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## **Byzantine Harbors in Anatolia and Harbor of Myra in Lycia**

### ABSTRACT

Throughout the history, Mediterranean shores of Anatolia served as the halfway stations of inter-regional trade with its harbors. In Late Antiquity and Early Byzantine periods one of the busiest maritime trade routes was from Egypt to Rome and to Constantinople. Commercial vessels on their way to Rome and to Constantinople, were sailing through the shores of Palestine, Syria, Anatolia and Cyprus. Lycia was the midway of this route serving that inter-regional traders with its harbors such as Olympos, Lmyra, Myra, Patara and Macri. Andriake, the harbor of Myra, providing storage facilities with its huge granary, and connecting a large economic hinterland to the harbor, was the most important harbor of Lycia throughout the Roman and Early Byzantine periods. Being about five kilometers distant to Myra, Andriake provides a typical settlement pattern of a harbor, which is not 'within the city', but a separate settlement functioning as an inter-regional harbor. The granary constructed by Hadrianus is one of the greatest and best-preserved harbor structures of the East Mediterranean. Also, an agora, two baths, a synagogue, five churches, workshops and buildings related to maritime trade testify to material remains of an important settlement that functioned as a harbor. Andriake did not serve only for the trade in commodities, but also served for the pilgrims visiting the holy city of H. Nicholas, which explains the presence of five churches in the harbor settlement. In addition, Andriake served as an export oriented industrial center. The 'Myra–Andriake Excavations', which began in 2009, reveal new information on this site.