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Bodrum: The Next St.-Tropez?

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With its white-sand beaches and shop-lined streets, the city of Bodrum has long been the favorite seaside retreat in [Turkey](#). But now this ancient fishing village, set against the blue waters of the Aegean Sea, has crashed the global party circuit.

A glance at the megayachts, some of them straight from the ports of Capri or Monaco, hint at its newfound fame. Paparazzi photos of Uma Thurman canoodling with the trendsetting hotelier André Balazs further confirms it. In summer, when the population of 50,000 swells tenfold, Bodrum feels a bit like St.-Tropez, except perhaps for the belly dancers.

What's the draw? Gorgeous scenery for one. Situated on Turkey's southwestern coast, the peninsula is a painterly tableau of white-washed stucco homes, purple bougainvilleas and olive-green hillsides. The city is also awash in historical attractions including the stumpy foundation of the Mausoleum, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Bodrum's night life beckons partiers like a siren's song. Young well-dressed revelers converge onto Cumhuriyet Caddesi, which visitors call Bar Street, before heading to behemoth discos like Halikarnas, an open-air club that resembles a nearby amphitheater. On stage this summer: decadence.

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