



PETEN TRAVELS

TRAVEL BEYOND THE ORDINARY

DISCOVER TURKEY BY LAND AND SEA

Sunday, June 7th - Thursday, June 18th

(11 Nights, 12 Days)

(5 Nights on a Luxury gulet)

(Pamphylia & Lycia)



This journey is one of exploration, rest and relaxation. Led by specialists in their field and augmented by input from local scholars, this tour affords us the unique opportunity to see and explore Anatolia from both the land and sea perspectives. It also offers you the chance to experience life on a luxury gulet! Each day will present a new discovery as we explore the dazzling ruins of Lycian and Pamphylian cities and remote fishing villages along the shore. There will be leisure time each day to hike to unexplored ruins, swim in the crystal clear water of the Western Mediterranean, or simply snooze on deck. Also, each day we will enjoy informal lectures on the culture, archaeology and history of Turkey.

Day 1 Fly to Antalya

Tuvana Hotel or similar luxury mansion in the old city

Guests are met by the tour manager at the **Ataturk Airport** who takes you to the internal terminal for the **Antalya flight** and assists you to an easy check-in. Our guide meets you at the **Antalya Airport** who facilitates the transfer to your hotel. Group participants meet the staff and their fellow travellers over a welcome drink and sit down dinner. **(D)**

Day 2 Antalya

Tuvana Hotel

Travelling distance: 70 km ~ 44 miles

This morning we visit the best-preserved ancient theatre in the world, located in the ancient city of **Aspendos**. Having thoroughly tested the near perfect acoustics, we circle the ancient acropolis to see some remarkably well preserved sections of the aqueduct that supplied the ancient citizens with their water. We continue our drive through the magnificent scenery to the ruins of **Selge**. We press on while deep gorges draped in cypress and cedar recede into the distance, graduated by deepening shade of blue. Olive, maple, carob and Judas trees crowd the road and only gradually give way to oaks as we climb higher. **(B, Picnic Lunch, D)**

Day 3 Antalya

Tuvana Hotel

Travelling distance: 30 km ~19 miles

After our breakfast we begin the day's explorations. We travel the short distance to **Perge**, the city founded by Greek settlers following the Trojan War. Here we can explore the great theatre, stadium, enormous Hellenistic and Roman gates as well as a colonnaded street. We end the day at the **Antalya Archaeological Museum** and its **Perge Hall**. The museum was declared a *European Museum of the Year* in 1988. We spend our evening over a fine dinner at an exclusive restaurant. Enjoy the Turkish *hamam* before dinner! **(B, D)**

Day 4 Antalya

Tuvana Hotel

Travelling distance: 120km ~75 miles

The next morning we breakfast and then begin our drive high up into the mountains of Pisidia until we come to the site of ancient **Sagalassos**. Far off the main tourist routes, Sagalassos has been extensively excavated in recent years by a team of Dutch archaeologists. Now visible are a library with mosaic flooring, temples, baths and the domestic houses of what was once the largest city in Pisidia. As impressive as the ruins are the breathtaking views at 5,000 feet. After a short drive we reach the town of Burdur by the Lake Burdur to visit the **Burdur Museum**. The artifacts and findings from Sagalassos are displayed beautifully. We return to Antalya. **(B, L, D)**

Day 5 Çıralı (Chimaera)

Olympos Lodge

Travelling distance: 80km ~50 miles

We drive south; the sea road along the Turkish Riviera climbs the mountains before descending into the pine-shaded **Phaselis** where a triumphal arch built for Hadrian's visit in AD 129 marks the start of a well-preserved street lined with statue bases of local notables, leading past Roman agora, a theatre and baths to an aqueduct. A short drive into the emerald green valley that leads to the seaside village of Çıralı for our next home for a 2 night stay, Olympos Lodge located directly on the beach next-door to the ancient sites of Olympos and Porto of Genovese. Relax and get ready for a scenic drive to the remote city of **Arykanda**. This spectacular terraced site is the Turkish Delphi, but without the crowds. From its perch this truly magnificent city could control the ancient trade routes. Built of huge stone blocks, many of the monumental buildings still stand and contain remnants of intricate mosaic floors visible even today. **(B, L, D)**

Day 6 Çıralı (Chimaera)

Olympos Lodge

This morning we get to **Myra**, famous for its rock-cut tombs and Roman theatre, before other travelers arrive and visit the church dedicated to the 4th century bishop, who through his good works became known as St.Nicholas- Santa Claus. Then, on to **Andriake**, to see the granaries, amongst the best preserved Roman

buildings on Turkey's southern shore. After dinner we invite our participants to take a walk (evening exercise) to "Yanartaş", the Turks call it;"the burning stone" related to **Chimeira** riding the winged horse Pegasus, Bellerophon shot a hail of arrows and killed the monster Chimeira after it destroyed Lycia with its fiery breath. The young warrior then built an altar for his patron goddess Athena. Or you stay at the Olympos Lodge for a relax evening or walk on the beach, you may swim in the Mediterranean Sea under the stars. **(B, L, D)**

Day 7 On board (Luxury gulet)

This morning after breakfast we have a short drive to **Çayagzi** where our luxury gulet awaits. New friendships deepen with a welcome drink and exploration of our vessel. The boat's chef will prepare all meals onboard. We begin our journey and explore this part of the coast contains some of Lycia's more rugged scenery. Hundreds of tombs dot the hills and valleys, and castles guard the sea channels. Explore the island of **Kekova**, a national park, featuring submerged ruins still visible beneath the crystal-clear waters and view the nearby, tiny town of **Simena**, built on the side of a steep hill crowned by a crusader's castle. The villagers' homes stand on the foundations of the ancient fortress, and as we climb to the summit we walk among ancient tombs now used for storage and animal shelters. We explore **Teimioussa**, by the side of Üçağız, which has one of the finest of all Lycian burial grounds, before spending the night, weather permitting, at Snail Bay on Kekova Island, where the water is pure azure. **(B, L, D)**

Day 8 On board

The harbor of the picturesque village of **Kaş** is full of colorful fishing boats. Founded on the ruins of the Lycian city, **Antiphellus**, today's modern buildings are scattered among the ancient rock-cut tombs and sarcophagi. Today we will have time to visit the ancient theater, wander in the sleepy town square, or sit down to tea in one of the shore side gardens. **(B, L, D)**

Day 9 On board

Our gulet takes us to the charming fishing village of **Kalkan** from where we travel by minibus to two important cities of the Lycian federation. In **Xanthos**, we view the fine theater, dominated by carved tombs. At the close of the 4th century B.C. nearby **Patara** became the capital of the Lycian Federation. Over the years, however, its once-bustling port was completely silted in and during those long centuries of neglect magnificent buildings were covered and hidden. For the past several years, however, Turkish archaeologists have been excavating here and they are restoring the city to its former grandeur. Excavations so far show that the city was much more important than originally thought. The archaeologists have found a colonnaded street that is even wider than the one at Ephesus. Also uncovered are four Roman bath complexes, five Byzantine churches, incised stones with inscriptions telling of the distances to other Lycian cities, and a map created in stone. We gain an insider's view of the work being done here as we have the opportunity to walk through the ruins with our lecturer. **(B, L, D)**

Day 10 On board

Very early departure 05:30-06:00 AM from Yeşilköy to **Ölüdeniz Lagoon**. Breakfast and swim, and head for Mersin Limanı just across from **Soguk Su (Cold water) Bay** for lunch and swim. We head off to **Gemiler Island**, a small spindle-shaped island covered by a late antique settlement, a place with links to St Nicholas of Myra, an important trading port during the Byzantine period. The remains of the ancient city completely cover this small island and are visible beneath the water's surface along the shore. A covered path leads us to the Byzantine basilica that once dominated the city.

If you wish, we can hike to the top of the island, about a 400-foot elevation gain, for a breathtaking view of the azure channel; we will pass the ruins of churches, small chapels, tombs and sarcophagi. **(B, L, D)**

Note- If you like, we can hike up to **Kayaköy** via a rarely used trail that follows the side of a hill full of carob trees, thyme, and bay, with incredible vistas of inlets and lacy coastline. Anatolian Greeks once inhabited this city of about 600 houses. During the 1920s, the entire population was relocated to Greece in

the aftermath of the Turkish War of Independence. It is an eerie and moving place, a tragic reminder of how politics can affect human lives. We walk first uphill, and then descend on a well-graded but sometimes rocky path to a cove at Soguk Su, where we meet our gulet.

Day 11 On board

In the morning we cruise to **Ağa Limanı**, or “Fisherman’s Net Cove. Those who wish to hike through forests, meadows, and spectacular coastal scenery to a little-known ancient site of **Lydai** to inspect the remains of two monumental tombs. Inscriptions tell us that one of the incumbents made it to the Roman Senate. We walk a pine-shaded trail amid the smells of wild herbs, and the music of goat bells, with spectacular vistas of the Gocek Lagoon and Bay of Fethiye. As we hike, our gulet sails around to meet us in a scenic cove which shelters the sunken baths of Cleopatra, built for her by Mark Antony. Legend says that Antony gave Cleopatra the entire Turquoise Coast as a wedding gift- a present fit for a queen. This is another excellent place to swim, if you feel so inclined. We head towards Gocek Marina. Our farewell dinner is on board. **(B, L, D)**

Day 12 Fly home

After breakfast we fly to Istanbul and guests are transferred to the international terminal for their return flights.

Bowing to Nature, we must remember that our itinerary aboard the yacht is dependent upon the weather.

PLEASE NOTE- This tour is based on easy gulet travel, but the itinerary also involves a good deal of walking. Good comfortable footwear is therefore essential! It should be pointed out that the tour might not be suitable for passengers who require assistance or who have difficulties with mobility. To enjoy this tour to the fullest you should enjoy hiking, good local food and cultural interaction.

Trip limited to a maximum of 10 participants

Tour price

€6600 Euro per person based on double occupancy (double or twin bedded)

€510 Euro single room supplement at hotels.

€970 Euro single cabin supplement (limited basis on the yacht)

What’s included in this price?

- Specialist leadership & local tour leader on land
- 5 nights on a luxurious gulet based on full board and soft drinks
- Traditionally authentic, special category hotels with local architectural ambience
- All meals as noted in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Bottled mineral water during transportation by vehicle
- All ground transportation by a/c, modern mini / midi bus with fridge, reclining seats, wide windows.
- All entrance fees to sites listed in the itinerary, parking fares and local taxes
- Domestic flight fares from Istanbul to Antalya and Dalaman to Istanbul
- Gratuities to hotel, restaurant staffs, boat crews
- Meticulously prepared tour folder with maps and information to help participants get the most from the excursions.

What's not included?

- International outbound & return flight fares
- Insurance of any kind
- Beverages
- Excess baggage fees; airport taxes, cost of obtaining passport and tourist visa
- Personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, communication charges...
- Gratuity to your local trip leader and driver

***About our luxury “gulet”-:** A “gulet” is a traditional wooden Turkish yacht modified to accommodate passengers. The gulets comply with the high safety standards of the local government regulations, which are monitored thoroughly by the coast guard. Our gulet is a magnificent 38-metre vessel with 6 air-conditioned cabins beautifully finished with mahogany paneling. Each cabin has a private bathroom with a shower. There is plenty of room for relaxing and reading in the lounge or on the decks outside. A large kitchen and bar area is located towards the back of the gulet, and meals are served in a large open area at the stern. Canvas and sailcloth awnings cover the dining area and a portion of the foredeck and provide shade for comfortable lounging.

Dress on board is informal. Our boat carries medical kits and has a basic library covering both the classical and the more modern.

Gulets are picturesque; the sails are rarely used for power and the motor is used most of the time. Our boats are quiet, and the captain will use the sails when possible.

AN ISTANBUL EXTENSION TOUR TO PRECEDE THIS TOUR IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.