

Hidden Treasures of Denizli

Beyond Pamukkale — four days from one hotel

4 / 3

Days / Nights

4 – 12

Travellers

One hotel

Denizli city centre

All meals

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

The programme, day by day

DAY 1

Arrival, and a city most people drive past

Met at the airport — Denizli Çardak, forty minutes east, or İzmir if your routing suits it better — and on the way into town Akhan, a Seljuk caravanserai of 1253 standing at the roadside with its carved marble portal intact, unfenced and unticketed, the sort of building that would have a visitor centre anywhere else. In the afternoon, Laodicea: the wealthiest city of the Lycus valley, one of the great excavation projects of modern Türkiye, and ten minutes from our own front door. Its main street, its churches and its water system have come back out of the ground over the last twenty years, and most visitors to this province still have never heard of it. Welcome dinner in the evening, in the city.

Overnight Denizli · 60 km

DAY 2

The white terraces, and the city built on them

A full day on the travertines and above them. Walk barefoot on the calcium terraces; Hierapolis, the spa city the Romans built over the springs, with its theatre, its colonnaded street and one of the largest necropolises in Anatolia — filled by people who came here hoping to be cured and stayed because they were not. Time is set aside for the Antique Pool, to swim among submerged marble columns, for those who wish. The day closes on the upper terraces at sunset, when the coach parties have gone and the white turns to rose. Almost nobody stays for that hour.

Overnight Denizli · 40 km

DAY 3

The river, the loom and the vineyard

Tripolis on the Meander: a Roman city on the riverbank, under excavation and largely unvisited — a theatre, a bath complex and a colonnaded street coming out of farmland. You will very likely have it to yourselves. On to Buldan, a hill town of timber-framed Ottoman houses where weaving is a living trade rather than a heritage display; we visit workshops in the backs of houses, not showrooms, and lunch is taken there. The afternoon belongs to the vineyards of the Çal plateau and to Çalkarası, a grape that grows in this district and effectively nowhere else — tasting at the estate, with the people who make the wine. Farewell dinner in the evening.

Overnight Denizli · 150 km

DAY 4

The things only Denizli has, and departure

The last morning begins in the city: the Denizli rooster, a bird whose long unbroken crow is the emblem of this province and a protected regional breed — we visit a farm where they are raised, and yes, you will hear one; and Zafer Gazoz, a soda factory that has been bottling the same recipe in glass since the middle of the last century, on machines that have outlived several economies. Every family in Denizli has an opinion about it. Then east, on the airport road, to Kaklık Cave — travertine terraces forming underground, in the dark, fed by the same thermal water that built Pamukkale. Lunch, and the transfer to Çardak.

Departure · 80 km

About the hotel. The group stays in one hotel in Denizli city centre for all three nights — not in the village at the foot of the terraces. You unpack once, you are twenty minutes from Pamukkale, and in the evening you are in a working Turkish city with its own restaurants and streets rather than in a place that closes when the coaches leave. We do not split a group between two hotels.

What the price covers

Included

- Three nights in one hotel in Denizli city centre, breakfast daily
- All ground transport and airport transfers, private to the group
- Licensed professional guide throughout, in English or another language on request
- All site and museum entrances on the programme
- Wine tasting at a working estate on the Çal plateau
- All lunches and all dinners, from the welcome dinner on the first evening to lunch on the last day — in the city, in Buldan, and at the vineyard estate
- Access to places that are not on the standard route — the weaving workshops, the rooster farm, the soda factory — arranged because we live here

Not included

- International and domestic flights
- Meals taken outside the programme
- Travel insurance
- Drinks, tips and personal spending
- Anything on the optional list

Optional

- A hot-air balloon over the terraces at sunrise, subject to weather
- A thermal spa afternoon at the hotel
- Evening programmes and entertainment beyond the dinners included
- Any of the day trips in the table below

Denizli as a base — what is within reach

Approximate road distances and driving times one way. Any of these can be added as a day trip or used to extend the programme; none requires the group to change hotel.

DESTINATION	DISTANCE	DRIVE	WHAT IS THERE
Aphrodisias	100 km	1½ hrs	The best preserved Roman city in Türkiye — a stadium for thirty thousand, still almost intact
Ephesus	190 km	2½ hrs	Ephesus, the Basilica of St John and the House of the Virgin Mary, in one day
Antalya	225 km	3 hrs	Perge, Aspendos and the Antalya Museum; the Mediterranean coast
Lake Salda	110 km	1½ hrs	White mineral shore and turquoise water; often called the Maldives of Türkiye
Sagalassos	180 km	2½ hrs	A Roman city at fifteen hundred metres, its fountain restored and running
Sardis	180 km	2½ hrs	The capital of Croesus, the synagogue, and one of the Seven Churches
Fethiye	180 km	2½ hrs	The Lycian coast, the rock tombs and Ölüdeniz
Priene · Miletus · Didyma	230 km	3 hrs	Three Ionian cities and the great oracle temple, in one long day

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Version 2 · 6 October 2026. The day-by-day programme is indicative and may change: site opening days, weather, traffic and local conditions can move the order of visits, and hotels are confirmed at the time of booking. Nothing listed is dropped — it is the sequence that moves. Departure dates are tentative until confirmed.