



KUSADASI



Kusadasi, one of Turkey's principle holiday resorts, offers an excellent environment for anyone wishing to purchase a holiday home in the sun. Situated on the west coast of Turkey-90km south of Izmir, Kusadasi is renowned as one of the most attractive resorts in the Aegean coast. It is close to such historic resorts as Ephesus, Didyma, Priene, Miletos - the principles of ancient time.

The early settlements in Kusadasi was by the Lelegians and Carians who moved from Central Antolia around 3000BC. They were the establishers of a colony on the skirts of Pilav Mountain in Kusadasi, and founded the cities of Ania and Melia. Mild climate allowed the inhabitants to grow essential products such as olive, grape and figs for extracting oil or making wine and sweets on the fertile lands of the city.

In the 10 century BC, 12 Ionian cities - Samos, Khios, Miletos, Priene, Ephesus, Teos, Erythrai, Priena, Klazonemi, Lebedos, Phokaia, Colophon and Smyrna were established and reputed for the most developed cities of the age. As the annual meeting of the Ionian League, Panionian, was founded around Kusadasi: the cities of Phygale, Marathesion and Neopolis were established within the borders of the city. During the period, the ports of Phygale and Neopolis were not busy and necessary as they were close to the famous trading ports of Miletos and Ephesus.

The city was invaded by the Persians around the year 546BC. In 200BC, Kusadasi and its environs were dominated by the Roman Empire and with the division of the Empire, it became the state of Byzantine. As the changes in climate caused serious earthquake and changed the route of the Caystros river, Ephesus was mostly destroyed and lost its prior importance and prosperity. The result had forced Byzantines to search for a new port and a new road that would be suitable for trading. The area around Neopolis was found convenient by the Greeks, Jewish and Armenian merchants as a port in place of Ephesus. "Scala Nova" was the name of this new port which added a trading centre to the prior historical cities such as Ania, Melia, Phygale and Neopolis that created the early foundations of today's Kusadasi. By the 15th century, "Scala Nova" was under the domination of the of the Venetian and Genoese sailors and traders who established consulates there.

The Turkish domination of the area entered upon the invasion Seljukian Kilic Arslan the 2nd. The advantageous position of Kusadasi as its being at the end of the important trade roads such as the "Silk" road -once held by Ephesus, influenced the development of the city in trading. Kusadasi began

to be ruled by the Ottoman Empire after the invasion of Sultan Mehmet Celebi in the year 1413. During the reign of the Ottomans, Kusadasi was introduced to glorious structures, giving a new look to its former spectacular view. Okuz Mehmet Pasa Caravanserai is the principle of the Ottoman architecture in the city, was built by the man of the same name, who was the vizier during the reigns of Sultan Ahmet1 and Osman2.

The fortress gates and walls and many mosques in the centre of Kusadasi, as well as the citadel of the castle of Pigeon Island, were built in the Ottoman period, reflecting the architectural style of the era. "Kusadasi" - meaning "bird island" took its name from the Pigeon Island.

After the First World War, Kusadasi was invaded by the Greeks (1919). After a long struggle, the city became a part of the Turkish Republic. Izmir became the capital of Kusadasi until 1954 and then the capital was changed to Aydin.

The Kusadasi Setur Marina is one of the largest and best equipped marinas in Turkey with the capacity for 629 yachts both afloat and on shore. It is visited by between 2500 - 3000 boats each year. The marina is on a latitude of 37 52' 20" N and on the longitude of 25 15' 46" E. Custom, repair service and security are some of the 24 hour services of the marina.

Apart from the great historical beauties around Kusadasi, the city also preserves excellent examples of Ottoman and Turkish mosques, located in the Centrum. "The Fortress Mosque" built by the vizier, Okuz Mehmet Pasa in the 17th century, is the most impressing and monumental mosque in Kusadasi. Constructed in the area of 1800m², the mosque has a capacity for 550 persons. The main part of the mosque is square and covered by a large leaden dome - with the support of 12 arches. The inner part of the dome is ornamented by geometrical designs and plant motives. The entrance door exemplifies the best wood working of the Ottoman, decorated with mother of pearl. Between the 16 stained-glass windows, are the oil paintings decorated with ion styled columns. The "Hanin Mosque" was constructed in 1658 in the name of Haji Hatice Hatun but was destroyed in 1922. The mosque was rebuilt by the inhabitants of Kusadasi between 1951-57. The foundation walls of the minaret belong to the original construction. The simply decorated mosque is surrounded by a leaden dome. "Haji Ibrahim Mosque" exemplifies a different 17 century style of Ottoman architecture . The wooden ceiling of rectangular planned mosque is covered by roof tiles. The "Turkman Mosque" and the "Camiatik Mosque" are the other sights located inside the centre of Kusadasi, in different districts.

