

AMANRUYA





There are few places in the world that 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, where the ancient Greeks consulted their oracles and the Romans built magnificent temples to honour their gods. 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. Towns with ancient names overlook picturesque bays and traditional Turkish *gulets* sail 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.

Situated in a quiet bay just north of vibrant Bodrum, Amanruya is ideally placed for exploring the region's many attractions, offering bespoke guided tours tailored to individual interests.





Revisit the Past

Explore Bodrum

Known as Halicarnassus in ancient times, Bodrum today is one of the South Aegean's most popular seaside destinations, situated just a 20min drive south of Amanruya. Cafes, boutiques and bars have flourished around the city's marina, which is also the starting point for day trips to various islands.

The town itself curls around the bay, centred by the 15th-century Castle of St. Peter with its five formidable towers. Today the castle houses a marine archaeology museum displaying the incredible treasures that local sponge divers have found beneath the waves over the decades.

Bodrum has a number of other claims to fame: It is the birthplace of Herodotus, the father of written history, and the site of one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. The famous Mausoleum, built in 355BC by Mausolus, stood for about 1,500 years before falling to ruin. Many of its stones were used in the construction of the castle.

Personalised tours can also take in Myndos Gate and the ancient Greco-Roman theatre, before finishing with a picnic on Gumbet Ridge with panoramic views of Bodrum below.

Ephesus

Full-day Excursion

Just a 2hr drive north of Amanruya lies Ephesus, one of the greatest ruined cities in the western world. Built around 1,000BC, Ephesus had a population of more than 250,000 in the 1st century BC, which made it the second largest city in the world at the time. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, only 18% of the city has been excavated over the course of the last 150 years.

The city's surviving structures date from the Roman period when it was the chief port on the Aegean. Noteworthy sites on your personalised excursion include the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Gate of Hercules, the theatre and the Colonnaded Street, as well as the ruined Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. 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.

Lunch in the tranquil village of Sirince with traditional Turkish dishes and local wines ensures renewed energy for the afternoon.



Priene, Miletus and Didyma

Full-day Excursion

Situated across Gulluk Bay from Amanruya are three renowned cities with ancient roots - Priene, Miletus and Didyma. A 1hr50min drive from the resort, Priene is the starting point of your bespoke journey back in time.

Settled before 1,000BC, the ancient city of Priene enjoys a breathtaking setting between mountain and river. Remarkably well preserved, the city offers the Temple of Athena, built in the 4th century BC by Alexander the Great. The theatre, dating from the 3rd century BC could seat 5,000, and the stadium still boasts its ancient starting blocks and a gymnasium adorned with 2,000-year-old, schoolboy graffiti.

A leisurely 30min drive south through cotton fields and beautiful countryside brings you to Miletus. This city 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 AD100. The Baths of Faustina, dating from AD43 and named for the wife of Emperor Marcus Aurelius are another site worth visiting, and the inspiration for the modern Turkish bath or *hamman*.

A further 20min drive south reveals Didyma's ancient attractions. These include the ruins of the world-renowned Temple of Apollo, built in the 7th century BC to honour the god of prophecy. By 500BC, 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 arriving pilgrims would once have washed before consulting the oracle.

This full-day experience will include lunch at a destination of your choice, whether a picnic or in a local restaurant.



Kaunian Rock Tombs and Dalyan River Cruise

Full-day Excursion

The picturesque Dalyan River runs through the town of Dalyan, approximately 3hrs by car from Amanruya, and alongside the famous Rock Tombs of Kaunos, often called the Lycian Tombs. Board a private vessel then relax as you cruise through beautiful countryside to where the tombs with their iconic temple-like facades were cut from the river's sheer cliffs in 400BC.

This waterborne adventure can also include exploring the Unesco-protected ruins of Kaunos, an ancient trading city, swimming in the therapeutic Sultaniye hot springs and Koycegiz Lake, and discovering the rich bird- and marine-life of the Dalyan Delta, known as a nesting area for loggerhead turtles.

Lagina and Stratonikeia

Full-day Excursion

Approximately 60min by car from Amanruya, Stratonikeia and Lagina are two almost undiscovered ancient sites, joined to each other by a 3,000-year-old, 9km holy path. Stratonikeia was the political capital, while Lagina was the sacred precinct, home to a temple dedicated to Hecate. The goddess of magic, the moon, ghosts and necromancy, she was believed to be present at burials, holding the key to the underworld.

The two sites form the world's largest marble city, with whole structures still standing since ancient times including the 10,000-seat theatre and a temple dedicated to the cult of Serapis. Apart from its religious significance, the city was also a centre for gladiators, and the gymnasium near the north gate was possibly the largest in antiquity.

This full-day adventure will also include an open-air lunch in a picturesque spot near the ruins.

Pamukkale, Hierapolis and Aphrodisias

By Helicopter

Possible by car (3.5hrs from Amanruya) but easiest by helicopter (50min with 48hr advance reservation), this day trip includes three magnificent ancient sites, the first of which is also a natural marvel.

Meaning 'cotton castle' in Turkish, Pamukkale is a Unesco World Heritage Site created by warm, heavily mineralised spring water forming stunning terraced pools. The ancient Greeks and Romans attributed healing powers to these hot springs, and founded and founded Hierapolis, meaning 'Sacred City' in the late 2nd century. The ruins of the baths, temples and other monuments can be seen at this remarkable site alongside the picturesque pools themselves.

On the way back to Amanruya after a serene picnic lunch, visit Aphrodisias, named after the Greek goddess of love and beauty. Once the capital of the province of Lydia, Aphrodisias boasts 7,000 years worth of history and is famous for its marble sculptures. The museum is one of the finest in Turkey, with an immense collection of statues, sculptures and friezes depicting mythological events.





Cultural Insight

In the villages near Amanruya, many crafts are practiced as they have been for centuries. Particular villages are known for specific arts, ranging from pottery to carpet weaving. The region is also a gourmand's dream, with incredible fresh produce contributing to a rich and varied culinary smorgasbord of traditional dishes. Amanruya guests enjoy privileged access to experiences and personal encounters unavailable to other visitors to the region.



Pottery in Mumcular Village

Turkey is known for its pottery, an artistic tradition since the Ottoman Empire. Just a 30min drive from Amanruya, the village of Mumcular is famous for its pottery artisans and its distinctive red clay. The village's master potter himself will welcome Amanruya guests for a private demonstration of his talents and a hands-on pottery lesson. After the lesson, enjoy a traditional Turkish brunch in his home.

Carpet weaving in Etrim Village

A 45-minute drive from Amanruya through pine forests, olive groves and rolling farmland, Etrim is a traditional village almost unchanged since ancient times. It is known for producing one of the most intricate hand-knotted carpets in Turkey, and Amanruya guests have the opportunity to witness the process of spinning, dying and weaving in a local master's home. The village store has a fine collection of carpets for sale, and after a tour of the village, a rustic farm breakfast or lunch will be served.



Gourmet experience at Karnas Vineyards

A boutique vineyard 40 minutes by car from Amanruya, Karnas produces Turkey's first Zinfandel and a delicious Shiraz. Taste these wines accompanied by a platter of goat's cheeses, jams and olives, all made by Selia Artisinal Farm under the same roof.





Active Adventures On Land

Horse riding from Ortakent Village

Ortakent Village lies a 30-minute drive from Amanruya, surrounded by beautiful forests and farmland. Here a riding school ensures you are paired with a horse suited to your level of experience, before you venture into the countryside to explore its many winding trails. An hour's guided ride is followed by a picnic breakfast or lunch with panoramic views of the bay and Bodrum Peninsula.

Coastal Hike from Gumusluk Village

The small fishing village of Gumusluk stands on the site of ancient Myndos, a city that lost its seafront to the waves in some long-forgotten earthquake. The submerged remains attract snorkellers and underwater photographers, but it is the hidden coves and coastal cliffs around the town that appeal to hikers. This mild two-hour guided hike starts in the village and takes in the local markets before heading out of town. The town is renowned for its sunsets, so why not finish an afternoon hike with a seafood meal on the quay.





Active Adventures On Sea

Sailing

Turkey's Aegean coastline offers some of the world's most idyllic sailing, with clear turquoise seas and white-sand beaches. Amanruya offers a selection of tailor-made sailing experiences ranging from full-day excursions to island-hopping picnics and romantic sunset cruises.

Amanruya-I is a 40ft Vicem motor yacht with two decks. The air-conditioned lower deck offers a master cabin, bathroom and two comfortable lounges. The upper deck features an open-air sun lounge.

*Morning Cruise: 2 hours with picnic and soft drinks
(Recommended departure: 10am)*

*Half-Day Cruise: 4 hours with picnic and soft drinks
(Recommended departure: 9am or 2pm)*

*Full-Day Cruise: 8 hours with picnic and soft drinks
(Recommended departure: 10am)*

*Sunset Cruise: 2 hours with picnic and soft drinks
(Recommended departure: 7pm)*

Gulet cruise

Sail the coastline in a traditional handmade *gulet*. These gracious two- or three-masted wooden sailing vessels range from 14 to 35 metres and are ideal for exploring the Aegean. Amanruya arranges gulet charters with a trusted local partner.

Fishing

Amanruya has close relationships with local fishermen who know the best spots for catching sea bream, cane fish, black goby and other Mediterranean species. The best times of day to fish are early morning and evening, but afternoon sessions can also be arranged. Our chef will happily prepare your catch for lunch or dinner for a nominal fee.

Watersports

Amanruya's Beach Club offers a range of complimentary watersports equipment including paddle boards, canoes and snorkelling gear. Scuba diving and motorised watersports such as jet skiing or waterskiing can be arranged with an external service provider on request.

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