

HORIZON

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Stockholm napfényes nyara

Stockholm
celebrates the summer

Kalocsai évszázadok

Kalocsa, a town steeped
in history

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• Crusaders on the Second Crusade in the 12th century, before falling to the Seljuks in 1207 (the dynasty that ruled from the 11th to the 13th centuries). During the reign of Sultan Murad I in the 14th century, Antalya was annexed to the Ottoman Empire. The last non-Turkish forces to occupy the city were the Italians, who withdrew in 1921 following the signing of a treaty which granted Italy major economic concessions.

Today Antalya features palm-lined streets, a large park, a picturesque old harbour (once used by the Romans but today reserved for fishermen and yachts), world-class museums, historical monuments such as the Gate of Hadrian, erected in 130 BC, and the neighbourhood known as Old Antalya, an area of narrow streets, with Ottoman houses and tea gardens where you can sip fragrant tea under the orange trees overlooking the harbour. However, if swimming and sunbathing are more in your line than sightseeing and museum-going, then the town of Side, along the coast to the east, is hard to beat. Side was originally settled by the early Greeks, who were followed in turn by the Romans and Byzantines. It has remained a fairly small resort, boasting kilometres of white beaches, shallow rocky bays, dunes tufted with wild grass, and the ruins of a temple said to have been dedicated to Cleopatra, a reputed early visitor. Unparalleled swimming, ancient Roman ruins, seaside bars and restaurants offering an array of cuisines ranging from Chinese to Bavarian, Side is just the place for those seeking a relaxing environment in which to stay put and unwind for a few days.

But if you are willing to forsake the hedonism of Side, Alanya is well worth visiting. Rising at the foot of an enormous 250-metre-high rock, Alanya resembles a miniature Gibraltar at first glance. The town and bay are dominated by a great Seljuk fortress with the ruins of Byzantine churches and houses accessible by paths which wind through a complex system of ancient walls totalling eight miles in length. It is advisable during the summer months to get an early start, as the afternoon sun can become unbearably hot for bikers.

Whether you are an adventurous explorer, a lover of ancient history or simply a beach loungeur, the Turkish Riviera has something to delight everyone. ■

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