

## AMANRUYA

### LOCATION

Amanruya is located on the southeastern Aegean coast of Turkey, on the northern coast of the Bodrum Peninsula in Mandalya Bay. Named after the Sanskrit-derived word for peace, 'aman', and the Turkish word for dream, 'ruya', the property is surrounded by ancient olive groves and set against hills cloaked in Mediterranean pine forest. Offering breathtaking views over the sea and a secluded pebble beach, the property is situated just north of the popular holiday town of Bodrum. Known for its vibrant tavernas and the 15th-century Castle of St. Peter, Bodrum was called Halicarnassus in the days of Alexander the Great, and is just one of the many villages, towns and cities in the region with ancient roots.

### THE RESORT

An access road weaves its way through the trees before revealing one's first glimpse of Amanruya and its graceful setting. Inspired by the region's traditional architecture and building methods, the resort ascends through a series of elevated levels, making the most of the sea views whilst offering a variety of courtyards and terraces.

The resort combines Mediterranean and Ottoman architectural design elements to provide a sense of place, space and luxury, yet still has



the intimate and organic ambience of a village complementing and respecting the property's pristine natural surrounds.

An intricate interplay of light and shadow dapples narrow pathways and courtyards – some open, others tucked away for quiet moments. Building materials include local stone for structural walls, dark acajou wood for furniture, windows and door fittings, white Turkish marble for floors and hand-carved stone for interior wall details. Together, they form a timeless natural palette with clean lines and a contemporary feel.

### ACCOMMODATION

Amanruya offers 36 spacious and elegant Pool Terrace Cottages, each with a private garden and pool. Designed to welcome and soothe, the cottages are gracious homes away from home and a cool air of sophisticated calm prevails.

The 75-square metre cottages feature a four-poster king-size bed, couches, a dining table and chairs, writing desk, traditional Turkish *mangal* charcoal fireplace, separate vanity area and large, naturally-lit open bathroom. This features a rain shower and large bath tub from which one can enjoy private garden views. Traditional handmade rugs and throws from Istanbul provide warmth. Fitted with under-floor heating for use in the cooler months, there is also a fireplace that accommodates a brazier. This can be lit with firewood for use in the living room or on the terrace.

Each cottage enjoys its own garden which leads to a private grey-green marble swimming pool. The layout of the gardens and pools vary. Some pools are square and others rectangular. There are 22 heated pools and 14 are kept at the ambient temperature. The gardens feature pergolas with large cushioned daybeds and two separate wooden chaise lounges with shade umbrellas.

All Pool Terrace Cottages are equipped with LCD screen TVs, wireless internet, DVD players, mini bars, espresso machines, safety boxes, iPod players, air conditioning, hair dryers and electronic keys.

## **FACILITIES**

From the Arrival Pavilion, Amanruya's stone buildings flow from and into each other, ensuring the same organic development of space as would characterise a village.

### **DINING**

Turkey has a variety of microclimates resulting in an amazing array of produce. This produce, combined with the freshest of local seafood, allows the kitchen at Amanruya to deliver a seasonal menu featuring Turkish, Western, Indonesian and Thai cuisines. Amanruya's home-baked bread and informal Meze platters make for superb in-suite dining or picnic options.

Amanruya offers a number of dining pavilions and lounges, as well as the Beach Club where light meals and refreshments can be enjoyed throughout the day.

**Pool Dining Pavilion** – Overlooking the main swimming pool, the Pool Dining Pavilion is an elegant and intimate dining space with dark wooden ceilings and pale marble floors.

**Dining Pavilions** – There are additional dining pavilions located higher on the hillside and offering panoramic views. They are ideal for special occasions and events.

**Wine Cellar** – With its lofty vaulted ceiling and serene views, the Wine Cellar is an atmospheric setting for special events, whether dinners or cocktail parties.

**Lounge** – The spacious Lounge with its divan-style seating, dark beamed ceiling and wraparound windows is a relaxing venue in which to enjoy afternoon tea, an evening cocktail or simply to pass some time with a book.

**Wine Lounge** – The Wine Lounge enjoys a lofty setting with spectacular views of the bay and surrounding hills.

**Pool Pavilion** – The casual, open-air Pool Pavilion is an informal venue for relaxing or enjoying a refreshing drink.

### **LIBRARY**

The striking, three-storey Library Tower houses a lounge on the top floor with large picture windows. Views are of the ocean on one

side and pine forests on the other. An interesting selection of books and a wide range of DVDs are available.

### **BOUTIQUE**

Pebble-edged steps meander between the Library Tower and the long, sleek Boutique with its excellent examples of local textiles, jewellery and artifacts.

### **ART GALLERY**

Positioned near the Boutique is the Art Gallery – its white marble floors and white walls ideal for showcasing fine artworks. This double-height space is used as an exhibition area for artists and sculptors, and features two decorative medallions of Brazilian stone hanging on either side of the high walls.

### **CARPET GALLERY**

The hand-built, beehive-shaped brick structure next door – designed after a traditional cistern used to conserve rainwater – is a unique Carpet Gallery.

### **MEETING ROOM**

The Meeting Room allows business matters to be conducted in comfort and privacy. It is also an intimate venue for private functions.

### **SPA TREATMENT ROOMS**

Offering a spa menu of facials, massages and wellness therapies, the spa treatment rooms are situated close to the main swimming pool.

### **SWIMMING POOL**

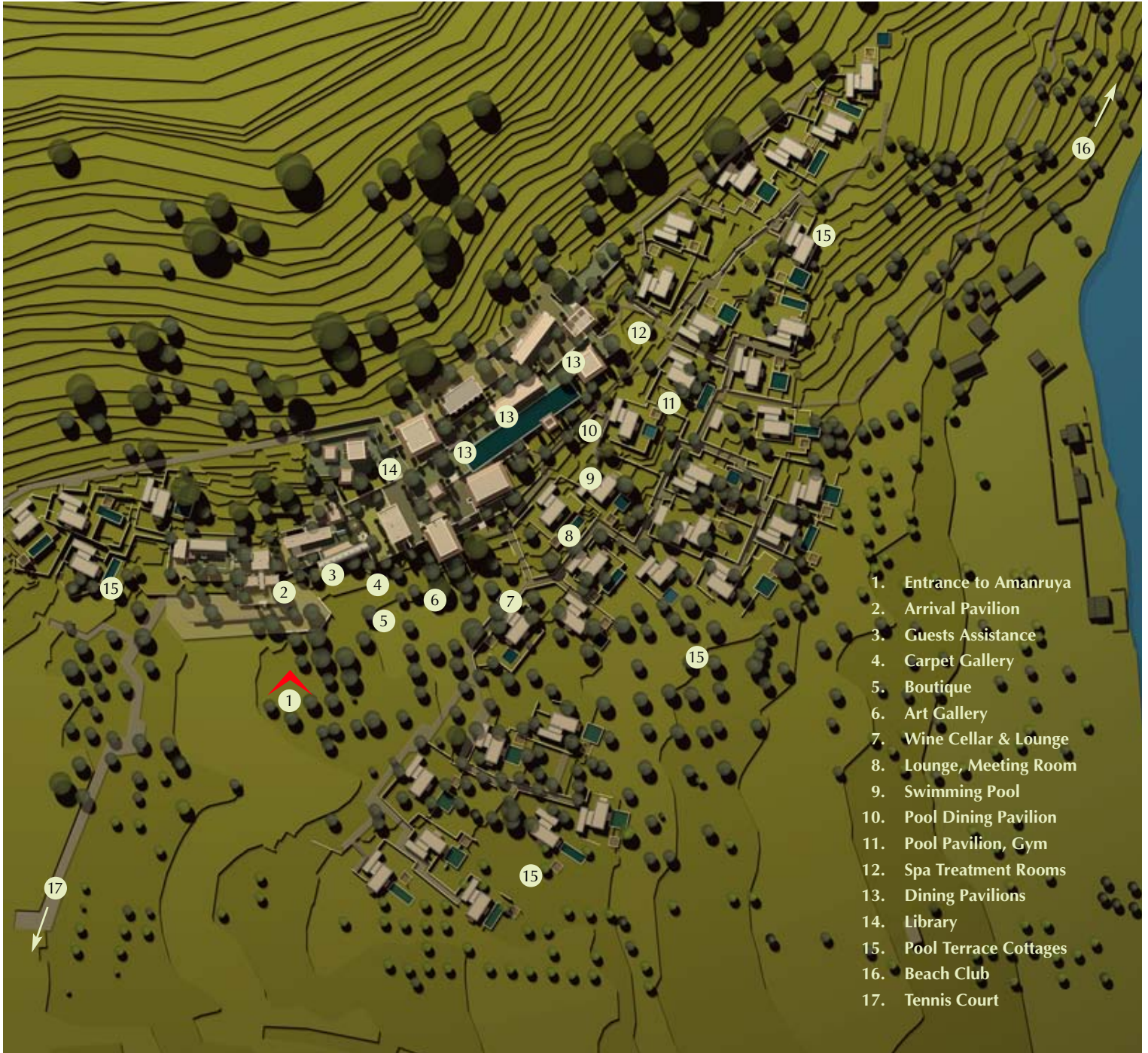
Lined with green marble from Antalya in southern Turkey, Amanruya's 50-metre infinity swimming pool is surrounded by a number of dining and relaxation pavilions.

### **BEACH CLUB**

Protected by a headland and curled around a number of well-established trees, the informal Beach Club consists of a series of terraces on which sun loungers overlook the small pebble beach and a wooden jetty. Refreshments and a range of water sports equipment are available.

### **FITNESS FACILITIES**

Amanruya also offers a **gym** and a **tennis court**. Personal trainers and playing partners are easily arranged.





## DESTINATION



### GEOGRAPHY

Turkey is a transcontinental Eurasian country made up of Asian Turkey (97%) and European Turkey (3%), separated by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles. More than 1,600 kilometres long and 800 kilometres wide, the country is lapped by seas on three sides: the Black Sea to the north, the Mediterranean to the south and the Aegean Sea to the west.

The Bodrum Peninsula is situated in the southwest of Turkey, on the east coast of the Aegean Sea. The peninsula is cradled by the bays of Güllük and Gökova on either side, and covers an area of 649 square kilometres. The highest elevation is 690 metres.

Surrounded by 32 islands and islets, the peninsula forms a 174-kilometre coastline well known for its beauty. Scalloped bays reveal sandy beaches while enchanting seaside villages bustle in the shade of olive groves and tangerine orchards.

### HISTORY

The city of Halicarnassus, now known as Bodrum, was colonised by Dorian Greeks from the 7th century BC. The city later fell under

Persian rule and became the capital and principal port of Caria, enjoying considerable autonomy due to its strategic location.

Between 377 and 353 BC, Caria was ruled from Bodrum by King Mausolus. On his death, his widow, Artemisia II of Caria, commissioned a huge monument which doubled as his tomb. It is from his name that the term 'mausoleum' originated. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, this temple-like structure stood for around 1,700 years before being destroyed by a series of earthquakes. Today the foundations remain. Halicarnassus was part of the Persian Empire until captured by Alexander the Great for Greece in 334 BC.

Crusader Knights arrived in the area in 1402 and used the ruined mausoleum as a quarry to build the Castle of Saint Peter – still standing today. In 1522, Suleiman the Magnificent conquered the Crusaders and Bodrum became part of the Ottoman Empire.

By the turn of the 20th century, Bodrum had become a quiet town of fishermen and sponge divers. Its natural beauty and historic appeal were not to be overlooked for long however. In the 1950s, the region began to gain popularity as a holiday destination, and today it is one of Turkey's premiere attractions.

### CLIMATE

Amanruya's location on the southwestern coast makes for a mostly comfortable year-round climate. Spring and autumn, from March to May and September to November respectively, are marked by mild to warm days and cool nights. The summer months from June through August provide warm to hot days and pleasant evenings. Winter falls from December through February and days are crisp while evenings can be cold. The year-round temperature range is 6°C to 15°C (January), 11°C to 21°C (April), 22°C to 34°C (July), 15°C to 27°C (October). Swimming in the ocean is possible from May through October. Istanbul, Bodrum's gateway, can be cooler with occasional snowfall in winter, although warm to hot summers prevail.

### ACTIVITIES

The southern coast of Turkey is famed for its protected bays and inlets. With pebble and sandy beaches and steady breezes, the

## ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCES

region is an ideal destination for sailing and boating. The 'Blue Voyage' is widely known as a spectacularly beautiful cruising route for the traditional *gulet* sailing vessels. Setting sail from the Bodrum Peninsula, one heads east to Gocek and beyond before returning to the home port of Bodrum. *Gulets* vary in size from 20 metres to over 40 metres and provide the ideal base for an explorative cruise taking in secluded coves and beaches. They also provide opportunity for snorkelling, diving and exploring ancient ruins.

Amanruya has its own *gulet* as well as a variety of other traditional craft available for day trips or overnight charters. In addition to the larger vessels, Amanruya has a selection of sailboards, dinghies, catamarans and paddle boards available from the Beach Club.

The resort provides a varied menu of activities through the differing seasons of the year. Summer activities and excursions are very much ocean- and beach-inspired, while winter activities involve exploring the region – on foot, bike and horseback, or by vehicle farther afield.

### PLACES OF INTEREST

There are few places in the world which offer classical history and natural beauty in equal measure. The **Aegean region** of Turkey is one such place. This fabled coastline is where Homer's heroes were born, the ancient Greeks consulted their oracles and the Romans built magnificent temples to honour their gods. The region tells a story spanning 5,000 years of Greek and Roman history, and everywhere you go are reminders of this glorious past, vying for attention with spectacular scenery.

Olive groves and forests give way to sun-kissed beaches, littering the scalloped coastline like so many smiles. Towns with ancient names inhabit the bays of Homer's "land of eternal blue", and traditional Turkish *gulets* ply the turquoise waters between the Aegean's many islands. To journey this coast is to travel back in time, yet to relish the present: International airports, world-class restaurants and superb nightlife ensure it.

The popular holiday town of **Bodrum** is one of the South Aegean's most attractive seaside villages. Situated just south of Amanruya and offering an international airport, Bodrum has long been a popular summer destination for Turkish city dwellers. Cafes, restaurants and bars have flourished along the city's marina which is also the starting point of many day trips to various Greek islands.

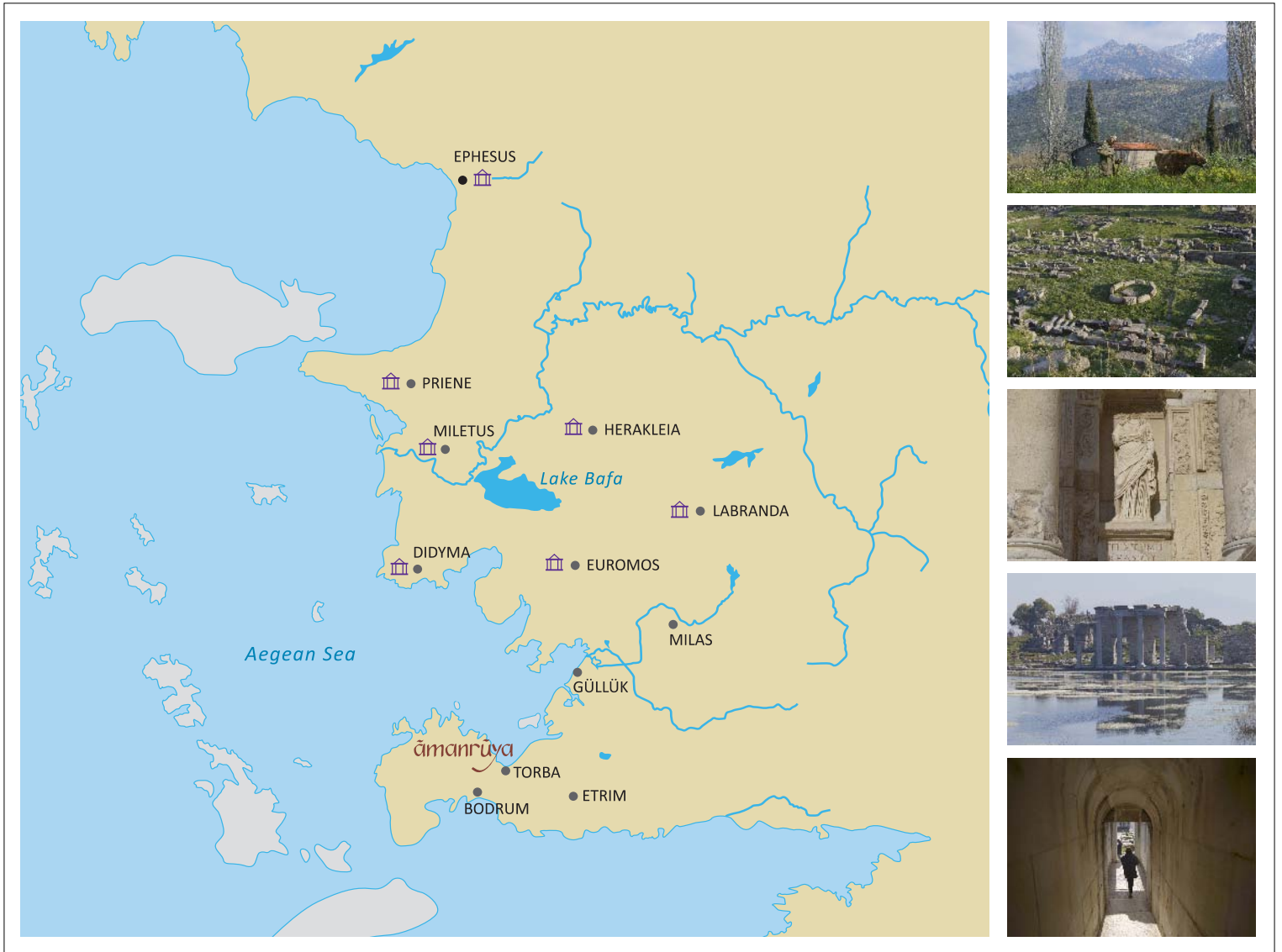
Sailing around the Bodrum Peninsula is a unique way to enjoy the beautiful coastline. The town itself curls around the bay, centred by the 15th-century Castle of St. Peter. Begun in 1406 by the Knights of St. John, its five towers originally represented the nationalities of its formidable inhabitants. Today the castle houses a marine archaeology museum displaying the incredible treasures found beneath the waves by local sponge divers over the years.

Bodrum has a number of other claims to fame: It was the birthplace of Herodotus, the father of written history, born in 484 BC; and the site of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World – the mausoleum of King Mausolus.

Between Bodrum and Amanruya lies the seaside village of **Torba**. From here boats depart for Didyma (Didim) and Miletus (Milet) – two renowned cities with ancient roots, located north of Amanruya.

**Didyma** is a prime tourist attraction due to the ruins of the world-renowned Temple of Apollo, built in the 7th century BC to honour the god of prophecy and oracles. By 500 BC, this shrine had become one of the leading oracles of the Greek world, second only to the great oracle at Delphi. A carved head of Medusa looks out from above the well where pilgrims would once have washed before consulting the oracle.

**Miletus** flourished as a centre for art and industry in its heyday, and its most striking attraction today is the 15,000-seat theatre, dating from AD 100. The Baths of Faustina, dating from AD 43 and named for the wife of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, are another site worth visiting and the inspiration for the modern Turkish bath or *hamman*.



The ancient city of **Priene** enjoys a breathtaking setting between mountain and river, and is believed to have been settled before 1,000 BC. Remarkably well-preserved, the city offers the Temple of Athena, built in the 4th century BC as directed by Alexander the Great; the 5,000-seat theatre which dates to the 3rd century BC; and the stadium which still today features starting blocks for athletes and a gymnasium adorned with 2,000-year-old, school-boy graffiti.

The ruins of **Ephesus** (Efes), an ancient Greek city and later a major Roman city, are situated a 2½-hour drive north of Amanruya and can be visited on a day trip taking in Didyma, Miletus and Priene on the way. Other ancient sites worth visiting include Labranda, Herakleia, Euromos and Pamukkale, with its hot springs, travertines and terraces of carbonate minerals.

Built around 1,000 BC, Ephesus is one of the greatest ruined cities in the western world. Most of the surviving structures date from the

Roman period when the city became the chief port on the Aegean. Noteworthy sites include the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Gate of Hercules, the theatre and the Colonnaded Street. The House of Mary is another attraction: It is said that the Virgin Mary spent her last days here being looked after by St. John the Evangelist.

When the thrill of sight-seeing fades, the region's natural offerings provide fresh distraction. In the forests there are winding trails ideal for hiking, mountain biking or horse riding. Picnics can be arranged to be enjoyed on beaches or in forest glades, and there is a golf club nearby for avid golfers. Finally, like everywhere in Turkey, shopping in and around Bodrum is quite an adventure, with dozens of shops lining the narrow streets. Bodrum also offers a varied nightlife scene. Joining in the singing, dancing, eating and drinking at one of the local *meyhanes* (taverns) is an unforgettable experience.

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## TRAVEL TIPS

**Getting there:** There are daily flights from Istanbul and many other European airports to Milas-Bodrum International Airport (BJV), located 42 kilometres from Amanruya. The complimentary transfer to the resort takes approximately 30 minutes by car.

**Immigration:** A visa can be acquired on arrival for certain countries, while others do not require a visa. It is best to check with your local consulate or travel agent.

**Currency:** Turkey's currency is the Turkish Lira (TRY). Cash in Euros/US dollars and travellers cheques are easy to exchange, although changing other currencies can be difficult. ATMs are available.

**Language:** Turkish is the dominant language although a number of regional dialects are also spoken. Turkish is distantly related to Finnish and Hungarian. English is widely spoken in the main cities and tourist areas.

**Health:** A doctor can be arranged 24 hours a day in the case of emergencies. Bodrum is a major tourist destination and has private hospitals and medical clinics. No vaccinations are required for travel in Turkey, although it is advisable to check with your doctor for current information.

**Dress:** The dress code in Turkey tends to be reasonably conservative and guests and travellers are recommended to follow this precedent. Summers tend to be warm to hot and light clothing will be comfortable. During spring and autumn, pullovers will be needed in the evenings. In winter, warmer clothing will be required for mornings and evenings. Walking shoes are recommended for exploring the multitude of forest trails and ruins.

**Electricity:** Electricity is 220-240 volts/50 hertz

**Time Zone:** Turkey is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

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