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WILL ANTALYA STILL GROW ORANGES BY 2050?

A SHARED CLIMATE, UNEQUAL COSTS

WHO SHOULD PAY FOR A WARMER WORLD?

5 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU LAND IN ANTALYA



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FROM ANKA

A SHARED CLIMATE, UNEQUAL COSTS

Climate change is often described through what may disappear: coastlines, species, harvests, ways of life. But while putting together this week's ANKA31, we found ourselves returning to a slightly different question: what if something survives, but fewer people can afford to keep it alive?

That question sits behind the orange on our cover.

We asked whether Antalya will still grow oranges in 2050. The date is not arbitrary. Researchers are already using mid-century to model the future of water in the region. And what we found was not a simple story of disappearance. Citrus can adapt. But resilience has a price. And once we followed that thought, a story about oranges became a story about inequality.

The same question reappears on a much larger scale in our story on climate finance: Who should pay for a warmer world?

The modern international system is built largely around states pursuing national interests. Governments are expected to protect their own economies, citizens and strategic position. Asking them to bear costs whose benefits will be shared far beyond their borders therefore runs against some of the incentives on which that system operates.

Climate change presents a peculiar test for this logic. The atmosphere does not recognize borders. A country can act in its own interest and still remain vulnerable to what happens elsewhere; it can protect its own territory, but it cannot protect its own climate alone.

Perhaps that means climate change requires us to rethink what national interest itself means. Protecting a country's own future increasingly depends on protecting a system shared by everyone. In that sense, cooperation is not charity. It may simply be what self-interest looks like in a crisis that no state can contain within its borders.

There are other stops along the way. ANKA Editor-in-Chief Kenan Sener was among the senior media representatives who heard Türkiye's COP31 President Murat Kurum set out the host country's emphasis on implementation and collective climate action ahead of Antalya. Inside, we look at what else was on the table?

And because COP31 will not occur only inside negotiating rooms, this issue also looks outward: at what delegates should know before landing in Antalya, where international food guides suggest eating, and at Aspendos, an ancient city worth leaving the conference grounds for.

Two weeks to Antalya. Until then, enjoy the second issue of ANKA31, and we hope it gives you a few things to think about on the way.



WHO SHOULD PAY FOR A WARMER WORLD?

There is a deceptively simple question at the heart of climate diplomacy: who should pay?

For more than three decades, governments have agreed on at least one part of the answer. Countries do not carry equal responsibility for climate change, nor do they have equal resources to confront it. The U.N. climate system calls this "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities": all countries have a role to play, but their responsibilities and ability to act are not the same.

Turning that principle into a bill is much harder. Should countries pay according to how much they contributed to global warming? According to how wealthy they are today? Or should the money go first to those least able to protect themselves from its consequences? Those questions often point to different countries. And that is where an argument about climate finance becomes an argument about fairness.

YOU GOT RICH. NOW YOU'RE ASKING US NOT TO DO THE SAME?

The climate crisis is cumulative. The carbon dioxide released during the onset of industrialization remained in the atmosphere, it is still contributing to the warming being experienced today.

But many countries now being asked to transform their energy systems did not industrialize when emitting carbon was effectively free. Many of the countries that did are now among the world's wealthiest.

WHO STANDS WHERE?

One influential framework for sharing the costs of climate adaptation offers two answers: historical responsibility and capacity to pay. The first is closely tied to the "polluter pays" principle: those who contributed most to the problem should bear more of the cost. The second looks at who has the resources to pay today;

1. Broadly, developing countries, including China and India have argued that historical responsibility means developed countries should continue to lead on climate finance.

2. Developed countries, particularly in Europe, have increasingly argued that the contributor base should also reflect today's wealth and emissions, bringing economies such as China and wealthy Gulf states into the picture.

3. Small island states and least developed countries, meanwhile, have pushed the question of need to the foreground: whatever the formula, more finance should reach those most vulnerable to climate change.

THE MAP OF WEALTH HAS CHANGED

When the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted in 1992, the distinction between developed and developing countries reflected a very different global economy.

Today, that divide has become harder to draw. China is the clearest example, but hardly the only one. Major emerging economies now include some of the world's largest producers, consumers and emitters. Some are also financing climate-related projects beyond their borders.

A 2026 World Resources Institute analysis of 14 large economies outside the traditional group of developed-country climate-finance providers including China, India, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Türkiye, estimated that they provided or mobilized about $102 billion in climate finance between 2013 and 2023 for other developing countries. China accounted for the largest share, followed by South Korea, India and Brazil.

That gives developed countries a powerful counterargument. If climate finance should reflect the ability to pay, should today's economic capacity matter alongside yesterday's emissions?

Climate negotiations have to contend with both positions.

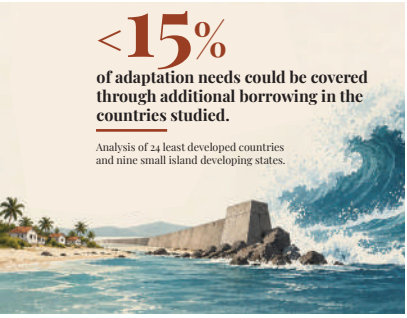
THE COST OF NEEDING HELP

Some of the countries most exposed to climate change are also among those with the fewest resources to protect themselves.

Think of Tuvalu facing rising seas, Bangladesh dealing with floods and saltwater intrusion, or Mozambique rebuilding infrastructure repeatedly damaged by cyclones. For them, climate finance can mean paying for flood defenses, securing water supplies, adapting agriculture to harsher conditions or rebuilding infrastructure to withstand more extreme weather.

But how that money arrives matters. A grant does not have to be repaid. A loan does. And for countries already struggling with debt, borrowing more to adapt to climate change can create another problem without solving the first.

An analysis by the International Institute for Environment and Development looked at 24 least developed countries and nine small island developing states. It found that these countries could cover less than 15% of their adaptation needs through additional borrowing.



In other words, taking on more debt would still leave most of their adaptation needs unfunded while giving them more debt to repay.

That raises another question of fairness: some of the countries least responsible for climate change may have to take on more debt simply to protect themselves from its effects, and even that wouldn't be enough.

HOW LARGE IS THE BILL? AND CAN IT BE SPLIT?

Finally comes the question of the bill itself: how much it is, and who is expected to pay it?

At COP29 in Baku, countries agreed on a goal of at least $300 billion a year by 2035 for developing countries, with developed countries taking the lead. Countries such as China can contribute to that effort, but those contributions remain voluntary. The money does flow. But not always on time, and not always as grants.

Developed countries increasingly argue that today's wealth and emissions should also matter, and that the pool of contributors should therefore expand.

And $300 billion is only part of the picture. The same COP29 agreement called for climate finance for developing countries to reach at least $1.3 trillion a year by 2035, drawing on a much wider range of public and private sources.

The Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance estimates that emerging market and developing economies, (excluding China), will require around $3.2 trillion in climate and nature-related investment every year by 2035.

About $2.05 trillion would be needed for the clean-energy transition, $400 billion for adaptation and resilience, $350 billion for loss and damage, $350 billion for natural capital and $50 billion for a just transition.

"WHY SHOULD I PAY IF EVERYONE BENEFITS?"

Historical responsibility asks who caused the problem.

Capacity asks who can afford to address it.

Need asks who is least able to live with the consequences.

The countries at the top of those three lists are not the same.

And even if governments could agree on the perfect formula, another problem would remain:

Climate change is global, but politics and economic development are still organized largely around national interests.

That creates a temptation familiar to almost every collective problem: let someone else move first.

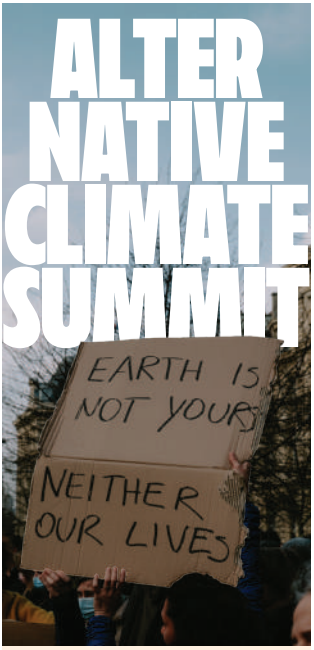
A government may worry that imposing costs on its industries while competitors elsewhere delay action will leave them economically weaker. A taxpayer may ask why my money should be transferred abroad and so on.

These questions may become harder to answer in a world increasingly shaped by security concerns and geopolitical competition.

From nuclear risks to the race for artificial intelligence, governments tend more about national resilience, strategic advantage and who might get ahead.

But the climate crisis is a reminder that countries ultimately share the same atmosphere, oceans and climate system. No country can fully insulate itself from the degradation of a climate system it shares with everyone else.

Perhaps that is the deeper challenge. Climate change requires countries to think beyond national interest without abandoning it, to recognize that protecting their own future also depends on protecting a system shared by humanity as a whole. The climate-finance debate is ultimately a test of whether that shared interest can be translated into shared responsibility.



While official climate negotiations unfold at COP31, another international gathering will take place in Antalya. From Nov. 14-18, the People's Climate Summit will bring together civil society groups, trade unions and social movements, with speakers from 32 countries and around 150 events.

From climate finance, loss and damage and fossil fuel phaseout to energy democracy, food sovereignty and the rights of nature, the summit will offer a civil society perspective on many of the issues being debated at COP31. It begins on the Global Day of Action on Nov. 14 with a march and rally, followed by four days of panels, workshops, forums and cultural events at the Mimar Sinan Congress Center.

Read the full story on ANKA News.



WILL ANTALYA STILL GROW ORANGES IN 2050?

Probably. But the harder question is what it will cost, and who will still be able to afford to grow them.

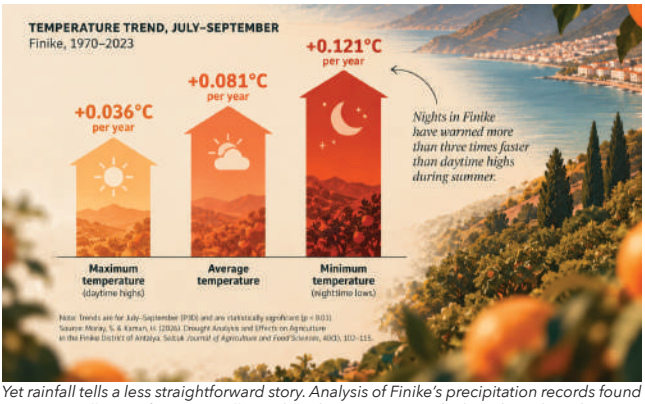
Almost one in three oranges grown in Türkiye comes from Antalya. Türkiye itself sits at the northern edge of the world's main citrus-growing belt, with more than 90% of its citrus cultivation concentrated in the Mediterranean region.

But in Finike, one of the places most closely associated with Turkish oranges, farmers are already describing a climate that no longer behaves as they expect

"April and May suddenly turn into July," one Finike farmer said in a recent study. When that happens, he said, the trees become stressed and lose their flowers before the fruit can develop. "Production in the orchards has fallen because of fluctuations in the climate."

FINIKE IS GETTING HOTTER, BUT NOT SIMPLY DRIER

The clearest signal is temperature. Decades of climate records from Finike point out that it is getting warmer. Average, maximum and minimum temperatures have all risen, and the warming is not confined to daytime, nights are getting warmer too, even faster than daytime.



Yet rainfall tells a less straightforward story. Analysis of Finike's precipitation records found no statistically significant overall trend in three or six-month drought indices between 1970 and 2023.

But when dry periods occur can matter as much as how much rain falls overall. Between 2010 and 2023, researchers found an increase in the frequency and severity of drought during April, May and June, an agriculturally sensitive period, even though the long-term drought indices showed no significant overall trend. At the same time, rising temperatures are expected to increase plants' water needs during summer.

In other words, rainfall does not have to steadily decline for water stress to increase. As temperatures rise, an orange orchard can need more water even without a corresponding long-term decline in rainfall.

AN ORANGE TREE FACES MORE THAN ONE CLIMATE THREAT AT A TIME

Experiments on citrus have found that mild drought alone or high temperature alone may cause relatively limited physiological damage. Put the two together, however, and the effect can be more severe, including leaf loss, damage to shoots and sharply reduced photosynthetic performance.

Another experiment shows mature lemon trees in a Mediterranean orchard went without irrigation for two months during summer. After one dry summer, irrigation helped the trees recover, with little lasting effect on yield.

The repetition of summer drought was different. Across consecutive years, the trees suffered cumulative damage: lower water use, reduced fruit set, smaller fruit, collapse of major branches and tree mortality. The lesson is that repeated stress can gradually erode trees' capacity to recover.

THE MOST DANGEROUS HEAT MAY ARRIVE IN SPRING

For an orange grower, the annual average temperature is not necessarily the number that determines the harvest. Timing can be everything.

In Finike, researchers identified unusually high spring tempera-

tures as one of the climate-related problems already affecting agriculture. If extreme heat arrives while orange trees are flowering, flowers can burn or drop before fruit sets, reducing the eventual crop.

This is not merely a future scenario.

Türkiye's Agriculture Ministry noted in its 2025 citrus report that orange production fell by roughly one-third to around 1.6 million tons in the 2024/25 marketing year, citing adverse weather during flowering. The report also identifies late frost, drought, heatwaves, new pests and diseases as threats to citrus quality, color and harvest timing.

INTENSE RAIN FOLLOWS LONG DRY PERIODS

Finike farmers also describe long dry periods followed by sudden, intense rain. Hail and tornadoes have damaged orchards and greenhouses. In December 2022, flooding damaged 1,318.4 decares of agricultural land in Finike, an area equivalent to roughly 185 football pitches affecting 553 farmers.

One farmer put it more simply: the old rains, he said, are gone. When rain does come, "it pours down all at once and passes," according to interviews with Finike growers published in a 2025 ground study.

An orchard is a long-term investment. Farmers make decisions based on when heat arrives, when rain falls, how much water trees will need and which pests they are likely to face. As those patterns become less predictable, keeping the orchard productive can become more expensive.

SO, CAN THE ORANGE ADAPT?

Probably. There is no single technological fix, but Mediterranean citrus research already points to a substantial adaptation toolbox.

There are ways to help citrus trees cope with a hotter, drier climate. Researchers are developing trees that can better tolerate heat and drought. Farmers can use shade to protect orchards from extreme sun, while sensors and weather data can show when trees actually need water.

The goal is simple: help the tree withstand more heat while using water more efficiently. That is encouraging.

It also changes the question.

A 2050 orange may require a rather different production system from the one that sustained orchards in the twentieth century.

But having solutions is not the same as being able to use them. Many of these tools still need to prove that they are affordable, practical and effective beyond

A STORY ABOUT INEQUALITY

Climate change is arriving in an agricultural economy that is already under financial pressure.

A 2026 study based on surveys of 110 citrus farms in Finike, Kumluca and Aksu found that the most important problem identified by producers was the

annual increase in input costs. That matters because nearly every major adaptation to a hotter climate adds another demand for capital.

More irrigation requires water, pumps, electricity and infrastructure. More pests can mean more monitoring or crop protection. Heat protection can mean shade structures or other investments.

Precision agriculture can save water, but sensors, software and equipment have to be purchased first.

And the farmer absorbing those costs may have surprisingly little power over the price received for the orange.

The divide therefore may be between farms that can afford to adapt and farms that cannot.

Research in Finike already finds that smaller farmers and those cultivating rented land are more vulnerable to climate impacts.

That is what turns a story about climate adaptation into a story about inequality.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE FARMER CANNOT ADAPT?

The loss would be more than agricultural. The Antalya survey found that growers often cultivate citrus because it is established in the region, because they know how to grow it and because of traditional production habits.

But that knowledge is not guaranteed to pass to another generation.

In the same survey, 47.27% of producers said young people in their families did not intend to continue farming.

The interviews from Finike are even more striking. “I think about leaving farming every year,” one producer said, adding that his children did not intend to continue.

Another said he continually thought of quitting.

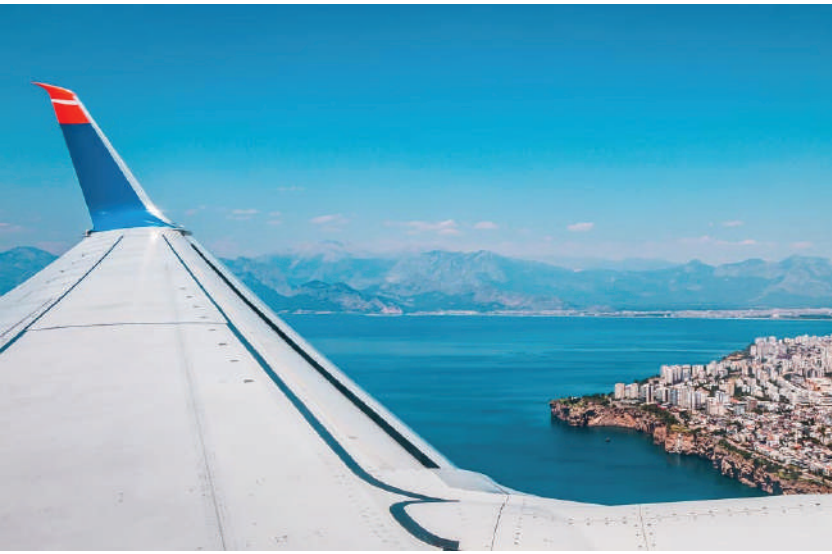
A third put it more starkly: his children could see how difficult the work was and how little return it brought. “I am the last of my generation. After us, this work will not be done.”

The climate crisis did not create all of these problems. Rising input prices, market structure, access to finance, farm size and generational change have causes far beyond climate. But it can act as a multiplier.

The science suggests there are ways to keep citrus productive under a warmer and more stressful Mediterranean climate. Better water management, resilient rootstocks, smarter irrigation and protection against heat can all buy resilience. But resilience has a price.

So Antalya may well still have orange trees in 2050. The real test is whether its orchards remain a living agricultural landscape, tended by thousands of farmers or become something that only the largest, best-capitalized producers can afford to maintain.

The orange may survive the heat. The harder task will be making sure the farmer survives the cost of keeping it alive.



FIVE THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU LAND IN ANTALYA

COP31 will bring thousands of people, hundreds of meetings and a fair amount of logistics to Antalya. A little preparation can save a surprising amount of time. Here are five things worth knowing before you land.

NOVEMBER IS NOT BEACH WEATHER. EXCEPT WHEN IT IS...

Leave room in the suitcase for both sunglasses and an umbrella. November in Antalya is mild, with daytime temperatures typically between 18°C and 22°C, but evenings are cooler and rain is possible. The official advice is to pack layers, a light jacket and rain protection, and comfortable shoes are a good idea for long days across the conference site. Check the forecast again before you fly; Antalya in November can still deliver a beautiful Mediterranean day, but it makes no promises.

CHECK WHETHER YOUR HOTEL IS ON THE SHUTTLE MAP

Not every Antalya hotel comes with a COP31 shuttle stop. Complimentary shuttles will operate across the region, but stops will only be available at hotels listed on the official COP31 accommodation platform. If you booked elsewhere, you may need to make your own way to the nearest stop. Before travelling, find your hotel or the closest stop on the official interactive transport map, which shows shuttle routes, stops and participating hotels.

ACCREDITED? YOUR TRANSPORT IS FREE

COP31 participants will have access to free transport between Antalya Airport, official accommodation booked through the COP31 platform and the conference venue. Official shuttle routes also connect the airport and Antalya city center with the venue. The airport is roughly 20-30 minutes from the COP31 site, although journeys from accommodation areas can take around 30-60 minutes. AntRay, Antalya's tram system, provides another option for reaching the conference area.

YOUR COP31 SCHEDULE IS GOING MOBILE

Your phone may become one of your more useful COP31 tools. Registered participants will have access to an Event Platform for schedules, meetings, documents, updates and notifications, with the option to build a personalized program. A dedicated iOS and Android app is also planned, bringing those functions to mobile along with participant networking and an AI-powered assistant. Login instructions will be sent to registered participants by email, so keep an eye on the inbox before departure.

GET YOUR BADGE BEFORE THE RUSH

You do not have to wait until COP31 opens on Nov. 9 to collect your badge: the registration desk opens Nov. 3. Bring the acknowledgment letter issued through the UNFCCC registration system printed or on your phone and a valid passport or nationally approved photo ID. The desk is open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. from Nov. 3-7, and 7 a.m.-7 p.m. from Nov. 8-11. One date is particularly worth remembering: the entire conference venue, including registration, will be closed Sunday, Nov. 15.

MEANWHILE IN YEREVAN

As Antalya prepares for COP31, another UN environmental summit is already testing the gap between global promises and action.

At the U.N. Biodiversity Conference, or COP17, in Yerevan, countries are conducting the first global review of progress since the landmark Kunming-Montreal biodiversity deal was adopted in 2022. The early verdict is uncomfortable: nearly 90% of countries have set national biodiversity targets, but fewer than half of the targets assessed are on track.

U.N. Biodiversity Conference runs until Oct. 30. Its final decisions will show whether Yerevan can turn that diagnosis into a faster path to 2030.

ANKA31 will return to Yerevan next week, after the final gavel.



FROM THE BRIEFING ROOM

With COP31 just weeks away, Türkiye's Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Minister Murat Kurum met senior media representatives in Ankara for a briefing on the country's plans for the summit. ANKA Editor-in-Chief Kenan Sener was among those attending.

Kurum said Türkiye wants COP31 to focus on turning existing climate commitments into action, with implementation at the center of its presidency.

A CALL FOR COLLECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION

Asked about "climate optimism," Kurum argued for a broader, non-partisan approach involving governments, local authorities, civil society, artists and athletes. "In Türkiye, all 86 million of us must do this together," he said. "Around the world, 196 countries must demonstrate this will."

INSIDE ANTALYA'S COP31 SITE

The briefing also offered a closer look at the COP31 venue: a site of more than 1 million square meters divided between the Blue Zone, the center of negotiations and diplomacy, and the Green Zone, designed around technology, culture, entrepreneurship and public engagement.

WHAT ABOUT EUROPE'S WASTE?

Asked about reports of European plastic waste ending up in Türkiye, Kurum drew a distinction between waste and recyclable raw materials. "We absolutely do not allow garbage imports. Garbage cannot enter our country," he said, adding that processed granulated material can be imported as an industrial input. Kurum acknowledged that waste could enter through illegal channels and said authorities had shut down businesses found violating the rules, imposed penalties and filed criminal complaints.



WHERE THE GUIDES EAT IN ANTALYA

Last week, ANKA31 went looking for the tastes of Antalya. This week, the question is where should you actually eat them?

Antalya has no shortage of restaurant recommendations. For this list, ANKA31 looked instead to two established international guides:

Gault&Millau's 2026 Türkiye selection and a recent National Geographic Traveller guide. The result ranges from a nearly 90-year-old Antalya institution to a tiny borek shop, and from a dinner worth dressing up for to a lunch where the piyaz is the main event.

PRICE GUIDE: ₺ budget | ₺₺ moderate | ₺₺₺ dinner out | ₺₺₺₺ splurge

Prices are indicative and may vary.



7 MEHMET

Best for: A taste of old Antalya

₺₺₺₺

The story of 7 Mehmet goes back to 1937, when Mehmet Akdag's grandfather opened his first restaurant in Antalya's old fish market.

Today, the third generation runs a very different-looking operation on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean, but the family still puts Antalya's produce and culinary memory at the center of the kitchen.

Two international guides seem convinced. Gault&Millau's 2026 Türkiye guide gives 7 Mehmet 15/20 and three toques, placing it among its "Outstanding Tables." One of the pilavs, something seasonal and the pumpkin dessert all seem worth trying.

PARLAK

Best for: A classic Antalya lunch

₺₺

Founded in 1954 and now in its third generation, Parlak sits inside the historic Zincirli Han in central Antalya.

Gault&Millau puts it in its Traditional Cuisine category, awarding it 11.5/20 and one toque in the 2026 guide.

This is a much more straightforward proposition: come for the grill, add a plate of Antalya piyaz and settle in. Grilled chicken and piyaz. Sometimes lunch does not require further analysis.



ZARURI

Best for: A long meyhane dinner

₺₺₺

Gault&Millau's definition of "traditional" does not stop at old-school restaurants. Zaruri also enters its 2026 Traditional Cuisine selection, earning 11/20 and one toque.

This is the evening option on the list: less quick lunch, more plates arriving gradually at the table. Start with the cold meze and ask what is best that day.

OZGUL KEBAP SISCI IBO

Best for: Antalya's most famous bean dish

₺

Ozgul Kebap Sisci Ibo is a small lunch spot in the central Elmali neighbourhood where each plate of piyaz is prepared to order. The tahini is whisked by hand with vinegar before being folded through the beans and topped with egg, tomato and parsley.

There is sis kofte, too. But the piyaz itself is substantial enough to make lunch.



YILDIZ SERPME BOREK

Best for: Serpme borek (as the name rather helpfully suggests)

₺

Remember serpme borek from last week? Now you need somewhere to eat it.

Yildiz Serpme Borek, is a small domain of borek master Metin Donmez. Here, the yufka is stretched across a marble counter until astonishingly thin, scattered with fillings, folded and sent into a high-heat oven. The result is a brittle, golden crust served hot with pickled green chillies and ayran.



SAVE ROOM: DILARA YASAR

Best for: Yanik dondurma

₺

An unfussy Muratpasa shop that has been serving sweets since 1954. Its counter holds trays of syrup-soaked tulumba, but visitors looking for something distinctly Antalya should turn to yanik dondurma. Made with rich sheep's and goat's milk, the ice cream has a pronounced smoky flavour.

For now, that is the critics' table covered. But restaurant guides are only one way to discover where to eat in a city. Next week, the critics step aside. ANKA31 turns to local favorites the Antalya tables people keep coming back to.



HOW FAR CAN A VOICE TRAVEL?

A quick escape to Aspendos, where a Roman theater has been testing the limits of sound for nearly 2,000 years.

Stand near the top of the theater at Aspendos and it is easy to believe almost anything about its acoustics. A coin dropped on the stage can be heard in the last row, the story goes. Or a whisper. Or the tearing of a piece of paper. Versions change, but the claim is essentially the same: nearly 2,000 years ago, Roman builders somehow created a theater in which the faintest sound could travel effortlessly to thousands of people.

SCIENTISTS BROUGHT MICROPHONES

In 2003, researchers arrived at Aspendos with microphones and loudspeakers as part of an EU-funded project investigating the acoustics of ancient theaters. They measured how sound travelled from the stage and built a detailed digital model of the theater.

What they found, sound does get weaker as it climbs towards the highest seats, almost as quickly as it would in an open space. But Aspendos' real trick is clarity. Its architecture produces relatively little of the late reflected sound that can muddy speech.

In other words, Aspendos does not stop a voice from getting quieter. It helps stop it from getting lost.

And almost everything around you plays a part: the steep stone seating, the towering stage wall, the colonnade above the cavea, even the individual rows of seats. Researchers discovered this while modelling the theater: when they replaced the stepped cavea with a simple slope, the simulation no longer reproduced the measured acoustics properly.

THE THEATER THE ROMANS NEVER SAW

There is one catch: the Aspendos you hear today is not ex-

actly the one Roman audiences heard. The second-century stage building probably had a wooden roof that has since disappeared. And a thousand years later, the Seljuks restored the theatre and briefly reused it as a palace under Sultan Alaeddin Keykubat. Their red zigzag decoration can still be spotted on the building today.

Ironically, that later life helped preserve the Roman theatre. One reason scientists can still test Aspendos' ancient acoustics today is that centuries after Rome, someone decided the building was too useful to abandon.

GETTING THERE

Aspendos is about 35 kilometers east of the Antalya Expo Center, making it an easy half-day escape from COP31. By car or taxi, allow roughly 35-45 minutes each way, depending on traffic.

Public transport is possible, but less straightforward: travel first to Serik, then take a local minibus towards Aspendos. For delegates working around a tight COP schedule, a taxi or shared car is the simpler option.

Allow at least two hours at the site if you want to go beyond the theater and see the aqueducts and upper city.

Climb to the ancient city above it and the ruins spread out into an agora, basilica, monumental fountain and other public buildings. Then, before heading back to Antalya, look for Aspendos' other engineering feat: its aqueducts. The system once carried water across the valley to the city, using two towering siphon structures that still rise to around 30 meters. The acoustics may get the attention. The aqueducts are the reminder that Roman engineering here extended far beyond the stage.



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