

Route from Boğazcık to Aperlae and Üçağız - 8hrs

Today's route is short and mainly downhill through scrub, with little shade and no water. It runs around Azanlı Tepe to the fascinating ruins of Apollonia on Kale Tepe. It turns through scattered ruins downhill to Aperlae on the isthmus of Sıcak Yarımada / Hot Peninsula. A camel team takes supplies to shepherds on the peninsula; you may see them. A short level walk across the isthmus leads to a pension, and further on a boathouse where you could also stay or get a boat to Üçağız. The walk continues over a hill and then along the coast to the village of Üçağız.

From Boğazcık, return 500m back along the route to a L turn opposite a blue gate and follow a broad G4 path rising on the slopes of Azanlı Tepe. Where the track forks, turn L/downhill, following a G2 path through boulders, over a stone wall and towards a small patch of farming land at the base of Kale Tepesi. Turn L and climb diagonally up the hill to reach the ruins just below the acropolis hill.

1hr 15mins

Apollonia is on the summit of Kale Tepesi, with the ruins of a Byzantine fortress and church superimposed on the Hellenistic fortifications. A neat Hellenistic theatre, overgrown and hidden, is just below the church and beyond is an unexplained building with columns lying around. On the hilltop is an acropolis with a circular outer wall and the original Hellenistic square tower inside; the easiest access route is diagonally R from the church. From the acropolis you can see R down to Ulu Burun, yesterday's route and part of the next day's as well as the nearby village of Kihçli.

The real find is to the NW of the site; a section of massive masonry with randomly shaped blocks accurately fitted into each other, the gaps between are so narrow you couldn't slip a piece of paper between. A window shows a characteristic Lycian sledge-shaped relief. The period must be very early; maybe 5-4th C BC. Behind this building you may find fragments of painted pottery in green and yellow - this may be of late Byzantine or early Selçuk date.

The necropolis is mainly on the NE slopes, and includes an early house grave with inscription, an attractively decorated late Roman sarcophagus with a pedimented lid, a sarcophagus with lions head protuberances on the lid and many sarcophagi of the standard saddle-back pattern. Five unusual tall pillar graves similar to that at Kabak still stand in the terraced fields or on a section of the outer wall; one is mounted above a house tomb. A cistern with a barrelled roof is set in the necropolis, below the old city walls. The whole shows a pattern of (maybe intermittent) settlement from 4th - 11th C AD.

Walk down from Kale Tepesi with the acropolis on the L, following a G2 path which descends to a G5 tractor track. Turn L and after 500m climb to join the G6 road. Turn R and 100m turn R on a G2 path which passes L of a square house-tomb. It becomes a clear and broad G4 path, leading to a dip in the ridge ahead. On the ridge, our route turns L/SE through a gap in the wall onto G3 track and descends to a well under trees. Past here, the descent is steeper and stonier; the route is joined by other paths on the R; stay on the most distinct L/E path, aiming to the L of the ridge ahead. Down more hairpins, you come to an ancient oak with an open cistern beneath. The path curves R/SW towards the sea, with a deep valley on your L, passes the top of an olive-grove, descends more hairpins through scrub and is joined by a path coming up from the valley. Stay R and continue downhill with a stone wall on your R; the ground is littered with sharp-edged boulders and the path winds like a russet ribbon between them. Head L/downhill from the wall to some cottages lying on the gentle slope between the hill and the sea.

1hr 50mins