

PATARA to KALKAN

9

Route from Patara to Kalkan via Yalıburun and Delikkemer - 7hrs

This is a long, scenic and mainly easy walk taking you around a wild and rocky section of coastline SE of the necropolis of Patara. It climbs dirt road over the ridge which separates Patara from the headlands of Yalı Burun, an area of rolling farmland between Eren Dağ and the sea. Then it follows the coast on path and track; low, rocky cliffs descend steeply to small wave-battered beaches and the two low islands of Çatal Adalar lie off the tip of Yalı Burnu. It runs on dirt road NE towards Delikkemer. From here, you can either walk 500m to the main road and take a bus or continue to Kalkan on a narrow but dramatic cliff path along the steep rocks which separate Delikkemer from Kalamar bay. If you intend to use the cliff path, send your rucksack ahead by bus, as this path involves some scrambling and is difficult with a full pack.

From the twin temple tombs in the necropolis above the Modestus Gate, continue along the broad G6 track towards the hill, ignoring a R turn. The track bends L, hairpins R around a white house and then starts to climb steeply SE through pine forest up the side of the hill. It deteriorates into an eroded, bulldozed G5 track, which breaks through the ridge between boulders. From here you have views through the pines back to Patara beach and ahead to the quite different valley beyond.

Continue down the bulldozed track in steep hairpins over soft ground. Cutting corners via an older road, you come to a stream with steep banks. Cross it and follow the track R through olive orchards, passing two houses as it approaches the sea and joins a G6 road. Turn R on the road and L again just before the last cliff top house. Climb to an isolated stone-built house with a marble terrace and views E over a tiny valley.

Scramble SE/down to cross the valley and pick up a G2 path on the opposite ridge top. Only 200m on, you reach a broad area of farmland on a valley floor where you turn L and walk inland for 5mins, then keep L/NE on a rising G2 path. Follow this uphill, past a house, through olive orchards, along a wall and onto a narrow winding path between cistus bushes. Beyond this path are more olive terraces which rise to an old house and the G6 road. Turn R/E on the road and 100m later turn R/S onto a G5 track which bends from side to side - through pines, farmland, past beehives and an old cottage - then starts to descend towards the sea. The views from all along this track are expansive - sea, with a scattering of islands, sun-warmed expanses of maquis overhanging lush green fields, dark pines shading secret stone cottages. At a fork, the R branch goes down to a stony beach where you could spend a sunny afternoon. The route continues on the L branch, which swings L/NE and approaches the eastern cliffs, until it is pinned between the cliffs and tiny stony beaches below. At a junction with a G5 lower track on the R, you could walk 100m down to a spring under trees.

Return to the main track, which rises, hairpins around an old stone house and becomes a clear G6 road. A 3km walk with sea views take you to Delikkemer.

1hr 30mins

1hr

2hr

45mins

