



Low Intermediate Turkish Coast, Fethiye – Marmaris, 9 - 16 Sept 2019

Holiday Details

A unique walking holiday exploring the Turkish coast and staying in ensuite twin or single cabins on a traditional, crewed gulet.

Journeying from Fethiye, along the Fethiye Gulf and around the famous Gocek Islands, we'll walk on 4 or 5 days to the next rendezvous point along forested tracks with views to the mountains, the forest or out over the islands along this lovely coast. These walks are on remote tracks following this unspoilt and undeveloped coast, most of which can only be accessed from the sea, making for a unique walking experience.



The walks vary to suit the terrain which can be rocky underfoot but they are taken at a comfortable pace for the group. Once we drop anchor there's plenty of ways to relax whether you spend your time snorkeling, swimming, using the onboard canoe or catching up on your reading, you are sure to have a great holiday. A wonderful combination of walking, relaxation, sightseeing, alfresco eating, drinking and of course cruising along this stunning coastline.

Enjoy excellent Turkish cuisine cooked every day by the onboard chef using the best local ingredients. Full Board is included with a packed lunch for walks. Vegetarians can easily be catered for. We have chartered a luxury 27m gulet where you will find onboard that every cabin has a private en-suite bathroom with home style toilet and shower cubicle.

Itinerary (*subject to change*) We will be doing the itinerary below either as it stands or in reverse.

Day 1

Welcome on board in Fethiye, a natural harbour surrounded by wooded mountains. Adil – the captain of the boat and co-owner with Anne – will meet us with their crew of 2 (cook and deckhand) at the boat.

Day 2

After breakfast an optional excursion gives you the opportunity to see something of rural Turkish village life. We will explore the ancient Lycian, Roman and Byzantine ruins at Tlios. We'll have lunch amongst the ruins of the abandoned 'ghost' town of Kayakoy, epitomized in Louise de Berniere's 'Birds Without Wings' Upon our return to Fethiye port we'll take our first cruise towards the Gocek Islands.

Day 3

Our first hike of the trip will find us following a broad track from Boynuzbuku with wonderful views over the Fethiye Gulf and Gocek Islands, with plenty of time for swimming, kayaking or simply watching the world go by. (5km, 2.5 hours)

Day 4

Starting from Sarsala Bay we follow a trail used for centuries by local nomads driving their goats to higher, cooler pastures. Following the coast we walk through the shade of pine trees, olive groves and maquis before the trail opens out to reveal Manastir Bay finishing at the ruins of Cleopatra's Bath (said to have been gifted by Mark Anthony to Cleopatra on the event of their wedding). (5km, 3 hours)

Day 5

Today's hike starts from the ruins and heads up through pine forest following an ancient path used by the Romans. This beautiful hike takes us through olive groves to a yayla before opening out into a valley where we will meet a nomadic family who settled in their humble stone cottage some 30 years ago. Leaving them we walk through the long-forgotten ruins of Lydae built by the Romans before returning to our gulet moored in turquoise green waters. (5km 3 - 3.5 hours)

Day 6 After breakfast we'll have a fascinating full day out. We'll board a river boat which will wend its way through reedbeds along the Koycegiz river through wetlands which are home to kingfishers, cormorants, spoonbills, egrets

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and if we're lucky we'll see some Loggerhead Turtles. We continue up the river past ancient Lycian burial tombs before bathing in thermal baths and maybe even take a mud bath. We walk to the ancient ruins of Kaunos and on to say hello to a nomad family. From there our hike takes us through beautiful unspoilt forests, to an ancient graveyard with a magnificent view; the ancient trail takes us around the coast before finally finishing in the village of Ekincik. (10 km 4 - 4.5 hours)

Day 7

Our final hike of the trip sees us on Paradise Island where high on the hillside we'll discover the Nimara Caves where they've excavated evidence of Goddess worshipping from 8000 BC. (8km, 3 hours). There will be time for swimming after lunch before a short cruise to Marmaris port where you can have an optional Turkish Bath to ease out your muscles after all your hiking. Overnight in port.

Day 8

After breakfast, bid your farewells to the captain and crew before we check out of our cabins by 10am. The cruise ends at Marmaris port. Transfer back to Dalaman airport.

Additional Notes:

1. Itinerary may operate in reverse, starting in Marmaris and finishing in Fethiye, your transfer will take you to the correct start location
2. Itinerary subject to change at Captain's discretion, for example due to weather.
3. Occasionally, a walk may not go ahead if weather conditions don't allow.
4. Tips for crew at passenger discretion. Guide is £35 per passenger.

Price includes: 7 nights full board in ensuite twin cabins (Ensuite single supplement £15 a night); shared transfer from/to Dalaman airport; Dalyan river trip, crewed yacht & all transport to walks. Up to 1.5 litres of water per day for walking only - if dispensed into a refillable container

Not included: Flight to Dalaman, Turkish tourist visa, drinks from the bar. It is also customary to tip the crew at the end of the trip (£35 is suggested). The optional trip to Tlos and Saklikent Gorge costs £45. A trip to the Hammam (Turkish Baths) costs £25. These optional trips can be paid for in Sterling or Turkish Lira, as can your bar bill.

Flight to Dalaman is not included We believe that this gives maximum flexibility and the best chance of getting a good price as well as the option to extend your stay. Flights must fit with the transfers below otherwise you will be responsible for your own transfer. To find suitable flights try <http://www.skyscanner.net/> Occasionally the departure point for the cruise can change so if you need to book your own transfer then it is better to book it easily and at a reasonable price with Anne at anne@meridiantravels.com because she can ensure you are taken to the correct location.

FLIGHTS TO BE UPDATED ON RELEASE OF 2019 SCHEDULE from London Stansted

DATE	FLIGHT	AIRPORT	COUNTRY	CHECK-IN	DEPART	ARRIVE	AIRPORT	COUNTRY
09/09/2019	TOM618	London Stansted	UK	5.15	7.15	13.15	Dalaman	Turkey
16/09/2019	TOM619	Dalaman	Turkey	12.25	14.25	16.40	London Stansted	UK

from Manchester

DATE	FLIGHT	AIRPORT	COUNTRY	CHECK-IN	DEPART	ARRIVE	AIRPORT	COUNTRY
09/09/2019	TOM714	Manchester	UK	5.35	7.35	13.55	Dalaman	Turkey
16/09/2019	TOM715	Dalaman	Turkey	12.55	14.55	17.25	Manchester	UK

Transfer arrangements

Your taxi driver will meet you at Dalaman Arrivals when you come through from Baggage Reclaim. Please look for someone holding up a WalkingWomen or EAST MEETS WEST sign. You will then travel by minibus to the start of your cruise. East Meets West journeys from Marmaris to Fethiye on one week, then back to Marmaris on the next. Depending on where they are in their schedule, we will join the boat at either Marmaris or Fethiye, and transfer back

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at the end of our trip from the other port. The transfer time from Dalaman Airport to Marmaris is 1.30 hrs, and to Fethiye is slightly less.

Turkish Visa

You will need a visa to enter Turkey and **this must be purchased in advance**, printed off and displayed with your passport. To buy a visa please use the following link <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/> The cost is 20 USD (around £12). You can no longer buy a visa on entry to Turkey.

Passport & Tickets

Is your Passport in date? Please check at this stage that your passport will be in date for a minimum of **SIX MONTHS** from the date of entry into Turkey. It is not too late to renew it now.

Facilities on board

These include twin & single ensuite rooms with bedside reading light, porthole window, wardrobe, under-bed storage and hairdryer. Your ensuite private bathroom has been newly fitted-out with home-style toilet and shower cubicle. Bathroom towels provided. (Note that hot water is available after your walks and in the evenings, seldom is there hot water in the mornings) There are also plenty of sun loungers with wonderful views. You are welcome to bring along your iPod and CDs if you'd like to play them while relaxing in the evenings. Also, it may be useful to know that there is a generator on board which can be used for charging electronic equipment such as phones and cameras and also means you can use your onboard hairdryer during the evenings. East Meets West has a canoe, snorkels, masks and fins (although you may prefer to bring your own snorkel). There is also a stereo radio / CD player and TV with DVD in the lounge. For more info please see http://meridiantravels.com/east_meets_west.htm

Foreign currency

Turkey's currency is the Turkish Lira. You will get a better rate when you are in Turkey so you can either carry cash or use your ATM card when you arrive in either Marmaris or Fethiye. You will need cash for drinks in the evening, and at places we stop for refreshment along the way; also of course postcards, presents, & souvenirs etc.

What to bring

- **Walking boots** - leather or waterproof fabric, broken in and comfy, with sufficient tread left for good grip. Walking sandals are great for the excursion, but the terrain is often too rocky to walk in them during the day.
- **Slippers to wear on board** though bare feet are preferred! Soft-soled slippers/flip flops (without a hard heel) should be new and clean; a new deck has been fitted so shoes/boots cannot be worn at any time.
- **Several pairs of walking socks.** If your feet blister easily, try 2 thin pairs of coolmax to keep your feet cool.
- **Waterproof jacket**- rain can occur occasionally!
- **Extra fleece or sweater** - for sitting out in the evenings.
- **Shorts or lightweight walking trousers**
- **Walking tops** - you may also want something long-sleeved in case you want to cover up from the sun.
- **Day Pack** - to carry water, towel, packed lunch, camera & other bits and pieces.
- **Water flask** or strong plastic water bottle, at least 1.5 litre capacity. A Platypus or similar water system is very handy.
- **Sun screen, lip salve, sun glasses, sun hat, swimming towel, swimming costume**
- **Mosquito repellent** - Deet 50%. You may also want to bring anti-histamine cream for bites or stings
- **Walking poles** - not essential, but very good if you have troublesome knees or difficulty with uneven ground.
- **Turkish Lira Cash**
- **Up to date Passport, Flight Ticket/booking reference number, and this information sheet for contact numbers!**

Non-essential, but they may be important to you!

Camera, spare memory card & battery, maybe binoculars, a mat to sit on during a drink stop. Torch and spare battery. This sheet for contact numbers in case you're held up getting to the airport! Phrase book. Mobile phone. Zinc oxide tape is great on your heels to prevent blisters (or Compeed blister treatment - in case you didn't put tape on in time!) Lightweight umbrella is great for the sun - either walking or propped over your head on the beach (well - I don't care what it looks like if it works!) Favourite herb tea bags they may not have on board (although please do not bring any other alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks onboard. There is a reasonably priced bar available for all drinks). If you are a keen snorkeler you might want to bring a mask & snorkel. There are fins available on the boat.

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