

June 2011



Alacati to Host First Annual Summer Festival

The chic resort of Alacati on the Cesme Peninsula, traditionally the preserve of in-the-know Turkish travellers, is hosting its first annual Summer Festival, from 9 July to 31 August.

A hub for artists and intellectuals from Izmir, Istanbul and beyond, the charming cobbled streets are lined with galleries, smart boutiques and hip cafes. The Festival will comprise exhibitions, film screenings and concerts, culminating in a week-long contemporary art fair and auction.

Full programme and details of the official event website to follow.

Getting to Alacati

With the launch of new direct flights to Izmir this summer, from Gatwick (easyjet.com), Stansted (flypgs.com) and Dublin (Aerlingus.com), getting to the Cesme Peninsula has never been easier.

Independent specialist tour operators *Anatolian Sky Holidays* (anatoliansky.co.uk) and the *Discovery Collection* (thediscoverycollection.com) offer flight, accommodation and transfer packages to Alacati.

Where to stay

There are several excellent boutique hotels to choose from in and around Alacati, see smallhotelsofturkey.net. Expect to pay anywhere between £90 and £200 per room per night during the Festival. For budget options, try nearby Cesme town.

Around and about

From secluded bays to swanky beach clubs, there's ample opportunity to swim in the crystal-clear Aegean waters of the Cesme Peninsula. The area is famed for its prime windsurfing conditions and Alacati hosts a world cup dedicated to the sport each year.

Sample tantalisingly fresh seafood in Dalyankoy, browse Alacati's weekly Saturday market, bathe in the natural hot springs of Ilica, and explore Cesme's historic fortress, now an archaeological museum.

Further afield, yet still within easy reach, lie some of the region's most important ancient sites, including Ephesus and Pergamum.

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