

# 15 Day Lycian Way Self Guided

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## Summary

15 Days and 14 Nights to get the very best of legendary lands, historical sites, stunning scenery, local culture, majestic mountains, precipitous coastal cliffs, national parks and one of the best and most varied cuisines on the planet. Lycia is a region dating back to Old Testament biblical times. The origin of the name Lycia is the Hittite Word Lukka, their name for the people of the region, which was first written, by the Hittites, over 4,000 years ago.

From the Eternal Flames of Chimera, Tahtali Dağ (Mt. Olympos) the legendary home of the gods and the city that took its name you will travel right across the region, visiting the sunken city of Kekova, the birthplace of St. Nicholas, the longest beach in Turkey and sand dunes that belong in Arabia. This itinerary really does have it all!

As you move steadily across Lycia from East to West you find a variety of walking environments. After your first night in the Old Town of Antalya, your accommodation is in the delightful fishing village of Adrasan, then at the heart of the sunken city of Kekova before moving on to Patara (birthplace of St. Nicholas) and the cliff-top village of Faralya. Each has its own character and beauty for you to enjoy for several days and nights. So you will not have to be continually packing up to move on.

As you progress you will have ample opportunity to meet local people going about their daily life. Shepherds, subsistence farmers, children, and their attendant animals will tempt you with a slower, gentler pace of life. The easy going natural hospitality of local people knows no bounds and has no need of a common language.

The itinerary includes some of the classics of the Lycian Way such as the iconic lighthouse walk on the Gelidonya Peninsula, the hike to Upper Olympos (home of the Pirate King – Zenecetes), the walks to Aperlai and Simena in Kekova (home of the sunken city) as well as the renowned cliff top walks around Alınca and Faralya. There are also some great walks that add unusual points of interest, such as the siphon and aqueduct in the hills near Patara. This is also an itinerary that is full of surprises and delights that await you around every corner. Lycia is an area where huge majestic mountains rise straight out of the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean Sea. The coastline is a jagged collection of headlands, hidden bays and inlets. The mountains are creased by deep valleys that often open directly out to the sea and are cloaked in stunning natural forests. There are meadows, dotted with shacks and ramshackle huts used by shepherds whose sheep and goats are found at every turn. It is a place where eagles and buzzards soar and where the flowers carpet the lush grasses and forest floor.

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Chimera Flames



Lycian Way Icon - The Gelidonya Lighthouse



Walk on an Aqueduct Near Patara



View Over Butterfly Valley



Meet the Locals



Another Local



Kalkan Bay On the Way to Patara



Ölüdeniz Lagoon

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### Walk Metrics

15 DAY Lycia Self-Guided – Moderate to Challenging								
Day		Km's	Hrs			Comments	Accom.	Nights
1	Arrival Day	0	0			Antalya A/Port	Kale İçi	1
2	Ulupinar to Olympos via Chimera	11	4	120	385	Plus 1½hrs to explore Olympos	Adrasan	3
3	Gelidonya Lighthouse	19	6½	780	640			
4	Sazak Bay & Opt. Boat	10	3	215	215	20km 6hrs if not on boat		
5	Transfer & Visit Myra	0	0				Üçağız	3
6	Kapaklı to Üçağız	10	4½	45	100	Plus time in Simena (1hr)		
7	Kiliçli to Sıcak Bay	8½	4	25	260	Visit to Aperlai & Boat trip		
8	Transfer Day to Patara	0	0	0	0	Free Afternoon With Optional Activities	Patara	5
9	Akbel to Çayköy	13½	4½-5	450	400			
10	Free Day	0	0			Optional Activities		
11	Deliklikemer to Patara	16	4½	410	500			
12	Çayağızı to Patara	12	3	240	240	PLUS 1½-2hrs ruins		
13	Alınca to Faralya	11	4	300	950		Faralya	2
14	Ovacik to Faralya	14	4½	650	650			
15	Departure Day	0	0	3235	4340	Dalaman A/Port		

### Itinerary at a Glance

SUMMARY	B&B	HB	P/NIC	Based on Two Sharing an en-suite room		
Board Basis	14	0	10			
Airport Transfers		In				
Not Included	Site Entrances & Taxi to Antalya Hotel (Approx. €20)					
Rating	Moderate			No. of Walks		10
Totals	125	km	3,470	Ascent	4,105	Descent

### Price

Based on two sharing a twin or double room

Season	15.03.19 – 15.05.19 & 15.10.19 – 30.11.19	16.05.19 - 30.06.19 & 01.09.19 – 15.10.19
Per Person	£985	£1,105
Single Supplement	£225	£240
Single Traveller	P.O.A. – Subject to Suitability	

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## Detailed Itinerary

### **Day 1: Flight to Southern Turkey**

Individual flight to Antalya and taxi to your hotel in the Old Town of Antalya (taxi not included in the price). There is time to explore Kale İçi (the Old Town) Here you will find various historical sites and re-constructed Ottoman Houses (now hotels) and gardens.

### **Day 2: From Ulupinar to Olympos via the Chimera Flames**

Your transfer takes you to Ulupinar from where you hike through light forest down into "Green Valley", so called because of the preponderance of broad-leaf trees that grow along the water's edge of the stream that runs through the valley. You then head uphill into another valley. The path over the head of this valley leads you to the first group of flames of Chimera. From here you head down on a narrow winding track to the main group of flames beside the remains of a Lycian temple and a Byzantine church. The route then continues on to a picnic area for a Turkish tea or cooler refreshments. Then you walk along the Bay of Ciralı beside the beach to the ancient city of Olympos. This is a city steeped in Lycian, Persian, Greek, Roman and Genoese history. It is situated picturesquely on a small river.  
Hike: 11 KM, 4 hours. Change of accommodation to Adrasan

### **Day 3: To the Lighthouse of Gelidonya**

Your transfer brings you to the Bay of Karaöz. From there you hike to the lighthouse of Gelidonya situated at the lonely Southeastern tip of ancient Lycia. Your onward path takes you back to Adrasan. En-route you have enchanting views of the mountains behind Finike and of the turquoise blue bays and islands out to sea. This is the signature walk of the Lycian Way, a remote walk where your coastal views are sometimes glimpsed through the cliff-top forest or from cliff-top paths with clear views out to sea and along the coast.  
Hike: 19KM, 6½ hours

### **Day 4: To Sazak-Bay**

At the far end of Adrasan Beach a track out along and then over the Northern headland of Adrasan Bay. Heading outwards you will get great views of the bay and then over to Water Island and along the coast. As you begin to head down off the headland you can glimpse your destination, Sazak-Bay. You enter the bay through the forest that lines the back of the beach. From here you have great sea views bounded by the steep cliffs on either side of the bay. You can have an extensive break for swimming. Between May and October you have the option to take a boat and cruise slowly back to Adrasan (not included in the price). You may have lunch on board. If not, you can return on the same route, this time getting views over Adrasan beach and to the mountains beyond..

Hike: 10 Km, 3 hours (each way) 20km 6hrs if you walk back the way you came.

### **ALTERNATIVE WALK – Olympos to Adrasan via Zenecetes Hilltop**

A short transfer will take you back to Olympos. From here a classic Lycian Way walk on goat tracks through dappled pine trees and tangled Arbutus (Strawberry Tree) forest takes you to a shepherd's hut at Yaylalık (a 680m high meadow) where a local farmer offers hot and cold drinks to Lycian Way walkers. From here a short climb takes you to the ruins of Upper Olympos the final retreat of Zenecetes, a pirate king who claimed he could see everything he wanted to rule from this high vantage point. Rather than being enslaved by the Romans it was here that he chose to set fire to himself, his family and his home. The route down from Yaylalık wanders through a series of shallow valleys and brings you down to the river that is at the Northern end of Adrasan Bay. Restaurants and bars offer walkers cooling drinks served at tables on pontoons in the river. You then cross Adrasan Beach to your hotel.

Hike: 17Km, 5½-6hours plus time to explore the hilltop ruins.

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### Day 5: Visit to Myra; afternoon free

During your transfer to Kekova you visit the antique site of Myra. This is an historical highlight with Lycian tombs high in a rock face and one of the best preserved antique theatres in Turkey. The 13,000 seater theatre was the focal point of Myra when it was the capital of Lycia and an important part of the Roman Empire. It is the only Lycian theatre to have been modified to provide for gladiatorial exhibitions. Here you will find some superb architectural details and also be able to visit the rock tombs that were the homes built for the Lycian's ancestors. Visit: Myra – change of accommodation to Kekova (Üçağız)

### Day 6: From Kapaklı to Üçağız passing The Smuggler's Inn

A short transfer takes you to Kapaklı. You hike through a bushy and rocky landscape with views of the mountains and of the sea and cross small meadows strewn with little rocks and stones. Smuggler's Inn is a nice place for a rest. Located on a small inlet where you have a great chance to have a swim. Before reaching Üçağız your path leads behind and below the hilltop castle at Simena. A short climb to the ruins of this Genoese crusaders castle is well worthwhile. Your exploration of the site starts in the necropolis where Lycian Tombs litter the path. When you climb to the summit of the castle you will pass a roman baths and a small theatre hewn from the rock. Here you will be rewarded with a perfect view of the Bay of Kekova. You may also wish to visit the delightful village of Simena before descending back to your route behind the castle which continues alongside the bay to Ücağız.

Hike: 10 KM, 4½ hours (plus time to explore the castle and Simena).

### Day 7: Kilicli to the Sicak-Bay passing Aperlai; Boot tour in the Bay of Kekova

Your transfer brings you to the village of Kilicli. For a short distance you walk on a small road. Then you hike on goat tracks through a spellbinding rock garden bordered by typical Mediterranean bush landscape (Maquis) down to the Bay of Kekova. Once again you have views of the blue Bay of Kekova with its small islands spread across a large lagoon. As you reach the bay you pass the Lycian military base of Aperlai and scattered Lycian tombs. here you will find a beachside restaurant from where you will be collected by boat you go back to Ücağız through the dreamlike Bay of Kekova, passing the Sunken City, with swimming and snorkeling stops en-route. A relaxing end to the day.

Hike: 8½ Km, 4 hours

### Day 8: Transfer to Patara; afternoon free time with optional activities

Your transfer to Patara takes 1 ½ hours. After checking in to your Patara hotel you have time, just to relax by the pool or swim at the 14 kilometer long natural sandy beach or take a horseback ride in the sand dunes.

Change of accommodation to Patara

### Day 9: Akbel to Çayköy

The transfer takes you to Akbel for the start of a lovely meandering walk with a number of short climbs and descents (up to 180m) spread along the route. The paths lead you alongside rivers, through olive groves, passing vineyards and orchards of pomegranate and pistachio and crossing terraced fields. A lovely part of the way from Üzümlü leads from the source of the water supply to Patara carried by a roman aqueduct which is lined with ferns and trees. The route ends in the delightfully traditional village of Çayköy (the name means Tea Village).

Hike: 13½ Km, 5 hours

### Day 10: Free Time with Optional Activities

Possible activity: canoe tour on the Xanthos–River, trip to Kalkan an old Greek style fishing village. Visit to the ancient city of Xanthos or relaxing by the pool or on the beach.

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### Day 11: Deliklikemer to Patara

You start near the remains of the water supply to Patara. The water source is way behind you in the hills near Çayköy. After a short walk you will see the remains of a pipe made from huge blocks of rock with a pipe drilled through them. These are part of a siphon system that winds across the hill. From here shade dappled tracks wind alongside Kalkan Bay. Here with the views along the coast you can see as far as the Islands off Kaputaş Beach and on to Kaş and the Greek Island of Mais. Just under half-way through the route is a point where you can access a pebble beach for a swim. From this point you head to Yala Valley where you head down almost to sea level before passing over the headland which is the last obstacle before Patara Beach. From here a narrow trail leads down to the beach at Patara.

Hike: 16 Km, 4½ hours

### Day 12: Çayağazi to Patara

Patara Beach is one of the most stunning, long sandy beaches anywhere in the world. It is a protected turtle beach, with gigantic sand dunes like a scene from Lawrence of Arabia. At one end is the silted up entrance to the ancient harbor of the one-time Lycian capital city. From your drop off point you initially walk through steppe-like countryside. Then you hike along the never ending beach of Patara, passing the immense sand dunes. At the end of the beach a small beach restaurant might tempt you with refreshing drinks and/or a snack. Afterwards you have a chance to explore the Patara ruins. Here you will find the results of the renovation of the Parliament Building, theatre, Main Street, roman baths and an enormous grain store built by the roman emperor Hadrian.

Hike: 12 Km, 3 hours plus time to explore the ancient city.

### Day 13: Alınca to Faralya

This is the first of two classical Lycian Way coastal walks. In former times, this path was the only way to travel between these two villages. The route passes around the Bay of Kabak on a well-trodden path, with some of the best high coastal views on the Lycian Way. Several steady climbs will take you to the high point of the route before you descend to the village of Faralya, your home for the next three nights.

Hike: 11 Km, 4 hours – change of accommodation to Faralya

### Day 14: Ovacik to Faralya

Paradoxically your main walks end by taking on the start of the Western Lycian Way, but it's a classic! Your route starts with a long climb from above the Blue Lagoon at Ölüdeniz onto a variety of paths that wind onto the foothills of and around Baba Dağ (Father Mountain). You will pass through a number of different terrains and the small villages of Kozağaç and Kirme. Eventually the route starts to descend and you leave Baba Dağ behind head on down to Faralya, a charming village nestling in the hills above the famous Butterfly Valley which runs down to the sea..

Hike: 14 Km, 4½ hours

### Day 15: Return Journey

The transfer from Faralya to Dalaman Airport takes approx. 1½ hours.