



FETHİYE GULF TO ANTALYA

The Lycian Coastline

One of the best coastal region for sailing but we do need a minimum of 10 days, (*A Week on board preferably at least 2 days on land*), to cover the major towns, archaeological sites accessible from the coast between Fethiye down as far as Olympos.

The Lycian civilization was one of several which existed some 2,500 years ago in what is now the *Anatolian* region of modern Turkey. Lycia is located along the south western coast of Anatolia and is dominated by massive mountain chains. Its boundaries start at **Fethiye** to the west and stretch down to the famous Pamphylian city of **Antalya** on the east. Just how much of ancient Lycia you can see will depend on the length of time you can make available. I have detailed the most important cities which we can easily visit along this stretch of coastline.

FETHIYE GULF AREA - there are numerous lovely bays and coves for mooring and relaxing in this area and, from one of these, you can walk up the cliff side to Lycian tombs overlooking the inner gulf and on to the valley behind where you will find the remains of a city called Lydae. There are Roman ruins at Hamam and tombs to be found in a number of cliffs.

FETHIYE - it's great for shopping, especially in the old original marketplace with some good examples of Lycian rock tombs in the cliffs behind the town. Most importantly, there is a wonderful tour which can be organised from here (a day on land) and highly recommended. Firstly, Tlos then across the Xanthos valley to the spectacular Saklikent Gorge where you can walk up the river bed, followed by lunch at a village called Yaka (Lunch can be taken at one of the many trout farms in the vicinity) After a rest here, we could return to Fethiye. Setting for this ancient city which makes the journey so memorable and worth the day away from our boat.

GEMİLER ISLAND - this is a popular anchorage, not least because it is extremely beautiful with the huge mountain of Ak Dag towering over it. On the island itself are fascinating Byzantine ruins. There is also an energetic walk from a spot nearby to the, now deserted, old Greek village of Kayakoy. This is worth doing for the views on the walk but you will need sturdy walking boots and plenty of energy. In Oludeniz we can try paragliding activities.

KALKAN has been over-developed but at its centre is a very pretty village of old restored Greek houses with wooden balconies and masses of trailing flowers. From here you can visit the capital of Lycia, Xanthos and the religious sanctuary of Letoon. It is about 45 minutes drive from Kalkan. Very interesting but unfortunately, not too many buildings are standing. You will need your imagination here.

KAS - Like most towns on the Lycian coast, Kas lies wedged between mountains and sea. Once ancient Antiphellus, the town still exhibits a few remains of the old settlement. An ancient theatre on Kas' long peninsula is within walking distance of the town. There is a wonderful Lycian tomb at the top of a pretty street full of old houses with wooden balconies. Another good town for retail therapy with some quality shops.

KEKOVA - The name given to a whole ensemble of picturesque islands, numerous bays and ancient towns. These bays provide natural harbours in all seasons. Along the northern shore of Kekova Island, (Apollonia), earthquakes have disturbed the land causing some of the ancient houses to sink under the clear water, creating a sunken city. (You will be able to view this extraordinary sight from the side of the boat as you motor alongside). Kalekoy Castle (ancient Simena) offers a bird's-eye view of the bays, inlets and islands with numerous ancient sarcophagus lying in the sea and on land. Ucagiz (ancient Theimussa) is an interesting small village with more tombs and a good overnight mooring.

DEMRE (the old port of Andriake) - it is a 10 minute drive to the ancient city of Myra, with many splendidly carved rock tombs, overlooking the magnificent Roman theatre. The recent excavations of Andriake port are the highlight of a stop here as an underground cistern has been uncovered which is similar but smaller in scale to Basilica Cistern in Istanbul. In the modern day town of Demre is the church of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) who was the bishop of this Mediterranean city during the fourth century, he died here in 342.

OLYMPUS is both the site of a Lycian city and a very beautiful natural park surrounded by the huge Taurus mountains. If the sea is relatively calm it is possible to venture on from Demre and visit this area by boat, although a night stop is not possible. There is a lovely bay nearby where we can overnight - Cineviz Liman if wind conditions are OK.

PHASELIS is located further south east towards Kemer. During the main summer months it attracts numerous day trip boats from Antalya. If we venture this far by boat, however, the remains of the old city are well worth a look.

Option 1 :

I recommend finishing this stretch of coastline at Demre or Finike, as there are very few safe moorings as you get closer to Antalya. I would provide private transfers to Antalya and to the airport with a visit to Phaselis en route if time permits. Antalya is also a good base for a few days on land to visit some of the spectacular sites in this area - Aspendos, Perge and Termessos - and to visit the excellent museum and shopping malls.

Option 2 :

I recommend finishing this stretch of coastline at Olympos, I would provide private transfers to Antalya and to the airport with a visit to Phaselis en route if time permits. Antalya is also a good base for a few days on land to visit some of the spectacular sites in this area -

Aspendos, Perge and Termessos - and to visit the excellent museum and shopping malls.