

Western Lycian Way – Group Guided

Summary

This Small Group Guided Itinerary cherry picks the best walks of the Western End of the Lycian Way and adds some stunning high mountain walks that will also give you the chance to meet and enjoy the company of the Nomadic Yörük people. We will walk on the coast, across grazing lands and through orchards and above the tree-line close to the snow-capped mountains (Ak Dağ) near Gömbe. This really is the best walking, history and culture that Western Lycia has to offer.

The itinerary has a good deal of historical content and includes a boat trip over the sunken city of Kekova. We will also visit the three cities that at different times were the capital of the Lycian League. These are Xanthos the first capital, Patara the home of the Lycian Parliament building and Myra the bishopric of Saint Nicholas the source of much of the Santa Claus legends.

If nature is your “thing” then you will love the crystal blue waters where we can often see turtles in Kekova and Dalyan, the wetlands that are home to resident and migrating birds, the coast and coastal towns which host hundreds of storks and the rugged, mountainous terrain where eagles and buzzards soar. You will almost certainly find myriad lizards, the ubiquitous wild tortoises and occasional snakes. The wild flowers, particularly in spring are absolutely stunning. Turkey has over 9,000 species of flora of which 40% is endemic.

If your idea of a great walking holiday is a good solid walking programme steeped in history, culture and nature, then you need look no further.



View over Butterfly Valley



Dalyan Delta Boat



Loggerhead Turtle



Mountain Lake Near Gömbe

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Coastal Rock Garden



Time for a Boat Taxi!



Harbour Wall at the Sunken City



Ölüdeniz Lagoon



Walking on the Aqueduct



Heading to Faralya

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Walk Metrics

Western Lycia - 15 Day Group Guided,								
Day		Km's	Hrs	Up	Down	Comments	Accom.	Nights
1	Arrival Day	0	0			Dalaman Airport	Çalış	4
2	Kayaköy to Ölüdeniz	8	2½	100	350			
3	Alınca to Butterfly Valley	16	6	570	435			
4	Chill Out Day	0	0	0	0			
5	Tlos and Saklikent	10	4	160	340		Patara	5
6	Delikemer to Patara	16	4½	410	500			
7	Xanthos & Patara Beach	8	4	75	180			
8	Aperlai, Kekova Boat	8½	4	25	260			
9	Chill Out Day	0	0	0	0		Gömbe	2
10	Cyprus Canyon	11	3	350	500			
11	Around Mt. Ak Dağ	18	7	200	600			
12	To Dalyan via Elmali	0	0	0	0		Dalyan	3
13	Ekinci Hills	11	4	200	200			
14	Dalyan Beach & Turtle	5	2	0	0			
15	Departure Day	103	0	2090	3365	Dalaman Airport		

At a Glance

At a Glance	B&B	HB	P/NIC	
Board Basis	14	9		
Airport Transfers	Out	IN		
Not Included	Lunches - Often we stop en-route at a lokanta or café to sample local cuisine			
Rating	Moderate		No. of Walks	10
Totals	103	km	2,090	Ascent 3,365 Descent

Price

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	£865	£890
Single Supplement	£215	£225

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Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Flight to Southern Turkey

Short Transfer from Dalaman Airport to our hotel on the beach at Çalis in Fethiye.

Day 2: From a Ghost Town to the Famous Lagoon at Ölüdeniz

We start with a tour through the old City of Fethiye. Afterwards our bus takes us a short drive to Kayaköy, a Greek city which was abandoned in 1923. The village was left untouched by the local Turks when their erstwhile neighbours and friends were re-patriated as part of a re-settlement exchange agreement between the Greek and Turkish governments. Wandering the deserted, winding streets you can experience the haunted atmosphere. There are also some superb examples of orthodox churches to see. From here a short but very scenic walk continues to the famous Blue Lagoon of Ölüdeniz, probably the most photographed beach in Turkey. You will have superb views of it on your way. Then it's time to enjoy a swim and relax before heading back to your hotel.

Hike: 8 km, 2½hours, 100m Ascent, 350m Descent.

Day 3: Hiking in the Secluded Coastal Mountains near Faralya

Today we will hike in the forests on the mountainside high above the coast from Alınca to Butterfly Valley near Faralya. This is a classic Lycian Way walk with wonderful, cliff-top views out to sea and along the coast, dotted along the route as well as nice woodland walking.

Hike: 16km, 6 hours, 570m Ascent 435m Descent.

Day 4: Chill Out Day

Possible activities: farmer's market in Fethiye, Hamam (Turkish Baths), boat trip into the Bay of Fethiye, Paragliding from Baba Dağ to the beach at Ölüdeniz or relaxing by the pool.

Day 5: Lycian City of Tlos Hiking above Saklikent Gorge

Today we are moving from Çaliş to Patara. On our way, we do a short tour of the ancient hilltop city of Tlos and then we take a hike in the mountains above the deep canyon of Saklikent Gorge.

Hike: 10km, 4 hours, 160m Ascent, 340m Descent.

Day 6: 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, 4½hours, 410m Ascent, 500m Dscent.

Day 7: Hiking in Xanthos Valley and at the Beach

From Çayköy we follow a trail to find the aqueduct which forms part of our route and we walk along the top of it. On the route we have an open vista over the Xanthos River Delta as we continue to the village of Palamut. Here we will find the one time capital of Lycia which gave its name to the river. Xanthos is the site from which the Nereid Monument and Tomb of Payva were taken to the British Museum for "safe keeping." The famous Harpy Tomb is still in place. We will have time to explore the UNESCO World Heritage site and enjoy the views down to the coast. After lunch we take a short drive back to Patara where you can opt for a

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walk along the beach and over the huge sand dunes or you could choose to chill out by the pool or on the beach.

Hike: 8km, 4 hours, 8km, 75m Ascent, 180m Descent.

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Day 8: Hiking and Boat Trip in the Famous Bay of Kekova

Today will be quite a full day but it is one of the best days in our itinerary. After an early breakfast we will drive to Kiliçli in the hills above the Kekova Lagoon. For a short distance we walk on a small road. Then we hike on goat tracks through a spellbinding rock garden bordered by typical Mediterranean bush landscape (Maquis) down to the Bay of Kekova. Here we will have views of the 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. Soon we reach a beachside restaurant where our boat is waiting for us. We have a delicious lunch on the boat, the travel to Demre (Ancient Myra) through the dreamlike Bay of Kekova, passing the Sunken City, with swimming and snorkeling stops en-route. The boat also has a refreshing shower. In Demre we can visit the church of St. Nicholas (the origin of the legend of Santa Claus) and if we have time we will go to see the huge theatre and rock tombs that were at the centre of the ancient city of Myra.

Hike: 6km 3 hours, 6 km, 250m Descent.

Day 9: Chill Out Day

Possible activities: Boat trip, canoeing on the river Xanthos, horse riding on the huge dunes of Patara, shopping in Kalkan or Kas or chilling out by the pool or at the beach.

Day 10: Change of Accommodation and Hiking in the Mountains in Cedar Forests

Today we are heading high into the mountains, close to the snow line (sometimes just above it!) as we move from Patara to the mountain village of Gömbe. Gömbe is famous as a meeting point for the semi-nomadic Yörük people who move their herds of sheep and goats between the high summer pastures and the winter grazing nearer to the coast. We hike through Lebanon Cedar forests with huge majestic trees in the Cyprus Gorge. Our route takes us from a pass into the gorge walking between 1,500 and 1,000m past the river Kibris (Cyprus) to the mountain village of Sütleğen.

Hike: 11km, 3 hours, 350m Ascent, 500m Descent.

Day 11: Hiking in the High Mountains Around the Mountain Akdağ

We hike on high mountain trails at 1,900m, close to the snow line and above the tree line. Our route takes us on a circuit around the summit of Ak Dağ (Pale Mountain), the highest peak in Lycia. We then descend back down to 1,300 m. This is rugged land but the views across the coastal and inland landscapes are really quite breathtaking.

Hike: 18km, 7 hours, 200m Ascent, 600m Descent.

Day 12: Change of Accommodation – Back to the Coast

Today we are moving back down to the coast. Our destination, Dalyan is one of the most photographed parts of the entire coast of Turkey. It is also a leading area of conservation for birds (migrating and resident) and Turtles. Our journey from Gömbe to Dalyan take about 4 hours. We will make a stop on the way, to visit the high plateau city of Elmali. We will explore the old parts of the city and you will also have the chance to enjoy a Turkish bath (hamam).

Day 13: Hiking and Hot Springs

We start our day with a hike through the hilly landscape on the coast between Dalyan and the beautiful bay at Ekincik. We will be met by our bus, which will take us to the hot springs of Sultanhanı. Here we will find natural mud-baths, in which we can give our skin a treat. The mud is said to promise unending youth – we'll give it a try!

A taxi-boat brings us over the Köyceğiz–Lake back to our hotel.

Hike: 11km, 4 hours, 200m Ascent, 200m Descent.

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Day 14: Boat trip in the Natural Protection Area of the Dalyan River Delta

We start our final day with a walk along Dalyan's İztüzü Beach, which is a nesting site for large loggerhead turtles. It is a protected area and has seen much success in protecting these wonderful animals. Later, we catch a boat that takes us for a trip through the reed covered delta of the Dalyan River, we stop in between for a swim and if we are lucky, see some of the huge sea turtles.

Hike: 5km, 2 hours. No Ascent/Descent.

Day 15: Return Journey

Short transfer to Dalaman Airport; Return journey.