some of the remains you will see at lassos. There are some accommodations in the area.



UYKU VALLEY

You will reach Uyku Valley on the Milas-Bodrum highway, 20 kilometres after Milas from the Gökçeler village intersection. Uyku Valley and its cave is also a popular spot during daily tours. The 335 meter cave has been under protection.



KARAADA

Karaada, 4 miles off Bodrum, is a popular spot for boat trips and daily tours. It is believed that water and mud from the cave on the island is good for various illnesses and rumour has it that Cleopatra used this mud for her famous mud baths. You can try it and capture this on your camera for an unforgettable holiday memory.



BLUE VOYAGE

You can rent modern yachts built in Bodrum with or without captain and crew. You can enjoy your blue voyage in bays where pine forests and the sea meet while eating the freshest fish and swimming in crystal clear waters. The classic route of the voyage is; Bodrum, Karaada, Pabuç Cape, Kargıcak Bükü, Orak Island, Alakışla Bükü, Çökertme, Ören (Keramos), Akbük, Gökova, Sedir Island, Karacasöğüt, Değirmen Bükü, Kargılı Bay, Tuzla Bay, Yedi Adalar, British Port, Gökçeler Bükü, Küçük Çatı, Büyük Çatı, Körmen Port and Knidos. Diving spots along the route are Büyük Bongo, Küçük Bongo, Kargı Island, Köçek Island Karaada Kaçakçı Bay, Karaada Delikli Cave, Karaada Aksona Cape, Yassıkaya Island and Orak Ada Cape.



ENTERTAINMENT

Bars Street, Cumhuriyet Street, Neyzen Tevfik Avenue and Azmakbaşı are the most popular areas in the centre and they are also ideal for shopping. When you continue along Bodrum market, you will pass by Bars Street and restaurants on the shore and reach Halicarnassus Disco, a world famous spot. When you walk from the square along Neyzen Tevfik Avenue, you will see Milta Bodrum Marina on the left, one of the ten best marinas in Europe. On the right, you will see shops, restaurants and clubs.

Bodrum is one of the most important entertainment centres in the world. The nightlife continues until the morning. Bars Street, Halicarnassus Disco and Cuba Bar are synonymous with fun. There are other facilities in and around the marina. Göltürkbükü is the choice of the society. Gümbet, which is just five minutes from Bodrum, is preferred by foreign tourists and is a new alternative to Bars Street.



CAMEL WRESTLING

Camel wrestling, which is widespread in the Aegean Region, turns into a festival in Bodrum and its villages during the winter. This traditional activity first began in the province of Aydın 200 years ago.



SHOPPING

You can find fresh and cheap vegetables and fruits at markets in Bodrum. Thursdays and Fridays are the vegetable and fruit markets and Tuesdays is the fabric and textiles market. The local market is set up on Mondays in Türkbükü, Milas on Tuesdays, Wednesdays in Ortakent and Gündoğan, Saturdays in Turgutreis, and Mumcular on Sundays. The best market is the one that is set up every Thursday in Yalıkavak. Here are some of the shopping malls in Bodrum such as D-Marin Turgutreis, Milta Bodrum Marina, Palmarina Yalıkavak, Midtown, Bodrum Avenue and Oasis.



Things to do

You can find everything you want in Bodrum; it is serene like a lovely fishing town with its fishermen, sponges and white houses but also it is active with its bars and discos. You can enjoy the sea and sun during the day and listen to the sound of the sea in a clam bay or you can hit the beach clubs for some fun and action. The other option here is boat tours. You can see the bays during daily boat rides that depart from the centre. There are many options for dining; you can sample the best seafood at fish restaurants or other facilities that serve Turkish and world cuisine. There are many nightclubs in Bodrum that play all kinds of music.



DON'T RETURN BEFORE

- Visiting Bodrum Castle and the Underwater Archaeology Museum,
- Going to markets,
- Visiting the bays during daily boat tours,
- Taking a blue voyage,
- Watching Bodrum from the ancient theatre,
- Stopping at Bodrum bars,
- Having sea food at Gümüşlük,
- Tasting the famous cheese pastry of Bodrum, stuffed zucchini blossom and seafood,
- Buying the beads and fabrics of Bodrum,



TASTES OF BODRUM

Bodrum has a rich local cuisine which includes dishes made with herbs and vegetables, meat and seafood. Famous dishes are; stuffed zucchini blossom, stuffed kenker, spicy herb mix, lokum pilaf, çöktirme kebab and devilfish pilaf. The peninsula boasts countless restaurants that serve very delicious samples of Turkish and world cuisine. There are also plenty of seafood restaurants that you can enjoy.



HANDICRAFTS

Bodrum sandals are very popular with their designs and comfort. These classy and light sandals, made with special raw materials, are inspired from the ancient age samples of sandals.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- The monumental tomb of King Mausolos in Bodrum is one of the Seven Wonders of the World in antiquity
- Gulet and tirhandil type wooden boats made in Bodrum are famous all around the world



CLIMATE

The weather is warm in Bodrum which is under the effect of the Mediterranean climate. Average temperature in the winter is 15°C degrees and 30°C degrees in the summer. The humidity is not very high. Winters and springs are rainy.

	AIR	SEA
April	21	15
May	26	18
June	30	21
July	33	24
August	33	25
September	29	23
October	24	21



TRANSPORTATION

Since Bodrum has become a popular vacation stop for both locals and foreigners, transportation has become easier and reaching Bodrum by land, air and sea has become very easy and comfortable. More and more people prefer the airport after the Milas-Bodrum International Airport, 30 kilometres from the town, has been renovated. In addition, İzmir Adnan Menderes International Airport is 230 kilometres from the town while Dalaman International Airport is 187 kilometres away from Bodrum. There are bus services from every major city to Bodrum and there is a sea connection from Bodrum to Datça.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire : 110
Emergency : 112
Police : 155
Gendarme : 156
Forest Fire : 177

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

District Governorship : + 90 252 3161001-3166013
Municipality : + 90 252 3161009
Police Directorate : + 90 252 3168080
Gendarme : + 90 252 3170586
State Hospital : + 90 252 3131420 (4lines)
Underwater and
Archaeology Museum : + 90 252 3162516

Milas-Bodrum Airport : + 90 252 5230101(31hat)
Bus Station : + 90 252 3162637
Bodrum Ferryboat : + 90 252 3160882 - 3132509
Bodrum Express (ferryboat) : + 90 252 3161087
Turkish Maritimes Lines (ferryboat) : + 90 252 3163222
Yeşil Marmaris (ferryboat) : + 90 252 3135045
Datça Ferryboat : + 90 252 3160882

BODER (Bodrum Hoteliers Association) : + 90 252 3163246
TÜRSAB (Travel Agencies Association) : + 90 252 3586995 - 3585485
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