

Route from Üçağız to Çayağızı - 6hrs 10mins

This winding, mainly level route starts with a gentle stroll through fields across the isthmus which joins the Simena ridge to the mainland. It turns along the coast, passing a boathouse, then continues through rougher country to the village of Kapaklı. Storks fish in the inlet and you may see kingfishers. From here, a delightful old road runs near the top of cliffs, past a Roman watchtower above a sheer-sided inlet. Opposite is the lighthouse at the end of Kekova Burun. The path crosses Çakıl Plaj / Gravel Beach then continues to the mouth of the river at Sura. Here you cross a bridge to a beach and Kale, once Andriake, Myra's harbour. There is a campsite, or you can take a dolmuş to Myra and return the next morning.

Walk E in Üçağız, passing between restaurants to the waterfront and turn L along the water. Between a house and the acropolis at Teimiussa, turn L on paved G4 path towards some tombs, then pass between houses to turn R on the bulldozed G5 track to Simena. It runs E then swings R around the head of an inlet, passing a walled graveyard.

40mins

Turn L/E at the lowest point of the valley on a G4 footpath which runs between walls and past a few houses before emerging onto broad fields. Continue on a G2-3 path straight up the valley, through scrub into a second area of farmland, leaving the ruins of a Roman fortress on the R. Further ahead is another Genoese fortress, twin of that at Simena, and the ruins of a few houses. The path descends L/NE through maquis towards an inlet where the path runs just above sea level. It passes the shell of a tin shack at Kamilik Burun and then turns L/NW to a boathouse restaurant where you could get water and food.

1hr 50mins

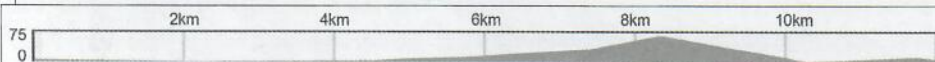
Past that, the path dips and bears R to cross the head of an inlet, where there is an old house and a well. The G2 path continues NE from the house, running first along a wall, then between rocks through rougher maquis on the S side of a patch of tarla. Past more ruins, it dips to join the tarla and crosses it in a long, NE diagonal. It passes through a gap to a second patch of tarla, hugging the N slope. Graves and ruins hidden in scrub mark the outskirts of the ancient city of Isthada; the ruins proper are N of the path. As the grassland starts to slope down, turn L/NW onto a clear G3 path.

1hr 10mins

The path, which rises between rocks, is marked by a partly-buried galvanised pipe and leads to a well at a junction. Turn R/N on G2 path which weaves first along a terrace, then through rocks towards a large house set high up on the outskirts of Kapaklı. It turns R and descends E across some field walls, parallel with a stone wall some 50m away on the R.

40mins

The path is confused here because new greenhouses are under construction. 500m E of the new house, before a bulldozed track, turn R on the old G4 paved road which leads E/downhill from the village then bends L as it approaches the sea. Follow this beautiful example of painstaking road construction parallel with the cliff edge. At a break in the S wall another track runs downhill to the sea and a Roman tower. The blocks still stand 10m high, just above a steep sided inlet. Was it a lighthouse? and was the inlet once a harbour? There is a well here and room to camp on level grassy patches between the rocks.



Retrace your steps to the junction. As you approach, the old road turns up through open scrub scattered with stray trees. You will see the white pebbly beach of Çakıl Plajı and a stone cistern on the way to the beach. Behind that are green fields planted with...

Cross Çakıl Plajı and find the path. It runs mostly on rocks at water level, crossing the beach at Sura, the path climbs to some ruins. R. Here there is a junction; the R turn leads to the beach at Çayağız and from there walk...

The valley at **Sura** is a deep, flat valley. The side is dark brown with mud and a stream of bulrushes bowing and whispering along. Beyond it, you can see across the wide valley probably 2 km seawards from the origin of the sea from scouring out the harbours. The valley is marshy and home to many wild birds. The oracle, the harbour, the ruins of Andriake, a cruise or to cut off part of the route.

In times of peace, boats could sail up the valley to load their cargoes. Hadrian's granary stood along the full length. Nearby is a temple. There was a nymphaeum or perhaps a baths. Around the city were extensive graveyards. Andriake, 4 km of straight road leads to Myra. There are also sulphur springs.

