

TOURIST INFORMATION The Tourism Information Office is located at Iskele Meydani in the port area.

TRANSPORTATION Taxis are available outside of the pier area, however, the town of Kusadasi is within walking distance of the pier. Buses frequently run to areas outside of the main town area. Schedules can be obtained at the Tourist Information Office.

USEFUL WORDS

Yes • Evet

No • Hayir

Good Bye • Allaha ismarladik

Good Day • Günaydin

How Much? • Ne Kadar?

Thank You • Tesekkür ederim

You're Welcome • Bir sey degil

NOTES

This information has been compiled for the convenience of our guests and is intended solely for that purpose. While we work to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, we cannot accept responsibility for any changes that may have taken place since printing.

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PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Kuşadası
TURKEY

GENERAL INFORMATION Kuşadasi is one of the most popular seaside resorts in Turkey, attracting a large number of tourists each year. It has a population of approximately 50,000, and its close proximity to the many ancient cities, archeological sites, villages and parks makes it an advantageous port of call.

Kuşadası means “bird island”, a name derived from the small island of Güvercin Adası (Pigeon Island) which is now connected to the city by a causeway. Güvercin Adası is home to a famous defensive castle built to protect against enemy attack, a monument that can easily be seen as your ship sails into the harbor.

Twenty minutes outside of Kuşadası, close to the town of Selçuk, is the well-preserved ancient city of Ephesus, one of the best examples of ancient Roman architecture. Also within the vicinity are the ruins of St. John's Basilica, the religious shrine of The Virgin Mary's House, and the single remaining column of the temple of Artemis, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

The port of Kuşadası was very active for several centuries, however, the Kuşadası of today was founded by the Venetians. Two hundred years after the Conquest of Constantinople the port became a major trading post with Europe and Africa. The Ottomans fortified the harbor and built many new buildings and mosques that are still intact. Today, Kuşadası is a haven for shoppers, home to excellent beaches, and is best known for its historical and archaeological sites.

HISTORY Since the 8th millennium BC, Turkey was home to the oldest human settlements on earth. During the 3rd millennium BC (the Old Bronze Age), an early Hittite nation settled in the central plains. Following the migration of “sea people” from Greece the Hadrian empire collapsed. Alexander the Great marched his army into Asia Minor two centuries later and routed the Persians. After the 2nd century BC the coastline became the commercial and political core of the Roman province of Asia Minor.

From the beginning of the 14th century to the middle of the 15th century, the Ottomans gradually carved away at the Byzantine Empire. In 1453, Constantinople, the target of the Ottomans since the time of Osman, was finally captured. Istanbul became the heart of a vigorous and youthful empire.

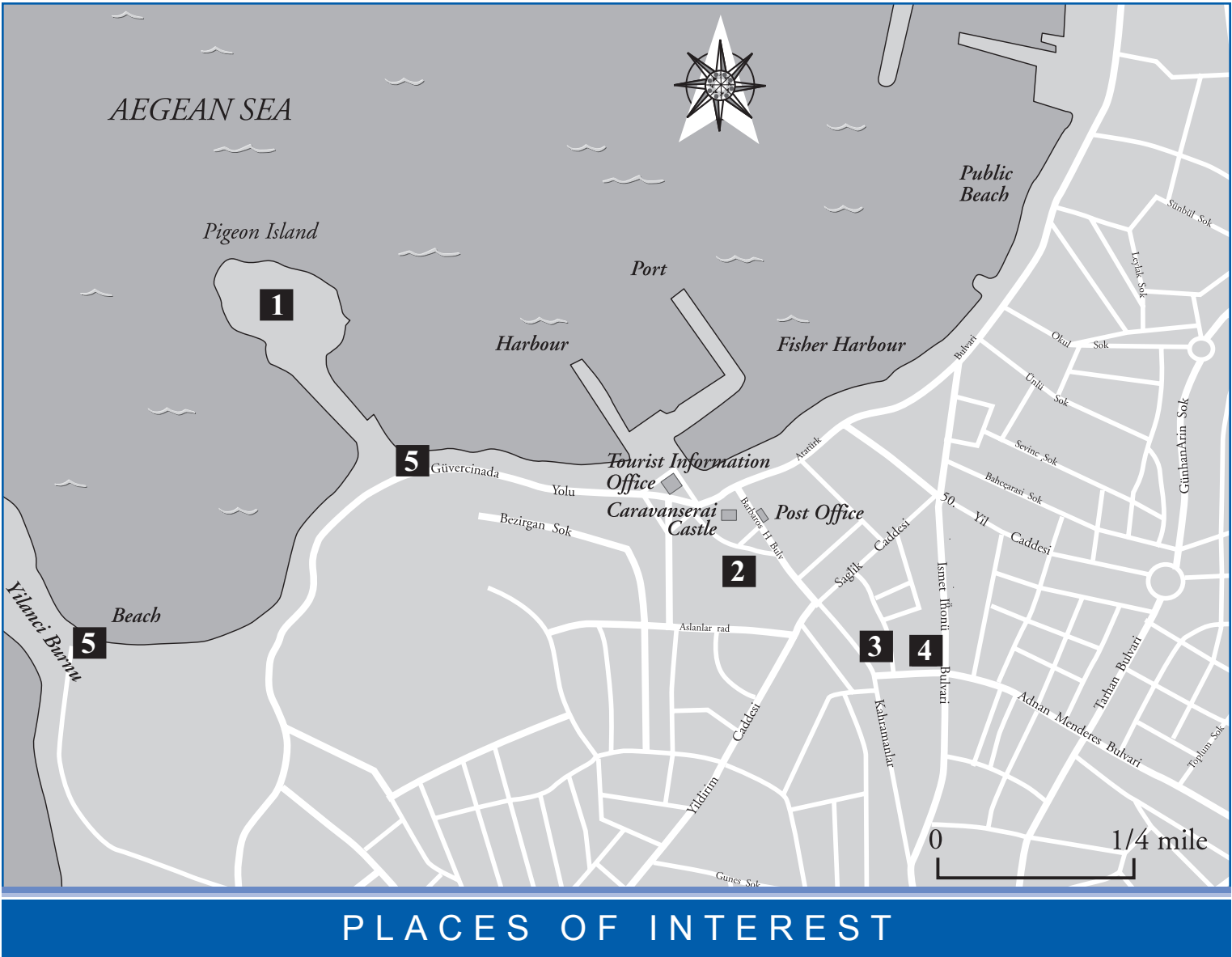
Suleyman became Sultan in 1520 while the Ottoman Empire was already considerable, but under him the expanse of the empire doubled, stretching from the Balkans and Greece to the Black Sea, west to Iraq and southward into Africa.

The Ottomans sided with Germany during World War I. After the Allies won, Britain and France divided the Arab provinces, under the heading “League of Nations”. Plans for the division of Anatolia (the plains) were drawn up, and Greece invaded in order to capture disputed territory. Three days after the Greek invasion, Mustafa Kemal Pasha (later named Atatürk), the victorious commander of the

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Turkish forces at Gallipoli, arrived at the northeast Black Sea port of Samaun and began the three-year national struggle for independence. The allied powers signed an armistice in 1922. The Treaty of Lausanne (1923) recognized Turkey’s present boundaries. Turkey was proclaimed a republic on October 29, 1923, with its first elected President – Mustafa Kemal, and designated capital – Ankara. Later, though nazi Germany’s early successes resulted in a popular call to join the war on the side of Germany to avenge the humiliation of World War I, the government remained neutral. At the end of the war, with the impending defeat of Germany, Turkey joined the Allies.

PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Pigeon Island** is a tiny fortified islet with more tourists than pigeons. The island is connected by the causeway to Kusadasi and houses a 16th century castle.
- 2 The Grand Bazaar** is located a short distance from the pier and is a great place to utilize your bargaining skills. Here you will find the typical Turkish goods such as leather goods, rugs, copperware and brass. (Shops within the bazaar

remain open throughout the day.)

- 3 The Kaleiçi Mosque** is off Barbaros Hayrettin Bul. The minaret can be seen from the pier. The structure was originally built by Grand-Vizir Oküz Mehmet Pa,sa in 1618, and later repaired in 1830. Open daily but closed during Muslim prayers. Muslim prayer times are based on the position of the sun and change throughout the day.
- 4 The Turkish Baths** near the Mosque offer a traditional bathing experience. Sauna, loofa scrub and a short massage are included in the fee. Men and women are welcome, but may be separated. Changing facilities are available.
- 5 Karovaplaji and Yavansu plaji** are two of the most popular sandy beaches and are considered the best. Both beaches can be reached by taxi or public bus. Bus schedules are available at the Tourist Information Office.

Beyond Kuşadasi

Ephesus – is one of the most fascinating archeological sites on the eastern Mediterranean. The findings at this ancient city are the remains of one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire. The ruins from the Roman and early Christian era are so extensive and well preserved that it is easy to imagine the daily interactions of the 250,000 people who used to live here. This area grew to be the second-largest city in the Roman Empire and the site of a Christian Shrine thought to be the one time home of the Virgin Mary. Ephesus flourished as the center for worship to the fertility goddess Cybele. The Arcadian Way was the street and the amphitheater held over 24,000 people. The Temple of Hadrian, the Celsus Library, the Marble Way and the Fountain of Trajan are under constant restoration, but in amazingly good condition.

When going ashore, passengers are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Kusadasi and its surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

DRESS SUGGESTIONS A strict dress code is enforced when visiting mosques in Turkey. Short pants, tank tops and revealing clothing are not acceptable. Women should have their shoulders and legs covered and should have a scarf available to cover their heads when entering. Visitors will be required to remove their shoes before entering all mosques. The wearing of socks is highly suggested. All mosques are closed to non-Muslims during scheduled prayers, which occur five times a day following the ritual prayer call from the mosque’s minaret.

Outside of the mosques liberal dress is common in the resort area in and around Kusadasi.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Bargaining is a common practice almost everywhere in Kusadasi. However, it is important to note that it is considered bad manners to make a counter-offer with no intention of buying the good(s). Tipping: If not included on the restaurant bill, 10% gratuity is a good guideline. Generally, if a service is provided, a small gratuity is expected.

Local Cuisine: Fish (especially in the Aegean region), soups, rice dishes and stews feature predominantly on Turkish menus. Further, Sis Kebap (lamb grilled on a skewer) is a Turkish invention. Lamb on a spit (doner kebab) is another favorite. Pistachios, almonds, dried apricots and raisins are served as snacks throughout the day, and are also common ingredients in Turkish cuisine. For dessert try sutlac (baked rice pudding), asure (fruit and nut pudding) or local melons.

Drink Specialties: Fruit juices, special Turkish wines (red or white) are relatively inexpensive and plentiful. The fierce aniseed raki is much like Greek Ouzo. Beer is also popular with Efes Pilsen leading the pack. Turkish tea is served in small glasses, sweet and without milk. Turkish coffee is legendary. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Shops are generally open from 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., daily. The shopping area is located at the center of town and is a 200-meter walk from the pier. Turkish carpets are among the most popular tourist items. Jewelry, fabrics, leather and suede goods, brass and copperware are also items of interest.

Some tourist oriented stores may accept U.S. Dollars or most major credit cards.

Turkey’s Value Added Tax (VAT) is called Katma Deger Vergisi (KDV). It is added to most purchases. Visitors from outside Turkey who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of KDV are subject to change, and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in Turkey is the new Turkish Lira (YTL). Notes are now available in the following denominations; 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 1 and coins of 5, 10, 50 and 100.

Major currencies can be changed at the numerous banks, exchange offices, shops and hotels. Rates for cash are better than for traveler’s checks. Major foreign currencies and credit cards are widely accepted.

GLOBAL REFUND Shop where you see the Global Refund TAX FREE SHOPPING SIGN and simply ask for your tax refund check. Not all stores have a visible Tax Free Shopping logo so do remember to ask for Tax Free Shopping. To qualify you must spend a minimum of TRY 118 (approximately \$70) in one shop in one day. Show your purchases, receipts and passport to customs official when leaving EU and have your Global Refund checks stamped. Now you can collect your refund in cash at the nearby Global Refund Cash Refund Office or mail the check to Global Refund for direct crediting of your credit card.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The PTT Office is located halfway up Barbaros Hayrettin (400 meters). Stamps, telegraphs, long distance telephones and banking facilities are available. A limited number of credit card phones are also available. Pay phones may require a coin or phone card for access to the codes listed below.

AT&T: 0811.288.0001
MCI: 0811.288.0012