

information

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DESTINATION BODRUM

Bodrum is one of the favourite Mediterranean destinations of today's discerning travellers. Blessed with a rich cultural history, a temperate climate, some of the finest food in Turkey and timeless natural beauty, its appeal is underpinned by a 174 km stretch of attractive coastline offering pristine beaches, pine-covered mountains, secluded coves and deep-water ports. Mandarin Oriental, Bodrum, nestled in a landscaped hillside surrounded by lush greenery, reflects the charm of this ever beautiful city with its privileged location and 2 km of untouched shoreline, providing access to two private sandy beaches.

The city is served by multiple daily flights from Istanbul to Milas-Bodrum International airport, which connects with international services and enjoys direct flights from major European cities between April and September. Mandarin Oriental, Bodrum is a 45-minute drive from Milas-Bodrum International Airport, and the region is increasingly served by private jets and helicopters as well as floatplanes and super yachts.

One of the most pleasant coastal villages nearby, Göltürkbükü, adorned with stone-built properties trimmed with bougainvillea, is a magnet for Turkey's jet set. A five-minute drive from Mandarin Oriental, Bodrum, this former fishing village has an attractive bay now filled more often with yachts than with fishing boats, and transforms into a buzzing party venue on balmy summer nights.

In addition to the neighbouring coastal villages, Bodrum has much to offer guests visiting the region. While the northern coast is peaceful and provides a popular route for sailing across the Mediterranean, the southern side of the peninsula boasts various fashionable coastal hangouts. It also offers 18 diving sites with crystal clear waters, promising perfect conditions to explore attractive rock formations, reefs, caves, marine life and pottery from ancient shipwrecks as well

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as three artificial wrecks. Most of the spots are suitable for all levels, with fully-equipped and accredited diving centres available for those looking to learn.

Despite being known as the “Cote d’Azur of Turkey”, Bodrum still preserves its inherent charm and provides the perfect setting in which to indulge in pure pleasure; be it sailing through wonderful passages and secluded anchorages on the turquoise waters; rafting in the nearby Dalaman River; horseriding through the breezy olive groves, orchards and forests; or biking, walking and trekking along the hills of the peninsula in search of the countless islands, inlets, bays and coves that grace the coast.

Described as “the land of eternal blue” by Homer, Bodrum is also an open air museum and home to many remarkable sites of ancient Halicarnassus – today’s Bodrum – left behind by the Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans. Traces of these civilizations remain well preserved in glorious monuments such as Bodrum Amphitheatre, which proudly hosts prestigious festivals each summer. The Father of History, Herodotus composed his famous narratives in Halicarnassus, and the following century the Great Mausoleum, one of the original Seven Wonders of the World, was built for the Carian King Mausolus. Remains of the Mausoleum were later used as a quarry by the Knights Hospitaller of St John to build the still imposing 15th-century fortress guarding the city’s inner harbour, which is today known as Bodrum Castle.

Other notable ancient sites nearby can be found in the city of Ephesus, which was one of the great cities of the Greeks in Asia Minor and is home to the Temple of Artemis, another of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World; and the House of the Virgin Mary, where St. John supposedly brought the Virgin Mary to live out her days after the crucifixion of Christ. Also nearby is Didyma, an ancient Greek sanctuary on the coast of Ionia; Miletus, famous for its well-

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organized grid-like city planning and once considered the greatest and wealthiest of Greek cities; and Priene, with a history dating back to the 2nd millennium BC. All these and many more are waiting to welcome visitors of all ages who have an appetite to discover a history going back 5,000 years.

Bodrum's centre has a lively city vibe throughout the year and offers world-class dining options around the marina, harnessing a concentration of Mediterranean influences, and an impressive nightlife along the cobbled pathways of the ever-popular Bar Street. Serious shoppers will enjoy the many outlets lining the busy narrow streets and displaying everything from leather goods and decorative items to jewellery and high fashion brands, while there are also local markets for fresh produce, and bazaars for handmade crafts.

At Mandarin Oriental, Bodrum a team of experts is available to craft bespoke itineraries that will meet the expectations of the most demanding luxury traveller, be it a soothing sunset cruise on a traditional Turkish gulet, sightseeing tours to discover ancient sites, or a wealth of outdoor adventures such as scuba-diving, sailing and a range of water sports.

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