

Eastern Lycian Way – Group Guided

Summary

Eastern Lycia is truly a land of ancient legends. There's the Chimera, a fire-breathing beast laid to rest where its eternal flames burn to this day. Here you will walk amongst the legends of Homer's Iliad, through the ancient city of Olympos. A city named after the mountain that was believed to be the home of Zeus and the gods and where Bellerophon stole a thunderbolt and rode the winged horse Pegasus to slay the Chimera.

Legends of Homer's Iliad



Moon Over Çirali from Chimera Flames

Icon of The Lycian Way



The Gelidonya Lighthouse

This Small Group, Guided Itinerary takes in the legends and history of this part of the Lycian Way as well as the most renowned walks at this end of the route. These include a visit to the iconic symbol of the Lycian Way, the Gelidonya Lighthouse, the walk over Musa Dağ which is sometimes called "The Hike to the Lost City" to visit the fortified encampment of the pirate king Zenecetes. No Eastern Lycian Way itinerary could ignore Mt. Olympos (now called Tahtalı Dağ) which overlooks all our walks and on the last walking day we go to visit this imposing mountain.

Along the way we will visit the ancient Lycian cities of Olympos where recent excavations have revealed a major centre of Christianity that was previously unknown. We also visit Phaselis the Easternmost city of Lycia and one time home to Alexander the Great. Lycia was built on trading a tradition that is still very much alive today. We will see it in abundance at the traditional market in Kumluca as we are offered samples of goods and soak up the local culture. We also visit Rhodiapolis one of the wealthiest cities of Lycia.



Yaylalik Shepherd's Hut



Mt. Olympos Nomadic Shack

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Walk Metrics

10 DAY Lycia Group-Guided								
Day		Km's	Hrs	Up	Down	Comments	Accom.	Nights
1	Arrival Day	0	0	0	0	Antalya Airport	Kale İçi	1
2	Göynük Canyon & Phaselis	4	2	100	100	Plus time in Phaselis	Adrasan	4
3	Sazak Bay	10	3	215	215			
4	Gelidonya Lighthouse	17	6	840	840			
5	Chill Out Day	0	0	0	0	4-10km of Optional Walks		
6	Adrasan to Çirali	19	6	700	700	Plus time in Upper Olympos	Çirali	5
7	Çirali to Ulupinar via Chimera Flames	17	5	500	500			
8	Kumluca Market & Rhodiapolis	0	0	0	0			
9	Tahtalı Dağ	16	6	900	900	Option to Choose		
10	Departure Day	83	0	3255	3255	Antalya Airport		

At a Glance

SUMMARY	B&B	HB	P/NIC			
Board Basis	9	5	0			
Airport Transfers		IN	If from Cirali			
Not Included	Lunches, airport transfers to and from Antalya Old Town					
Rating	Moderate to Challenging		No. of Walks		6	
Totals	83+	km	3,255	Ascent	3,255	Descent

At a Glance

Based on two sharing a twin or double room – Group Size 8 - 14 Pax.

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	£710	£735
Single Supplement	£170	£180

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Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Antalya

Individual Flight to Antalya and taxi to the hotel in the Old City (taxi not included in the price). You have time to explore Antalya on your own; in easy walking distance are historic sights, the promenade lined with palm trees and the harbor.

Day 2: Göynük Canyon and Phaselis / change of accommodation to Adrasan

After breakfast our guide will pick us up at the hotel with the minibus. Our first stop is in the Beydağlı National Park where we take a short hike into Göynük Canyon passing a small lake and walking on a track that climbs along the wall of the canyon to the mouth of a water filled gorge. This is a truly beautiful place with high walls and lots of greenery. (4 km, 100m ascent and descent). We then continue to the former pirate's village of Phaselis, an ancient Lycian city dating back to 700bc. The ancient harbor village had several harbors, a promenade and a theatre. After the visit we can take a refreshing bath in the blue sea. After arriving in Adrasan we can enjoy our first dinner together.

Hike: 4km, 1 hour, 100m Ascent and Descent.

Day 3: To Sazak Bay and Boat Trip

From our hotel we hike to Sazak Bay, our route crosses Adrasan Beach and the heads along and over the Northern Headland of the bay. We have nice view of the glittering sea in the bay below. Then the views open out to Water Island and along the coast. As our descent begins we will get a glimpse down to 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. After taking a swim in the unspoilt bay a boat picks us up and brings us back to Adrasan. We have lunch on board and have opportunities for a swimming and snorkeling on our way

Hike: 12 km, 3 Hours, 215m Ascent and Descent.

Day 4: Karaöz To Adrasan via the Gelidonya Lighthouse

Our transfer brings us to the Bay of Karaöz. From there we hike to the Gelidonya Lighthouse situated at the lonely Southeastern tip of ancient Lycia. Our onward path takes us 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: 17 km; 6 hrs. 840m Ascent and Descent.

Day 5: Chill Out Day

Relax on the beach of Adrasan or at the hotel on the romantic river. Or you hike to the small lighthouse and Southern Valley near your hotel. There is also the possibility of a boat trip or to visit a local hamam (Turkish Baths).

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Day 6: Over the Musa Dag / change of accommodation

Today is one of the classic Lycian Way walks on goat tracks through dappled pine trees and tangled Arbutus (Strawberry Tree) forest. After crossing Adrasan Bay narrow goat tracks takes us on a steady climb, through a series of small valleys, 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 is on shaded goat trails that wind through the tangled Arbutus Trees with their flaking, bright red bark. Just above Olympos the track open out at the side of a valley and heads down into the ruins of the Lycian city of Olympos. We pass through the ruins and on to our hotel in Çirali.

Hike: 19Km, 6hours plus time to explore the hilltop ruins, 7000m Ascent & Descent.

Day 7: From Cirali over Yanartas to Ulupinar

The eternal flames of Chimera are in the hills behind Çirali. According to Homer, writing in The Iliad, this where the Lycian warrior Bellerophon slayed the Chimera. The Chimera was a fire breathing, multi-headed monster that terrorized the people of the area. The flames are in the Yanartaş Mountains in the foothills of Mt. Olympos from where, according to the legend, Bellerophon stole a thunderbolt from Zeus and rode the winged horse Pegasus to defeat the dragonlike Chimera. We will walk up to the flames and on to the top of the hill where they are found to a pass down into Green Valley (so called because of the broad leafed trees that line the river). From the pass we will have wonderful views over the Çirali & Olympos Bay. Inland there is a wonderful view of the summit of Mt. Olympos. We descend to the Green Valley River and cross to the other side and then head up to the village of Ulupinar (Wonderful Spring) where melt water bursts from the mountain and flows down the valley. Now we stop for the renowned fresh trout and some of the best and most traditional food of the region. After our meal we return to the river and walk alongside it and return to Cirali in the afternoon.

Hike: 17 km; 5 hrs, 500m Ascent & Descent.

Day 8: Kumluca and Rhodiapolis

People of the region meet at the huge bazaar in the local market town of Kumluca. The fruit and vegetable market is a treat for all the senses. The aromas of the fresh herbs and spices combine with the sound stallholders calling out their wares and the vibrant colours of all the produce. Spices, dried fruit and nuts as well as locally made Turkish Delight (lokum) are excellent value and make good souvenirs and gifts for friends and family. Afterwards we explore the Lycian City Rhodiapolis. This recently uncovered (2006) site was home to some of the wealthiest people in Lycia. The philanthropist Opramoas is said to have personally funded the re-building of many Lycian cities after a major earthquake in 144 A.D. A re-construction project has re-instated the theatre. There is much evidence of the splendour and wealth of the city.

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Day 9: Tahtali Mountain (2,365 m)

For our final walking day we visit Mount Tahtalı (Mt. Olympos) the legendary home of Zeus and the gods. Our route starts in the village of Beycik, a small community of subsistence farmers. Our climb starts through open pine forest to a mountain pasture, where we might meet nomads who stay here often during summer or take tea at a local shack. We can refill our water bottles at a spring of cold, fresh mountain water under beautiful old plane trees. We continue through magnificent Lebanon Cedar forest as we climb to the saddle on the inland side of the mountain. Here we are at a height of 1,800 meters. As we descend the way we came we have wonderful views along the coast. While descending our eyes may wander the coastal line. In the evening we say farewell during our dinner.
(16 km; 5½ hrs.; 900 HM climb and descend)

Guests wanting more of a challenge can continue to the summit (an additional 565m ascent and take the cable car down from the summit. The guide will stay with the rest of the group returning to Beycik.

An alternative to this element would be to continue from the saddle across open pastures at Çüküryayla and into the Lebanon Cedar Forest below and on to the charming village of Yayla Kuzdere for a transfer to Antalya Old City for the final night stay.

Day 10: Return journey

Shared transfers from Cirali or Old Town Antalya to the Antalya airport; individual flight back.