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**Excursions In Mersin Cesmeli, Turkey**

**By Freelance Writer**

Turkey is the newest holiday destination for many Europeans. Turkey is building many apartment complexes all over the country and especially along the Mediterranean coast. A city that has such an apartment complex is Mersin Cesmeli on the southern coast of Turkey.

Not just for blue seas and the beautiful weather, Mersin is also known for the many fun things a tourist can do for fun. There are many tours, and fun things to do. For example the Heaven and Hell Tour which visits some of the cavas that bear the same name.

You leave at 9 am to visit the Heaven and Hell Caves, after which another cave is on the program, which has the somewhat medical name: the asthma caves. Then it is off to the Akyar or white rocks; a real treat for the eyes. Lunch is included in this tour and after lunch you're off to some mosaic museums in Narlikuyu. The day ends with a visit to the Kizkalesi, also named the Maiden's Castle.

After a day of natural wonders it is time to see some human history. The Uzuncaburc Tour for example gives you the chance to visit the Cambazli church and the Olba (aqueduct.) Uzuncaburc was given city status and renamed to Diocaesarea in 72 AD and in the area you can visit the the Zeus Olbios temple, amfitheater, Tyche temple, city- and parade port, Hellenistic Tower. In the end of the day you will return to your hotel via Isikkale and Karakabakli, 2 old roman establishments.

Back to nature with a bird tour! The Bird Paraidid Tour for example is great fun if you love the flying inhabitants of Mersin Cesmeli and its surroundings. One tip is to go with the early tour that starts at 7 am already to make sure all birds are still in the mood to show of their beauty. The walk takes about 4 hours and lunch is included. Obviously it is smart to wear good shoes and it is also advised to bring water as there are no places to buy drinks during the walk. After the walk a lunch is included.

Perhaps by now you need a day to rest and enjoy a day at the pool of the apartment complex. But there are more tours and excursions available around Mersin and they're too good to pass. The Alahan Convent Tour could be your next excursion. A visit to the Frederick Barbarossa Monument at the Göksu river for example is an excellent option, followed by a stop at the bridge over the Göksu to appreciate the beautiful panorama. This is a great place to take some wonderful pictures. (with or

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without you in the foreground) The day isn't over at this time. Next on the program is a lunch in the city Mut, which is famous for its mosque from the time of the Seldjoeken and the Pasha tombe. Then you get the chance to visit a park that contains trees of over 300 years old. The day ends with a visit to a typical Turkish herbs and spices market.

The ruins of Basilicas (Kanli Divane) from Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods can be visited with the Kanli Divane Tour, which starts at 9 am. Also on the program is Ayas a ruin of an amphitheatre. Korykos, the vestiges of what in former days was the village of Kizkalesi is next on the program followed by a lunch in the same village.

Let's go on with a relaxing Pick nick Tour. There are 2 locations for this pick nick, the Kayacik Valley and Akyar. The choice of which of these 2 locations to go to, depends mostly on the weather. After the pick nick the rest of the day can be enjoyed at the apartment complex, which by now should be your favorite resting place.

Are you still up for more walking and fun?

Then lets continue with a mountain walking tour through some mountain villages and by the Göksu river. You will get to do a firm walk and visit some authentic Turkish mountain villages and get a taste of the rural and country life of Turkey. The tour ends with a typical Turkish rural meal in one of the villages.

Last but not least, for the real hunters out there, we can on a Boar Hunt Tour in the woods of Silifke. The tour is more expensive, but is guided by an experienced hunter and guns and ammunition are provided. You will have to walk a lot during this tour though, most likely because the boars don't agree much with your plans for that day.

Mersin Cesmeli and its surroundings are an exiting, adventurous place to spend your vacation. The numerous excursions and activities available keep every active vacationer busy, but at the same time the relaxation seeker can have just as much fun in the apartment complex.

This article was written by B. Rane, sponsored by

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) in the apartment complex Liparis in Mersin

Cesmeli.

## **The History Of Mersin Cesmeli**

### **By Freelance Writer**

The city of Mersin, once known as Oçel, is situated in along the eastern Mediterranean shores of Turkey. It is considered an important part of the cradle of civilization. The region has been dominated by many empires ever since the Neolithic period (6300 B.C.), each leaving signs of their inhabitanace. Some of the people that have spanned this region include the Calcholithic, Hittite, Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Byzantine and Ottoman civilizations. Besides its position along major trading routes and its natural harbor, the city was a major producer of molybdenum (white lead) and even minted its own coins. Its location has led it to become extremely rich in history and culture.

Being a port city in the cradle of civilization meant that this city has unique historical significance. During the Ancient Greek period, the city was named Zephyrion. One famous geographer called the region Cilicia, dividing it in two parts: rugged Cilicia and flat Cilicia. The capital of both Cilicias was Tarsus, and Mersin was then the gateway to Tarsus.

The province of Tarsus is of particular interest as many important historical figures have made their mark on this region. Mark Antony and Cleopatra met in Tarsus in 42 B.C. He was so enchanted by her that he gave the lands between Alanya and Mersin to Cleopatra as a marriage gift shortly thereafter. It was here that they made their feasts while together constructing a fleet for the battle of Actium. In this battle, Mark Antony sought unsuccessfully to regain control of the Roman Empire. This region became part of the Roman Empire in 66 B.C. and lost some of its luster as the main trading posts had then moved to Constantinople. Another significant figure to have played a role in the region was Saint Paul, born Paul of Tarsus in 9 A.D. He took refuge several times in this city after his conversion to Christianity.

This region was always highly disputed and was constantly switching rule. It remained in Roman hands until the Arabs invaded the area in the seventh century, where they remained until 965 B.C. when it was annexed to the Byzantine Empire. It remained under Byzantine control for nearly a century. The crusaders captured it from the Turks in 1097, although failed to keep power. The region was disputed by the Latins, Greeks, and Armenians and became territory of the Armenians until about 1360 when the Muslims gained control. The city was conquered by the Ottomans in 1473 and remained so until the beginning of the world wars.

More recently, during the American Civil War, the region became a major supplier of cotton due to the shortage in the United States. This led to the extension of the railroad from Adana to Mersin in 1866 where cotton was exported by sea. The city then grew into a major port city and trade center. During World War I, British and French troops gained control of the city, which was soon after liberated by the Turkish army.

Nowadays the city thrives on its port activities and tourism. There is a publicly owned free trade zone established in Mersin (the first established in Turkey), which is a busy center for investors, with international transportation nearby. The town is also surrounded by resorts and over 108 kilometers of spectacular beaches. They are popular because of their thin sand, cleanliness and excellent location for underwater hunting. There are plenty of ruins to visit, as well as historic mosques and public

bathhouses with interesting mosaics.

Mersin is a historically and culturally diverse city. Its location along the ancient trading routes and proximity to so many powerful empires led many important figures to cross through. It is no wonder that this land was so disputed. Added to its natural Mediterranean beauty, its this makes Mersin a city of great historical importance worth visitors' awe and respect.

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