

āmanrūya

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The Amanruya Experience

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 reminded 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.



Cultural Experiences

Amanruya provides an extensive array of unique cultural experiences and a range of excursions to the wealth of classical sites in the region. These include the ancient ruined cities of Didyma with its towering Temple of Apollo, Priene and its 5,000-seat theatre and Ephesus with its magnificent Gate of Hercules.

The region tells a story spanning 5,000 years of history, providing reminders of its glorious past, vying for attention with spectacular scenery and the cosmopolitan modernity of the Turkish Riviera. Artisan towns with ancient names inhabit the bays nearby, and traditional Turkish gulets drift by on the horizon, plying the turquoise waters between the Aegean's many islands.



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 one hour and 50-minute drive from the resort, Priene is the starting point of your bespoke journey back in time.

Settled before 1000 BC, 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. Today, the stadium still boasts its ancient starting blocks and a gymnasium adorned with 2000-year-old schoolboy graffiti.

A leisurely 30-minute drive south through cotton fields and 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 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.

A further 20-minute 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 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 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.

Pamukkale, Hierapolis and Aphrodisias

By Car or Helicopter

Possible by car but easiest by helicopter (50-minutes with a 48-hour advance reservation required), 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



Kaunian Rock Tombs and Dalyan River Cruise

Full-Day Excursion

The picturesque Dalyan River runs through the town of Dalyan, approximately three hours 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 400 BC.

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 60-minutes by car from Amanruya, Stratonikeia and Lagina are two almost undiscovered ancient sites, joined to each other by a 3,000-year-old, nine-kilometre-long 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 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.

Heraklia and Latmos Hiking Tour

Spend the day with a private guide and hear the love story of Selene, The Goddess of the Moon, while walking in the ancient city of Heraklia founded. Welcomed by wildflowers and surrounded by the gigantic rock formations of the Latmos mountains, the guided hike takes around three hours offering views of the most impressive landscape and showcases examples of Neolithic rock paintings (8000 BC) and Byzantine frescos.

Ephesus

Full-Day Excursion

Just a two-hour drive north of Amanruya lies Ephesus, one of the greatest ruined cities in the western world. Built around 1000 BC, Ephesus had a population of more than 250,000, 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 cared for by St. John the Evangelist.

Following the tour, lunch is held in the tranquil nearby village of Sirince with traditional Turkish dishes and local wine restoring energy levels for the afternoon.

Undiscovered Bodrum and Pedasa Hike

Head off to explore the hidden treasures of the Bodrum Peninsula with an expert guide. From the 2400-year-old monumental tombs of *Gebe Kilise* to the ancient city of Pedasa - one of the oldest civilizations of the Aegean region - guests can march along mountain paths that have been trod for centuries, witnessing the hidden history amongst the trees.

Explore Bodrum

Known as Halicarnassus in ancient times, Bodrum today is one of the South Aegean's most popular seaside destinations, situated just a 20-minute 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 nearby 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 also has several 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 355 BC 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 place in Myndos Gate and the ancient Greco-Roman theatre, before finishing with a picnic on Gumbet Ridge with panoramic views of Bodrum below.



Pottery in Mumcular Village

Turkey is known for its pottery, an artistic tradition since the Ottoman Empire. Just a short 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.

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.

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 can 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.



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 time gone by. The submerged remains attract snorkellers and underwater photographers to explore, but it is the hidden coves and coastal cliffs around the town that appeal to hikers. This gentle two-hour guided hike starts in the village and ventures to the local markets before heading out of town. The area is renowned for its sunsets making it ideal for a seafood dinner on the key afterwards.



Active Adventures at Sea

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.



AMANRUYA

Amanruya Bülent Ecevit Cad.,
Demir Mevkii, Göltürkbükü,
Bodrum, Turkey

Tel: (90) 252 311 12 12

Fax: (90) 252 311 121 3

Email: amanruya@aman.com

aman.com



