



# THE LOCAL CULTURAL HERITAGE IN MERSIN/TURKEY



For the project meeting in the international Erasmus+project: *Developing Educational Techniques Starting from Regional Context*  
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### **Anamurium:**



This ancient city is located on the eastern part of Cape Anamur, 6 kilometers south-west of Anamur. It was first built by the Romans and reconstructed during the Byzantine era.

### **Mamure Castle:**



Located 6 km south-east of Anamur, the castle has loopholed walls built in order to thwart attacks from sea and land and it is surrounded by protection ditches on its three sides. Used by Romans, Byzantians, Karamanogulları and Ottomans the castle has Turkish-Islamic architectural works such as mosques, fountains and Turkish baths.

### **Silifke Castle:**



The oval-shaped castle is built on a hill dominating Silifke and surrounded by ditches. There are ruins of arched galleries, water reservoirs, tanks and other structures inside the castle. It was used as the first settlement in ancient times.

### Uzuncaburç (Olba-Diocaesarea):



Uzuncaburç which is 30 km north of Silifke is reached through valleys and forests. Being one of the religious centres of the Hellenistic era, Uzuncaburç was called “Olba” in that period and “Diocaesarea” during the Roman period. In the entrance to it, there is a theatre dating back to the Roman period and, around it, there is a holy road with ancient remains.

### Cleopatra Gate:



Of the three gates of the city, once surrounded by walls, only the one facing the sea remains intact. Legend has it that Cleopatra entered the city through this gate to meet Antonius.

### Aya-Thekla (Hagia Thekla):



Built around 50 B.C., is a unique place with its legends which have reached our day and with the cultural heritage it contains .

### Rock-Cut Human Reliefs:



While going from the Maiden Castle towards the Village of Hüseyinler, if one leaves the road at the sixth kilometre and travels westward for another two kilometres, one arrives at the Creek Satan (Seytan Deresi). Human figures are carved on the rocky slope of this deep valley. These roman reliefs, which date back to the first century A.C. and which number 13, display scenes of funeral supper.

### Caves of Heaven-Hell:



This is a large pit which came into being when the ceiling collapsed as a result of chemical erosion caused by an underground creek. It is said that the cave which is located at the bottom of the initial subsidence and is one of these natural wonders known as the “Corycian Caves” in the ancient ages was the home of the Monster Typhon. At the entrance of the cave, there is a small church which a pious man named Paulus caused to be built.. The pit of Hell which is 75 metres ahead of the subsidence of Heaven came into being in a similar way. The pit of Hell looks awe-inspiring. Rumour has it that sinners and criminals were thrown into this pit in the past. It is recounted that Typhon, who was “the giant of giants” in mythology and who destroyed every place through which he went, was confined here. The Cave of Dilek and Asthma which is located 18 metres under the ground is in the vicinity.

### Kanlıdivane:



It is 3 km ahead of the road that turns right at the 45th kilometre of the Mersin-Silifke highway. The city, which was

called Carytelis in the Ancient Age, is situated around a large swallow, that is, a wide and deep subsidence. In Kanldivane which contains ruins of a temple, church, cistern and a town dating back to the Hellenistic,