

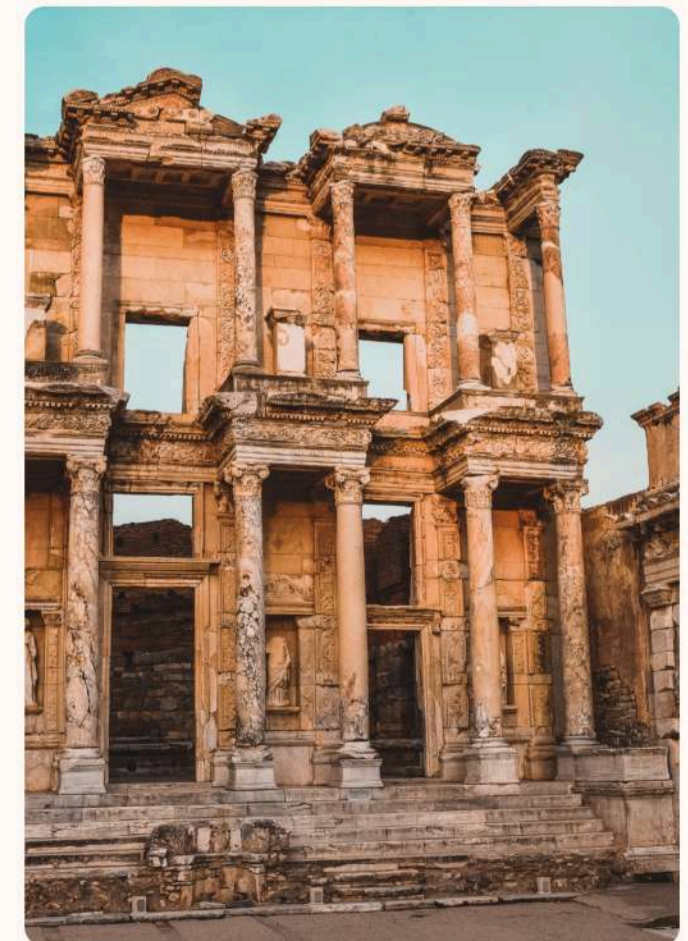
EPHESUS

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME
BY DAY AND NIGHT



EPHESUS SELÇUK

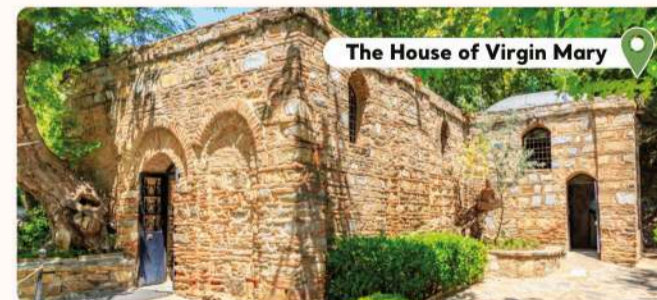
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As a bustling hub of trade and cultural exchange in antiquity, Ephesus boasted awe-inspiring architectural marvels that continue to stand as timeless testaments to its grandeur today. Among its treasures was the majestic Temple of Artemis, a wonder that mesmerized pilgrims and earned its place among the prestigious Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

When one awoke and ventured into the city, his outdated coins revealed the passage of time. Recognized by Christians as the sacred site mentioned in their tradition, this cave remains a place of historical and spiritual significance.

The Virgin Mary House is a sacred Christian pilgrimage site near Selçuk. Believed to be the last residence of the Virgin Mary, it blends history and spirituality. As you enter, tranquillity washes over you, and the whispers of ancient devotion echo through the walls. Visitors can also drink from a spring beneath the house, believed to have healing properties. Outside, a wish wall allows visitors to leave their petitions by tying ribbons.



Şirince village whispers secrets of a bygone era, blending history with rustic allure. Its charming historic houses and narrow cobblestone streets evoke a timeless charm. Explore the enchanting village square, where an Eastern Roman (Byzantine) church stands as a testament to the past. Meander through vineyards and orchards, savouring the sweetness of locally produced wines and fruits. Recognized as one of the Best Tourism Villages by UN Tourism in 2023, Şirince enchants visitors with its harmonious blend of heritage and nature. As the golden sun bathes the village in a warm glow, it reveals its timeless beauty, offering a captivating escape.

The Library of Celsus, one of the most striking structures in Ephesus, has been carefully reconstructed from its original pieces, its grand facade towering over the city. **The Great Theatre**, with a capacity of 25,000, is considered one of the largest of the ancient world. Initially built for dramatic performances, evidence suggests it was later used for gladiatorial contests.

Journey back in time as you ascend **Ayasuluk Hill**, a majestic vantage point that holds the echoes of countless historical chapters. This storied hill in Selçuk witnessed the rise and fall of civilisations, witnessed the footsteps of Alexander the Great and the Crusaders. Explore the remnants of Selçuk Castle, an ancient fortress that stood as a guardian against invaders.

St. John, one of the most important figures of Christianity, is one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. St. John, also known as "John the Apostle", is thought to have written "The Gospel of John" in Ephesus. The basilica built on St. John's grave is one of the most important witnesses of the early Christian period. Therefore, **Basilica of St. John (St. Jean Basilica)**, located within Ephesus, is a historical and spiritual treasure holding deep significance for Christian pilgrims and history enthusiasts. Constructed in the 6th century CE, it stood as a magnificent place of worship and a testament to the thriving Christian community that once thrived in Ephesus.



Near the ancient city of Ephesus, **the Cave of the Seven Sleepers** is a revered site in both Christian and Islamic traditions. According to legend, seven young men and their dog sought refuge here to escape Roman persecution and miraculously slept for centuries.

As a key stop on our route, the Council of Ephesus Basilica, also known as **the Church of Mary**, holds immense historical and spiritual significance. Recognized as the site of the Third Ecumenical Council in 431 CE, this sacred place witnessed crucial theological debates, leading to the declaration of Mary as "Theotokos" (God-bearer). Featuring one of the best-preserved baptisteries in Asia Minor, this remarkable site invites visitors to step into a pivotal chapter of early Christianity.

The Ephesus Museum in Selçuk makes history comes alive with a playful twist. The museum is arranged according to various subjects and finding groups. From intricately detailed statues to ancient coins and fascinating everyday objects, each exhibit tells a captivating story. Selçuk is a captivating town that blends history, culture, and natural beauty. Time dances gently here, weaving ancient stories into the fabric of everyday life. Engage with the locals, who greet you with genuine warmth and share the vibrant tapestry of their traditions. Immerse your senses in the aromas and flavours of Turkish gastronomy as local delicacies please your taste buds. In Selçuk, authenticity paints the canvas of your journey, leaving indelible brushstrokes of wonder and discovery.

As one of the oldest and most impressive works of architectural art from the Anatolian Beyliks, the **İsa Bey Mosque** was commissioned by Aydınoğlu İsa Bey in 1375 and brought to life by Architect Ali. Incorporating elements from the ancient city of Ephesus and the Temple of Artemis, the mosque features a finely crafted marble mihrab and minbar, along with an uncommon transverse layout. Its arched courtyard and façade inspired later Ottoman mosque designs, making it a significant landmark blending Anatolian and Ottoman architectural influences.

Recognizing its exceptional value, UNESCO has bestowed World Heritage status upon Ephesus, affirming its global significance and preserving its rich legacy for generations. Step into the ancient city of Ephesus, where the Library of Celsus, Hadrian's Temple, the Serapeion, the Great Theatre, and the remnants of the Temple of Artemis tell stories of a once-thriving centre of culture and history. This ancient site also offers moonlit tours of its ruins, extending the allure of history into the evening hours, with night museum activities running until midnight during the summer.

The Terrace Houses unveil a hidden world of opulence and sophistication. These remarkable dwellings, reserved for the elite, offer a tantalising glimpse into the daily lives of the privileged few who once called them home. Adorned with intricate mosaics, colourful frescoes, and luxurious amenities, the terrace houses reflect the impeccable craftsmanship and refined tastes of ancient times. Explore the well-preserved rooms and corridors, marvelling at the ingenuity of the underfloor heating system and at the timeless elegance that still resonates within their walls.

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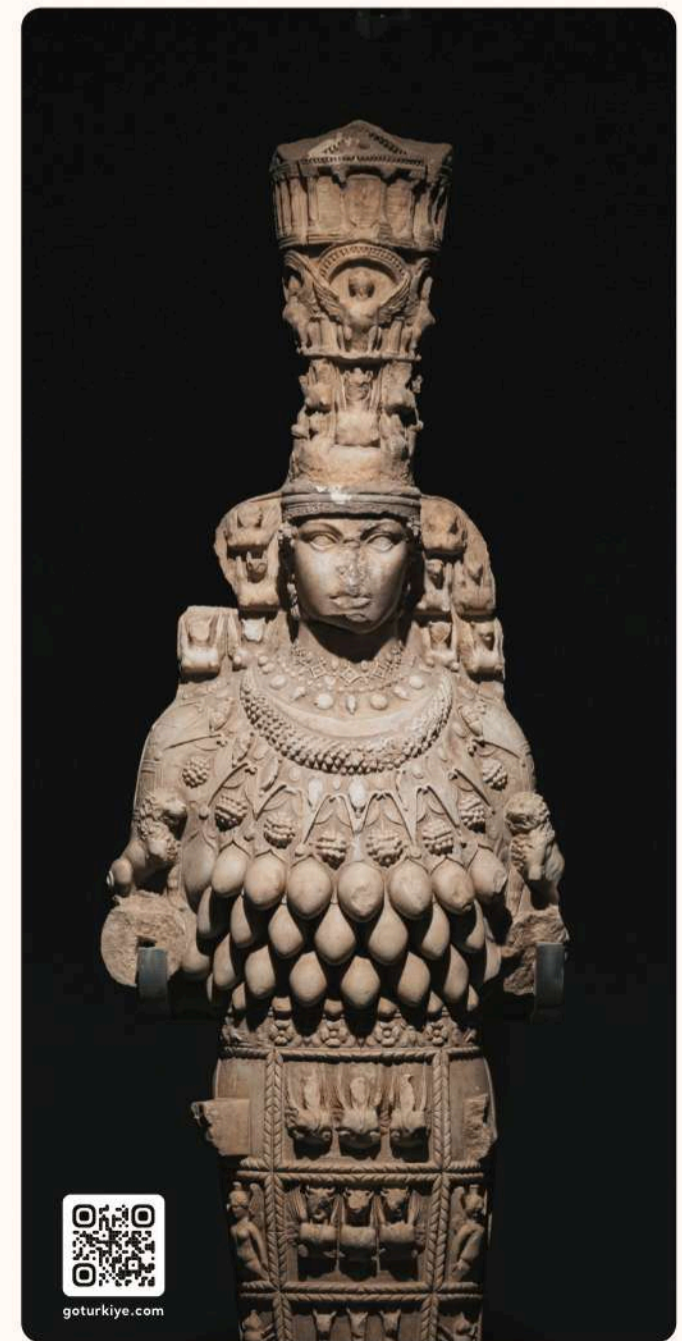


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The Artemis Temple, a sanctuary dedicated to Ephesian Artemis—originally an Anatolian mother goddess—evolved into one of the most influential and expansive sacred sites of the ancient world. Once revered as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, this monumental structure stood as a beacon of worship, adorned with intricately carved sculptures and majestic marble columns. Though little remains today, the temple once drew pilgrims from across the Mediterranean, leaving behind echoes of its former grandeur.

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1. EPHESUS
2. CHURCH OF MARY
3. THE ARTEMIS TEMPLE
4. THE EPHESUS MUSEUM
5. İSA BEY MOSQUE
6. AYASULUK (SELÇUK) CASTLE
7. ST. JOHN'S BASILICA
8. THE CAVE OF THE SEVEN SLEEPERS
9. VIRGIN MARY HOUSE
10. ŞİRİNCE VILLAGE

