

= Alanya =

Alanya (Turkish pronunciation : [aʔʔanja]) , formerly Alaiye , is a beach resort city and a component district of Antalya Province on the southern coast of Turkey , in the country 's Mediterranean Region , 138 kilometres (86 mi) east of the city of Antalya . As of Turkey 's 2010 Census , the city had a population of 98 @, @ 627 , while the district that includes the city and its built @-@ up region had an area of 1 @, @ 598 @. @ 51 km2 and 248 @, @ 286 inhabitants .

Because of its natural strategic position on a small peninsula into the Mediterranean Sea below the Taurus Mountains , Alanya has been a local stronghold for many Mediterranean @-@ based empires , including the Ptolemaic , Seleucid , Roman , Byzantine , and Ottoman Empires . Alanya 's greatest political importance came in the Middle Ages , with the Seljuk Sultanate of Rûm under the rule of Alaeddin Kayqubad I , from whom the city derives its name . His building campaign resulted in many of the city 's landmarks , such as the KʔzʔI Kule (Red Tower) , Tersane (Shipyard) , and Alanya Castle .

The Mediterranean climate , natural attractions , and historic heritage make Alanya a popular destination for tourism , and responsible for nine percent of Turkey 's tourism sector and thirty percent of foreign purchases of real estate in Turkey . Tourism has risen since 1958 to become the dominant industry in the city , resulting in a corresponding increase in city population . Warm @-@ weather sporting events and cultural festivals take place annually in Alanya . In 2014 Mayor Adem Murat Yücel , of the Nationalist Movement Party unseated Hasan Sipahioʔlu , of the Justice and Development Party , who had previously led the city since 1999 .

= = Names = =

The city has changed hands many times over the centuries , and its name has reflected this . Alanya was known in Latin as Coracesium or in Greek as Korakesion from the Luwian Korakassa meaning " point / protruding city " . The Roman Catholic Church still recognizes the Latin name as a titular see in its hierarchy . Under the Byzantine Empire it become known as Kalonoros or Kalon Oros , meaning " beautiful / fine mountain " in Greek . The Seljuks renamed the city Alaiye (??????) , a derivative of the Sultan Alaeddin Kayqubad I 's name . In the 13th and 14th centuries , Italian traders called the city Candelore or Cardelloro . In his 1935 visit , Mustafa Kemal Atatürk finalized the name in the new alphabet as Alanya , changing the ' i ' and ' e ' in Alaiye , reportedly because of a misspelled telegram in 1933 .

= = History = =

Finds in the nearby Karain Cave indicate occupation during the Paleolithic era as far back as 20 @, @ 000 BC , and archeological evidence shows a port existed at Syedra , south of the modern city , during the Bronze Age around 3 @, @ 000 BC . A Phoenician language tablet found in the district dates to 625 BC , and the city is specifically mentioned in the 4th @-@ century BC Greek geography manuscript , the periplus of Pseudo @-@ Scylax . The castle rock was likely inhabited under the Hittites and the Achaemenid Empire , and was first fortified in the Hellenistic period following the area 's conquest by Alexander the Great . Alexander 's successors left the area to one of the competing Macedonian generals , Ptolemy I Soter , after Alexander 's death in 323 BC . His dynasty maintained loose control over the mainly Isaurian population , and the port became a popular refuge for Mediterranean pirates . The city resisted Antiochus III the Great of the neighboring Seleucid kingdom in 199 BC , but was loyal to the pirate Diodotus Tryphon when he seized the Seleucid crown from 142 to 138 BC . His rival Antiochus VII Sidetes completed work in 137 BC on a new castle and port , begun under Diodotus .

The Roman Republic fought Cilician pirates in 102 BC , when Marcus Antonius the Orator established a proconsulship in nearby Side , and in 78 BC under Servilius Vatia , who moved to control the Isaurian tribes . The period of piracy in Alanya finally ended after the city 's incorporation into the Pamphylia province by Pompey in 67 BC , with the Battle of Korakesion fought in the city 's

harbor . Isaurian banditry remained an issue under the Romans , and the tribes revolted in the fourth and fifth centuries AD , with the largest rebellion being from 404 to 408 .

With the spread of Christianity Coracesium , as it was called , became a bishopric . Its bishop Theodulus took part in the First Council of Constantinople in 381 , Matidianus in the Council of Ephesus in 431 , Obrimus in the Council of Chalcedon in 451 , and Nicephorus (Nicetas) in the Third Council of Constantinople in 680 . Coracesium was a suffragan of the metropolitan see of Side , the capital of the Roman province of Pamphylia Prima , to which Coracesium belonged . It continued to be mentioned in the Notitiae Episcopatum as late as the 12th or 13th century . No longer a residential bishopric , Coracesium is today listed by the Catholic Church as a titular see .

Islam arrived in the 7th century with Arab raids , which led to the construction of new fortifications . The area fell from Byzantine control after the Battle of Manzikert in 1071 to tribes of Seljuk Turks , only to be returned in 1120 by John II Komnenos .

Following the Fourth Crusade 's attack on the Byzantines , the Christian Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia periodically held the port , and it was from an Armenian , Kir Fard , that the Turks took lasting control in 1221 when the Anatolian Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Kayqubad I captured it , assigning the former ruler , whose daughter he married , to the governance of the city of Ak?ehir . Seljuk rule saw the golden age of the city , and it can be considered the winter capital of their empire . Building projects , including the twin citadel , city walls , arsenal , and K?z?l Kule , made it an important seaport for western Mediterranean trade , particularly with Ayyubid Egypt and the Italian city @-@ states . Alaeddin Kayqubad I also constructed numerous gardens and pavilions outside the walls , and many of his works can still be found in the city . These were likely financed by his own treasury and by the local emirs , and constructed by the contractor Abu ' Ali al @-@ Kattani al @-@ Halabi . Alaeddin Kayqubad I 's son , Sultan G?yaseddin Keyhüsrev II , continued the building campaign with a new cistern in 1240 .

At the Battle of Köse Da? in 1242 , the Mongol hordes broke the Seljuk hegemony in Anatolia . Alanya was then subject to a series of invasions from Anatolian beyliks . Lusignans from Cyprus briefly overturned the then ruling Hamidid dynasty in 1371 . The Karamanids sold the city in 1427 for 5 @,@ 000 gold coins to the Mamluks of Egypt for a period before General Gedik Ahmed Pasha in 1471 incorporated it into the growing Ottoman Empire . The city was made a capital of a local sanjak in the eyalet of İçel . The Ottomans extended their rule in 1477 when they brought the main shipping trade , lumber , then mostly done by Venetians , under the government monopoly . On September 6 , 1608 , the city rebuffed a naval attack by the Order of Saint Stephen from the Republic of Venice .

Trade in the region was negatively impacted by the development of an oceanic route from Europe around Africa to India , and in the tax registers of the late sixteenth century , Alanya failed to qualify as an urban center . In 1571 the Ottomans designated the city as part of the newly conquered province of Cyprus . The conquest further diminished the economic importance of Alanya 's port . Traveler Evliya Çelebi visited the city in 1671 / 1672 , and wrote on the preservation of Alanya Castle , but also on the dilapidation of Alanya 's suburbs . The city was reassigned in 1864 under Konya , and in 1868 under Antalya , as it is today . During the 18th and 19th centuries numerous villas were built in the city by Ottoman nobility , and civil construction continued under the local dynastic Karamanid authorities . Bandits again became common across Antalya Province in the mid @-@ nineteenth century .

After World War I , Alanya was nominally partitioned in the 1917 Agreement of St.-Jean @-@ de @-@ Maurienne to Italy , before returning to the Turkish Republic in 1923 under the Treaty of Lausanne . Like others in this region , the city suffered heavily following the war and the population exchanges that heralded the Turkish Republic , when many of the city 's Christians resettled in Nea Ionia , outside Athens . The Ottoman census of 1893 listed the number of Greeks in the city at 964 out of a total population of 37 @,@ 914 . Tourism in the region started among Turks who came to Alanya in the 1960s for the alleged healing properties of Damlata? Cave , and later the access provided by Antalya Airport in 1998 allowed the town to grow into an international resort . Strong population growth through the 1990s was a result of immigration to the city , and has driven a rapid modernization of the infrastructure .

== Geography ==

Located on the Gulf of Antalya on the Anatolian coastal plain of Pamphylia , the town is situated between the Taurus Mountains to the north and the Mediterranean Sea , and is part of the Turkish riviera , occupying roughly 70 kilometres (43 mi) of coastline . From west to east , the Alanya district is bordered by the Manavgat district along the coast , the mountainous Gündoğmuş inland , Hadim and Taşkent in the Province of Konya , Sarıveliler in the Province of Karaman , and the coastal Gazipaşa district . Manavgat is home to the ancient cities of Side and Selge . East of the city , the Dim River flows from the mountains in Konya on a south @-@ west route into the Mediterranean .

The Pamphylia plain between the sea and the mountains is an isolated example of an Eastern Mediterranean conifer @-@ sclerophyllous @-@ broadleaf forest , which include Lebanon Cedar , evergreen scrub , fig trees , and black pine . The Alanya Massif refers to the area of metamorphic rocks east of Antalya . This formation is divided into three nappes from lowest to highest , the Mahmutlar , the Sugözü , and the Yumruda . The similar lithology extends beneath the city in a tectonic window . Bauxite , an aluminum ore , is common to the area north of city , and can be mined .

The town is divided east ? west by a rocky peninsula , which is the distinctive feature of the city . The harbor , city center , and Keykubat Beach , named after the Sultan Kayqubad I , are on the east side of the peninsula . Damlataş Beach , named for the famous " dripping caves " , and Kleopatra Beach are to the west . The name " Cleopatra " possibly derives from either the Ptolemaic princess ' visit here or the area 's inclusion in her dowry to Mark Antony . Atatürk Bulvarı , the main boulevard , runs parallel to the sea , and divides the southern , much more touristic side of Alanya from the northern , more indigenous side that extends north into the mountains . Çevre Yolu Caddesi , another major road , encircles the main town to the north .

== Climate ==

Alanya has a typical hot @-@ summer Mediterranean climate (Köppen : Csa) . Located at the Mediterranean Basin , the subtropical high pressure zone ensures that most rain comes during the winter , leaving the summers long , hot , and dry , prompting the Alanya board of Tourism to use the slogan " where the sun smiles " . Storm cells sometimes bring with them fair weather waterspouts when close to the shore . The presence of the Taurus Mountain in close proximity to the sea causes fog , in turn creating visible rainbows many mornings . The height of the mountains creates an interesting effect as snow can often be seen on them even on hot days in the city below . The sea at Alanya has an average temperature of 21 @.@ 4 ° C (71 ° F) annually , with an average August temperature of 28 ° C (82 ° F) .

== Architecture ==

On the peninsula stands Alanya Castle , a Seljuk era citadel dating from 1226 . Most major landmarks in the city are found inside and around the castle . The current castle was built over existing fortifications and served the double purpose of a palace of local government and as a defensive structure in case of attack . In 2007 , the city began renovating various sections of the castle area , including adapting a Byzantine church for use as a Christian community center . Inside the castle is the Süleymaniye mosque and caravanserai , built by Suleiman the Magnificent . The old city walls surround much of the eastern peninsula , and can be walked . Inside the walls are numerous historic villas , well preserved examples of the classical period of Ottoman architecture , most built in the early 19th century .

The Kızıl Kule (Red Tower) is another well @-@ known building in Alanya . The 108 @-@ foot (33 m) high brick building stands at the harbor below the castle , and contains the municipal ethnographic museum . Sultan Kayqubad I brought the accomplished architect Ebu Ali from Aleppo , Syria to Alanya to design the building . The last of Alanya Castle 's 83 towers , the octagonal

structure specifically protected the Tersane (dockyard) , it remains one of the finest examples of medieval military architecture . The Tersane , a medieval drydock built by the Seljuk Turks in 1221 , 187 by 131 feet (57 by 40 m) , is divided into five vaulted bays with equilateral pointed arches . The Alara Castle and caravanserai near Manavgat , also built under Kayqubad 's authority , has been converted into a museum and heritage center .

Atatürk 's House and Museum , from his short stay in the city on February 18 , 1935 is preserved in its historic state and is a good example of the interior of a traditional Ottoman villa , with artifacts from the 1930s . The house was built between 1880 and 1885 in the " karniyarik " (stuffed eggplant) style . Bright colors and red roofs are often mandated by neighborhood councils , and give the modern town a pastel glow . Housed in a 1967 Republican era building , The Alanya Museum is inland from Damlataş Beach . With its rich architectural heritage , Alanya is a member of the Norwich @-@ based European Association of Historic Towns and Regions . In 2009 , city officials filed to include Alanya Castle and Tersane as UNESCO World Heritage Sites , and were named to the 2009 Tentative List .

= = Demographics = =

From only 87 @, @ 080 in 1985 , the district has surged to hold a population of 384 @, @ 949 in 2007 . This population surge is largely credited to immigration to the city as a result or byproduct of the increased prominence of the real estate sector and the growth of the housing market bubble . The city itself has a population of 134 @, @ 396 , of which 9 @, @ 789 are European expatriates , about half of them from Germany and Denmark . 17 @, @ 850 total foreigners own property in Alanya . The European expatriate population tends to be over fifty years old . During the summer the population increases due to large numbers of tourists , about 1 @. @ 1 million each year pass through the city . Both Turks and Europeans , these vacationers provide income for much of the population .

The city is home to many migrants from the Southeastern Anatolia Region and the Black Sea region . In the first decade of the 21st century , the town has seen a surge in illegal foreign immigrants from the Middle East and South Asia , both to stay and to attempt to enter European Union countries . As of 2006 , 1 @, @ 217 migrants claim residence in Alanya while working abroad . Yörük nomads also live in the Taurus Mountains north of the city on a seasonal basis . Additionally , there is a small African community descendant from imported Ottoman slaves .

The city is nearly 99 % Muslim , and although many ancient churches can be found in the district , there are no weekly Christian services . In 2006 , a German language Protestant church with seasonal service opened with much fanfare , after receiving permission to do so in 2003 , a sign of the growing European population in the city . In 2015 , the town began renovations of the Greek Orthodox Agios Georgios Church in the village of Hac? Mehmetli , and the church has been used for a monthly Russian Orthodox service . Alanya also provides the Atatürk Cultural Center to Christian groups on a regular basis for larger religious ceremonies .

= = Education and health = =

The city has 95 % literacy , with public and private schools , and a roughly 1 : 24 student @-@ teacher ratio . Rural villages are , however , disadvantaged by the limited number of secondary schools outside the city center . Alantur Primary School , which opened in 1987 , was built and is maintained under the Turkish " Build Your Own School " initiative , supported by the foundation of Ayhan ?ahenk , the founder of Do?u? Holding .

In 2005 , Akdeniz University of Antalya launched the Alanya Faculty of Business , as a satellite campus that focuses on the tourism industry . The school hosts an International Tourism Conference annually in coordination with Buckinghamshire New University . The city also has plans to open a private university in 2012 . Georgetown University operates an annual study abroad program for American students known as the McGhee Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies , named for the United States Ambassador to Turkey from 1952 ? 53 George C. McGhee , and based

in his villa . Ba?kent University Medical and Research Center of Alanya , a teaching hospital run by Ba?kent University in Ankara is one of nineteen hospitals in Alanya . Other major hospitals include the 300 @-@ bed Alanya State Hospital and the 90 @-@ bed Private Hayat Hospital .

= = Culture = =

Alanya 's culture is a subculture of the larger Culture of Turkey . The city 's seaside position is central to many annual festivals . These include the Tourism and Arts Festival , which marks the opening of the tourism season from at the end of May or beginning of June . At the opposite end of the season , the Alanya International Culture and Art Festival is held in the last week of May , and is a notable Turkish festival . Other regular festivals include the Alanya Jazz Days , which has been held since 2002 in September or October at the K?z?l Kule , which is otherwise home to the municipal ethnographic museum . The Jazz Festival hosts Turkish and international jazz musicians in a series of five free concerts .

The Alanya Chamber Orchestra , formed of members of the Antalya State Opera and Ballet , gave its inaugural performance on December 7 , 2007 . The International Alanya Stone Sculpture Symposium , begun in 2004 , is held over the month of November . The Alanya Documentary Festival was launched in 2001 by the Alanya Cinémathèque Society and the Association of Documentary Filmmakers in Turkey . Onat Kutlar , Turkish poet and writer , and founder of the Istanbul International Film Festival was born in Alanya , as was actress Sema Öner .

Atatürk 's visit to Alanya is also celebrated on its anniversary each February 18 , centered on Atatürk 's House and Museum . The Alanya Museum is home to archaeology found in and around the city , including a large bronze Hercules statue , ceramics , and Roman limestone ossuaries , as well as historic copies of the Qur 'an . European residents of Alanya also often celebrate their national holidays , such as Norwegian Constitution Day , and the city set up a Christmas market in December 2010 . Iranians also celebrate the Persian New Year , Nevruz , in Alanya .

= = Government = =

Alanya was set up as a municipality in 1872 , electing its first mayor in 1901 . Today , Alanya is governed by a mayor and a municipality council made up of thirty @-@ seven members . Eighteen councilors are from the far @-@ right Nationalist Movement Party , seven are from the center @-@ left Republican People 's Party , and twelve are of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) , which is currently in power in the national government . Mayor Adem Murat Yücel of the Nationalist Movement Party was elected in 2014 by unseating the incumbent Hasan Sipahio?lu , who had previously been mayor since 1999 . Elections are held every five years , with the next to be held in March 2019 . Alanya also has a deputy mayor , who often represents the city at its sporting events , and together the mayor and his team represent Alanya in the provincial assembly in Antalya .

Alanya District is divided up into 17 municipalities , including the city center , and 92 villages . Alanya is greatly influenced by the provincial government in Antalya , and the national government in Ankara , which appoints a governor for the district , currently Dr. Hulusi Do?an . Although Alanya has been part of Antalya Province since the Ottoman Empire , many local politicians have advocated a separate Alanya Province , a position supported by associations of foreign residents .

Nationally , in the 2007 election , the province voted with the Justice and Development Party , who were followed closely by the Republican People 's Party and the True Path Party . Mevlüt Çavuşo?lu , of the Justice and Development Party , is the only native Alanyalılar Member of Parliament representing Antalya Province in the Grand National Assembly , where he chairs the Committee on Migration , Refugees and Population . Çavuşo?lu is the current Turkish Foreign Minister and also served as the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe .

= = Economy = =

The tourist industry in Alanya is worth just under 1 @.@ 1 billion euros per year , and is therefore

the principal industry . The area is further known for its many fruit farms , particularly lemons and oranges , and large harvests of tomatoes , bananas and cucumbers . About 80 @, @ 000 tonnes of citrus fruits were produced in 2006 across 16 @, @ 840 hectares (41 @, @ 600 acres) . The greengage plum and the avocado are increasingly popular early season fruits where citrus fruits are becoming unprofitable .

Despite the seaside location , few residents make their living on the sea , and fishing is not a major industry . In the early 1970s , when fish stocks ran low , a system of rotating access was developed to preserve this sector . This innovative system was part of Elinor Ostrom 's research on economic governance which led to her 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics . In 2007 , locals protested the establishment of some larger chain supermarkets and clothing stores , which have opened branches in Alanya .

Beginning in 2003 , with the provisional elimination of restrictions on land purchases by non @-@ nationals , the housing industry in the city has become highly profitable with many new private homes and condominiums being built for European and Asian part @-@ time residents . Sixty @-@ nine percent of homes purchased by foreign nationals in the Antalya Province and 29 @. @ 9 % in all of Turkey are in Alanya . Buyers are primarily individuals , rather than investors . This housing boom put pressure on the city 's many gecekondus houses and establishments as property values rise and property sales to locals fall . A height restriction in the city limits most buildings to 21 feet (6 @. @ 5 m) . This keeps high rise hotels to the east and west of the city , preserving the central skyline at the expense of greater tourist potential . The fringes of the city however have seen uncontrolled expansion .

= = = Tourism = = =

Since the first modern motel was built in 1958 , considered the first year of the tourist industry in Alanya , hotels have raced to accommodate the influx of tourists , and the city as of 2007 claims 157 @, @ 000 hotel beds . Damlata? Cave , which originally sparked the arrival of outsiders because of the cave 's microclimate , with an average temperature of 72 ° F (22 ° C) and 95 % humidity , is accessible on the west side of the peninsula with trails from Damlata? Beach . Many tourists , especially Scandinavians , Germans , Russians , and Dutch , regularly vacation in Alanya during the warmer months . They are drawn to the area because of property prices , warm weather , sandy beaches , access to Antalya 's historic sites , and fine cuisine .

Other outdoor tourist activities include wind surfing , parasailing , and banana boating . Attractions include Europe 's largest waterpark , Sealanya , and Turkey 's largest go @-@ kart track . Hunting season also attracts some tourist for wild goat , pig and partridge hunting in area nature reserves .

For various reasons , tourist seasons after 2005 have been disappointing for Alanya 's tourism industry . Among the reasons blamed were increased PKK violence , the H5N1 bird flu found in Van , and the Mohammad cartoon controversy . Alanya officials have responded with a variety of publicity initiatives , including baking the world 's longest cake on April 26 , 2006 , a Guinness World Record . The economy has also suffered due to investment in more than 20 @, @ 000 surplus properties . Israeli tourists , commonly arriving via cruise ship , have also declined sharply by about 85 % from 2009 to 2011 due in part to strained relations between Turkey and Israel .

= = Media = =

Alanya has 10 local daily newspapers . One of these is Yeni Alanya , which includes the news and lifestyles magazine Orange and is available in English , German and Turkish . Two native German language newspapers are published in Alanya , the Aktuelle Türkei Rundschau and Alanya Bote for the community of German speaking residents and visitors . A monthly magazine Hello Alanya published in Alanya for foreigners , appearing in English and Dutch . The free regional newspaper , Riviera News , is printed in English and is widely available in Alanya .

Five radio stations broadcast from the city . Alanya FM Radyo broadcasts on 106 @. @ 0 FM and is partnered with Radio Flash , on 94 @. @ 0 FM , both broadcasting popular music . Other stations

include Alanya RadyoTime on 92 @. @ 3 FM , which broadcasts a variety of Turkish music , news , and talk programming . Two television stations are local to Alanya , Kanal Alanya , and Alanya Televizyonu , abbreviated ATV , which is partnered with Alanya RadyoTime .

= = Transportation = =

The D 400 Highway , the Alanya ? Mersin Route , connects Alanya from the east and west , encircling it , and linking through the city center via Atatürk Bulvarı . The D695 , the Ankara ? Akşehir Route , runs north ? south and reaches the sea 41 kilometres (25 mi) west of the city near Side , connecting with the D400 . Antalya Airport is 121 kilometres (75 mi) away and connects internationally . The new Antalya Gazipaşa Airport , first begun in 1992 , is only 14 @. @ 5 kilometres (9 @. @ 0 mi) from the city , and was expected to have its first regular domestic flights on May 22 , 2010 , although international flights were not expected before the start of the 2011 tourist season . No train routes go to Alanya or Antalya Province , and there are no train stations in the district .

There are bus and dolmuş systems out of Alanya 's two bus depots , but buses are usually limited to the major roads , and inside the city transportation is by car , taxi , or foot , as many roads in the old town are closed to vehicle traffic . The harbor includes cruise ship piers , and also seasonal ferries and hydrofoils depart for Kyrenia in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus . Cruise ships docking at Alanya have increased 50 % in 2013 , with 53 estimated to have brought 56 @, @ 000 passengers the end of the year . Further west of the city is the Alanya Marina , which started services in 2008 while still under construction , completing its expansion in 2010 . The 85 @- @ km2 (33 @- @ sq @- @ mi) marina allowed Alanya to participate in the 2008 Eastern Mediterranean Yacht Rally . The city is also investing in a community bicycle program with 150 bicycles and twenty terminals .

= = Sports = =

Alanya is home to a woman 's basketball team , Alanya Belediye , which started in the first division but was relegated after the 2002 season . The city hosts a Süper Lig soccer team , Alanyaspor . The club was founded in 1948 , and play home games at Milli Egemenlik Stadium . It played in the Second League between 1988 @- @ 1997 and 2014 @- @ 2016 . The club finally promoted to top level in 2015 @- @ 16 season . In 2007 , the city began constructing a new soccer facility with the intention of hosting winter competitions between major teams . The public Alanya Municipality Sports Facility is located adjacent to Milli Egemenlik Stadium , which is one of thirteen facilities .

Alanya 's waterfront location makes it suitable for certain events , and is perhaps most famous for its annual triathlon , part of the International Triathlon Union series , which has been held every October since 1990 . Marathon swimming competitions have also been connected to the triathlon since 1992 . Building on the triathlon 's success , Alanya hosted a modern pentathlon in 2009 . Alanya is also the regular host of The Turkish Open , part of the Nestea European Beach Volleyball championship tour , which takes place in May . In 2007 , the Turkish Volleyball Federation persuaded the European Volleyball Confederation to build a beach volleyball training facility in Alanya , and make it the exclusive " center of beach volleyball in Europe " .

The city is also a frequent host to national events , such as the annual beach handball tournament . Alanya is the traditional finish site of the seven @- @ day Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey , though organizers reversed the route in 2012 , and started the event in Alanya instead . Other cycling events include the Alanya International Mountain Bike Race . Additionally , the European Cycling Union had its 2010 European road cycling championship and 2010 ordinary congress meeting in Alanya .

= = Sister cities = =

Since making agreements with Talsi , Trakai , and Keszthely in 2006 , Borås in 2007 , and

Rovaniemi , Pindler Mlýn , and Moscow in 2009 , Alanya increased its number of sister cities to twelve , ten of which are located within the European Union . In 2005 Alanya applied with Sister Cities International for an additional sister city from the United States . The most significant tie is with the city of Nea Ionia , where many of Alanya 's Christians were resettled in 1923 after the Treaty of Lausanne . Soccer teams from sister cities Wodzisław Śląski and Schwechat have also come to train and scrimmage in Alanya . Wodzisław , Schwechat , Gladbeck , Fushun , and Alanya form a " family " in that most are partnered with the others . During the annual Tourism and Culture Festival , Alanya dedicates the year to focus on one country , and has involved sister cities , such as Trakai when 2009 was declared the " Year of Lithuania , " and Talsi , which was the focus of the 12th annual Tourism Parade in 2012 .