

BODRUM





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When You Come to Yokuşbaşı, You Will See Bodrum

Do not Think You Will Return the Same as You Came

Those that Came Before You Were Such as You

They Always Left Their Minds in Bodrum When They Left Away.

*Cevat Şakir KABAAĞAÇLI
(Fisherman of Halicarnassos)*



Herodotus, known as “The Father of History” was born in Bodrum. Panyasis, one of the epic poets of the Classical Era; Dionysios, one of the historians of Augustus Epoch are also fellow townsmen of Bodrum. In addition, respectively Turgut Reis, Fisherman of Halicarnassus, Neyzen Tevfik and one of the most important underwater archaeology museums of the world have been significant values of Bodrum.

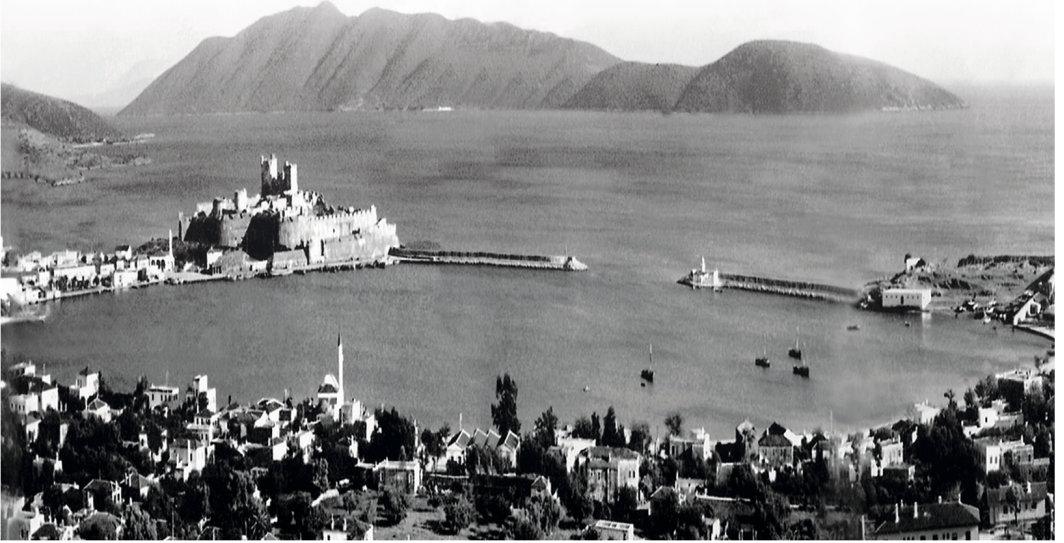
Bodrum is located on a peninsula between the Gulf of Güllük in the North and the Gulf of Gökova in the South. Geographically it is rough, but the interior sides are plain, it is indented and consists of many calcareous areas. As a peninsula, it creates its own microclimate. Summers are hot and arid; winters are rainy and too warm with very low humidity rate.

Initially, the locals often earned their livelihood through fishing, sponge fishing and citrus producing; but later on “sea tourism, entertainment tourism and yachting” became their primary livelihood.

Particularly after 1980s, referred as tourism boom, social life in Bodrum changed completely. Because of tourism incomes, high social life is seen in the entire district. It features all kinds of social and cultural activities in the summer time, in comparison to its rather quiet winters. The large part of the businesses are entertainment venues and accommodation facilities which are open just in the summer.

History of Bodrum Halicarnassus

Even though the history of the district stands out with Halicarnassus, capital city of ancient Caria, historic remains from 1 thousand prove that the history of the district leans earlier eras. Terra-cotta ceramic pieces, ground stones, finished ax findings found in Peynir Çiçeği Cave of Gündoğan town and beaked jugs, cups found in Ortakent town date back to Early Bronze Age. Mycenaean tombs found via archeological excavation are located in the middle of the peninsula in Ortakent (Müsgebi) and in east in Çömlekçi village date back to 2nd half of 2nd thousand BC. The findings from Pedasa and Termera Ancient cities point 1st thousand Geometrical Era prove continuity of settlement on the peninsula. According to ancient writers such as Herodotus, Strabon, Pausanias and Vitruvius, Halicarnassus was a Dorian city and founded by colonists. When Halicarnassus citizens decided to join a contest to build a temple dedicated to Roman Empire Tiberius in 126 BC, they expressed that their city had not experienced any earthquake for 1200 years hence, the temple should be built in their city. According to this information, we may presume the date of establishment as after Troy War. Halicarnassus that was one of the cities adhered to Persian Empire by Commander Harpagos was considered as an Ionian city by 5th century BC. The city that fell under Persian rule in 545 BC and during Athens- Persian Wars in 480 BC, was being administrated by Queen Artemisia whose father was Carian and mother was Cretan. In this period Kos, Nisyros and Kalymnos islands also subjected to Halicarnassus.



Caria that was captured by Persians became a satrap. In 392/391 BC, Hekatomnos became the satrap of Caria in Mylasa with the aid of Persian management. As a result of Hekatomnos' death, his elder son, Maussollos, acceded to the throne in 377/376 BC and carried the capital to Halicarnassus from Mylasa hence, the city became the capital of Hekatomnid administration that lasted for 60 years. During satrapy of Maussollos (377-353 BC), middle-sized Carian city Halicarnassus was reconstructed and furnished with monumental buildings. Aftermath of Maussollos' death in 353 BC, his sister and wife Artemisia ascended the throne. Artemisia, who remained on the throne for 3 years, had a splendid mausoleum built in the memory of her husband that is considered as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Artemisia's victory against Rhodian raiders reinforced her reputation. In 334 BC, Hekatomnos' daughter Ada to the administration of the city that was freed from Persian domination. Aftermath of Alexander the Great's death in 323 BC, with other Carian cities, Halicarnassus came under the domination of Ptolemaios dynasty that had taken Egypt's administration, as well and administrated by this dynasty until 188 BC. In line with Apameia Agreement signed in 188 BC, aftermath of Magnesia War and that ends Seleukos domination in Asia Minor, Caria that contained Halicarnassus, as well was left to ally Rhodian administration.

The city developed and enriched during peace and welfare era of Roman Emperor Augustus. Caria became a province in Diokletianus era in 4th century. After embracing Christianity as official religion, Halicarnassus became the center of episcopacy and adhered to Aphrodisias Metropolitan. In the last quarter of 11th century, Halicarnassus entered under Turkish rule.

When Bodrum came under the rule of Menteşe Principality, it was not as splendid as it used to be. There were no artifacts from Menteşe Principality since the city made no headway then. As a result of the permission given by Ottoman Sultan Çelebi Mehmet, The Knights of Saint John built a castle in Bodrum that ends Menteşe domination in the region. Bodrum captured by Suleiman the Magnificent in 1522 along with Rhodes, remained as a small settlement until 18th century.

Piri Reis who visited the region in 16th century refers both whole shores of Bodrum and the Castle as "Bodrum is a small Castle" in his famous book Kitab-ı Bahriye. Evliya Çelebi visited the location in 1671 and expressed; "Conquered by Suleiman the Magnificent in 928/1522. The Castle surrendered to Palak Mustafa Pasha. It is a township of Menteşe's Karaova district. It does not have chamberlain place and commander-in-chief. It is attached to Sanjak of İstanköy."

Palak Mustafa Pasha Tower situated in Ortakent (Müsgebi) is one of the rare examples that could survive from the beginning of the 17th century. Bodrum shipyard is thought to be built in 1775. Aftermath of arrival of Chief Admiral Kızılhisarlı Mustafa Pasha who was sent to build a shipyard in Bodrum, the city experienced important developments and increases in reconstruction works.

The Mosque in the Pier Square, was built by Kızılhisarlı is one of the oldest and monumental Turkish constructions of the region. Tepecik Mosque located on-shore of Tepecik neighborhood and constructed in 1735 by Mustafa Pasha's butler Hasan Aga and Türkkuyusu Mosque located in Türkkuyusu square and constructed in 1767-68 are the other significant examples of this era.

The Turkish bath constructed by Cafer Pasha, son of Kızılhisarlı Mustafa Pasha and Chief Admiral such as his father, madrasah that is reputed to be near the mosque but could not survive and Hacımollaoglu Han of 1766- 67 and situated in castle street are the important indicators of the remarkable development of the region.

Bodrum that was a township center of Karaova sub-district became a sub-district center as a result of an administrative reform in 1867. Bodrum Castle that was reinforced with a major renovation in the beginning of the 19th century became a prison in 1885 and place of exile. Adliye Mosque located in the Cumhuriyet Square is one of the most important remains from the beginning of 20th century when no important development occurred.

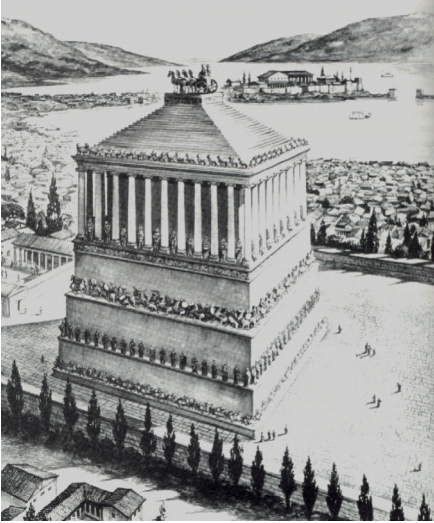
Bodrum Castle

During the Classical Era, Mausollos Palace, Apollon Sanctuary and Hidden Harbor were situated in the peninsula along with the city wall. The first walls of the Castle was completed in 1437 by The Knights of Saint John and the construction lasted during the 15th century and took the name of Saint Peter. The plan of the Castle resembles to a square with its 180 x 185 m dimensions. Inside of the Castle there are five towers named after different country names. The highest tower is the French Tower with its 47,50m height. The other towers are Italian Tower, Spanish Tower (Serpentine Tower), German Tower and English Tower. Emblems of many knights and chevaliers are situated on the seven doors of the Castle.



Mausolleion

The most famous building of Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, splendid Mausolleion's construction was initiated by Maussollos and completed by his wife Artemisia after his death. As a result of the importance of this giant mausoleum that unites Greek architecture with its columns and Egyptian architecture with its pyramidal roof, it becomes the eponym for all latter stately tombs.



One of the persons who saw this construction lastly was Eustathius, a bishop lived in 12th Century AD; which means that this construction remained standing for 1.500 years until it was destroyed by an earthquake. In 1402 when the Knights of St. John arrived, they used it as a stone quarry and built Bodrum Castle by using almost all of its stones. The mausoleum is surrendered by a temenos wall and a propylon of 32 x 38 m on the floor on a 240 x 105 m size area. According to ancient writers, the mausoleum was consisted of four sections.

In the lowest part, there was a pedestal; temple-like unit with 36 Ion columns on the pedestal; 24-stepped pyramidal roof on the temple-like construction and in the highest part, there were sculptures of Maussollos and Artemisia on a carriage with four horses. One of the two-tonner rectangular blocks, that close the burial chamber can be seen on the hallway. The reliefs, Maussollos and Artemisia sculptures and pieces of the carriage with four horses found by English researcher C. Newton had taken to the British Museum. The area where Maussulleion used to be located had been rearranged as a museum.

Ancient Theatre

The first phase of the Theatre that was located in the North of the city and South slopes of Göktepe that used as necropolis, completed in 4th century BC. The Theatre that was repaired and renovated for many times, bears all the features of the theaters of Pre-Roman Empire Era. The Theater is composed of cavea, orchestra and scene and its tiers are divided into 11 pieces by 12-stepped vertical stairs. According to the data acquired so far, there were 53 tiers in the 110 m diameter Theatre hence, it had probably a capacity of 12.000-13.000 audiences.



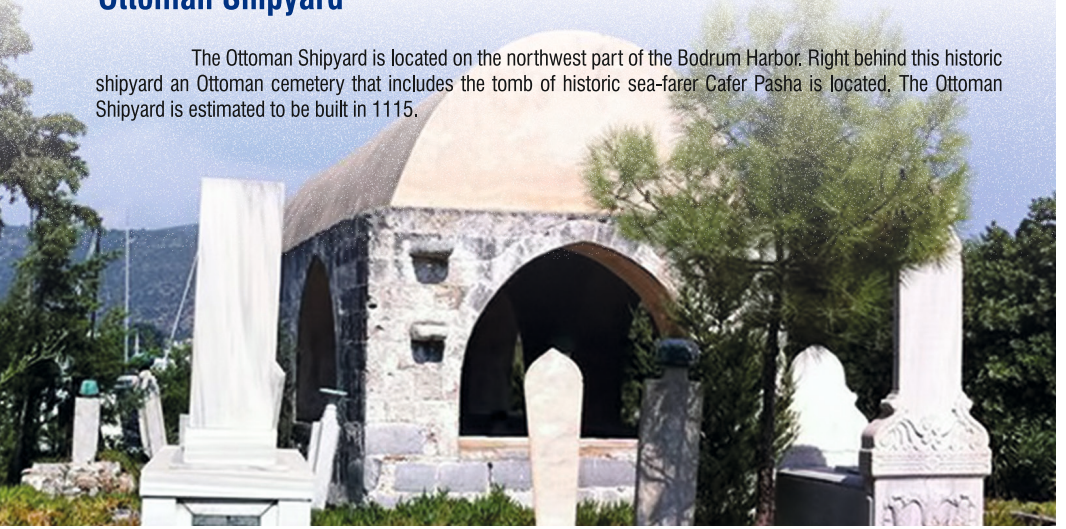
Myndos Gate



Myndos Gate, which was the West entrance of the ancient Halicarnassus, still exists. The Gate consists of three passes and protected by two big towers that were constructed with isodomic dimension stones and periodic traverses. During the excavation of 1998 two 2.50 m-wide doors were found in North and East of the connection walls. These doors are reputed to be poterns. (Back doors)

Ottoman Shipyard

The Ottoman Shipyard is located on the northwest part of the Bodrum Harbor. Right behind this historic shipyard an Ottoman cemetery that includes the tomb of historic sea-farer Cafer Pasha is located. The Ottoman Shipyard is estimated to be built in 1115.



Underwater Archeology Museum



Bodrum Underwater Archeology Museum is the only underwater museum in Turkey and it is one of the most important museums of its type in the world. The Museum began to provide service as Museum Directorate in 1963. Before the other museums of Muğla were established, the archaeological findings had been taken there. The biggest group of artifacts is the collection of amphoras, which is the biggest Eastern Mediterranean amphora collection. In 1895, a hamam (public bath) was installed contiguous to its southern side and ethnographic artifacts are displayed there presently.

The finds belonging to so called “the glass ship wreck” extracted from Serce Harbor near Marmaris are displayed in Glass Wreck Hall, model of the noble women

and her belongings found in a sarcophagus during a foundation control in 1989 are displayed in Carian Princess Hall, the coins are displayed at coins and jewelry hall, the artifacts extracted from a wreck from 7th century in Yassiada which is one of the 14 islands near Turgutreis are displayed in Chapel and the upper story of the English Tower is curated to reflect the past.

Pedasa

The city located in Konack neighborhood’s Gökçeler location is the closest Leleg settlement to Halicarnassus. According to the archeological excavations that have been continuing since 2007, the city has been a settlement since the first thousand. The researches on the city point an important existence of Athena culture. The Holy Place dedicated to the Goddess is situated in the entrance of the city. The acropolis ramparted with inner and outer walls is located in the East of the Holy Place. The city spreads on a large area. Round settlements, farmhouses in different dimensions, stone tumulus draw attention with their dimensions and architectural features.

Telmissos (Telmessos)

One of the cities have the same name is located in Fethiye and the other one is in Gürece location of Bodrum peninsula. There are rather limited information about the history of the city. The city was under the domination of a “Bey” named Tymnes, who coined in his name, in 6th century BC. The city is composed of an acropolis surrendered with inner and outer walls and dispersed buildings on the South slopes. The tower situated on the top of the acropolis and built in Mausollos era is the strongest structure of the city. Since no archeological excavations and environmental planning were conducted in the city, the large part of the ruins are covered with plants.

Strobilos (Aspat)

The ruins situated on the top of the hill in Turgutreis Akyarlar location named presently Aspat were the harbor of the Termera city. The name of the densely populated city in Byzantine period in 8th century is Strobilos. The city fell into Turkish domination in 1270s and the name of the city was registered as Sravalos in 16th century records. During the Principalities Era, the walls of the city were repaired and some parts were renovated. Apart from a citadel and the ruins around, there is a restored hammam from Byzantine Period and ruins of a harbor can be seen.

Termera

The researches show that the ruins on Asarlık Tower close to Akyarlar Mandra village belong to Termera Ancient City. The name of the city was used in a coin from 5th century BC and tax lists of Athens. The fortification walls on Asarlık Hill, entrance door and necropolis area of the city that lean back to 1st thousand can be seen.

Myndos

Myndos that was not emptied by Mausollos and one of the cities that resisted against Alexander the Great is located in Gümüřlük. Most of the city stayed under the modern settlement, however, two harbors, a theatre, an agora and fortification walls of the ancient city can still be seen. In Tavřan Island located just in front of the city, there are ruins of a chapel, houses and buildings belong to Byzantine Era. The Island can be reached from Myndos Harbor by walking on the ruins in the sea. The city that was the center of episcopatism took the name of "Amyndos".

Madnasa

The ruins of the city are located on the top of the hill situated between Türkbükü and Gülköy. As a result of detailed surface researches, it is understood that the city was surrounded with walls and consisted of structure groups in the acropolis. The city is one of the cities emptied due to the politics of Mausollos and a tower was constructed by him on the highest point of the hill. An observation tower and rock tombs in the West of the settlement came until today.

Syangela/Theangela

Syangela/Theangela is one of the best protected ancient cities of the peninsula with its ruins on three hills of Etrim village. The city is one of the most important cities of Caria Region with its city walls protected in a large extent, tetraprygos structure (citadel with four towers) and public and civil structures covered with plants.

Anastasioupolis (Kissebükü)

The ruins of Mazıköy Hissebükü in Mumcular Town from mid and late 5th century are called Anastasioupolis. The city, known with its late ancient age structures from 5-6th centuries AD, was settled continually until Mid-Byzantine Era. The city has a circular form that can be dated to early era, a wall structure supported with towers and an acropolis with cove view. On the slopes of the acropolis, there are two churches in basilical plan dated to late ancient era and a well-protected baptistery. The hammam from Early Byzantine Period, jetty on the harbor and the ruins of the structures between the coast and the acropolis are worth seeing.

Ouranion- Geriř Village

The name of the city was mentioned for the first time in the Athens tax lists. The most important construction of the settlement located in the Geriř village Burgaz hill is the tumulus mausoleum dating 4th – 5th century BC. Moreover, there are ruins of the constructions from Mausollos Era other than the tower.

Sandıma

Sandıma that was one of the villages of Isravalos (Sravalos) township of Menteře shire, draws attention with its traditional fabric and civil architecture constructions. Charitable constructions such as mosques, fountains, wells from Ottoman Era; canals, fountains and schools from Republic Period still exist in the presently abandoned village.

Girel

Girel village is one of the settlements that preserve the local architecture best. The name of the village was mentioned as Belen in the records of 16th century Sravalos shire village records. There is no exact information about the founders and the foundation date of the village, however, a mosque and a fountain was constructed by Süleyman Pasha in 1748. There are two fountains in the village where a school was built by the locals in 1932. The village also has the ruins of Sibde/Sibba ancient city that was one of the eight Leleg cities.

Windmills

The windmills are the leading industrial constructions that shows Ottoman Era's rural identity on the peninsula. The windmills situated single or as a group on the windswept areas, hills, summits or their slopes, made of face stone or rubble stone and have cylindrical form. The windmills with tin covered conical wood roofs are accessed via round-arched or flat wooden-linteled simple doors. The windmills are enlightened by the daylight filtered from the small battlement windows and they have a furnace, niches, ground stone and a mechanism for wheat milling. You may see the best examples of windmills of the peninsula in Bitez, Turgutreis Islamhaneleri village, Peksimet village, Sandıma Kırıltepe, Gökçebel and Ortakent.



Local Cuisine

- Stuffed Squash Blossoms (Kabak Çiçeği Dolması)
- Pounded Chicken and Wheat (Keşkek)
- Roasted Herbs (Acıot / Sarmaşık Kavrması)
- Sea Beans (Deniz Börülcesi)
- Okra/Ladies Fingers with Olive Oil (Zeytinyağlı Barmya)
- Radish Salad (Turp Otu Salatası)
- Fried Squash Blossoms (Kabak Çiçeği Kızartması)
- Black-Eyed Beans (Taze Börülce Yemeği)
- Mustard Salad (Hardalotu Salatası)

Harbors and Marinas

There are three harbors and four international marinas in Bodrum.

Bodrum Municipal Harbor

It serves totally 300 ships; with 200 ships at the inner port, 60 ships at Kumbahçe Pier and waiting buoys at the harbor front. The harbor, which is 11 miles away from Kos (İstanköy) Island, is a border crossing for the yachts coming from Europe to Turkey.

Bodrum Passenger Harbor

It is 36 kilometers away from Bodrum-Milas International Airport and it is a few minutes within walking distance from the city center. It has the capacity to serve both two big passenger ships with three motor boats at the same time. Apart from the ship pier, the total length of the landing stages is 300 meters. In addition to the landing stages, there are three ferry ramps at the harbor.

Bodrum Bays and Beaches

Güvercinlik: The bay of unusual beauty with every conceivable tone green and blue is located 25 km far from Bodrum. Salih Island, located right across the water and the biggest island of Muğla, attracts a great attention.

Torba: A peaceful little village just 5 km from Bodrum, is a charming yet lively place where the shining sea melds with the green pines and olive trees. There are boats going to Didim, Milet and Priene from there.

Göltürbükü: Situated at a distance from Bodrum of 13 km, it is one of our natural wonders combining the sea with pine, tangerine and palm trees.

Gündoğın Bay: Located 18 km from Bodrum, Gündogan Bay is one of the bays that has been least changed by man and which still preserves its beauty in the most natural way. The Bay is famous with its tangerine orchards.

Yalıkavak: Located 18 km from Bodrum, it is in the northwest of the peninsula. Reknown with its windmills, sea, fish and citrus; it is also the place where the most famous sponge-divers come from.

Bardakçı Bay: Water was carried to Bodrum with the jugs, called "bardak" by the locals. There are many hotels around the bay. Its beach is sandy.

Gümüřlük: It is one of the oldest settlement areas of the peninsula. It is possible to see the ruins of the old harbor, which connects Rabbit Island to the land. Gumusluk renown with its clear sea and fish is also remarkable for its flora diversity.

Kadıkalesi: Kadıkalesi surrounded with the crystal clear sea and citrus orchards, is situated 23 km away from Bodrum. It gets its name from the remains of a nearby castle belonging to the Hellenistic era.

Gümbet: It is an excellent place for daily boat tours, and water sports like banana, ringo, parasailing and jet ski.

Akyarlar: This bay with its wonderful beach and crystal clear waters is 13 km from Bodrum. It is one of the best places in the world to surf. Its ancient name is Arhialla.

Bağla Bay: With one of the best bays and beaches on the peninsula, it is an excellent place to camp and is 14 km far from Bodrum.

Turgutreis: It is named for the famous Turkish Admiral Turgut (Dragut) Reis. It is the second most populous area after Bodrum. The town is famous for its tangerine orchards and it is known for its unforgettable sunsets.

Bodrum Gulet

Gulet is a traditional design of a two-masted or three-masted wooden sailing vessel, particularly built in the coastal towns of Bodrum. The gulet building is handed down from father to son, from mentor to apprentice. Today's examples are very modern and elegant. Gulets are completely handmade which are constructed by the mentors with their identical forms. The construction durations at least one year with team work.





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