



# Mersin at a Glance



**Hasan Basri GÜZELOĞLU**  
The Governor of Mersin

## Mersin's Basic Indicators

**Size (based on inhabitants)** / Turkey's 10th largest province

**Socioeconomic development index** / 24th (among 81 provinces)

**Foreign trade volume of the Mersin's hinterland** / 23 billion \$

**Export of the Mersin's hinterland** / 8,1 billion \$

**Import of the Mersin's hinterland** / 14,9 billion \$

**Foreign trade volume of firms in Mersin** / 2,80 billion \$

**Export of firms in Mersin** / 1,57 billion \$

**Import of firms in Mersin** / 1,23 billion \$

**Unemployment rate, yearly-average** / 12,4 %  
2013 data



**The Governorsip Building**

## Geography

**Surface Area** / 15.853 km<sup>2</sup>

**Neighboring cities** / Adana, Antalya, Konya, Karaman, Niğde

**Biggest counties and their populations** /

Tarsus: 321.403, Akdeniz: 279.383, Toroslar: 277.658, Yenişehir: 224.895, Mezitli: 158.482, Erdemli: 130.226

**Highest Hill** / Medetsiz Hill at 3529 meters, Bolkarlar

**Rivers** / Göksu River, Berdan Stream

**Lakes** / Akgöl and Paradeniz lagoon, Keklik Lake, Aygır Lake, Kamışlı Lake, Uzun Lake

**Surface** / The province contains plateaus that stretch all the way to the highest peaks of the Taurus Mountains in the north and stretches all the way to the southwest along eastern Mediterranean. Plains in and around Mersin start at the Mersin-Adana border and continue all the way to Silifke, parallel to the mountains.

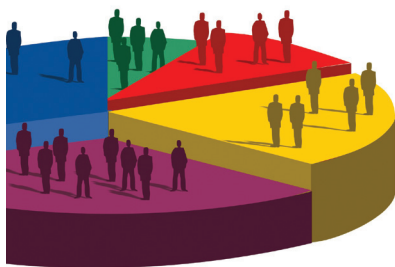
**Climate** / Mediterranean climate is dominant in the shores of Mersin so the summers are hot and dry and winters are warm and rainy. Terrestrial climate is dominant in mountainous regions.



The map of Mersin which shows city borders



Kızkalesi, which takes its name from the town it is located in, was built on a small islet. Its epigraph states that it was commissioned by Leon I in 1199.



## Population and Demography

**Inhabitants** / 1.705.774

**Yearly population growth rate** / 13,53 ‰

**Population density** / 110 people/km<sup>2</sup>

**Population of city and county centers** / 1.347.562

**Urbanization rate** / 79%

**Net immigration rate** / -2,4 ‰

2013 data

### Political parties that represent Adana in the TBMM and the number of seats:

Justice and Development Party : 4 ● ● ● ●

Republican People's Party : 4 ● ● ● ●

Nationalist Movement Party : 2 ● ●

Independent members of the TBMM : 1 ●



Silifke folk Dance troop performing

# History

## Oldest civilizations in Mersin

7000-6500 B.C. Oldest Neolithic Age Settlement Layer

4500 B.C.: Neolithic Age, the first castle like structure in Yumuktepe

4000-3000 B.C.: The first copper smelting facility with the arrival of the Bronze Age

3000-2700 B.C.: Early Bronze Age

1900-1200 B.C.: Hurri, Luwian, Arzawa, Hittite kingdoms, Kizzuvatna civilization

1190-112 B.C.: Kue, Assyria, Cilicia, Persian, Hellenistic, Seleucids, Pirates, Romans

395 A.D.: Collapse of the Roman Empire

700-800: Abbasi rule

900-1000: Byzantine rule

1000-1100: Seljuk period

## Mersin's history:

1800-1850: The village hosts the Turcoman clan

1850: Greeks that come from the Cappadocia region become prominent in the population

1866: Mersin becomes a port and trade center after the city is connected to the railway network where the agricultural products of Çukurova are exported

1873: Salih Bey, the first Mayor of Mersin is appointed

## Recent History

1918: Mersin is officially occupied by enemy forces  
January 3, 1922: Mersin is freed from enemy occupation

1924: Mersin becomes a province

1933: Mersin is merged with the province of İçel and named "İçel"

1950-1951 Müfide İlhan, Turkey's first female Mayor is appointed to Mersin.

1993: Mersin Municipality becomes a metropolitan municipality

2002: The name "İçel" is changed to "Mersin"



The marble lion statue from the Roman period on display at the Mersin Museum





**Tarsus mosaic.** It is believed that Tarsus mosaic was used in a saloon of an ancient Greek house



**Gözlükule Bronze Age artifacts and artifacts unearthed at Tarsus Cumhuriyet area, Donuktaş – Roman temple and Danyal Mosque Camii are displayed in the Archaeological and Ethnography Wings at the Tarsus Museum.**



**Head of Hadrianus Roman Empire on display at the Mersin Museum A.D. 117-138**

## The History of Mersin

Mersin, since 1700 B.C., has hosted civilizations such as the Kizzuvatna Kingdom, Phrygians, Persians, Seleucids, Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire, Arabs, the Anatolian Seljuk State, the Armenian Kingdom, Karamanoğulları, Ramazanoğulları and Ottomans. Mersin, which was invaded during WW1, was freed on January 3, 1922. Mersin was named a province in 1924, was merged with the province of İçel in 1933. The name was changed to Mersin in 2002.



**Inscription about the settlement of Arsinoe city (Bozyazı-Çubukkoyağı), on display at the Mersin Museum, 260 B.C.**



**Amphorae designed for marine transport, taken from shipwrecks of the Bronze Age, on display at the Anamur Museum**

## Mersin Museums

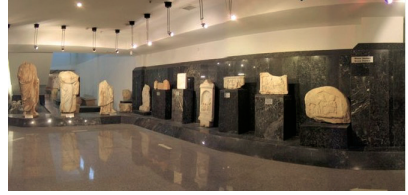
Archeological and ethnographic artifacts are displayed in three different galleries at the Mersin Museum. In the first hall, there are Roman period marble statue head, steles and amphorae. Terracotta tombs were unearthed in the antique city of Pompeipolis. Artifacts that date back to the Stone, Bronze and Early Bronze Age, unearthed during excavations at ancient settlements like Yumuktepe and Gözlükule are displayed in the second gallery. These artifacts include bowls with two handles, bowls with handles that resemble cups, amphorae and various colored bowls. In addition, various earthenware, glass and bronze objects, bronze, silver and gold coins belonging to the early Bronze Age, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods are also displayed in this gallery. The lead figurine from 2000 B.C. and seals from the Hittite period are important artifacts at the museum. Silver Urartu bracelets, beads, seals and various jewelry from the Hellenistic period, glass items from the Roman period, golden tiaras and earrings are also exhibited. Various stone artifacts and pithos are displayed in the garden of the museum. There are 999 coins and 446 ethnographic items in display at the museum. Mosaics that depict geometric designs and plants unearthed during excavations in Anamur, red and black figurines dating back to 6th century B.C. unearthed in Aydıncık, stone epigraphs, mill stones, terracotta statues and bas reliefs from the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods and stone engravings that depict ornamental plants and animals are displayed at the Anamur Museum. The Silifke Museum displays a silver coin collection found in Meydancık Castle belonging to the Hellenistic period, various jewelry from the 2nd and 4th centuries, candelabrum, and terracotta and stone statues. There are also decorated vases from the 4th and 5th centuries B.C. at the museum. Mersin also hosts the State Art and Sculpture Museum and Gallery, The Tarsus Museum, St Paul Museum, Taşucu Amphora Museum, Atatürk Museum and Mersin Nautical Museum, where valuable artifacts are exhibited.

## The liberation of Mersin on January 3, 1922

Mersin, which was liberated on January 3, 1922, celebrates the events with various ceremonies every year.



**In the Yumuktepe Display at the Mersin Museum, artifacts unearthed during excavations, stone and obsidian tools, terracotta bowls, weaving weights, axes, knives, a glass scarab and a glass candelabrum from the Islamic period are displayed**



**Gözlükule Bronze Age artifacts and artifacts unearthed at Tarsus Cumhuriyet area, Donuktaş – Roman temple and Danyal Mosque Camii are displayed in the Archeological Wing at the Tarsus Museum.**



**Terracotta tools unearthed at Anamur are displayed in the Ethnographic Wing at the Anamur Museum**

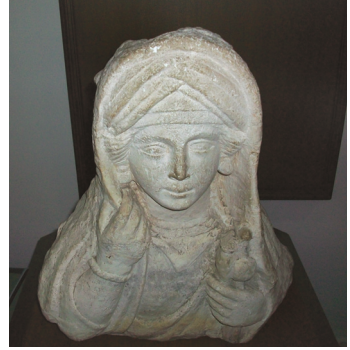




Head of the Young Girl  
Statue at the Mersin  
Museum, Roman period,  
3-4th century A.D.



Antique Greek  
potteries  
displayed at the  
Anamur Museum



Female bust in the Mersin  
Museum, Roman period,  
30 B.C.- 330 A.D.



Antique Greek lekythos potteries  
unearthed at Anamur displayed  
at the Anamur Museum



4th and 5th century B.C. artifacts from  
the Hellenistic Period on display at  
the Silifke Museum



Shots from the memorial  
service commemorating the  
liberation of Mersin at the  
Congress and Exhibition  
center of the Mersin  
Metropolitan Municipality

# Municipality



## Metropolitan Municipality Mayor:

Burhanettin KOCAMAZ (Since April 2014)

**Metropolitan Municipality Council:** Consists of 78 elected members from various walks of life such as craftsmen, farmers, merchants, architects, engineers, sociologists, bankers, lawyers, tourism professionals, teachers, businessmen and retirees.



**Burhanettin KOCAMAZ, Mayor of  
Mersin Metropolitan Municipality**

## Mersin Metropolitan Municipality

The Mersin Metropolitan Municipality was established in 1993 and consists of three bodies; Metropolitan Council, Mayor and Municipal Committee. The Metropolitan Council, headed by Mayor Burhanettin KOCAMAZ, consists of elected members and is the final decision making body of the organization.

## Non Governmental Organizations

In Mersin, the Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MTSO) established in 1886, Mersin Commodity Exchange (MTB), Mersin Chamber of Maritime Trade (MDTO) and Tarsus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TTSO) are the most powerful professional institutions. MTSO has more than 20000 members. Turkey's first chamber of commerce is TTSO, which was established in Tarsus. MTB is responsible for regulating and monitoring safe trade of agricultural products and farm animals. MDTO is the only maritime trade chamber that belongs to a single city. It has a big role in developing and improving sea commerce in Mersin.

**Mersin Metropolitan Municipality  
(stone building)**







Organic strawberry production is becoming widespread in Silifke and Atayurt.



Bunch tomatoes have become very popular thanks to their unique aroma and taste.



20 tons of special types of bananas developed by the Çukurova University called "Azman" and "Şimşek" are being produced each year. The smell and taste of these types are the same as the traditional Anamur banana while their weight is closer to imported bananas.

# Agriculture

Agricultural production value / **5,44 billion TL**

The share of vegetative production value in Turkey / **4,9%**

The share of live stock and animal products value in Turkey / **1,2%**

The share of fruit production of Mersin in Turkey / **first with 11%**

The share of citrus production of Mersin in Turkey / **first with 33%**

The share of vegetable production of Mersin in Turkey / **third with 7%**

The share of greenhouse products of Mersin in Turkey / **second with 16%**

2011-2013 data

The total agricultural land in Mersin is 406.000 hectares. 65% of this land is reserved for dry agriculture and 35% is reserved for irrigated agriculture. A wide range of products are grown in Mersin. Field plants are mainly produced due to the density of dry agricultural fields and the number one product is wheat, which is widespread in the counties of Tarsus and Mut. Citrus, banana, apricot, strawberry, apple and cherry are mainly grown in irrigated fields. In addition, open field and greenhouse vegetable production has a big place in the city's economy. Tomatoes make up 50% of all vegetable production. Strawberry producers in the counties of Silifke export over 15 tons of products each year. Strawberry harvest season, which is around 4 months in Turkey, has been extended to 8 months in Silifke. The micro climatic climate of Anamur enables the growth of a sub-tropic greenhouse product named the Anamur banana. One third of Turkey's yearly banana needs are provided by Anamur.

Lemons make up 34% of Turkey's total citrus export. Mersin is the number one lemon producer in Turkey.



# Economy

## Mersin's important macro economic indicators

**Foreign trade volume of the Mersin's hinterland / 23 billion \$**

**Exports of the Mersin's hinterland / 8,1 billion \$**

**Imports of the Mersin's hinterland / 14,9 billion \$**

**Foreign trade volume of firms in Mersin / 2,80 billion \$**

**Exports of firms in Mersin / 1,57 billion \$**

**Imports of firms in Mersin / 1,23 billion \$**

**Unemployment rate / 12,4%**

2013 data

Mersin, which is an important logistics center and port city, is one of the country's most important economic development centers with its agriculture and food industry, tourism and logistics sectors. The Çukurova Region, which also includes Mersin, is being called an alternative growth point to the Marmara basin and regarded as an attraction point. Mersin, which as an important gateway in Turkey that opens up to the Middle East, the Mediterranean, North Africa, Europe, the Russian Federation and Central Asia Turkic Republics, becomes more important with its strategic location and logistical capabilities.

The 116 companies operating out of the Mersin-Tarsus Organized Industrial Zone have an important role in the economy of Mersin. The metal goods-machine and transportation vehicles industries have numerical superiority in the zone with 38 companies. This is followed by chemical, petrol goods, tire and plastic goods industries with 28 companies, 24 companies that work in the food, liquor and tobacco industry, 9 companies from the metal industry, 9 companies from the stone and mining industry, 4 companies from the wood and furniture industry and 4 companies from the paper and paper products industry.



**Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant is planned to be built in Büyükeceli Gülnar**

## Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant

Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) is planned to be built by Akkuyu NGS A.Ş. in Büyükeceli, Gülnar district of Mersin Province on the Mediterranean coast. An agreement on this has been signed by the governments of Russia and Turkey in Ankara on May 12, 2010. The NPP will have four power units of 1200 MW each.

## Workforce

Unemployment rate in Mersin has soared to 14,1% in 2010 due to the global economic crisis but is now around 12,4. Employment rate has recently reached 44,4 and has lied under Turkey's average.

## Transportation Infrastructure

Transportation in Mersin is mainly carried out via highways, railways and sea. Even though there isn't an airport in Mersin, air services are carried out via the Adana Airport, which is 69 kilometers from the city. There are fast train services between Mersin and Adana and the journey lasts only 45 minutes. The fact that the city is close to big international markets and has string transportation



**The Mersin Free zone Port was established in 1986 as Turkey's first and biggest private sector port and is managed by MESBAŞ.**



**The MIP Port is an important hub port built by the expertise of PSA International and AKFEN.**



**The project of the Çukurova Regional Airport, which will be the joint airport of Adana and Mersin, has begun with the contract signed between DHMİ and Çukurova International Airport in May 2012. The project is expected to be completed in 20 months.**

opportunities, make Mersin an attraction point for many companies in the Mediterranean, Middle East, North Africa, Europe, the Russian Federation and Turkic Republics. This strengthens the competitive power of Mersin in international trade and its economy. Distribution of fruits and vegetables, an important trade in the economy of Mersin, is realized mainly via highways. Important corridors between production areas and markets pass through the city. The total highway length in the city, including village roads, is 6463 kilometers. Motorway length has reached 157 kilometers. The railway length is 106 kilometers. The Mersin International Port (MIP), which is open for international petrol and product transportation and cruise ships, the port at the Mersin Free Zone, Taşucu Port and the Mersin Marina which is open for international yacht tourism are hubs in sea transportation.

## Top 500 Industrial Companies

According to the first and second 500 biggest companies report, compiled by the Istanbul Chamber of Industry for the year 2013, 7 companies from Mersin have made it to the first 500 and 3 have made it to the second 500. Five of these companies operate in the agriculture-food sector, one in the cement sector, two in the metal products and construction materials sector and one in the mining sector.

## Tourism in Mersin and the Mediterranean Games

108 kilometers of the 321 kilometer long shore of Mersin is made up of natural beaches. These beaches host hundreds of tourists each year. Mersin, which is an outdoor museum with its natural and cultural assets, is being recognized lately in national and international fairs. The city harbors important touristic assets such as the Alahan Monastery, Heaven and Hell, Kızkalesi, Ayaş, Eshab-ı Kehf Cave, antique remains of Anamurium and Cleopatra door. There are important beaches in Anamur, Kızkalesi, Susanoğlu and Ayaş. Tisan, Taşucu, Narlıkuyu and Dana Island are frequented by domestic tourists. Gözne, Ayvagediği, Soğucak, Fındıkpinarı, Çamlıyayla, Namrun and Sorgun are popular plateaus. The county of Tarsus in Mersin has become

the center of religious tourism ever since Pope XVI. Benedict declared 2008 the year of Saint Paul. The Alahan Monastery in Mut and the Saint Paul Museum in Tarsus have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2008.

In addition, the International Mersin Music Festival is organized in religious and antique sites such as Kanlıdivane, Tarsus St. Paul Museum, the Latin Catholic Church, Mersin Cultural Center and Kızkalesi. The untapped nature of Mersin, its rich cultural heritage and mystical religious sites makes Mersin an ideal vacation spot for Christians. Mersin has hosted the 17th Mediterranean Games on June 20-30, 2013. 32 competitions have been organized during the games. Nearly 3000 sportsmen from 24 countries have been hosted in Mersin and Adana. The games have generated an important economic activity in the region.

## Foreign Capital Investments

Investment opportunities in Mersin continue to grow. In recent years, Mersin has invested in organized industrial zones, the free trade zone and its ports, has strengthened its infrastructure and has managed to draw attention from foreign investors. There are 676 companies with foreign capital operating in Mersin. Mersin is 8th in Turkey in this regard. 47% of companies with foreign capital operate in the wholesale-retail trade, 14% in the



**Mersin hosted the 17th Mediterranean Games on June 20-30, 2013. Turkey ranked second in the list of medal-winning countries with 47 gold, 43 silver and 36 bronze medals.**

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[www.ekonomi.gov.tr](http://www.ekonomi.gov.tr)

Ministry of Economy

[mersin.sanayi.gov.tr](http://mersin.sanayi.gov.tr)

Provincial Directorate of Science, Industry and Technology

[www.treasury.gov.tr](http://www.treasury.gov.tr)

Undersecretariat of Treasury

[www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)

Turkish Statistical Institute

[www.cka.org.tr](http://www.cka.org.tr)

Çukurova Development Agency

[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

EU Statistics Office AB (Eurostat)

[www.iso.org.tr](http://www.iso.org.tr)

İstanbul Chamber of Industry

[www.mtso.org.tr](http://www.mtso.org.tr)

Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[www.tarsustso.org](http://www.tarsustso.org)

Tarsus Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[www.mdto.org](http://www.mdto.org)

Mersin Chamber of Maritime Commerce

[www.mersintb.org](http://www.mersintb.org)

Mersin Commodity Exchange



**The Opening Ceremony of the 17th Mediterranean Games held in Mersin on June 20, 2013.**



### Industrial companies from Mersin which have made it to the top 1.000 list in Turkey

1. Çimsa Çimento San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
2. Başhan Tarımsal Ürünleri Pazarlama San. ve Dış Tic. A.Ş.
3. Tilaga Madencilik ve Sınai Yatırımlar A.Ş.
4. Teknopanel Çatı ve Cephe Panelleri Üretim San.Tic. A.Ş.
5. Memişoğlu Tarım Ürünleri Ticaret Ltd. Şti.
6. Arbel Bakliyat Hububat San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
7. Durum Gıda San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
8. Özbal Çelik Boru San. Tic. ve Taahhüt A.Ş.
9. Çukurova İnşaat Makinaları San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
10. Tarsus'tan bir firma

communication, transportation and storage services sector, and 12% in the production industry, mainly food and beverage production, textile, furniture production and chemical production.

52% of these companies are partnered by Middle Eastern companies, 25% by European Union companies and 10% by other Asian companies.

### Foreign Trade

In 2013, exports realized by companies in Mersin have increased by 19,4% making the total 1,57 billion dollars while imports have increased by 8,7%, making the total 1,23 billion dollars. Foreign trade volume has increased by 14,8% making the total 2,80 billion dollars. 17% of the exports and 9% of the imports realized in the Mersin hinterland have been established by firms based in Mersin. Mersin exports mainly to Iraq and the Russian Federation while imports mostly from India, USA and China.

### Culture and Sports Organizations

Mersin is a city of festivals. The International Tarsus Marathon, the Akdeniz Municipality Children's Theatre Festival, Mersin University Culture and Sports Festival, the International Silifke Cultural Week, Yenice Peace and Culture Festival, Tarsus Karacaoğlan Poetry Nights, the Mersin International Music Festival, the Mersin Classical Music Festival and the Mersin Citrus Festival are important events not only in Mersin but the entire country.

### Top 12 countries Mersin imports from

Country	Import (Dollar)
India	136.508.723
USA	126.936.822
China	115.584.505
Canada	88.649.457
Italy	80.830.464
Russian Fed.	66.101.047
Germany	53.501.165
South Korea	47.679.431
Israel	39.370.451
Greece	36.433.010
Equator	33.332.779
Venezuela	29.566.290

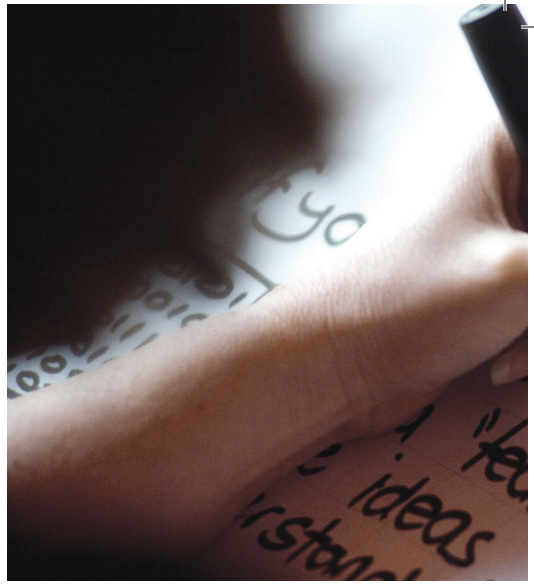
### Countries and Export Numbers Top 12 Countries Mersin Exports to

Countries	Export ( Dollar)
Iraq	227.368.628
Russian Fed.	125.304.788
Iran	81.722.739
Germany	80.887.018
Ukraine	55.705.424
Mersin Free Zone	51.401.178
Turkish Rep. of Northern Cyprus	50.543.685
Israel	34.410.632
Egypt	31.409.970
Azerbaijan	26.191.092
France	24.100.765
Romania	23.834.794

2011 data

# Education

Number of Schools/Institutions:	798
Number of Classrooms:	12.099
Number of Students:	372.195
Number of Teachers:	20.697
<u>Student per classroom</u>	
Primary Education	30
Secondary Education :	30
Vocational and Technical Education :	37
2013 Data	



## Primary and Secondary Education

There are nearly 258895 students in 544 schools and 13230 teachers in primary and secondary education in Mersin. Student numbers per teacher in primary education in Mersin is 18, while this number is 20 in Turkey and in secondary education, student numbers per teacher in Mersin is 15, while that number is 16 in Turkey. Classrooms consist of between 30 and 37 students in primary and secondary education.



## Vocational and Technical Education

Vocational and technical education was designed as a system that could provide qualified employees for the business sector. There are 46414 students and 2690 teachers in these types of schools in Mersin and classrooms are made up approximately 37 students. Institutions that want to teach with international standards can receive accreditations from the necessary institutions empowered by the Proficiency Institution.



Mersin University, Çiftlikköy campus

## Universities

There are three universities in Mersin, one is a state



university, and two are foundation universities. In addition, some academic units of out of state universities are located in Mersin such as the METU Marine Sciences Institute and the Selçuk University Silifke-Taşucu Vocational Tertiary School.

There are a total of 29503 students and 1346 academic personnel at the Mersin University, which hosts 11 faculties, 5 institutes and 20 tertiary schools. The university was established in 1992 at the Çiftlikköy campus, on hills overlooking the Mediterranean. The Mersin University Medical Faculty Research and Application Hospital, is one of the largest hospitals in the region. There are 2854 students and 138 academic personnel in Çağ University and the university harbors 3 faculties and one institute. Toros University has 224 students and 27 academic personnel and has three faculties and two institutes.

In 2011, the ratio of faculty graduates in Mersin compared to the same age group in the city was 9,9%. In the 2010-2011 educational year, 4631 students graduated from the universities in Mersin.



**Çağ University in Yenice**



**Toros University Bahçelievler campus**

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[www.osym.gov.tr](http://www.osym.gov.tr)  
Student, Selection and Placement Center  
[www.mersinkulturturizm.gov.tr](http://www.mersinkulturturizm.gov.tr)  
Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism  
[www.mersin.meb.gov.tr](http://www.mersin.meb.gov.tr)  
Provincial Directorate of National Education

[www.mersin.edu.tr](http://www.mersin.edu.tr)  
Mersin University  
[www.cag.edu.tr](http://www.cag.edu.tr)  
Çağ University  
[www.toros.edu.tr](http://www.toros.edu.tr)  
Toros University

# Science and Research

27	Research and Application Centers
17	Faculties
8	Institutes
7	Tertiary and Vocational Tertiary Schools,
1	State Conservatory
1.511	Academic Personnel
32.581	University Students

2011-2012 Data

## Science and Research

Science and research activities in Mersin are carried out at 25 research centers at the Mersin University. The Mersin University Advanced Technology, Education, Research and Application Center (MEİTAM) is fairly new and is one of these research centers. In addition to these centers, the Alata Horticulture Research Station Directorate, affiliated with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, continues its applied agricultural researches.

Here are the research centers at Mersin University: Continuous Education Center, Education in Distance Center, Continuous Education Application and Research Center, Chamber Music Application and Research Center, Tourism Application and Research Center, Foreign Trade and Logistics Application and Research Center, Food Researches and Application Center, Mediterranean Cities Research Center, IT Research and Application Center, Women's Problems Research Center, Cilicia Archeology Research Center, First Aid Research and Application Center, Atatürk Ideals and Turkish History Research and Application Centre, Mersin University Restoration and Preservation Center, Education in Distance Application and Research Center, Strategic Research Center, Health Research and Application Center, Turkish Language







**Research works at the Mersin University Advanced Technology Education, Research and Application Center's Food analysis lab**

Application and Research Center, Career Management Center and Sea Turtles Application and Research Center.

## MEİTAM

High technology analysis and research is available at MEİTAM with experts and highly trained researchers. The institute also provides educational workshops for private and public employees. The center includes the Food Research and Application Center (MUGAM), Cilicia Archeology Research Center (KAAM), Ground Mechanics Application and

Research Center and the Language Sciences Center. Analysis of flour and flour products are conducted at MUGAM. KAAM works on projects regarding the archeology and historical importance of the Cilicia region. In the Language Sciences Department, the Turkish language is being advertised and compiled via a graphic interface on the web.

The research centers at Çağ University are: Atatürk Ideals and Reforms History Research and Application Center, Space Observation Application and Research Center, and The EU Application and Research Center. The Research Centers at Toros University are: Social, Economic and Market Research Center, Environment, Climate and Energy Application and Research Center and the Psychological Consultancy Research Center.

## Alata Horticulture Research Station

The Alata Garden Culture Research Station Directorate, affiliated with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, continues agricultural researches regarding citrus and other subtropical fruits, various climatic fruits, and grape like fruits, viticulture, ornamental plants, medicinal herbs and beekeeping. The station also engages in determining types of garden plants, diversifying the species, developing techniques for growth, soil inspections, fertilizing options, growing elite materials for suggested types, building breeding areas, finding solutions to the problems of farmers in the region and educating related technical personnel. The station realizes soil analysis, plant analysis, fertilizer analysis and irrigation water analysis.

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[www.meb.gov.tr](http://www.meb.gov.tr)

Ministry of National Education

[www.osym.gov.tr](http://www.osym.gov.tr)

Student Selection and Placement Center

[www.mersin.edu.tr](http://www.mersin.edu.tr)

Mersin University

[www.toros.edu.tr](http://www.toros.edu.tr)

Toros University

[www.cag.edu.tr](http://www.cag.edu.tr)

Çağ University

# Social Life

Inhabitants	1.705.774
Yearly population growth rate	13,5 ‰
Population density	110 people/km2
Population in city and county centers	1.347.562
Urbanization rate	79%
Net immigration	-4.014
Net immigration rate	-2,4 ‰
The ratio of college and faculty graduates compared to population 15 and above:	9,9%
2012-2013 data	



The trekking course inside Lamas valley, which starts from “Limonlu - Kayacı valley” and stretches all the way to Sariaydın village in Silifke, is frequented by tourists from Germany, Holland and Belgium.

## Population

In 2013, the population of Mersin has increased by 22.926 compared to the previous year. Yearly population growth rate has increased by 13,5 and was just below Turkish average. Population density is above Turkey's average. Mersin is Turkey's 10th largest province in terms of inhabitants. Between the years 2012 and 2013, 51.468 people have immigrated to Mersin, while 55.482 have left the city.



Shots from Mersin city center

## 72 Health

There are a total of 24 hospitals in Mersin, one medical faculty, 11 private hospitals and 12 public hospitals. In addition, there are many health institutions and medical centers. Total hospital bed capacity in Mersin is 3202. There is one doctor per 996 people. The newly introduced family doctor application is being successfully carried out in Mersin. The premedical education program of the Mersin University Medical Faculty has been accredited in accordance with national standards.



MS Deutschland with 350 voyagers docked at Mersin Port

## Leisure and Recreation

During the summer, the people of Mersin and



**Nusret Mine Ship, an important ship for the War of Çanakkale, on display at the Çanakkale Park in Tarsus**



**Kültürpark, one of the columned avenues that stretch along the entire shoreline at Adnan Menderes Boulevard**

**The waterfall at Mersin Suntras (Santa Iras) is ideal for daily trips and sampling fish**

tourists flock to cooler places. Parks, beaches and green areas are very popular during the summer. The people who live in the city center usually prefer Atatürk Park on the shore and Kültür Park on Adnan Menderes Boulevard. Atatürk Park is right in the city center. Forum, Mersin Marina, Kipa Outlet and Palm City are the most popular malls. The Cultural Center, Mersin City History Museum, Atatürk House and Museum, Latin Catholic Church, Arab Orthodox Church and Cumhuriyet Square, Ulu Mosque and Ulu Bazaar, Historical Çarşı, Uray Avenue, Yogurt Market, Community House, Sanat Street, Hamam Street, Government Mansion, Governor's Mansion and Silifke Avenue, Müftü Mosque, the historical building of the Provincial Directorate of Health are the main attractions in the city center. Visiting Soloi-Pompeipolis antique city, 10 kilometers to the west of the city center in Viranşehir, reminds us that Mersin was always a port and sun city throughout history. Yapraklı Bay, Kayacı Valley, Cennet Cehennem (Heaven and Hell), only an hour away from the city center and Aya Tekla Church in Silifke are the most beautiful examples of Mersin's cultural and natural



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[www.isvesosyalguvenlik.com](http://www.isvesosyalguvenlik.com)  
ÇSGB Regional Directorate  
[www.mersinsm.gov.tr](http://www.mersinsm.gov.tr)  
Provincial Directorate of Health

[www.iskur.gov.tr](http://www.iskur.gov.tr)  
Regional Directorate of Labor and Employment Relations Institution  
[www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)  
Turkey Statistical Institute Regional Directorate

# Culture

Number of libraries	7
Number of theatres	3
Number of cinemas	5
Number of opera, ballet, orchestra and choirs	4
Number of museums	7
Number of art galleries	11
Number of festivals	4

2012 Data



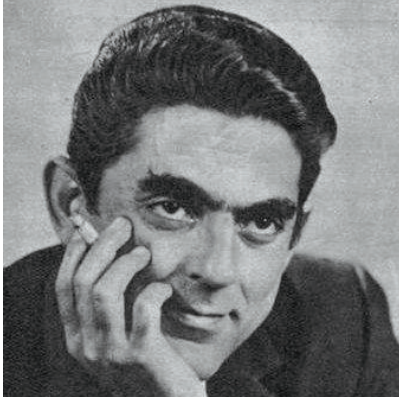
There are 41682 books at the Mersin Public Library.

## Cultural Development and Art

Art and cultural activities in the city are widespread. The Mersin State Opera and Ballet, which is Turkey's fourth state opera and ballet, performs at the Mersin Cultural Center. Each year, activities such as the International Mersin Music Festival, the Mersin Turkish Classical Music Festival and the Mersin International Nevit Kodallı Polyphonic Choirs Festival are being organized in the city. The Mersin Photography Club (MFD), the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality City Theatre, İlçel Art Club, the Mersin Polyphonic Choirs Club and the Mersin Cinema Club organize important activities. Various county municipalities also have theatre troop which perform for free.







Famous poet Ümit Yaşar Oğuzcan,  
1925-1984, Tarsus.

## Authors and Poets from Mersin

### Ümit Yaşar Oğuzcan

Ümit Yaşar Oğuzcan was born on August 22, 1926 in Tarsus. He opened an art gallery in Istanbul. He began writing poems in 1940. Oğuzcan, who has a total of 50 books, including poetry, novels and 13 anthologies, is one of Turkey's most popular poets and is also known for his poetry records and lyrics. He mostly wrote about love, loss and yearning but concentrated on themes like depression, death and pain after his son's death in 1973.

## Theatre and Festivals

### Metropolitan Municipality City Theatre

The theatre was established in 1984 to introduce the art of theatre in Mersin. Since that date, the theatre stages national and international plays for the people of Mersin.

### Mersin International Music Festival

The festival, which begins in spring, is the first classical music festival in Anatolia. The festival became a member of European Festivals Association (EFA) in 2007 and has received interest from international artists and groups. The city welcomed world famous stars for two weeks including opera diva Michele Crider, singer Christina Branco, and Polish pianist Artur Dutkiewicz. In addition, the ballroom dancers of world famous dance group "Braunschweiger Tanz-Sport-Club" also performed at the festival. The festival also includes song competitions, art exhibitions, photography exhibitions and conferences.

### Citrus Festival

The festival, which hosts dance, music, theatre and acrobatic groups from all over the world, is organized at one of the most beautiful places in the city. The festival is organized to celebrate multicultural activities and turning citrus fruits into art.

### Soli Sun Festival

The festival, which takes place at the Soloi

Pompeipolis antique city in Viranşehir, is organized every year in the second half of June. The festival aims to highlight the region which has historical importance. Concerts, theatre plays and bazaars are organized during the festival.

## Music

### Mersin State Classical Turkish Music Choir

The choir, which was established in 2008, is Turkey's 8th choir and is the only choir in the Mediterranean Region. The choir, which performs to introduce Turkish classical music nationally and internationally, gave its first concert in 2009.

### Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Conservatory

The conservatory consists of the Turkish Classical Music and Turkish Traditional Folk Music departments. Each department offer four years of education and written music, solfege, music composition, vocal training, repertoire, literature, diction, public speech, instrument management, choir and solo classes are available at the conservatory.

### Mersin State Opera and Ballet

Mersin State Opera and Ballet continues to perform ballet, opera and concerts since 1992. In the past 20 years, it has performed 1809 shows and has reached 648.582 people. It has also performed in countries such as Georgia, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Italy and Syria.

## Art

Painter Hüseyin SEVİM's artwork dated 1952 depicts the shore of Mersin in the afternoon. Again, Remzi İREM's oil painting depicts the business centers on Uray Avenue. Güzin Akdemir has opened her 10th individual exhibition at the Mersin Görsel Art Gallery.

## Architecture

Buildings that are examples of Mersin's urbanization, which was formed in about 150 years, can be categorized in four groups. One of them is traditional Turkish houses, made from stone and wood, and



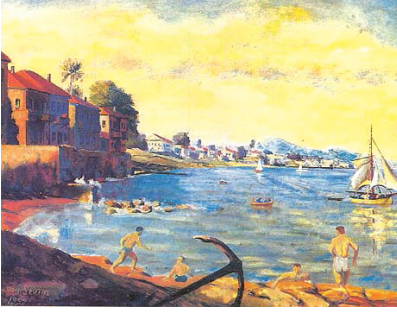
The poster of the 3rd Soli Festival at the Soloi Pompeipolis antique city, organized by the Mezitli Municipality.



A concert by the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Conservatory choir



Opera at the Mersin Cultural Center



**Painter Hüseyin Sevim's 1952 painting  
"Shore of Mersin in the afternoon"**



**Business centers on Uray Avenue  
from Remzi İrem's oil painting**



**Mersin  
Atatürk  
House and  
Museum  
commis-  
sioned by  
Swiss citizen  
Krizmon in  
1917.**

they can mostly be seen on İstiklal and Mücahitler Avenue and neighboring streets. The houses in the second category resemble the houses in Chios Island and are seen around "Yoğurt Pazarı" district. They are two storey houses made from stone and their stone workmanship is amazing. Another group includes Eastern Mediterranean style houses. Their ground floors are made from stone while upper floors were made with lath and plaster. Stone and walls made from lath and plaster were widely used in these arched structures. The halls on the upper floors have traditional characteristics. Examples such as "Taş Inn", which have stone arches, still stand today. Trade buildings such as markets, business centers, warehouses and inns usually have these characteristics.

Mersin Atatürk House and Museum was commissioned in 1917 by Swiss citizen Krizmon. The house was then bought by the Tahinci family and nationalized in 1980. Atatürk stayed in this house with his wife for 11 days in 1925. Today, the building serves as a museum.



**Old Tarsus houses are examples of  
Turkish-Islam architecture**

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[www.kultur.gov.tr](http://www.kultur.gov.tr)  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
[www.mersin.bel.tr/konservatuvar](http://www.mersin.bel.tr/konservatuvar)  
Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Conservatory  
[www.dobgm.gov.tr](http://www.dobgm.gov.tr)  
State Opera and Ballet General Directorate  
[www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr](http://www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr)  
Mersin Museum, Tarsus Museum,  
Silifke Museum, Anamur Museum

[www.mersinkutup.gov.tr](http://www.mersinkutup.gov.tr)  
Mersin Public Library  
[www.mersin.edu.tr/kutuphane](http://www.mersin.edu.tr/kutuphane)  
Mersin University Central Library  
[www.mtso.org.tr](http://www.mtso.org.tr)  
MTSO Art Gallery  
<http://oda.mtso.org.tr>  
MTSO's project called "from the  
station to the Lighthouse: Mersin"

# The Diversity of Mersin

Mersin, located to the west of Çukurova region which was named Cilicia in the antique age, has always been a port city where important sea trade was intense. Today, the physical borders of Mersin stretch all the way to Kaledran in the west and Adana in the east.

It has entered UNESCO's World Heritage List with the Tarsus Saint Paul Monumental Museum and Well, Mut Alahan Monastery and Anamur Mamure Castle and is like an outdoor museum with its natural and cultural heritage.

It is an important religious tourism destination with Alahan Monastery, located at 1200 meters above sea level in Mut, Aya Tekla Church in Silifke and St Paul Church in Tarsus, where Christians drink from the well of Saint Paul.

Ornithologists can observe plants facing extinction, aquatic birds and sea turtles at Göksu Bird Paradise in Silifke and at Akgöl-Paradeniz lagoons.

The trekking course, which starts at Limonlu, passes through Kayacı Valley and stretches all the way to the villages of Kızılgeçit and Saraydın, is an ideal walking route for tourists.

Be sure to sample local tastes such as kerebiç, tantuni; humus made in Tarsus, cezerye and şalgam;



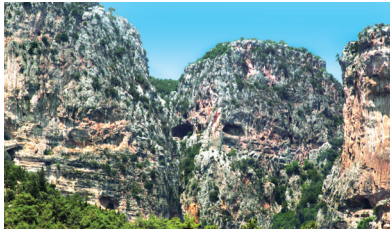
**The Aydıncık-Kelenderis Mosaic was the world's first city plan**



**A picture from the Offshore Championship, which is organized each year in Mersin**



**Cambazlı Church on the Olba-Susanoğlu road in the village of Cambazlı, dated back to 6th century**



**Interesting karstic shape that resemble the Iron Mask in Limonlu-Lamas Valley**





**The Eastern Church in the Mut Alahan Monastery was built by a monk named Tarasis between 440-442 A.D.**



**The interior of the St. Paul Monument Museum which was formerly a church**



**Christians who came to the region for pilgrimage used to drink from the well of St. Paul**

tasty sea products in Narlıkuyu and the traditional dishes in Gözne, Ayvagediği and Çamlıyayla.

## UNESCO World Heritage List

### Mut Alahan Monastery

The Alahan Monastery was added to the World Heritage List in 2000. Saint Paul from Tarsus and Barnaby traveled through Anatolia in 41 A.D. to spread Christianity. Temples were built in places the saints visited. A similar temple was built at the spot where Alahan Monastery stands today. The monastery was only built in 5th century after Christianity was officially recognized. Evliya Çelebi called the monastery the work of an artist in 17th century. Its western church has been demolished. The Eastern Church however serves as an excursion site. At the entrance of the demolished western church, there is a bust of Jesus and depictions of various angels.

### Tarsus Saint Paul Monument Museum and Well

The home of Saint Paul in Tarsus was named a pilgrimage site in 2008 by the Vatican. St. Paul's well and the remains surrounding the house have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List. Tarsus is one of the first places where Christianity was spread. The well, found in the courtyard known as the house of St. Paul in the city center, is known as the Well of St. Paul. A few walls were unearthed during excavations in the garden. The well and the remains are important for Christians living in Tarsus. Remains of the house that were unearthed are protected by a glass wall.

### Anamur Mamure Castle

The castle was added to the World Heritage Candidate List in 2012. The castle, located 6 kilometers to the south of Anamur has cesspools and trenches to protect the castle from sea and land attacks. There is a mosque, fountain and bath inside the castle that was used by the Romans, Byzantines, Karamanoğulları and Ottomans.

## Religious Tourism Centers

### Silifke Azize Aya Tekla (Meryemlik)

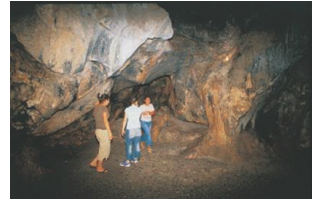
Azize Aya Tekla (Meryemlik), which was considered a pilgrimage site in early Christianity, is an important religious site for Christians and Muslims. The Bible says that the tomb of Mary is in Mersin but can never be located. The cave where Aya Tekla lived was considered sacred after her disappearance and was used as a secret worship area until the religion was accepted in 312 A.D. This cave was turned into a church in the 4th century.



The cave where Saint Aya Tekla lived was turned into a worship site.

### Tarsus Ashab-ı Khef Cave

This is another important religious site. Ashab-ı Khef was a ruler and there are young people on his left and right. In the Khef part of the Quran, the prayers of these characters are written. When the ruler finds out that these people have run and are in hiding, he takes his men and heads to the cave and seals the entrance of the cave. According to legend, these young people manage to survive and continue to sleep for 309 years. They are woken up by divine intervention.



The interior of the Tarsus Yedi Uyurlar and Ashab-ı Khef cave

### Erdemli Kanlıdivane (Canytellis) Antique City

The history of the city, which was the religious center of the Olba Kingdom, dates all the way back to 3rd century B.C. The city, which was named Neapolis in the 4th century, lived its most glorious days during this period. The city, which was established as a Christianity center by Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II (408-450), was built around a 60 meter deep pothole. According to legend, criminals were thrown into this deep pit and were eaten by animals.



A manuscript that depicts "Yedi Uyurlar"

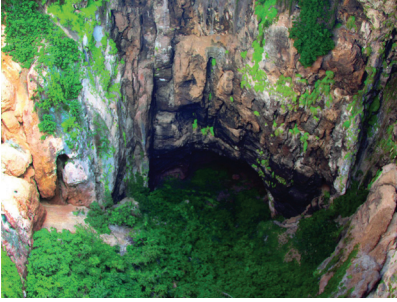
Inside the pothole, there is a bas relief that depicts a woman sitting on a sofa and two male figures. There are basilicas made from cut stones, avenues, rock tombs, cisterns and stones bas reliefs around the pothole. There is a tower in the southwest of the pothole from 3rd century B.C. On the northern necropolis, there is a monumental tomb erected for the husband of Queen Aba and her two sons.



The main basilica in Canytellis Antique City dated back to 3rd century B.C.



**The Church of Virgin Mary inside the pit named Heaven, 70 meters deep and 135 meters long**



**The pit called Hell, 128 meters deep**



**Kara Castle around Korykos excursion site**

## Natural and Cultural Heritage

### Cennet –Cehennem (Heaven and Hell)

There are two important karstic pits near the borough of Narlıkuyu located on the Mersin-Silifke highway called the Cennet and Cehennem pits. The Cehennem pit is narrower and steeper than the other. That is why you cannot walk to the bottom and you need a rope or a ladder. There is a Hellenistic period temple near the historical stairway that leads to the base of the Cennet pit. You can hear the underground river clearly at the base of the pit.

### Erdemli Korykos-Kızkalesi Excursion Site

Kızkalesi was heavily used during the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods. It was determined that the first settlements dated back to 4th century B.C. from the artifacts unearthed in the necropolis. The castle, named after the town, was built in 12th century A.D. on an islet near the shore. In the excursion site, which was at an olive oil export center, the outer and inner castle, churches, cisterns, aqueducts, stone tombs, sarcophagi and stone covered Roman roads are still strong.

### Adamkayalar

At the fifth kilometer of the asphalt road from Kızkalesi towards the village of Hüseyinler, you will reach Şeytan Deresi Valley after the 2 kilometer stone road in the west. In the nine niches on the steep slope of the valley, you will see bas reliefs of 11 males, 4 women, 2 children and one goat inside the rocks.

### Ayaş Elaiussa Sebaste

The Elaiussa-Sebaste Excursion site on the 55th kilometers of the Mersin-Silifke highway was built at the end of 2nd century B.C. It was heavily populated during the Roman and Byzantine periods. There is a necropolis, antique theatre, cisterns and aqueducts inside the protected historical site.

### Aydıncık-Kelenderis Caves

In Aynalgöl Cave, which hosts handmade ceramic



pieces from the Late Bronze Age and various animal bones, there is also a fresh water lake and all other characteristics that can be found in a cave. In Aydıncık there are more interesting caves such as Yalan Dünya cave, located on the Aydıncık-Gülınar highway, the Kurt ini Cave, which is only accessible through the sea and the Kaynar Underwater Cave which is partially submerged in water.



Human and animal figures as bas reliefs inside the niche at Adamkayalar, 2nd century A.D.



The Agora of the Elaiussa-Sebaste excursion site was built at the end of the 2nd century during the Roman and Byzantine periods.



Aynalıgöl's entrance is 46 meters above sea level. The cave is 555 meters long, 100 meters wide and 18 meters in height. There is a 47 meter deep pond inside the cave.

## Silifke-Uzuncaburç

82

The best protected historical remains in Mersin are located in the town of Uzuncaburç, located 30 kilometers to the north of Silifke. The Temple of Zeus, the monumental tomb with a pyramid roof, the columned avenue, theatre, festival door, fountain, the Temple of Luck and Victory Door are Roman era remains. The Temple of Zeus was turned into a church in 5th century after the spreading of Christianity in the area and more churches were built. The name of the town was changed to "Uzuncaburç" after the region was invaded by Turks.



Uzuncaburç monumental tomb





**The temple of Zeus in Uzuncaburç was commissioned by Nikator I, king of Seleucid. The Byzantines turned it into a church in the 5th century.**



**The triple statue group unearthed during the excavations at Soli Pompeipolis on display at the Mersin Museum, 2-3rd century A.D.**



**The mosaic in the Narlıkuyu Mosaic Museum that depicts the three beautiful women Aglaia, Thalia and Euphrosyne**

## **Anamurium (Anemurion) antique city**

The city was connected to the Macedonia Kingdom during Alexander's eastern expedition in 333 B.C. and the city became known as "Anamurium", which mean the windy tip. The excursion site encompasses a very large area. Written texts state that it was a port city in 4th century B.C. and was under the reign of the Assyrian Kingdom in 8th century B.C.

## **Narlıkuyu**

Narlıkuyu is different from other bays with its cold and fresh water. Water resources under the sea are responsible for the temperature of the water. One of these sources is the underground water that comes from Cennet pothole, which is located 1,2 kilometers from Narlıkuyu. Today, the potholes known as Cennet and Cehennem are connected to each other with a 2 kilometer asphalt road. Swimming is usually preferred by foreign tourists in the bay since the water is reatively cold but fishermen and boats frequently use the bay. There are various fish restaurants around the bay.

## **Viranşehir Soli Pompeipolis Antique City**

The city of Soli, meaning sun, was built by Dorians that came from Rhodes around 700 B.C.



**The excavations in the antique city, overseen by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Governorship of Mersin and the Municipality of Mezitli, have been completed after 14 columns in the southern tip of the columned avenue were placed in 2012.**

## Special Protected Sites

### Göksu Delta

The Göksu Delta, which is 14800 hectares, is located in the southern tip of Silifke, on a shore plain formed by Göksu River. Two lagoons, Paradeniz and Akgöl, are located in the west of Göksu River. There are ten settlements within the borders of the special protected site and the total protection area is 226 square kilometers. 106 of 140 bird types in Turkey and 12 of 24 endangered bird species live in the delta. There are 8 endemic and 32 rare plants in the delta, which has 441 plant types in total. Since the delta is used regularly, it is also very important to flamingos. “Caretta Caretta” and “Chelonia Mydas” sea turtles have five different breeding grounds in the shores of Mersin, Kazanlı, 100. yıl Davultepe, Erdemli, and Anamur, and more than 1000 nests have been spotted in May and June.

### Paradeniz Lagoon and Akgöl

In the delta, which is one of the most important marshy areas in the Mediterranean, there are agricultural fields, lakes, swamps, beaches, settlements, Akgöl and Paradeniz lagoons, shallow seasonal ponds, drainage channels and rice fields. The Göksu Delta Protected Site was placed under preservation in accordance with the Ramsar Accord that was signed in 1971 in Iran.



Göksu Delta is one of the breeding areas of *Caretta Caretta* sea turtles.



The summer duck, which is facing extinction, lives at the delta.



*Pancratium maritimum*, naturally pops up in Paradeniz Lagoon



Hérons at Akgöl and Paradeniz Lagoon



A flamingo pack at Paradeniz Lagoon and Akgöl



**A ski resort and courses will be built at Karboğazı/Elmalı Straits, located between Tekir Plateau and the town of Gülek, in the very near future.**



**Infrastructure works still continue for the 8000 bed capacity “Tarsus-Kazanlı Tourism Center”.**

## **Important Culture and Tourism Protection and Development Regions (KTKGB)**

### **Karboğazı KTKGB**

The Gülek Karboğazı Culture and Tourism Protection and Development Region, which has been declared as one of the 24 tourism development sites in Turkey, will be turned into a winter resort and ski center which will cater to the needs of over 5 million people living in the region. The 3500 meter long course and 6-7 courses of various sizes are now operational. The biggest advantage of the region is that tourists can both enjoy winter-nature tourism and resort tourism at the same time since the region is only an hour away from Adana, Mersin and Niğde. Karboğazı KTKGB is one of the regions that will receive incentives in tourism investments.

### **Tarsus - Kazanlı KTKGB**

The Tarsus-Kazanlı Tourism Center will be built on a 3 million square meter area and will include 2 golf courses with international standards, a congress center, a health complex and 8000 beds. After completion, the center will be a hot destination for European tourists.