Sagalassos is one of the best preserved ancient cities in the Mediterranean. Sagalassos is 39 km to the centre of Burdur, 155 km north of Antalya, 7 km to Ağlasun County of Burdur Province. The ruins of the city are dramatically sited in the Taurus Mountains, offering magnificent views on the landscape as well as the ancient monuments. Recently Sagalassos was placed on Turkey’s UNESCO tentative World Heritage List.

The city seems to have adopted the urban institutions and the material culture of the Hellenized world. From 133 BC on, Sagalassos becomes a part of the Roman Empire.

The town received an economic boost during the reign of Augustus (BC 27 – AD 14). The prosperity initiated during this long period of peace reached its peak during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138).

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Sagalassos was officially recognized as the ‘first city of Pisidia, friend and ally of the Romans’. It was also the location of the emperor cult for the region, another privilege granted to the city by Hadrian.

The prosperity initiated during this long period of peace reached its peak during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138).

During the Imperial period they continued developing their own culture with Roman influences. From the 4th century AD onwards, until the final occupation in the 13th century AD, they became Christianized and eventually became part of the Eastern Roman Empire. In the course of the 13th century they were absorbed into the Seljuk Empire.

The prosperity initiated during this long period of peace reached its peak during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138).

WHEN AND WHY DID THEY LEAVE?

The city continued to flourish until the middle of the 6th century AD. From 541-542 AD onwards the bubonic plague several times decimated the population and caused enormous damage to the economy. A very strong earthquake, most likely with its epicentre in the city itself, levelled it ca. 590 AD. After this catastrophe, survivors continued to inhabit dispersed, sometimes fortified hamlets amongst the ruins, until the Seljuks, in the mean time, settled in Ağlasun. In the middle of the 13th century AD the last mid-Byzantine stronghold on the Alexander Hill was destroyed.

HOW DID THEY MAKE A LIVING?

The valleys of the region were even more fertile than today. The economy of the city was mainly based on farming, especially grain that was delivered to the Roman troops (both for market and as part of the taxation system), and during Imperial times, olive was also cultivated for the production of locally consumed olive oil. They also may have exported fir to Egypt to be used for architecture and ship building.

Another source of income, from Augustus (25 BC – 14 AD) onwards, was the industrial production of the so-called ‘Sagalassos red slip ware’, or locally made table wares, found in Western Anatolia and sporadically throughout the Eastern Mediterranean.

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WHO IS EXCAVATING HERE?

Since 1990 the site has been excavated by the University of Leuven (Belgium) under the direction of Prof. Marc Waelkens, who is leading an international and largely Turkish team, made up of different disciplines, on behalf of the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

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The Seljuk Turks living in Ağlasun adopted and adapted the name for their site in the valley below the ancient city. Thus, there is a clear connection between the two names.

**WHAT DO WE RECOMMEND?**

We kindly recommend that you should taste delicious trout at the fish restaurants in Ağlasun County-Yeşilbaş Area and cherries as well, relax at the historical mill. Be sure to buy some souvenirs from pottery shops in Çanaklı Area, enjoy your tea under the 1000 year-old monumental tree, communicate with the townspeople, if you can find the opportunity you should also visit Karacabey Dam, Sana Khan and İncir Khan in Bucak, Inşeyi Cave, Burdur Museum in the city centre, residences, all historical and natural beauties. Discovering the archaic cities will also add much to your pleasure.

We kindly invite you and your friends to Burdur to see the spectacular beauty of our city. People in Burdur will be glad to welcome you.

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**TOURISM AGENTS**

Daisy Travel Burdur Central County
Phone: 0(248) 233 62 33

Ceng Tourism Burdur Central County
Phone: 0(249) 233 41 00