

MUĞLA'S HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ROUTES

BODRUM - CARIA - LYCIA - OTTOMAN HERITAGE - LIVING CULTURE



ZENIYA
— HOTELS & RESORTS —

BODRUM PARK

Discover Muğla as an open-air museum

Using Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort in Yalıçiftlik as its starting point, this guide brings the leading historical and cultural stops in Muğla's 13 districts into a single travel narrative. From Carian sanctuaries and Lycian rock tombs to the legacy of the Menteşe Beylik and Ottoman townscapes, the route aims to help guests not only see each place, but understand why it matters.

Muğla is distinctive because its historical heritage lives on not only in museums, but also in mountain passes, coastal harbours, village streets, lakeshores and bustling town centres.

This magazine suits different travel rhythms, from short Bodrum outings and full-day Milas-Yatağan routes to longer days of discovery in Datça, Dalyan, Fethiye and Seydikemer.

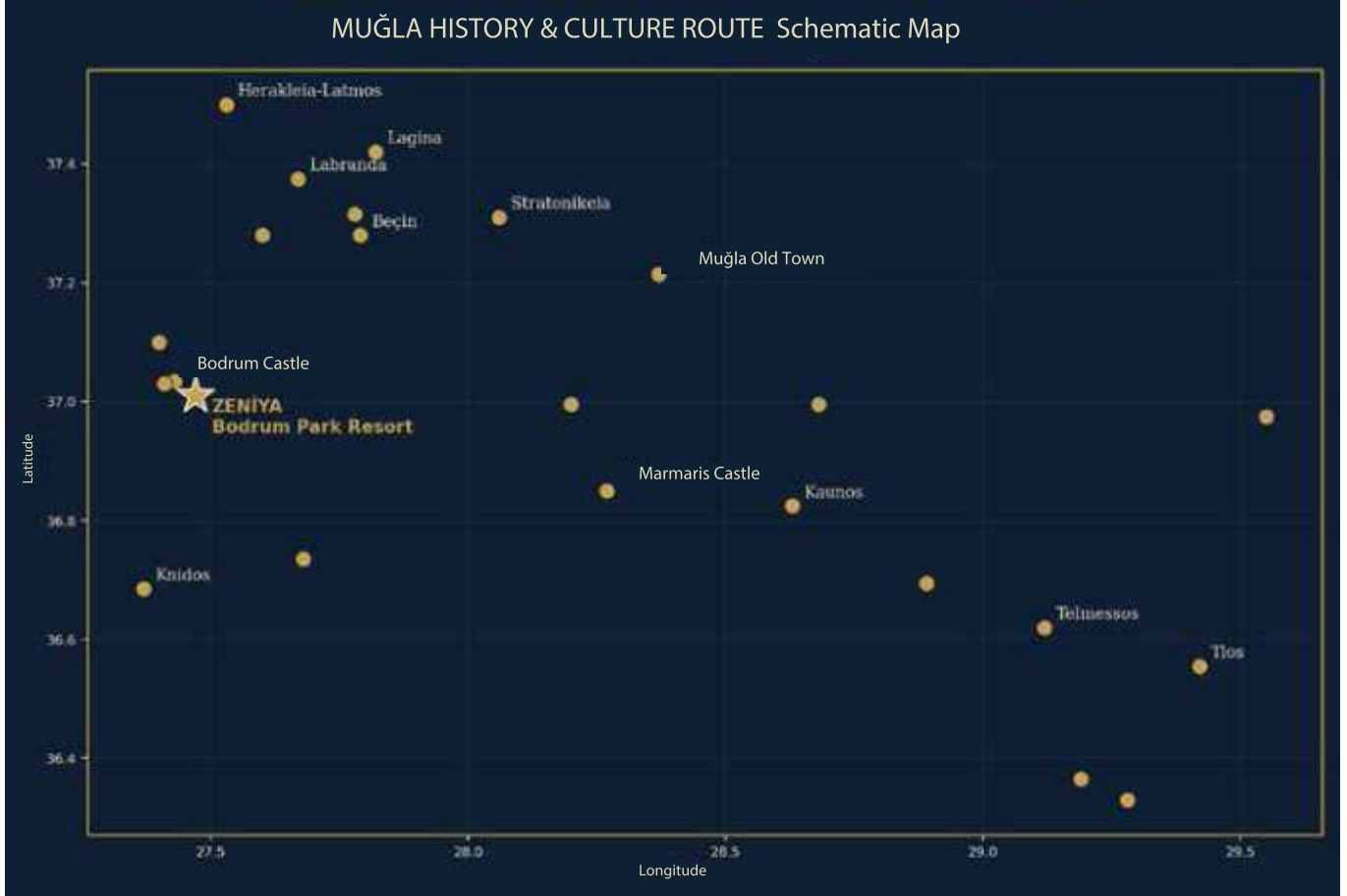
Distances and times are approximate driving estimates. They may vary with seasonal traffic, roadworks, ferry or boat connections and the chosen route. Check current access and entry conditions before visiting, particularly on islands, peninsulas and at rural archaeological sites.

24 Hours	Full Day	Cultural Journey
Bodrum Castle + Mausoleum + Myndos Gate	Milas + Beçin + Labranda / Stratonikeia + Lagina	Knidos / Kaunos / FethiyeLycia / Seydikemer



From Zeniya to the Muğla's layers of history

The star marks Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort; the other points show selected historical stops. The map is intended for geographical orientation.



ROUTE OVERVIEW

A cultural corridor from west to east

Moving west to east, the focus shifts from Bodrum (Halicarnassus) and the Lelegian legacy to Caria's political and religious centres along Milas-Yatağan; then to urban and maritime culture around Muğla and finally to the Carian-Lycian transition and the strong imprint of Lycian civilisation along Dalyan.

PLANNING

Approximate distances from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort

The table below will help plan your itinerary quickly

Historic Site	District	Approx. Distance	Approx. Time
Bodrum Castle	Bodrum	18 km	30 min
Mausoleum at Halicarnassus	Bodrum	19 km	32 min
Myndos Gate	Bodrum	20 km	34 min
Pedasa	Bodrum	27 km	40 min
Beçin	Milas	52 km	55 min
Uzunyuva	Milas	57 km	1 h 00 min
Labranda	Milas	72 km	1 h 20 min
Euromos	Milas	72 km	1 h 15 min
Iasos	Milas	68 km	1 h 15 min
Herakleia Latmos	Milas	105 km	2 h 00 min
Stratonikeia	Yatağan	86 km	1 h 35 min
Lagina	Yatağan	94 km	1 h 45 min
Muğla Old Town	Menteşe	125 km	2 h 15 min
Marmaris Castle	Marmaris	165 km	3 h 00 min
Amos	Marmaris	185 km	3 h 25 min
Kedrai Sedir	Marmaris	170 km	3 h 15 min
Knidos	Datça	205 km	3 h 50 min
Old Datça	Datça	175 km	3 h 15 min
Kaunos	Ortaca	190 km	3 h 30 min
Dalyan Rock Tombs	Ortaca	188 km	3 h 25 min
Lydia Kapıdağ	Dalaman	230 km	4 h 30 min
Telmessos	Fethiye	235 km	4 h 10 min
Kayaköy	Fethiye	250 km	4 h 30 min
Tlos	Seydikemer	285 km	5 h 05 min
Letoon	Seydikemer	300 km	5 h 20 min
Pınara	Seydikemer	285 km	5 h 10 min
Sidyra	Seydikemer	310 km	5 h 40 min
Oinoanda	Seydikemer	320 km	5 h 50 min
Thera	Ula	135 km	2 h 30 min
Historic Kavaklıdere	Kavaklıdere	155 km	2 h 55 min
Kaunos Route/Köyceğiz	Köyceğiz	195 km	3 h 35 min
Ancient Ephesus	Selçuk / İzmir	180/190 km	2 h 45 min 3 h 15 min





DISTRICT ROUTE

BODRUM

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 5 main stops

The nearest cultural route. Ancient Halicarnassus, the Knights of St John's heritage and Lelegian settlements are all within reach in a few hours.

01 Bodrum Castle and Museum of Underwater Archaeology

FROM ZENIYA 18 km • EST. DRIVE 30 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Built in the 15th century by the Knights of St John, the castle is the defining historical landmark of Bodrum's skyline. Rising above ancient Halicarnassus, it brings defensive architecture and underwater archaeology together in a single visit.

Why it matters: The towers, harbour views and underwater finds reveal Bodrum's history in one place.

Visit tip: Come in the morning, then walk through the bazaar and harbour.

02 Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

FROM ZENIYA 19 km • EST. DRIVE 32 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Built in the 4th century BC for Mausolus, satrap of Caria, this monumental tomb is counted among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Although little survives, its influence on world architectural history is extraordinary.

Why it matters: The monument gave the word 'mausoleum' its name, securing its universal significance.

Visit tip: Allow 4560 minutes; combine with the castle on the same day.

03 Myndos Gate

FROM ZENIYA 20 km • EST. DRIVE 34 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

One of the most important surviving sections of ancient Halicarnassus's fortifications. Associated with Alexander the Great's siege, this defensive line makes the city's military history tangible.

Why it matters: A key stop for understanding the city's scale and defensive strategy.

Visit tip: A short stop after the Mausoleum.

04 Ancient Theatre

FROM ZENIYA 20 km • EST. DRIVE 35 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Reflecting the classical heritage of Halicarnassus, the theatre offers a striking panorama across the city towards Bodrum Castle.

Why it matters: It reveals the public and cultural life of the ancient city.

Visit tip: Visit close to sunset.



05 Ancient City of Pedasa

FROM ZENIYA 27 km • EST. DRIVE 40 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Associated with Lelegian culture, Pedasa's walls, tombs and rural settlement remains reveal earlier layers of the Bodrum Peninsula's history.

Why it matters: This striking archaeological landscape shows that Bodrum's history extends beyond Halicarnassus.

Visit tip: Walking shoes and water are recommended.





DISTRICT ROUTE

MİLAS

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 6 main stops

One of Muğla's richest archaeological areas. Mylasa, sanctuaries, ancient harbours and the Menteşe heritage meet in a single district.

01 Beçin Castle and Medieval Settlement

FROM ZENIYA 52 km • EST. DRIVE 55 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

A major centre of the Menteşe Beylik, Beçin preserves a castle, madrasa, bathhouse, inn and domestic remains, making it one of Muğla's finest examples of Turkish-Islamic urban history.

Why it matters: Essential for understanding Muğla's history beyond antiquity.

Visit tip: Combine your visit a tour of central Milas.

02 Uzunyuva Monumental Tomb and Hekatomneion

FROM ZENIYA 57 km • EST. DRIVE 60 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

This monumental tomb complex linked to the Carian dynasty reveals Milas's identity as ancient Mylasa within the fabric of the modern city.

Why it matters: An outstanding example of Carian political history and monumental funerary architecture.

Visit tip: Combine with Milas's museums and town centre.



03 Sanctuary of Labranda

FROM ZENIYA 72 km • EST. DRIVE 80 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Mylasa's mountain sanctuary, Labranda is known for the cult of Zeus Labraundos and buildings from the Hecatomnid period.

Why it matters: Experience sanctuary, terraced architecture and mountain scenery together.

Visit tip: Use a private car and wear comfortable shoes.

04 Ancient City of Euromos

FROM ZENIYA 72 km • EST. DRIVE 75 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Known especially for its well-preserved Temple of Zeus Lepsynos, Euromos is one of Caria's most impressive ancient cities.

Why it matters: The temple's standing columns make it a superb stop for photography and architecture enthusiasts.

Visit tip: Add it to a day exploring Milas and Latmos.





05 Ancient City of Iasos

FROM ZENIYA 68 km • EST. DRIVE 75 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Iasos at Kiyıkışlacık offers a distinctive atmosphere, with ancient streets beside the sea, an agora, a theatre and a rich harbour history.

Why it matters: A rare route combining archaeology and coastal scenery.

Visit tip: Ideal at sunset.



06 Herakleia on Latmos and Lake Bafa

FROM ZENIYA 105 km • EST. DRIVE 120 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

At the foot of the Latmos Mountains on Lake Bafa, Herakleia stands out for its walls, Temple of Athena and unique rocky landscape.

Why it matters: Nature, archaeology and sacred landscape combine here on one of Muğla's most distinctive cultural routes.

Visit tip: Set aside a full day.





DISTRICT ROUTE

YATAĞAN

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 2 main stops

Stratonikeia and Lagina form an excellent full-day route for exploring Caria's political and religious worlds together.

01 Ancient City of Stratonikeia

FROM ZENİYA 86 km • EST. DRIVE 95 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Also called the 'city of gladiators', Stratonikeia is remarkable for its layered settlement history, extending from antiquity through the Ottoman and Republican periods.

Why it matters: Ancient buildings interwoven with a more recent village make the site unique.

Visit tip: Allow at least 2-3 hours.

02 Sanctuary of Hecate at Lagina

FROM ZENİYA 94 km • EST. DRIVE 105 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

One of the foremost sanctuaries of Hecate's cult, Lagina is Stratonikeia's religious centre, with a monumental propylon and temple remains.

Why it matters: A key stop for understanding the sacred geography of the ancient world.

Visit tip: Visit on the same day as Stratonikeia.





DISTRICT ROUTE

MENTESE / MUĞLA CENTRE

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 2 main stops

Living Ottoman streetscapes, bazaar traditions and traditional Muğla houses take centre stage here, offering a different experience from the ancient cities.

01 Muğla's Arasta Bazaar and Old Town

FROM ZENIYA 125 km • EST. DRIVE 135 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Traditional Muğla houses, narrow streets, the arasta bazaar and domestic architecture reflect the city's commercial and social life in the Ottoman and early Republican eras.

Why it matters: Experience history within a living urban setting.

Visit tip: Walk through the arasta, stop for coffee and visit the city museum.

02 Kurşunlu Mosque and Historic Centre

FROM ZENIYA 125 km • EST. DRIVE 135 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

An important example of Ottoman religious architecture in the city centre, the mosque is best appreciated together with its traditional surroundings.

Why it matters: It shows the continuity of Muğla's urban identity.

Visit tip: Suitable for exploring on foot.





DISTRICT ROUTE

ULA

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 1 main stop

A quieter part of inland Caria, ideal for exploration.

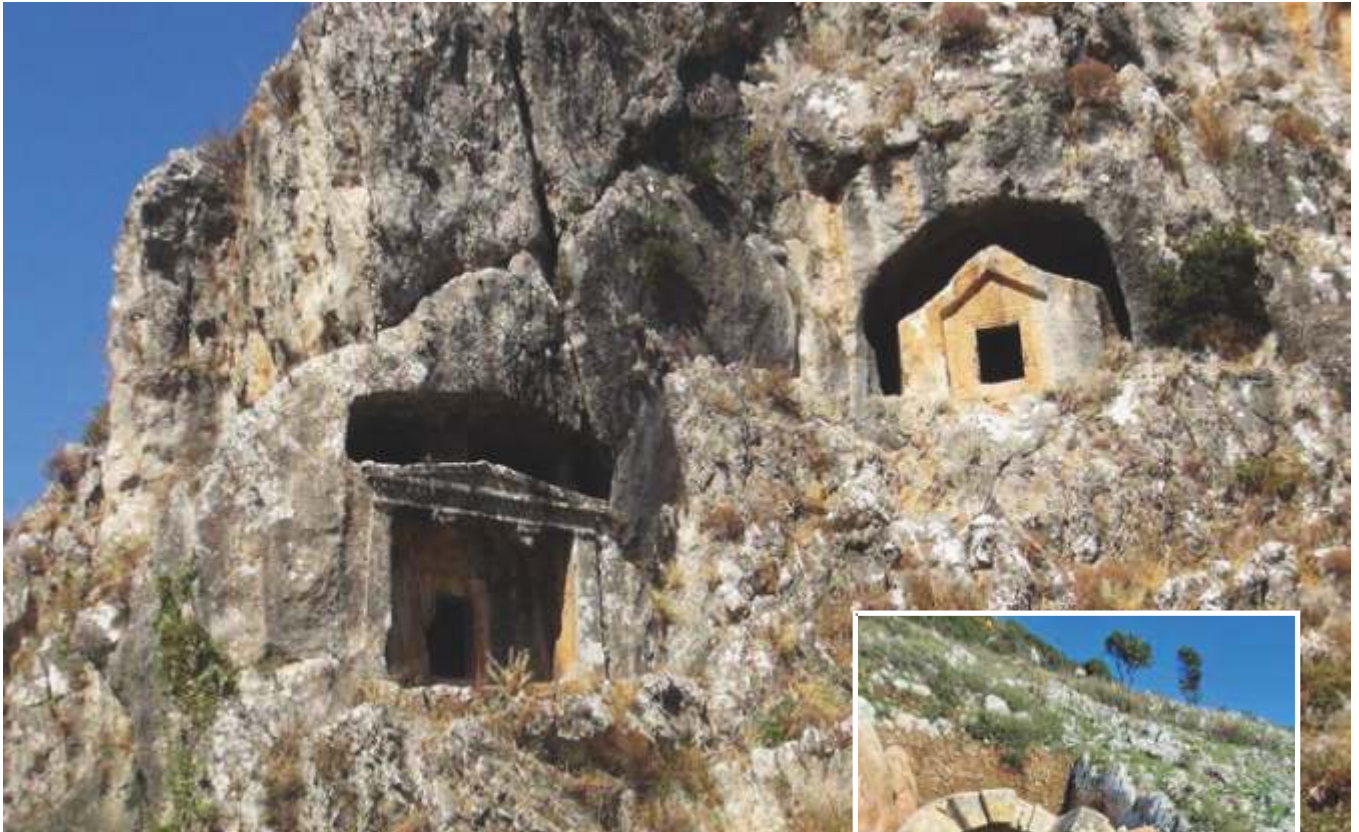
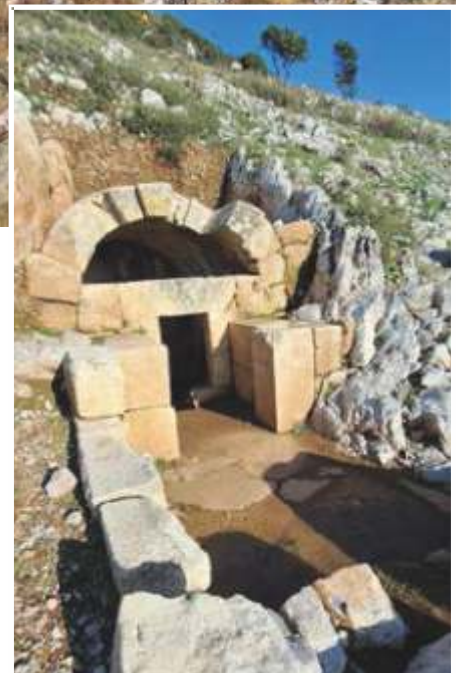
01 Ancient City of Thera

FROM ZENIYA 135 km • EST. DRIVE 150 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

One of the Carian settlements around Ula and Muğla, Thera helps explain the region's inland network of ancient settlements.

Why it matters: Discover inland Caria beyond its famous coastal cities.

Visit tip: Ask locally about conditions at the site.





DISTRICT ROUTE

MARMARIS

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 3 main stops

Maritime routes, castle heritage, links with Rhodes and ancient settlements around the bay define this route.

01 Marmaris Castle and Old Town

FROM ZENIYA 165 km • EST. DRIVE 180 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

The castle above the harbour and the surrounding oldtown streets reflect Marmaris's strategic past, tied to Rhodes and the sea routes of the Aegean.

Why it matters: Castle, harbour and historic streets share one walking route.

Visit tip: Late afternoon is ideal.

02 Ancient City of Amos

FROM ZENIYA 185 km • EST. DRIVE 205 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Near Turunç, Amos is an impressive ancient settlement overlooking the bay, known for its theatre and its place within the Rhodian Peraea.

Why it matters: Panoramic views meet archaeological remains.

Visit tip: Avoid the hottest hours.

03 Ancient Kedrai / Sedir Island

FROM ZENIYA 170 km + boat • EST. DRIVE 195 min + boat • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Kedrai on Sedir Island stands out for its ancient theatre, surviving walls and island scenery.

Why it matters: An exceptional stop that turns a boat trip into a cultural excursion.

Visit tip: Check boat schedules in advance.





DISTRICT ROUTE

DATÇA

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 2 main stops

The ancient twin harbours of Knidos and the stone streets of Old Datça reveal two different historical layers on one peninsula.

01 Ancient City of Knidos

FROM ZENIYA 205 km • EST. DRIVE 230 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Built around two harbours at the tip of the Datça Peninsula, Knidos was an important centre in the history of science, art, trade and seafaring.

Why it matters: Explore an ancient city in a dramatic setting where the Aegean meets the Mediterranean.

Visit tip: Allow a full day; sunset is particularly striking.

02 Old Datça

FROM ZENIYA 175 km • EST. DRIVE 195 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Stone houses, narrow streets and a traditional settlement pattern embody Datça's more recent cultural heritage.

Why it matters: Adds living architecture and local culture to an archaeological route.

Visit tip: Combine with a day trip to Knidos.





DISTRICT ROUTE

ORTACA

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 2 main stops

Kaunos and Dalyan bring archaeology and wetland landscapes together in an exceptional way.

01 Ancient City of Kaunos

FROM ZENIYA 190 km • EST. DRIVE 210 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Across from Dalyan, Kaunos is one of the region's richest ancient cities, with a theatre, baths, a terrace temple, a harbour and agora complex, and rockcut tombs.

Why it matters: It vividly represents the cultural transition between Caria and Lycia.

Visit tip: Boat crossing followed by a walk.

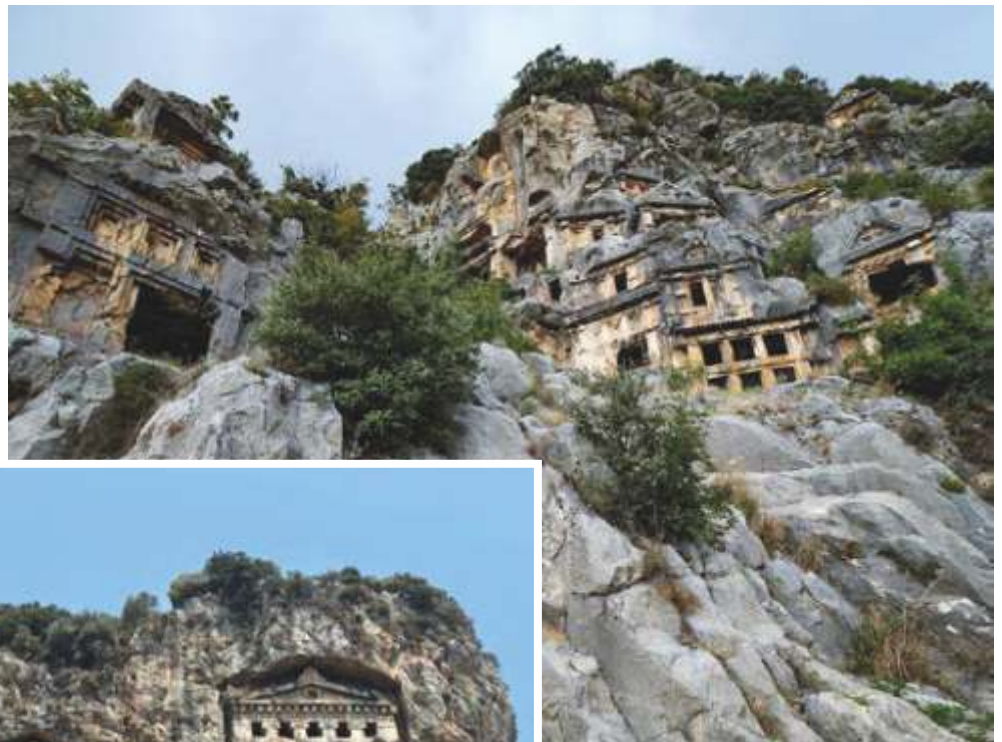
02 Dalyan Rock Tombs

FROM ZENIYA 188 km • EST. DRIVE 205 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

The monumental rockcut tombs above the Dalyan Channel are the most visible symbol of Kaunos's distinguished funerary tradition.

Why it matters: One of Muğla's most recognisable historic landscapes.

Visit tip: View them in the evening light.





DISTRICT ROUTE

KÖYCEĞİZ

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 1 main stop

A leisurely cultural route exploring the relationship between lake, channels and ancient harbour.

01 Köyceğiz Kaunos Cultural Route

FROM ZENİYA 195 km • EST. DRIVE 215 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Seen together, Lake Köyceğiz, the Dalyan channels and the surroundings of Kaunos reveal the relationship between ancient transport, harbour development and the natural landscape.

Why it matters: An experience of a whole cultural landscape, beyond a single monument.

Visit tip: Plan around boat routes on the lake and at Dalyan.





DISTRICT ROUTE

DALAMAN

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 1 main stop

Lesserknown coastal settlements offer historical routes with a strong sense of adventure and discovery.

01 Ancient Settlements of the Kapıdağ Peninsula (around Lydai)

FROM ZENIYA 230 km • EST. DRIVE 270 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

The Kapıdağ Peninsula on the Dalaman coast contains small settlements and ruins linked to the ancient maritime networks of Caria and Lycia.

Why it matters: A littleknown archaeology and nature route with a strong sense of discovery.

Visit tip: Access conditions vary; arrange a guide or boat in advance.





DISTRICT ROUTE

FETHİYE

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 3 main stops

Telmessos, Lycian rock tombs and Kayaköy bring antiquity and recent history together in one destination.

01 Telmessos and the Rock Tomb of Amyntas

FROM ZENİYA 235 km • EST. DRIVE 250 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

The rock tombs, the most visible legacy of ancient Telmessos, rise above central Fethiye. The Tomb of Amyntas stands out for its monumental façade.

Why it matters: A striking encounter with Lycian funerary architecture within the city.

Visit tip: Combine with a walk through central Fethiye.

02 Fethiye Ancient Theatre / Traces of Telmessos

FROM ZENİYA 235 km • EST. DRIVE 250 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Ancient remains in the town centre recall Telmessos's identity as a harbour city.

Why it matters: It shows how the modern city developed over the ancient settlement.

Visit tip: Visit on the same day as the rock tombs.

03 Kayaköy

FROM ZENİYA 250 km • EST. DRIVE 270 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

With its stone houses, churches and abandoned settlement, Kayaköy is a tangible place of memory for the population movements of the 20th century.

Why it matters: It brings together recent history, architecture and collective memory.

Visit tip: Allow at least 1.5 - 2 hours.





DISTRICT ROUTE

SEYDİKEMER

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 5 main stops

One of Muğla's richest areas for discovering the monumental cities and sanctuaries of Lycian civilisation.

01 Ancient City of Tlos

FROM ZENIYA 285 km • EST. DRIVE 305 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

A major Lycian city, Tlos is a multilayered settlement with an acropolis, rock tombs, stadium, baths and theatre remains.

Why it matters: A leading site for exploring Lycian history on a monumental scale.

Visit tip: Can be planned on the same day as Saklıkent.

02 Sanctuary of Letoon

FROM ZENIYA 300 km • EST. DRIVE 320 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

A major religious centre of the Lycian League, Letoon is known for its temples dedicated to Leto, Apollo and Artemis.

Why it matters: It forms a UNESCO World Heritage property together with Xanthos.

Visit tip: Combine with a route towards Xanthos or Patara.

03 Ancient City of Pinara

FROM ZENIYA 285 km • EST. DRIVE 310 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

With hundreds of rock tombs on the mountainside and a peaceful archaeological landscape, Pinara is one of Lycia's most atmospheric cities.

Why it matters: A strong sense of discovery away from the crowds.

Visit tip: Prepare for walking over rough terrain.

04 Ancient City of Sidyma

FROM ZENIYA 310 km • EST. DRIVE 340 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

Near Dodurga, Sidyma is one of Lycia's lesserknown centres, with funerary monuments and a rural settlement setting.

Why it matters: An archaeological experience interwoven with rural life.

Visit tip: Check local road conditions.

05 Ancient City of Oinoanda

FROM ZENIYA 320 km • EST. DRIVE 350 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

This highaltitude ancient city is known to scholars especially for the famous philosophical inscription of Diogenes, a follower of Epicurus.

Why it matters: An exceptional centre of international significance for the history of philosophy.

Visit tip: A demanding walk; a guided visit is recommended.



DISTRICT ROUTE

KAVAKLIDERE

History and culture from Zeniya Bodrum Park Resort • 1 main stop

Living crafts and traditional surroundings complement Muğla's cultural heritage beyond archaeology.

01 Traditional Kavaklıdere and Coppersmithing Heritage

FROM ZENIYA 155 km • EST. DRIVE 175 min • SUGGESTION Cultural route

The district's traditional settlement pattern and coppersmithing keep Muğla's intangible cultural heritage alive within its historic setting.

Why it matters: A valuable chance to discover living craft traditions alongside archaeological sites.

Visit tip: Enrich the trip with visits to workshops and local producers.





CULTURAL ROUTE

ANCIENT EPHEBUS

A journey through history and culture from Bodrum to one of the Aegean's foremost archaeological heritage sites.

Ephesus brings together the monumental heritage of the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

01 Ancient City of Ephesus Selçuk / İzmir

FROM ZENİYA 180–190 km • EST. DRIVE 165–195 min

About Ancient Ephesus

Near Selçuk in İzmir province, Ephesus is a historic settlement regarded as one of the Aegean region's foremost archaeological sites. Although its origins go back much further, most of the monumental remains visible today took shape in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Its harbour, trade routes, public buildings and religious significance made Ephesus one of the leading cities of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Ephesus was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2015. Its special value lies in the opportunity to trace urban development, architecture, religion and culture across different periods. Planned streets, Terrace Houses, baths, agoras and monumental public buildings form a coherent archaeological picture of city life at the time. The cult of Artemis holds a special place in Ephesus's history.

The remains of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, lie near Selçuk. Under the Roman Empire, Ephesus was a leading city of the province of Asia; in later centuries it also gained importance in the history of Christianity.



Library of Celsus



Library of Celsus:
One of Ephesus's bestknown monuments. Built in the 2nd century AD, its magnificent façade makes it an iconic example of Roman architecture.



Great Theatre:
Believed to have held around 25,000 spectators, the theatre hosted performances and public gatherings. Its position on the Harbour Street axis conveys the city's impressive scale.



Curetes Street:
One of the city's main pedestrian routes, passing monumental buildings, fountains and public structures. A key route for understanding everyday life in Ephesus.



Terrace Houses:
A special archaeological area preserving mosaics, frescoes and interior layouts from the homes of wealthy Ephesians. Admission arrangements may differ from the main archaeological site ticket.



Temple of Hadrian:
Its elegant façade and reliefs on Curetes Street make it a notable example of Roman architecture in Ephesus.



CULTURAL ROUTE

ANCIENT EPHEBUS

A journey through history and culture from Bodrum to one of the Aegean's foremost archaeological heritage sites.

Getting There

From ZENİYA Bodrum Park Resort in Yalıçiftlik / Bodrum, Ephesus is approximately 180-190 km by road, depending on the route and current traffic. Allow about 2 hours 45 minutes to 3 hours 15 minutes by private car or transfer. A full day cultural excursion with an early start is therefore recommended.



Suggested FullDay Cultural Route

- Leave ZENİYA Bodrum Park Resort early in the morning.
- Explore Ephesus: Library of Celsus, Great Theatre, Curetes Street, Temple of Hadrian and, if time permits, the Terrace Houses.
- Central Selçuk and the ruins of the Temple of Artemis.
- Depending on time and interests, Ephesus Museum or Ayasuluk Hill / Basilica of St John.
- Return to Bodrum in the evening.

Planning Notes

- In summer, an early morning visit is more comfortable because of the heat.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes on the stone and marble surfaces.
- Bring a hat, sunscreen and water.
- Before visiting, check official sources for current opening hours, ticket prices, Müzekart conditions and Terrace Houses access.
- Distances and journey times are approximate and may vary with the route, traffic, roadworks and seasonal conditions.

Guest Information

For guests wishing to experience thousands of years of Aegean history, ancient Ephesus is an exceptional full day cultural excursion from ZENİYA Bodrum Park Resort. From the Library of Celsus to the Great Theatre, from Curetes Street to the Terrace Houses, Ephesus offers a unique historical experience, bringing together traces of the Hellenistic, Roman and early Christian periods in one place.



Source note: Historical content is based on general UNESCO World Heritage information about Ephesus and the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism's official descriptions of cultural properties in Ephesus/Selçuk. Check official museum and archaeological site announcements for current visiting arrangements.

CURATED ROUTES

6 signature routes for Zeniya guests

Experience historic sites as meaningful stories, rather than isolated stops.

1 • In the Footsteps of Halicarnassus

Route Zeniya > Bodrum Castle > Mausoleum > Ancient Theatre > Myndos Gate
Duration Half a day

Combines Bodrum's ancient capital identity with its later era of knights in one route.

2 • Caria's Capitals and Sanctuaries

Route Zeniya > Milas/Uzunyuva > Labranda > Euromos > Beçin
Duration Full day

Traces millennia of continuity between the Carian dynasty, Zeus worship, temple architecture and the Menteşe Beylik.

3 • Stratonikeia & Hecate

Route Zeniya > Stratonikeia > Lagina
Duration Full day

Reveals the political and religious bond between the ancient city and its sanctuary.

4 • Knidos at the Edge of the Seas

Route Zeniya > Old Datça > Knidos
Duration Full day / long excursion

Turns a peninsula journey into a story of ancient seafaring, science and art.

5 • Kaunos and Dalyan

Route Zeniya > Dalyan > Rock Tombs > Kaunos
Duration Full day / long excursion

Combines river and coastal landscapes with the transitional culture of Caria and Lycia.

6 • The Grand Lycian Route

Route Zeniya > Fethiye/Telmessos > Kayaköy > Tlos > Letoon / Pınara
Duration 12 days

Explores eastern Muğla's Lycian heritage through monumental tombs, sanctuaries and cities.

GUEST EXPERIENCE

Small details that make a historic visit memorable

TIMING In summer, visit outdoor archaeological sites early in the morning or close to sunset.

PREPARATION Bring a hat, water and sunscreen; choose comfortable walking shoes with nonslip soles for rocky terrain.

STORYTELLING With a guide, stones, inscriptions and ruins become part of a historical story, rather than simply sights.

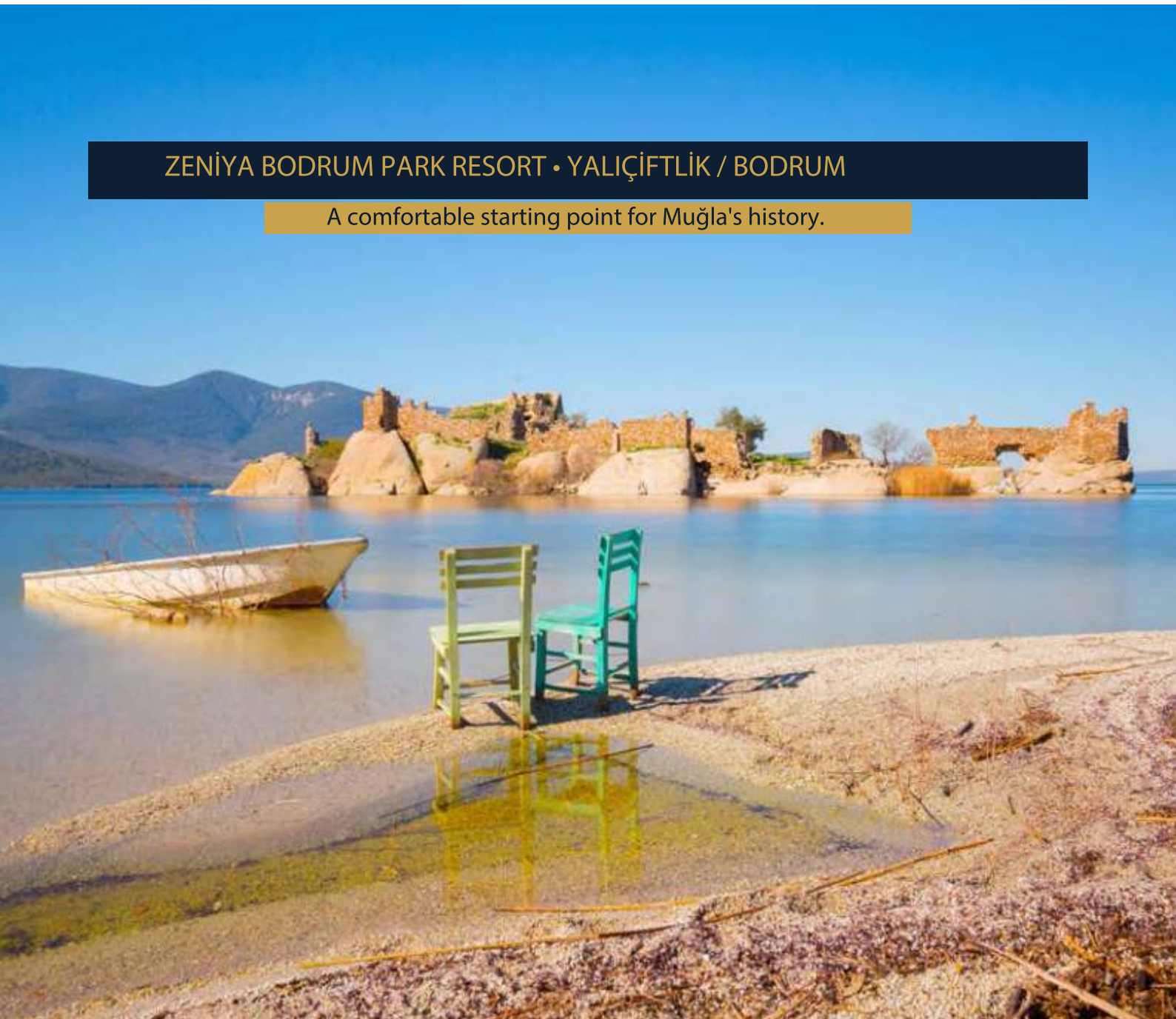
PHOTOGRAPHY Knidos, Iasos, Amos, Bodrum Castle and the Dalyan rock tombs offer striking photographs in the changing light of day.

LOCAL CULTURE Add bazaars, villages, crafts and local cuisine to archaeological visits to discover Muğla's living heritage.

CONSERVATION Protect cultural heritage by keeping off archaeological structures, leaving stones and plants in place, and staying on marked paths.

ZENİYA BODRUM PARK RESORT • YALIÇİFTLİK / BODRUM

A comfortable starting point for Muğla's history.



Rules for Visiting Historic and Archaeological Sites

A comprehensive guide for ZENİYA guests to help protect Muğla's cultural heritage and ensure a safe, respectful visit.

Muğla's ancient cities, castles, rock tombs, sanctuaries, historic streets and traditional settlements are more than places to visit: they are surviving parts of a shared cultural heritage spanning thousands of years. Visitors must give priority to official notices at site entrances, staff instructions and current visiting rules. The principles below are general guidance; individual sites may apply stricter or different rules.

1. Do not touch, climb or lean on historic structures

Ancient walls, columns, reliefs, inscriptions, tombs and stone blocks may look solid, yet centuries of exposure to weather, moisture, salt, temperature changes and human activity may have weakened them. Climbing, sitting or leaning on a structure, or trying to move a stone, can damage it and cause a fall or dislodge masonry. Do not climb column bases, tombs, ramparts or protected architectural elements, even for a photograph. In particular, do not allow children to play on historic structures.

2. Do not take anything as a souvenir

Even a small pottery fragment, stone, mosaic tessera, piece of metal or worked object lying on an archaeological site may be part of its scientific context. Nothing should therefore be picked up, moved or taken away as a souvenir. If you notice a find, leave it untouched where possible and inform site staff.

3. Never write, scratch or leave marks

Writing names, drawing hearts or symbols on walls, scratching stones or marking them with paint or pens can cause damage that is difficult to reverse. What seems a small mark may destroy a surface hundreds or thousands of years old.

4. Follow marked paths and respect safety boundaries

Excavation sites may contain open pits, loose stones, fragile wall tops, sudden changes in level and surfaces hidden by vegetation. Do not enter areas closed off by barriers, ropes, railings, warning signs or noentry notices.

5. Do not interfere with excavation or restoration

Keep out of specialist work areas during active excavation, conservation or restoration. Do not touch equipment, find crates, surveying instruments or temporary protective materials.

6. Check site rules before taking photographs or videos

Personal photography may be allowed in many outdoor areas, but museum sections, special exhibitions, fragile objects or particular spaces may restrict flash, tripods, professional equipment or commercial filming.

7. Do not plan drone flights without permission

Drone flights at historic and archaeological sites may be restricted or require permission due to airspace rules, security, visitor privacy, heritage protection and specific institutional regulations.

8. Do not litter; take care with food and drinks

Plastic bottles, packaging, tissues, cigarette ends and organic waste damage the integrity of historic landscapes and may create a fire risk. Use only designated rubbish bins.

9. Exercise extreme care with smoking and fire

Many archaeological sites in Muğla are surrounded by scrub, pine woodland or dry grass. In summer, even a small spark can turn into a serious fire.

10. Do not damage plants, trees or natural formations

Archaeological landscapes consist of more than buildings. Olive groves, scrubland, endemic plants, rock formations and natural topography around ancient cities are part of each site's historical character.

11. Keep a respectful distance from animals and wildlife

Outdoor archaeological sites may be home to birds, reptiles, small mammals or freeroaming animals. Do not chase, disturb or feed them indiscriminately.

12. Show particular respect at tombs, cemeteries and sacred sites

The Tomb of Amyntas, the Kaunian rock tombs at Dalyan, ancient necropolises, mausoleums, mosques, churches and sanctuaries are more than architecture: they preserve traces of past societies' beliefs and funerary traditions.

13. Supervise children closely

Ancient cities offer an inspiring learning environment for children, but were not designed like modern parks. There may be unguarded heights, uneven stone steps, slippery surfaces and open excavations.

14. Wear suitable shoes and clothing, and prepare properly

At places such as Pedasa, Labranda, Herakleia Latmos, Pınara, Sidyma and Oinoanda, terrain may be natural, rocky and steep. Bring nonslip walking shoes, seasonal clothing, a hat, sunscreen and enough water.

15. Preserve the peace and other visitors' enjoyment

Historic sites are shared spaces. Loud music, shouting, groups blocking passages or occupying photo spots for too long can spoil other visitors' experience.

16. Respect local residents and living historic surroundings

In Old Datça, around Kayaköy, in Muğla's old town, Kavaklıdere and similar places, cultural routes run through everyday local life. Do not photograph through doors or windows without permission, or enter private property.

17. Follow guides' and authorised staff's instructions

Site staff may temporarily close sections, redirect visitors or restrict access because of the weather. These decisions protect visitors and historic remains.

18. Check visiting hours, entry conditions and temporary closures in advance

Opening hours may change with the season, public holidays, excavations, restoration or exceptional weather. For routes requiring a boat connection, such as Sedir Island/Kedrai, transport schedules are also part of the plan.

19. Assess routes in advance for visitors with disabilities or limited mobility

The original character of historic sites means that not every area meets modern accessibility standards. Steps, natural ground, narrow passages and steep slopes may be present.

20. Act with awareness of cultural heritage protection

Visiting a historic site means not only seeing the past, but helping to preserve it. ZENİYA's approach to Muğla's cultural routes is: 'See, learn, respect and leave it as you found it.'

A Quick Pre-Trip Checklist

A few minutes of preparation before leaving your hotel will make your cultural excursion safer and more enjoyable.

- ☐ Check the site's current opening, closing and last admission times.
- ☐ Pack enough water, a hat, sunscreen and suitable walking shoes.
- ☐ Allow extra time for traffic when planning distances and driving times.
- ☐ For boat or island routes, confirm sailings, weather and sea conditions.
- ☐ Check permit requirements in advance for drones, professional filming or special equipment.
- ☐ Do not touch or climb historic structures, or remove anything from the site.
- ☐ Take your rubbish with you or use only designated bins.
- ☐ Closely supervise children near open excavations and high places.
- ☐ Respect local residents, places of worship and other visitors.
- ☐ Official signs and staff instructions at each site take priority over this general guide.



ZENIYA

— HOTELS & RESORTS —

Muğla'nın tarihine saygıyla dokunan bir yolculuk
A journey that respectfully embraces Muğla's history
Eine Reise, die Muğlas Geschichte mit Respekt berührt
Путешествие с уважением к истории Муглы.