

Ancient Lighthouses on the Anatolian Coast

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Abstract

Due to its bridge-like geographical characteristic between Europe and Asia, Anatolia had been the homeland of many civilisations. The Anatolian Coast was used to be the most important transportation route as a result of the trade among those passing and neighbouring civilisations. The archaeological studies has shown that the maritime transportation states back to the Early Bronze Age through the oldest known shipwreck from 4,000 BCE to light in Uluburun, Kaş on the coast of Southwest Anatolia.

It is known that there exists more than one hundred ancient towns and harbours along the Anatolian Coast. In addition to these harbours, the geography of the Aegean Coast offers thousands of natural shelters. Cruising between these harbours and shelters, the lighthouses had been the most important "road signs" in the ancient times.

In this study, the history of the lighthouses in the Mediterranean is summarised and some of the most important ancient Anatolian Lighthouses and coastal settlements are presented, considering their importance in the nautical history as well as the history of maritime transportation.