

# PEONY

The peony (*Paeonia turcica*), the symbolic flower of Antalya, has also been identified in the Dilek Peninsula–Büyük Menderes Delta National Park.

The Dilek Peninsula–Büyük Menderes Delta National Park has been identified as one of the areas where this endemic species, known to grow around Antalya and Denizli, is most densely found.

At an altitude of around 1,000 meters in the National Park, the peonies spreading across a vast area were admired for their captivating beauty.

The Dilek Peninsula, one of Turkey's richest national parks in terms of natural vegetation, is home to 804 plant species, including 6 world endemics and 18 Turkish endemics. Scientists also note that this number is likely to increase significantly if sufficient scientific research is conducted.



# BELLFLOWER

The endemic plant, known as the Bellflower due to its resemblance to a bell and found in western Anatolia, is distributed around the Aydın Kuşadası Gulf, the Dilek Peninsula–Büyük Menderes Delta National Park, and Kuşadası Değirmendere. Blooming for the first time in May, bellflowers are herbaceous plants that can be biennial or perennial.

The best place to see Bellflowers is Eskidoğanbey Village, formerly known as Domatia, located within the boundaries of the National Park.

Nestled in greenery, the stone houses of the village are covered with natural Bellflowers in spring. The stream beds and the earthen cliffs between Doğanbey and Karina turn into a breathtaking visual feast in May, adorned with the stunning purple hues of the Bellflowers.





# BELLFLOWER

One of the most important ancient cities in the Büyük Menderes Basin, Priene, preserves not only the hidden secrets of history but also the Bellflowers, an endemic species, on the walls of its city fortifications.

In Priene, where history and nature blend harmoniously, the Bellflowers have managed to survive to this day within the National Park, a protected area, and the archaeological site of Priene.

The distribution area of Bellflowers in Kuşadası Değirmendere is naturally protected, as it is located in a little-known geographic region.



# PANCRATIUM MARITIMUM

The Sand Lily is a bulbous plant species belonging to the Amaryllidaceae family, naturally growing on coastal sand dunes. Its flowering period occurs between August and October.

In our region, it can be found in Dipburun Bay of the Dilek Peninsula – Büyük Menderes Delta National Park in Kuşadası, Aydın, and on the Pamucak Beach in Selçuk, İzmir.

This species is considered endangered.





# Aydın Everlasting Flower

The Aydın Everlasting Flower was identified in the 1960s by British botanist Davis in the Samson Mountains, and today its last individuals remain in the Kirazlı Mountains. Only 11 plants of this species are known to exist.

As an endemic species of our region, the Aydın Everlasting Flower is critically endangered. Although it can be confused with other Everlasting Flowers commonly seen along the coasts of Kuşadası and the National Park, it typically grows at altitudes of 800–900 meters. At the tip of each stem, clusters of 10–13 tiny flowers rise from a woody stalk.



# KUŞADASI TULUSHAH

The Kuşadası Tulushah was first introduced to the scientific world from Kuşadası and takes its name from a mountain in the Dilek Peninsula. It is an endemic species classified as CR (Critically Endangered) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Identified in the 1960s by British botanist Davis, it now survives only in limited areas, particularly within Kuşadası and Dilek Peninsula National Park. At the tip of each stem, clusters of 10–13 tiny flowers rise from a woody stalk. Its brightly colored flowers and restricted distribution make it both visually striking and an important species in need of protection.

As one of the region's endemic species, the Kuşadası Tulushah plays a critical role in preserving biodiversity and ecological balance. Protecting its natural habitat is vital for the survival of the species.



