

# Western Mediterranean



The Turquoise Coast is a glistening stretch of clear blue sea where gods once played in sublime pebble coves and now spectacular ruins abound. It's here too – in villages too pretty to postcard – that sun-kissed locals smile at travellers' never-ending quest for the 'Med Life'. The trick is deciding what to do; covering it all can prove exhausting, indeed detrimental to your olive oil glow. Yet by far the most dramatic way to see this stretch of coastline is by skimming through the crystal waters aboard a *gület* (traditional wooden yacht) where you can party till it's every man and woman overboard, or plain relax with the salt between your toes. Alternatively, you can negotiate the Lycian Way on foot high above Akdeniz.

However you go, it's the region's seamless mix of history and holiday that will inspire and enchant. At places like Patara, Phaselis and Olympos, your hand-packed sandcastles are humbled by vine-covered Corinthian temples and Lycian tombs. If you prefer to interact with your surroundings a little more, the western Mediterranean has plenty of 'X' factor. Scuba diving at Kaş, paragliding off Baba Dağ, kayaking atop the Sunken City in Kekova, and canyoning at Saklıkent are only a few of the options. Those preferring a slower pace can fine dine in hip Kalkan, get feral in Kabak, or wander the Ottoman houses of Antalya, an increasingly sophisticated neo-European city with a sparkling old town. Listening to the strains of European opera at nearby Aspendos – a fully functional Roman theatre – is another surreal travel moment. But travel here is not a well-kept secret. In towns like Marmaris, the swirling beast of package tourism roars deep into the night. Luckily the crowds are fenced in by concrete and convenience, and the creative traveller can still find the Turkey before the travel brochure – you can still find the gods' own playground.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Hire a scooter and hit the high roads and hidden coves of the **Hisarönü Peninsula** (p341)
- Dine exquisitely daily in **Kalkan** (p376), an epi-(curean)-centre of Mediterranean cooking
- Centre yourself while camping at **Kabak** (p369)
- Bargain for a boat and take a trip around the islands off **Fethiye** (p353) or **Kaş** (p379)
- Sample a section of the Lycian Way from the cliffs above **Ölüdeniz** (p365)
- Potter around the ruins of **Patara** (p372) before plunging into the sea on its beautiful beach
- Sea-kayak over the stunning sunken city of **Üçağız** (Kekova; p384)
- Sample the Ottoman splendour of **Kaleiçi** (p393) – the old quarter of Antalya – and wander through a world-class museum





## MUĞLA

☎ 0252 / pop 49,000

Muğla can make a pleasant re-introduction to Turkish life after the heady times of nearby Marmaris or Bodrum. It boasts a fine historic quarter, well-preserved, whitewashed Ottoman neighbourhoods and an array of excellent *çay bahçesi* (tea gardens) filled with urgent, friendly student banter.

The town is rare for a Turkish provincial capital; compact, tree-lined and invariably relaxed. Set in a rich agricultural valley, Muğla also prides itself on having appointed Turkey's first female *vali* (governor).

### Orientation & Information

Muğla is easy on foot. The centre of town is Cumhuriyet Meydanı, the traffic roundabout with the statue of Atatürk. The otogar (bus station) is 1km downhill (south), and the bazaar and historic quarter 500m uphill (due north) along İsmet İnönü Caddesi.

The excellent **tourist office** (☎ 214 1261; fax 214 1244; Marmaris Bulvarı 24/1) is 100m past the Hotel Petek and across the road in İl Turizm Müdürlüğü (Provincial Tourism Directorate), on the main road running east (on the right as you face uphill) from Cumhuriyet Meydanı. It has a useful map of the town centre (free).

### Sights & Activities

Go north along İsmet İnönü Caddesi from Cumhuriyet Meydanı to the **Kurşunlu Cami**, which was built in 1494, repaired in 1853 and had a minaret and courtyard added in

1900. Nearby is the **Ulu Cami** (1344), dating from the time of the Menteşe emirs, although repairs made in the 19th century have rendered its pre-Ottoman design almost unrecognisable.

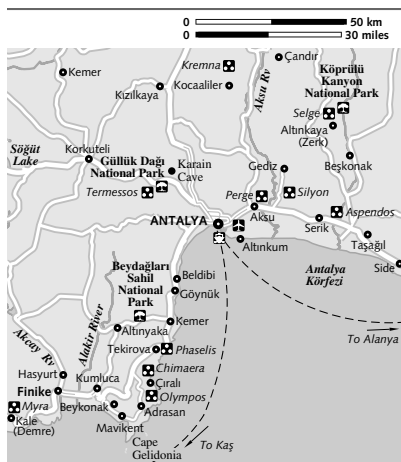
Continue walking north into the **bazaar**, its narrow lanes jammed with artisans' shops and small local restaurants. Giant plane trees add shade. Proceed up the hill to see Muğla's **Ottoman houses**, many of them in good condition. The winding alleys between whitewashed walls give it a classic Mediterranean ambience.

Muğla's **museum** (☎ 214 4933; Eski Postahane Caddesi; admission TL3; ☹ 8am-noon & 1-5pm) is close to the *belediye* (town hall) and contains a small collection of Greek and Roman antiquities (with captions and information panels in English) displayed in rooms around a courtyard. There's also a room containing traditional arts and crafts, and another for various fossils. The museum faces the beautiful **Konakaltı İskender Alper Kültür Merkezi**, which houses a community centre.

The **Vakıflar Hamam** (☎ 214 2067; Mustafa Muğlalı Caddesi 1; bath/massage TL8/25; ☹ 6am-midnight), built in 1344, has mixed bathing, though there's a separate women's area too.

### Sleeping & Eating

**Otel Tuncer** (☎ 214 8251; Saatlı Kule Altı, Kütüphane Sokak 1; d TL40) A long block northeast of the Kurşunlu Cami (follow the signs), the hotel is clean and spacious, with friendly management; ask for a balcony.



**Hotel Petek** (☎ 214 1897; fax 214 3135; Marmaris Bulvarı 27; s/d TL50/80) Though the three-star Petek's a bit characterless, it's comfortable and professionally run.

**Muğla Konakları** (☎ 213 0608; Süeymanbey Sokak 10; s/d TL50/100) This is a charming revamped Ottoman boutique hotel in the old centre of town. There's a certain cottage feel to the place, and the rooms are cute and spacious.

**Muğla Lokantası** (☎ 212 3121; İsmet İnönü Caddesi 51; mains TL3-6; ☎ 6.30am-10pm) With a great pick-and-point counter containing a delicious selection of traditional Muğla dishes at rock-bottom prices, this place is permanently packed.

**Doymuş 98** (☎ 214 2234; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 22; mains TL4-12; ☎ 9am-11pm) Next door to the tourist office, this place has become a favourite locally for its delicious pides (TL4 to TL6) and *köfte* (grilled meatballs, TL7). It has a few tables outside.

**Muğla Belediyesi Kültür Evi** (Muğla Culture House; ☎ 212 8668; İsmet İnönü Caddesi 106; breakfast TL5, coffee TL1.25; ☎ 8am-8.30pm) This 200-year-old house is a lovely place to come for breakfast or coffee. Peaceful and tranquil, it's popular with the locals who read or play backgammon here. Prices are kept low by the municipality which restored the place to its current glory.

**Sanat Evi** (☎ 213 0220; Hekimbaşı Sokak 9; breakfast €2.75, mains TL5-6, beer TL4; ☎ 7am-2am) In a 150-year-old Ottoman house, this café is great for a drink or a bite to eat. At the back there's a delightful shaded terrace beside a small pool that resonates with birdsong or the strains of classical Turkish music. The chef serves

different Muğla dishes daily. It's next door to a theatre celebrating the works of the iconic poet Nazım Hikmet.

**Ardore** (☎ 213 0681; Simdi Keyif Zamani; mains TL6-12) A crowd-pleasing menu of pizzas and sandwiches at this medium-paced place near the cinema. The baked potatoes (TL3) are plump.

## Getting There & Away

Muğla's busy otogar runs services to all major destinations in the region. If you're heading east along the coast, change in Marmaris. Buses leave every half-hour (hourly in low season) to both Marmaris (TL6, one hour, 55km) and Bodrum (TL13, 2½ hours).

## GÖKOVA (AKYAKA)

☎ 0252

Backed by pine-clad mountains, Akyaka village lies tucked away on a little grey sand beach where the river meets the sea. Here day trippers mix with summer residents in attractive summer houses with pantile roofs and intricate wooden balconies draped in bougainvillea.

If you're coming from the north, the road from Muğla comes over the Sakar Geçidi (Sakar Pass; 670m) to reveal breathtaking views of the Gulf of Gökova. It then switches back down into a fertile valley. At the base of the hill, signs point the way to Akyaka, often called Gökova.

Every Saturday there is a busy **market** in the centre of town. The local boat cooperative runs tours of beaches along the gulf, which make a nice day trip for around TL40.

**Çınar beach**, 1km out of town, is the best spot to swim. To get there, turn right at the primary school as you head towards the marina – then take the high road veering right.

**Yücelen Hotel Sports Club** (☎ 243 5434; www.gokovaruzgar.com) offers windsurfers, sea kayaks, canoes, pedalos, sailing boats and mountain bikes for rent, as well as tuition and courses. Canyoning and paint-balling is also possible.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Otel Terzioğlu** (☎ 243 5437; www.terziogluturizm.com; Lütfiye Sakıcı Caddesi; s/d TL30/60; ☎) This high-season hang-out around the corner from the Golden Roof (p334) is cheap and quite cheerful, but the views only reach to the car park. Rooms are compact; all include TV and fridge.

**Susam Otel** (☎ 243 5863; www.mepartours.com; Lütfiye Sakıcı Caddesi; s/d TL40/80; ☎) On the

same road as Şirin Lokanta, the Susam has immaculate and pleasant rooms – most with balconies – as well as a small garden with a pretty pool.

**Otel Yücelen** (☎ 243 5108; www.yucelen.com.tr; s/d TL80/140; 🍷 🍴) What you'd expect from the multi-faceted Yücelen group: large, well managed and well designed. Facilities include two pools, a fitness centre and hamam (bath-house). Avoid the weekends if possible; it's packed with Muğla students.

**Sezgin Apart** (☎ 243 5959; www.sezginapart.com; Lütfiye Sakıcı Caddesi; 3-bedroom apart TL150; 🍷 🍴 🚿) A good alternative, particularly if you plan to stay a few extra nights, is to rent a holiday apartment. There are numerous options, including this one. Otherwise, ask at the Golden Roof.

**Şirin Lokanta** (Lütfiye Sakıcı Caddesi 45; mains TL4-5; ☎ 8am-2am) Around 25m from the Golden Roof, this place does great home cooking. Dishes change daily.

**Golden Roof Restaurant** (☎ 408 9898; Lütfiye Sakıcı Caddesi 43; meze TL2, mains TL9-15; ☎ 8am-1am Apr–mid-Nov) On the prime corner in town, this family-run affair does good pizza and pasta, as well as home-cooked Turkish fare. The affable young host knows all the town gossip.

**Maydanoz** (☎ 243 5587; Lütfiye Sakıcı Caddesi; set menu TL24) A big open place near the beach with loads of outdoor tables, generous happy hours and an appealing seafood set menu.

About 750m beyond the village is the picnic and camp ground of **Gökova Orman İci Dinlenme Yeri** (☎ 243 4398; admission per person/car TL1/6, camp site per tent/car TL8/10, bungalow up to 6 people TL150).

Another 500m beyond that is the port hamlet of İskele, with a few basic restaurants serving the tiny beach at the end of the small cove. **Club Çobantur** (☎ 243 4550; www.asuhancobantur.com; Eski İskele Mevkii; s/d TL90/140 depending on room & season; 🍷 🍴) is housed in an old seamen's lodging and set on the seafront amid gardens, a cool mountain stream and a pool. Rooms are comfortable and 13 have sea views.

## Getting There & Away

Minibuses run from Gökova to Muğla (TL3, 30 minutes, 26km) every half-hour, and to Marmaris (TL3.50, 30 minutes) twice a day in high season only. Minibuses coming from Marmaris can drop you at the highway junction 2.5km from the beach. You can either walk or wait for a minibus.

## MARMARIS

☎ 0252 / pop 35,160

Marmaris is heaven or hell, depending which way your boat floats. An unashamedly brash harbour town that swells to over 200,000 people during summer, Marmaris is a classic case of what you see is what you get; all the time, all-inclusive, Euro-disco 3000.

Marmaris also sports one of Turkey's swankiest marinas (with suitably swanky yachts), and a stunning natural harbour where Lord Nelson organised his fleet for the attack on the French at Abukir in 1798.

Whatever your opinion of Marmaris, if it's a last night out, a *güilet* cruise along the coast, or a ferry to Greece you're after, then this tourist haven is pretty much the full package. Bar St is unparalleled Med Coast decadence, while on the rejuvenated promenade, charter-boat touts happily whisk you eastward to Fethiye and beyond.

If it is a quieter, more peaceful Turkish experience you're after, then head for the rugged coastline around Marmaris. Only 10km from the bright lights and banging techno of the city, the deeply indented Reşadiye and Hisarönü peninsulas hide bays of azure backed by pine-covered mountains and gorgeous fishing villages that still find time to sleep.

## Orientation

The otogar is about 3km north of the town centre, near the turn-off to Fethiye. From there, dolmuşes (minibuses) run down the wide Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı and deposit arrivals at the Tansaş Shopping Centre and at the Siteler dolmuş stop.

At the Atatürk statue, Yeni Kordon Caddesi veers left along the waterfront for 300m to the İskele Meydanı, the harbour-side plaza with the tourist office. The conservation area behind, above and south of the office has some of Marmaris' few remaining old buildings, including its small castle (now a museum). Three kilometres to the right (west) is a marginally more mellow offshoot of tourist utopia, Uzunyalı.

Inland from İskele Meydanı stretches the *çarşı* (bazaar) district, much of it a pedestrianised covered area. Also known as Bar St, 39 Sokak runs from the bazaar to a canal from where a bridge leads over to the marina. The bazaar can be difficult to negotiate post-Bar St (Hacı Mustafa Sokak).

## MARMARIS

0 300 m  
0 0.2 miles

**1** To Armutalan Hamamı (1km);  
Datça (74km)

**2**

**3**

**4** INFORMATION

CED Internet C@fé..... 1 D3  
Internet C@fé..... 2 A3  
Money Exchange Offices..... 3 B2  
Post Office..... 4 C3  
Tourist Office..... 5 C3

**SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES**

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Özcan Pension..... 14 A2  
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Ney Restaurant..... 22 C3  
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Taxi Stand..... 34 C3  
Turkish Airlines..... 35 A3  
Water Taxi to İçmeler..... 36 B3  
Water Taxi to Turunç..... 37 B3  
Yeşil Marmaris Travel & Yachting..... 38 C3

**5**

To Alın's Cafe & Grill (500m);  
Club Turquoise (1km);  
Siteiler (4km); İçmeler (7km);  
Turunç (20km); Reşadiye &  
Hisarözü Peninsulas

To Otogar (2krp)

Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı

Kublay Alpağın

Yeni Kordon Cad

Bazaar

Government House

Mosque

Fountain

İskele Meydanı

NASA Statue

Mermaid Statue

Marmaris Bay (Marmaris Körfezi)

Mustafa Kemal Paşa Cad

Mustafa Murtup Eğin Bulvarı

To Turkish Maritime Lines Docks (900m);  
Rhodes Catamarans;  
Günlück Park (3km);  
Aktaş (3.5km);  
Dalaman (120km);

Netsel Shopping Mall

Netsel Marina

General Mustafa Muğlalı Cad

Tanışa Shopping Centre

Dolphin Statue

Atatürk Cad

Atatürk Statue

Yeni Kordon Cad

Barbaros Cad

123 S, 125 S, 91 S, 88 S, 86 S, 84 S, 82 S, 80 S, 78 S, 76 S, 74 S, 72 S, 70 S, 68 S, 66 S, 64 S, 62 S, 60 S, 58 S, 56 S, 54 S, 52 S, 50 S, 48 S, 46 S, 44 S, 42 S, 40 S, 38 S, 36 S, 34 S, 32 S, 30 S, 28 S, 26 S, 24 S, 22 S, 20 S, 18 S, 16 S, 14 S, 12 S, 10 S, 8 S, 6 S, 4 S, 2 S, 0 S

Şirinyer is about 5km southwest of İskele Meydanı; and İçmeler, another beach resort area, is 8km southwest.

About 1km southeast of town is the harbour for ferries to Rhodes; 3.5km southeast of the centre is Günlück Park, a forest park reserve; and just beyond it is Aktaş, a seaside village with several hotels and camping grounds.

## Information

Getting online is easy here – the alley beside the PTT is a sure bet. There are plenty of banks with ATMs and money-exchange offices on Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı and Yeni Kordon Caddesi. **CED Internet C@fé** (☎ 413 0193; 28 Sokak 63B; per hr TL3; ☎ 10am-midnight low season, to 2am high season) A fast, friendly choice. You can buy drinks from the café below.

## SAIL YOUR OWN GÜLET

If you want to charter a boat, Marmaris and Fethiye are good places to find one. If you can get a party of up to 16 people together, you can hire a *gület* (wooden yacht) complete with skipper and cook. In May chartering the whole boat is likely to cost around €450 per day, with prices rising to €700 in August.

Experienced sailors can opt for a bareboat charter where you do the crewing (and cooking) yourself. To hire a bareboat sleeping six to 11 passengers for one week in spring costs around €2300. In high summer expect to pay €3000 for a week. Extra charges for one-way journeys, employing a skipper, cleaning up at the end of the voyage and so on can bump up the price even more.

The boxed text, p354, describes other *gület* cruises.

**Internet C@fe** (☎ 412 0799; Atatürk Caddesi, Huzur Apt 30; per 30 min TL2; ☎ 10am-1am).

**Post office** (PTT; 51 Sokak; ☎ 8.30am-midnight)

Phones are accessible 24 hours a day.

**Tourist office** (☎ 412 1035; İskele Meydanı 2;

☎ 8am-noon, 1-5pm Mon-Fri mid-Sep-May, daily Jun-mid-Sep) It's right near the castle.

## Sights & Activities

### MARMARIS CASTLE

The small castle on the hill behind the tourist office was built during the reign of Süleyman the Magnificent. In 1522 the sultan massed 200,000 troops here for the attack and siege of Rhodes, which was defended by the Knights of St John. He'd have a fair fight on his hands keeping the masses out today. The fortress is now the **Marmaris Museum** (Marmaris Müzesi; ☎ 412 7420; admission TL3; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-5pm Tue-Sun). Exhibits are predictably nautical, though there are some interesting glass pieces. The building itself, draped in bougainvillea, is lovely, as are the views over the marina and out to sea.

### BEACHES

The beaches may be narrow and pebbly – and often overcrowded – but actually swimming in the sea doesn't appear to be high on the agenda for many travellers to Marmaris. You can often splash about alone (not counting the hordes of bright red sun-bathers staring in your direction).

The beaches at İçmeler and Turunç (p339) can be reached by dolmuşes from outside the Tansaş Shopping Centre, and water taxis from Yeni Kordon Caddesi southeast of the Atatürk statue. The beach at Günlücek Park is also accessible by dolmuş from outside Tansaş. Dolmuşes to İçmeler cost TL1.50, to Turunç TL5.

### HAMAM

Supposedly the second-biggest hamam in Turkey, the enormous **Armutalan Hamam** (☎ 417 5375; 136 Sokak 1; bath & scrub TL20, with massage TL35; ☎ 9am-10pm May-Oct) lies behind the government hospital just off Dağa Caddesi, about 2km from the town centre. Go after 6pm when the hamam is empty of tour groups. There's a frequent free shuttle service from outside the Tansaş Shopping Centre and back, as well as from some hotels and the tourist office.

### BOAT EXCURSIONS

If it stands for little else, Marmaris stands for cruising around in yachts. An array of companies offer excellent day tours of Marmaris Bay, its beaches and islands. You'll usually visit Paradise Island, Aquarium, Phosphoros Cave, Kumlubuku, Amos, Turunç, Green Sea and İçmeler.

It costs around TL350 to TL450 per boat (up to four people – around TL50 to TL80 per person), but you'll have to negotiate. Yachts sail roughly from May to October.

Boats usually leave between 9.30am and 10.30am and return at around 5pm to 5.30pm. Before signing up, check where the excursion goes, which boat you'll be on and what's on the lunch menu.

Two-day trips (around TL800 for the boat) and three-day trips (TL1000) often go to Dalyan and Kaunos. You can also charter longer, more serious boat trips to Dağa and Knidos, west of Marmaris, or along the Hisarönü Peninsula to Bozburun. Finally, there's the ever-popular Blue Voyages (see p354) to Fethiye and further afield.

### DIVING

Several centres offer scuba diving excursions and courses from April to October. The **Deep**

**Blue Dive Center** (☎ 412 4438; Yeni Kordon Caddesi) charges €340 for a PADI open water course over two to four days. Day excursions cost €35 including two dives, all equipment, a divemaster and lunch. **Professional Diving Centre** (☎ 456 5888; Yeni Kordon Caddesi) charges €30.

## Sleeping

Marmaris has hundreds of good-value sleeping options, especially for self-caterers, so try to check out a few. The following listings include high season prices – in the off-season, expect serious discounts.

**Interyouth Hostel** (☎ 412 3687; interyouth@turk.net; 42 Sokak 45; dm or s without bathroom with/without ISIC card TL10/15; d without bathroom TL30; 📺) Located inside the covered bazaar, this hostel is efficiently run and a great source of travel information. Rooms, though smallish and rather spartan, are spotless and well maintained. There's a laundry service, café, small bookshop and book exchange. From June to September there's a free pasta night on the rooftop. Scooters can be hired (TL30 per day), and boat tickets to Rhodes and for *gület* cruises (see boxed text, p354) are sold here.

**Maltepe Pansiyon** (☎ 412 1629; 66 Sokak 9; s/d TL30/50; 📺 📺) The shady garden is the main attraction of this long-standing budget choice. Rooms are small but spotless, internet access is free and the friendly manager Memo goes out of his way to help. Call ahead.

**Özcan Pension** (☎ 412 7761; 66 Sokak 17; s/d TL35/60) Looks like an old apartment block from the outside, but this surprisingly spic 'n' span pension is a good-value place. A few rooms have balconies and there's a pleasant garden terrace. It's near the Barış.

**Hotel Begonya** (☎ 412 4095; fax 412 1518; 39 Sokak 101; d TL60; 📺) With seven cosy rooms set around a shaded courtyard, this place is beguilingly peaceful. But set slap-bang in the middle of Bar St, it's for party-goers only, as the owner freely admits! Do as they do and snatch a siesta during the day.

**Barış Motel** (☎ 413 0652; barismotel@hotmail.com; 66 Sokak 10; s/d TL40/60; 📺) This sleepy place is about as close as you get to old-fashioned family values in Marmaris. The amiable young manager is proud of his clean and quite spacious rooms, most with balconies.

**Club Turquoise** (☎ 417 2790; www.clubturquoise.com; Yunus Nadi Caddesi; s/d/apt TL50/80/100; 📺 📺) If you can ignore the poolside shenanigans and group tour romps, then this place to

the west of the centre – in the less manic pocket of Uzunyalı – has cheap, enormous apartments that suit longer stays. It's well managed, too.

**Marina Hotel** (☎ 412 0010; www.marmarismarina hotel.com; Barbaros Caddesi 39; s/d TL60/80; 📺 📺) Don't be put off by the castle-cut-out entrance. The rooms, canary-yellow with frilly curtains and doilies in the bathroom, are homely and comfy. The biggest boon is what the hotel claims is the 'best terrace in Marmaris' with wonderful panoramic views over the marina and castle. There's even a fixed telescope for serial boat-spotters.

**Otel 47** (☎ 412 4747; www.hotel47.com; Atatürk Caddesi 10; s/d TL60/90; 📺 📺) Amid the bright lights and swaying palm trees of Atatürk Caddesi, there's a certain Miami Beach vibe going on at 47. Regulars return for the prime location and white terrace overlooking the traffic. Rooms are small but smart, with brown-tiled floors.

**Royal Maris Otel** (☎ 412 8383; www.royalmaris otel.com; Atatürk Caddesi 34; s/d TL100/150; 📺 📺) Two pools, a private beach, a hamam and a fitness centre, spacious balconies with stunning views, but remarkably affordable. Standing aboard the roof terrace shaped like a ship's deck is a kookishly Marmaris experience.

## Eating

### RESTAURANTS

For something cheap and cheerful, try the bazaar area between the post office and the mosque; the old town area around the castle where there's a host of small Turkish restaurants; and along 39 Sokak (Bar St), where stalls cater to the ravenous late-night revellers.

**Meryem Ana** (☎ 412 7855; 35 Sokak 62; mains TL5-6) Simple and understated, this place serves terrific traditional home cooking. A firm family affair, you can see the mother and aunt hard at work in the kitchen stuffing vine leaves. It has an excellent reputation locally and is a good choice for veggies too (a large mixed plate costs TL10).

**Ney Restaurant** (☎ 412 0217; 26 Sokak 24; mezes TL4, mains TL10-15) Tucked away off the street up some steps is this tiny but delightful restaurant set in a 250-year-old Greek house. Decorated with seashells and wind chimes, it's run by the charming Birgül, owner and cook, who offers delicious home cooking at pleasing prices. Try the *mantı böreği* (Turkish ravioli).

**Liman Restaurant** (☎ 412 6336; 40 Sokak 38; mains TL10-20) While something of an institution and

well known for its mezes (TL5 to TL15), this lively restaurant inside the bazaar is not the cheapest of places. But the fish soup (TL10) is famous, and the *buğlama* (steamed fish, TL40 for 500g) a sumptuous speciality.

**Fellini** (☎ 413 0826; Barboras Caddesi 61; meals TL20; ☎ 9am-midnight) Perennially popular with both locals and visitors in the know, this attractively set waterfront restaurant does great thin-crust pizzas (TL15 to TL20) and also has pasta (TL10 to TL20).

**Aquarium Restaurant** (☎ 413 1522; Barboras Caddesi; meals TL20; ☎ 9am-midnight) Run by a friendly Turkish-Kiwi couple, this loud and proud port-side restaurant serves large grills and steaks to a jovial crowd of Turks and tourists. Slightly overpriced, but it's got the location covered.

### CAFÉS & QUICK EATS

**Özsüt** (☎ 413 4708; Atatürk Caddesi 4; ice cream per scoop TL1.50, puddings TL3-4) This ever-popular chain, with tables set on the seafront, is the perfect place to tuck into a Turkish pud or two. Try the delightfully named *aşure* (Noah's pudding).

**Doyum** (☎ 413 4977; Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı 17; mains TL4-12; ☎ 24 hr) The Doyum is all-too-rare in Marmaris: dirt cheap and high quality local food. Perhaps that's why it's packed with appreciative locals. Clean, friendly and always open, it's a good place for an early breakfast (TL5), and also serves an array of tasty veggie dishes (TL4 to TL5).

**Alin's Cafe & Grill** (☎ 413 0826; Barboras Caddesi 61; meals TL12) It might be just another chicken chain joint on the outside, but on the inside it's packed full of young Turkish families feasting on healthy grills and kebaps.

**İdil Mantıl Evi** (☎ 413 9771; 39 Sokak 140; mezes TL5-6, mains TL8-20; ☎ 4pm-4am) Conveniently located in Bar St, this is a great place for the night-nibbles. With simple wooden tables around a traditional oven, it's a delightful and atmospheric place. Guests leave little messages or their names on the wooden panels of the interior. Veggie dishes (TL8 to TL14) are available. The *gözleme* (crêpes, TL6 to TL10) make a great snack.

### Drinking & Entertainment

Marmaris is a party town. The aptly named 'Bar Street' (39 Sokak, also known as Hacı Mustafa Sokak) has a string of places that are wildly popular in summer.

Unless stated otherwise, the following bars open from 7pm to 4am daily. Beers cost TL8, spirits TL12 and there are regular foam parties, as well as dance and laser shows.

Keeping up with the hottest clubs is hard work, but we rate **Joy** (☎ 412 6572; 39 Sokak) at the top for sheer loose behaviour. **High End** (☎ 412 3728; 39 Sokak) is an old techno banger that relocated from around the corner on Long Beach, and clearly hasn't skipped a beat. The ever-popular **Back Street** (☎ 412 4048; 39 Sokak 93) and **Areena** (☎ 412 2906; 39 Sokak 54), with its bar elevated above a large dance floor, are also worth a nudge. If you still need a proper rinse out, try **Crazy Daisy** (☎ 412 4048; 39 Sokak 121) with its raised terraces (good for dancing on), as well as the cavernous **Greenhouse** (☎ 412 8792; 39 Sokak).

The **Panorama Bar** (☎ 413 4835; Hacı İmam Sokağı 40; beer TL6; ☎ 9am-midnight mid-Apr-Oct), off 30 Sokak, is more of a permanent fixture and less of a club. Its terrace, though not large, more than justifies the bar's name – it probably boasts the best views in Marmaris. To find it, follow the signs from left of the museum and castle.

At the eastern end of Bar St, near the Netsel Marina, there is also an **open-air cinema** (tickets TL8; ☎ Jun-Sep) behind the Keyif Bar. All movies are English-language releases and are screened at sunset.

### Getting There & Away

#### AIR

The region's principal airport is at Dalaman, 120km east of Marmaris. Turkish Airlines runs an airport bus (known as the Havaş bus; TL6) for its passengers from the Turkish Airlines office in Marmaris, departing about 3½ hours before each Turkish Airlines flight. Otherwise, take one of Marmaris Coop's buses to Dalaman (TL8) from Marmaris otogar, and take a short but quite expensive taxi ride (TL25) from there. TL100 will score you a ride in a brand new four-person shuttle.

**Turkish Airlines** (☎ 412 3751; Atatürk Caddesi 26-B) has an office about 400m west of the Atatürk statue on the waterfront. See p350 for info on flights.

#### BOAT

Catamarans sail daily to Rhodes Town in Greece (one way/same-day return/open return €50/50/75 including port tax, 50 minutes) from 15 April to 1 November, leaving



at 9am. They return from Rhodes at 4.30pm. Cars cost €150/180/250 for a one-way/same-day return/open-return ticket.

Greek catamarans also sail during the same period from Rhodes to Marmaris (one way/same-day return/open return €60/60/90) at 8am daily, returning from Marmaris at 4.30pm. Cars cost €110/135/190 for a one-way/same-day return/open return.

Turkish cargo boats (carrying up to 78 passengers) also sail once a week in high season to Rhodes (same prices as the catamarans, two hours, departures usually 12.30pm), and two to three times a week in low season, depending on weather (departures usually 9am). They either return the same day or stay in Rhodes for a period of two or three days.

Note that catamarans do not operate from November to mid-April, and there are no Greek cargo boats. Also note that the Sunday morning service runs only sporadically in June and July.

Tickets can be bought from any travel agency including **Yeşil Marmaris Travel & Yachting** (☎ 412 2290; www.yesilmarmaris.com; Barbados Caddesi 13; 🕒 7am-midnight Mon-Sat high season, 8.30am-6.30pm low season).

Book tickets at least one day in advance (more if you have a car) and bring your passport. You need to be at the ferry dock one hour before departure. Some agencies provide a free pick-up service from hotels in the town centre. Note that when you return from Rhodes (even if you've just been for a day trip) you'll still need to buy a new Turkish visa from the immigration authorities in front of customs in Rhodes.

## BUS

Marmaris' otogar lies 3km north of the centre of town. Dolmuşes run to and from the otogar along Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı every few minutes in high season. Bus companies have ticket offices around the Tansaş Shopping Centre.

Buses run to Bodrum (TL18, 3½ hours, 165km) every one to two hours in high season, every three hours in low season. All year round, buses run to İstanbul (TL55, 13 hours, 805km) four times a day, to İzmir (TL30, 4¼ hours, 320km) every hour, to Fethiye (TL14, three hours, 170km) every half-hour and to Antalya (TL35, six hours, 590km) twice a day. Buses go hourly to Muğla (TL6, one hour, 55km).

For Datça (TL9, 1¼ hours) dolmuşes run every hour in high season and every 1½ hours in low season. For Köyceğiz (TL11, 40 minutes) take the Fethiye bus. For Dalyan, take the Fethiye bus and change at Ortaca (TL7, 1½ hours) then take the dolmuş. Finally, the dolmuş for Selimiye and Bozburun (TL7, 55 minutes) runs six times a day.

## Getting Around

Frequent dolmuşes run around the bay, beginning and ending at the Tansaş Shopping Centre on Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı. They have been colour-coded to denote different routes: the green dolmuşes go to Uzunyalı (TL1, 3km) and Turban-Siteler (TL1.80, 6km), and the orange ones to İçmeler (TL2.50, 11km).

## AROUND MARMARIS

Eight kilometres southwest from Marmaris is the miniature package colony of **İçmeler**. However, its beach is relatively clean and the decibel count is markedly lower.

**Turunç** is the next beach resort, but its isolated position at the bottom of a steep mountain has protected it from massive overdevelopment. Dolmuşes make the trip from Marmaris every 40 minutes (TL6). It's also an excellent place for commencing scenic drives through the peninsula.

From May to the end of October, water taxis run from various points on the waterfront between the tourist office and the Atatürk statue to İçmeler (TL8, 30 minutes, every 30 minutes) and Turunç (TL10, 50 minutes, every hour).

## REŞADIYE & HİSARÖNÜ PENINSULAS

Two largely undiscovered slivers of land, known in ancient times as the Peraea, trickle west from Marmaris for 100km into the Aegean Sea. The western stretch is called the Reşadiye or Datça Peninsula; its southern branch is known as the Hisarönü or Daraçya Peninsula, with the ruins of the ancient city of Loryma at its tip.

This is spectacular, raw Turkish coastline, whether seeing it from bus, bike or boat. Aside from the joy of sailing near the peninsula's pine-clad coasts and anchoring in some of its hundreds of secluded coves, visitors come to explore fishing villages, mountain towns, wee hamlets and epic ruins. At Knidos there are ferry connections to Rhodes and the neighbouring Greek island of Simi (Symi).

## Selimiye

☎ 0252

The stark beauty of this traditional boat-builders' village belies its proximity to mass tourism. Selimiye is unremarkable at first, but its charm will grab you soon enough. Here you can get real solitude by the seaside, or find yourself among a particularly laid-back yachting set. The town itself – a tiny stretch of promenade still graced by the odd goat – lies on a calm bay beneath a few toppled ruins.

To get here, take the Bozburun road about 9km south of Orhaniye and follow the signs.

### SLEEPING & EATING

**Hotel Begovina** (☎ 446 4292; fax 446 4181; s/d TL30/60) Run by Zeki, a retired shoemaker, this hotel offers good-sized, spotless rooms with direct sea views (some with large balconies). All have fridges and a few have kitchenettes. It's just metres from the shingle beach and represents excellent value.

**Jenny's House** (☎ 446 4289; s/d TL40/70; 🚰 🚿) Across the road from the harbour, this charming bed and breakfast is surrounded by banana trees and a blooming summer garden. The friendly owner cordially hosts many return visitors to the seven pretty bungalows that maintain a rural English air.

**Nane Limon Pansiyon** (☎ 446 4146; s/d TL40/70; 🚰 🚿) Nejdet pops down from İstanbul for six months each year to oversee his blue-and-white striped guesthouse of ultimate relaxation. A garden path leads to a large house set back from the water where rooms are bright and stylish, many with balconies. It's next door to the Aurora Restaurant.

**Bahçe Pansiyon** (☎ 446 4235; s/d/apt TL40/80/100; 🚰 🚿) A fairly inconspicuous pension made up of three sparse, clean rooms literally 10 steps from the water's edge and a few larger apartments. Three quiet brothers do a fine job of running the place.

**Sardunya Bungalows** (☎ 446 4003; s/d with half-board TL50/100; 🚰 🚿) An impressive makeover has made this popular complex even more highly sought after. The 10 fully-decked stone bungalows circle a pretty, cool garden. It's an ideal choice for families.

**Café Çeri** (Selimiye Köyü; coffee TL2, baklava TL3) Delicious patisserie near the marina.

**Falcon Restaurant** (☎ 446 4105; Selimiye Köyü; mains TL12-18) Offering similar fare to the Aurora, this family-run restaurant is about 100m from the town centre and 40m from the sea.

**Sardunya Restaurant** (☎ 446 4003; mains around TL15) The service and menu are equally marvellous at this popular organic restaurant. The *kalamar* (squid) stuffed or fried (TL18) is famous. Try also the delicious *buğulama* (fish casserole, TL30).

**Aurora Restaurant** (☎ 446 4097; Bahçeçi; mains TL15-20; 🍷 Apr-Oct) The Aurora is very prettily set in a 200-year-old stone house with a shaded terrace as well as tables on the seafront. Fish is its speciality; the mezes are mouth-watering too. Out the back is a primo cocktail bar.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Dolmuşes run to and from Marmaris (TL6.25) every two hours. For Bozburun, you can hop on the Bozburun to Marmaris bus (which passes through Selimiye) if there's space.

## Bozburun

☎ 0252

Lying 12km further down the peninsula on Sömbeki Körfezi (Sömbeki Bay) is the charming village of Bozburun. This is another major boat-building port, but you'd hardly guess it from the unhurried pace of life. Fishing and farming still distract most villagers, although the modest flow of tourists keeps some folk gainfully employed.

If you want to swim, walk around the harbour to the left as you face out to sea – here you can dip into the startlingly blue water from the rocks. This is also a great place to charter private vessels to explore the surrounding bays. For those with wobbly sea legs, there are interesting walks in the nearby countryside.

### SLEEPING

**Yilmaz Pansiyon** (☎ 456 2167; www.yilmazpansion.com; İskele Mahallesi 391; s/d TL40/80) Try to nab a balcony room in this friendly little pension with simple, cheerful rooms. The vine-covered terrace is metres from the sea where the hotel does a good breakfast spread. It's around 100m from the centre.

**Pembe Yunus** (Pink Dolphin; ☎ 456 2154; www.pembeyunus.net; Kargı Mahallesi 37; s/d TL40/80; 🚰 🚿) This delightful pension feels like a Turkish ladies' club in fluffy lavender blue. Rooms are decked out in rustic-style furniture, and some have stunning sea views. Fatma, the mother, cooks famously – set-menu dinners cost TL25. It's 700m from the dolmuş station (though you can ask to be dropped here).

## HISARÖNÜ PENINSULA BY SCOOTER

The mountainous, deeply indented Hisarönü Peninsula is the perfect place to escape the madness of Marmaris.

It's a rugged place with remarkably varied landscapes; lush pine forests on a high plateau inland from Turunç give way to steep, bare rocky hillsides as you approach Bozburun. You can go via the main road to Bozburun but it's more fun to do a loop, heading down on village roads and coming back on the main road.

Setting off from Marmaris, head for İçmeler along Atatürk Caddesi. In İçmeler the main road branches; take the right-hand road, which leads around the back of the town and begins a steep, winding ascent towards Turunç. Take the unpaved road to the right through the pine forest before you get there. The road narrows and gets steeper, slowly winding down to the inland village of **Bayır**. There couldn't be a sharper contrast between the concrete houses of Marmaris and İçmeler and rustic Bayır. The village square is at the foot of an ancient plane tree and has pleasant restaurants with terraces overlooking the valley. After Bayır the landscape becomes much drier, and the land falls steeply away into inaccessible coves. From tiny Söğüt the road is relatively level on the way to **Bozburun**, which has several good cafés for lunch.

From Bozburun a good road leads back along the western side of the peninsula, past the idyllic bays of Selimiye and Hisarönü, before rejoining the main Dağca-Marmaris road.

The whole circuit of the peninsula is about 120km, and takes about six hours with rests, swims and photo stops. Many places in Marmaris rent scooters by the day, most for around TL30 to TL40. The roads are steep and winding, so speed is hardly an asset. Just bear in mind that Turkey has one of the highest road traffic accident rates in the world; it's necessary to wear a helmet, and appropriate clothing is advisable to protect against road rash if you come off.

The only petrol stations on the peninsula are at Bozburun and Turunç, so it's best to fill up in Marmaris before setting out.

**Dolphin Pansiyon** (☎ 456 2408; www.dolphin-pension.com; Kargı Mahallesi 51; s/d with half-board TL80/160) As good a reason as any to visit Bozburun, this four-year labour of love was built stone by Bozburun stone by Yılmaz (son of the indefatigable Fatma from Pembe Yunus). The 10 good-sized and pleasantly decorated rooms have balconies and sensational sea views. You can practically drop off the front porch into the Aegean, or take a daily boat excursion.

**Sabrinas Haus** (☎ 456 2045; www.sabrinasha.com; d €200-300, extra bed €50) Only reachable by boat or a 20-minute walk from the Dolphin Pansiyon, Sabrinas Haus is the ultimate get-away-from-it-all place. There are 20 simple but well-designed rooms in three buildings hidden in a beautiful garden filled with mature trees, hibiscus and bougainvillea. The accommodating German owner offers kayak trips to the many deserted inlets nearby, as well as trekking trips.

### EATING & DRINKING

**Kandil Restaurant** (☎ 456 2227; İskele Mahallesi 3; mezes TL4) On the southern corner of the town square, this local favourite serves excellent

fresh fish, especially red mullet. The delicious *kalamar tava* (fried squid, TL14) is also worth a try.

**Fishermen House** (☎ 456 2730; İskele Mahallesi 391; mezes TL4, seafood mezes TL8, fish TL20-25 per 500g) Run by the same guy as Yılmaz Pansiyon, a local fisherman, this place offers fresh fish at the same prices. There are tables on the waterfront.

**Sabrinas Haus** (☎ 456 2045; İskele Mahallesi) Serving traditional Turkish Mediterranean cuisine in a lovely setting, the restaurant (in the hotel of the same name) has a refined reputation. The set menu costs TL40. Note that you can eat here as long as the restaurant's not filled with hotel guests. Call to check and for a boat to pick you up from town.

**Marin Cafe Bar** (☎ 456 2181; Atatürk Caddesi 56) Very chilled daytime bar with old radio, comfy couches, backgammon and sleeping dog. Drink a bottle of Efes for TL4 and sing shanties in the early evening sun.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Minibuses run between Bozburun and Marmaris (TL5, 55 minutes) six times a day via Selimiye year-round.

## Datça

☎ 0252 / pop 10,600

The new highway winding west from Marmaris, through the Reşadiye Peninsula, dips down into the delightful harbour town of Datça. Despite being also accessible by a daily ferry from Bodrum and a weekly hydrofoil from Rhodes, Datça seems to have floated away from the big resorts. It has some good beaches and an easy-going mix of salt-stained Europeans and trendy İstanbul expats. For the short-term visitor, it's the closest town to the wind-swept ruins of Knidos, a series of undiscovered coves and the finely aged town of Eski Datça (Old Datça).

### ORIENTATION

The main street, İskele Caddesi, runs downhill from the highway to a small roundabout with a big tree. Immediately before the roundabout, Buxerolles Sokak on the right has several small pensions.

After the roundabout İskele Caddesi forks left and runs to Cumhuriyet Meydanı, the main square with a market and otogar. From there it continues to the harbour, with a cluster of small pensions on the left, finally running out at the end of a short peninsula, once an island called Esenada, which features an open-air **cinema** (🎬 Jun-Sep).

Datça has three small beaches: Kumluk Plajı (Sandy Beach), tucked away behind the shops on İskele Caddesi; Taşlık Plajı (Stony Beach), running west from the end of the harbour; and Hastane Altı (Hospital Beach), Datça's biggest beach.

### SLEEPING

**İlica Camping** (☎ 712 3400; www.ilicacamping.com; Taşlık Plajı; per person/campervan TL25/50, 3-bed bungalow with/without bathroom TL60/40) Dusted clean and meticulously run camping ground on the eastern bay and right on the seafront. It's well shaded by eucalyptus trees, under which resident ducks waddle. It's also great for swimming in summer.

**Tunc Pansiyon** (☎ 712 3036; Buxerolles Caddesi; s/d TL25/50, apt for up to 5 people TL80) Terrific town pension found down the second street on the right after the *hükümet* (government) building. It's colourful and friendly, featuring sunny and spotless rooms. The owner also runs one-day car excursions to Knidos and surrounds, charging just for the petrol (TL25 for one to three people).

**Villa Tokur** (☎ 712 8728; www.hoteltokur.com; r TL80, 1-bedroom apt for up to 4 people TL150; 🍷 🍷 🍷 ) A

lovely elevated position, quality rooms and furnishings, and a luxurious swimming pool make this the preferred choice for tourists. Karina from Germany lives here with her Turkish husband. It's about a five- to 10-minute walk uphill from Taşlık Plajı

**Villa Carla** (☎ 712 3541; Kargı Koyu Yolu; s/d TL80/150; 🍷 🍷 🍷 ) The views are the real treat at this fastidious hotel a few kilometres to the west, high above town. All rooms have direct sea views and most have balconies too. At 5pm tea and Turkish pastries are served. To get here, follow the road that branches right off the main road at the foot of the mosque. Keep going for roughly 3km till you see a sign.

### EATING

**Zekeriya Sofrası** (☎ 712 4303; İskele Caddesi 60; Turkish breakfast TL6, köfte TL7) The best home-cooked food in town, run by its namesake, the friendly Zekeriya. The servings are plentiful and the vegetable dishes are savoury sweet. It's a good place for breakfast and also does a mean *inegöl köfte* (mixed meat and lamb meatballs) to Zekeriya's own secret recipe.

**Papatya Restaurant & Bar** (☎ 712 2860; Kargı Yolu Caddesi 4; köfte TL10) A smart alternative to the marina haunts is this pretty old stone house, with a chic vine-covered terrace. It's about 60m up the hill from the mosque. Try the *karides güveç şaraplı fırında* – shrimps oven-baked in wine.

**Emek Restaurant** (☎ 712 3375; Yat Limanı; mains TL12-25) There are various operators side by side above the harbour, but Emek is Datça's oldest and most reliable. The owner's son is a fisherman, which guarantees fresh fish at pleasing prices. Service is relaxed but attentive.

**Fevzinn Yeri** (☎ 712 9746; Ambarca Caddesi 13/A; meals around TL15) Specialising only in fish, the theme is marine museum nautical and guests leave their comments too, but on the walls! The fish has an excellent reputation and the prices are unbeatable.

**Culinarium** (☎ 712 9770; Yat Limanı) The close second to Emek is the more refined Culinarium, just a couple of doors down. The tantalising three-course set menu is exquisite value at only TL35 a head. The wine list is also rather fetching.

### DRINKING

Datça's nightlife centres around bars on the harbour, including:

**Bolero** (☎ 712 9865; Yalı Caddesi 16; beer TL4; 🍷 8am-2am) Ever popular.

**Mojo Bar** (☎ 712 9742; Yat Limani; beer TL4; ☎ 10am-3am) At the start – or finish – of the relaxed bar strip. The high padded stools are great for toasting the street traffic.

**Nurs Gallus Garden** (☎ 712 9865; admission incl drink TL10, beer TL6; ☎ 11am-4am Jun-Sep) On the hill about 150m from the beach. Shares the pleasant poolside bar and bay views with the Sound Dance Club.

**Sound Dance Club** (admission incl drink TL10, beer TL6; ☎ 11am-4am Jun-Sep) Next door to Nurs Gallus, it sometimes stages live music.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

Dolmuşes run to Marmaris (TL9, 1½ hours, 60km) every hour in high season, five times a day in low season. Change here for buses to other destinations. The bus companies have offices along İskele Caddesi between Buxerolles Caddesi and Kargı Yolu.

Despite what touts in Marmaris might tell you, from May to September hydrofoils sail to Rhodes (single/return TL90/180, 45 minutes) and Simi (single/return TL60/120, 15 minutes) on Saturdays, normally at 4pm. There's also a weekly ferry to Simi (one hour) leaving at the same time as the hydrofoil and for the same price.

A *gület* sails two to three times a week from Datça to Simi (TL120, 70 minutes) at 9am. If there are fewer than eight people it doesn't sail, though in high season it almost always does.

**Knidos Yachting** (☎ 712 9464; Yalı Caddesi 17) at the marina sells tickets for the hydrofoils, ferries and *gülets*. For Rhodes and Simi, come at 11am on the Saturday of your departure with your passport; for the *gület*, reserve by telephone. Diving trips can also be organised (TL70/110 for one/two dives per day).

From mid-June to mid-November regular ferries run daily between Bodrum and Körmen (the name of Karaköy's harbour which is about 5km from Datça on the Gulf of Gökova). From June to September, ferries leave daily for Bodrum (passenger single/return TL25/40, car and driver TL65, extra passengers TL5). In May they leave on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9am, and on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 5pm. In April and October they run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and return the same days. The trip takes about two hours. From Bodrum they return on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 9am, and the rest of the week at 5pm. Tickets are sold in the **Bodrum Ferryboat Association** (☎ 712 2143;

fax 712 4239; Turgut Özal Meydanı) next to the town mosque, and there's a free bus shuttle that takes you from Datça to Karaköy.

Boat excursions to Datça often leave from Marmaris and you can sometimes buy a one-way ticket on these. Otherwise, if you can muster a group, you can hire a boat for one day (TL450 per day, maximum 10 people) or more.

## Eski Datça

☎ 0252

Eski Datça (Old Datça) was once the capital of a district stretching all the way to Greece. Today it's a picturesque hamlet of cobbled streets and old stone houses, most of them lovingly restored. If you choose not to stay here, be sure to at least visit the ex-governor's house, now an upmarket hotel.

**Doğa Pansiyon** (☎ 712 2178; www.dogapansiyon.com; Datça Mahallesi 9; TL40/80) Has simple but spotless rooms with fridge and a little kitchenette that share a veranda overlooking the yard.

**Yağhane Pansiyon** (☎ 712 2287; www.dedepansiyon.com; Can Yücel Sokak; s/d TL60/100; ☎ ☎) Also known as Surya Yoga, this blissful retreat caters mostly to the chakra-centred crowd. The compact rooms are inviting and the outdoor yoga studio is an airy design coup.

**Dede Pansiyon** (☎ 712 3951; www.dedepansiyon.com; Can Yücel Sokak; s/d TL60/100; ☎ ☎) This 150-year-old stone house with a pool is set in a gorgeous walled garden. The six rooms have individual characters and their own little kitchen.

**Mehmet Ali Ağa Konağı** (☎ 712 9257; www.kocaev.com; r €190 Stone Room, €400 Mansion Room; ☎ ☎ ☎) This stunning hotel was the home of the Tuhezade family, who were politically influential in the region for over 200 years. Their traditional Anatolian landed-gentry mansion was largely derelict when purchased in recent years by Mehmet Pir. Traces of the original mansion remain – most notably in the €700 per night Mansion Suite – and the remainder has been kept faithful in its restoration as an elite 'museum hotel'. The attention to detail is inspiring, such as the baroque fresco ornamentation of the Main Room, the scented pine throughout, and the French and Viennese antiques. The giant citrus grove is splendid and the famed restaurant, Elakı, presents rare Ottoman dishes finished by the herb garden.

With tables under a vine-clad pergola, **Datça Sofrası** (☎ 712 4188; Hurma Sokak 16; mains TL3.85-5.55) is a picturesque place for lunch or dinner.

It specialises in barbecued fish and meat. Occasionally one of the owners, Mehmet, gets out his *ney* (Turkish clarinet) for a tune or two. Cheaper is the **Karya Restoran** (☎ 712 2253; Datça Mahallesi; mains TL5-6) on the main square, with tables inside and outside.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

From Datça to Eski Datça (TL2), minibuses run every hour on the hour from May to October. From Eski Datça to Datça, they run every half-hour on the hour. In low season, they run every two hours. From June to August hourly buses run into the village from Datça.

### Knidos

The **ruins of Knidos** (admission TL8; ☎ 9am-6pm), the once prosperous Dorian port city of 400 BC, are scattered along 3km at the end of a peninsula occupied only by goatherds, their flocks and the occasional wild boar. The setting is dramatic: steep hillsides terraced and planted with groves of olive, almond and fruit trees rise above two picture-perfect bays in which a handful of yachts rest at anchor.

The winds change as one rounds the peninsula and ships in ancient times often had to wait at Knidos for favourable winds, giving it a hefty business in ship repairs, hospitality and trading. The ship taking St Paul to Rome for trial was one of the many that had to hole up a while in Knidos.

Few of the ancient buildings are easily recognisable, but you can certainly appreciate the importance of the town by exploring the site. Don't miss the **temple of Aphrodite** and the **theatre**, the 4th-century BC **sundial** and the fine carvings in what was once a Byzantine church. The guardian will show you around for a small tip.

The ruins aside, Knidos consists of a tiny *jandarma* (police) post with a phone for emergencies, a couple of places to eat and a repository for artefacts found on the site. Overnight stays in the village are not allowed, so there are no facilities. You can swim in the bays from wooden piers, but the beaches are several kilometres out of town.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Knidos Taxi, near Cumhuriyet Meydanı in Datça, will take up to three people from Datça to Knidos and return, with up to two hours' waiting time, for TL100.

Ask in Datça harbour about excursions to Knidos. Boats tend to leave around 9am or 9.30am and return in the early evening, and cost about TL25 per person.

## KÖYCEĞİZ

☎ 0252 / pop 7,550

The star attraction here is the beautiful and serene Lake Köyceğiz. As it's so tough to rival the Med, this farming town attracts only modest tourism, and still depends mostly on citrus fruits, olives, honey and cotton for its livelihood. This region is also famous for its liquid-amber trees (frankincense trees), source of precious amber gum. Despite its sleepiness, the surrounding Köyceğiz-Dalyan Nature Reserve has a growing reputation among outdoor types for its excellent hiking and cycling. Köyceğiz town can also be reached by an easy boat trip across the lake from Dalyan.

### Orientation & Information

The otogar is near the highway turn-off, about 2.5km from the waterfront. The main street, Atatürk Bulvarı, runs from the highway past the police station to the main square. When you reach Kordon Boyu, the road skirting the lake, turn right (west) to find several pensions and restaurants, and some fine mature eucalyptus trees. The local market is held every Monday near the police station.

The **tourist office** (☎ 262 4703; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri), next to Köyceğiz Öğretmenevi (Teacher's Lodge) on the main square's eastern edge, stocks a simple map. Nobody speaks English.

### Sights & Activities

This is a town for strolling. Hit the lakeshore promenade and walk past the pleasant town park, shady tea gardens and several restaurants. You can rent out bicycles from most pensions, so take a ride out to the surrounding orchards and farmland. The road along the western shore of the lake to the Sultaniyeh mud baths (p350) and Ekincik (opposite) offers superb views of the lake. It's 35km by road to the mud baths or, if you can take a boat excursion from the promenade, it's eight nautical miles away on the lake's southern shore.

There's a small **waterfall** about 7km west of town, where locals go for a spot of bathing. Take any minibus heading west towards Marmaris and Muğla and tell the driver you want to get off at the *şelale* (waterfall). It's

near the 'Arboretum' sign if they miss it. The waterfall is about 800m from the highway.

You can take **boat trips** to Dalyan and the Kaunos ruins for TL20 to TL30 per person including lunch; the vessels line up on the waterfront.

## Sleeping

Most of the accommodation lies west of the mosque.

**Fulya Pension** (☎ 262 2301; fulyapension@mynet.com; Ali İhsan Kalamaz Caddesi 100; s/d TL20/40; 🏠 📺) The bubbly young owner keeps Fulya safe as a brilliant budget option. Rooms are clean and cheap, all have balconies and there's a large roof terrace. Bikes are available free of charge, and boat trips (TL15) to the local attractions, including lunch, are a bargain.

**Flora Hotel** (☎ 262 4976; www.florahotel.info; Kordon Boyu 96; s/d/apt TL20/40/60; 🏠 📺) The foyer is filled with flags in tribute to the foreign guests who often come for arranged walks into the nearby Gölgeli Mountains. The rooms here have only side views of the lake, however, while apartments sleep two adults and two children.

**Tango Pansiyon** (☎ 262 2501; www.tangopension.com; Ali İhsan Kalmaz Caddesi 112; dm/s/d per person TL15/30/50; 🏠 📺) Managed by the local school sports teacher, this place is big on activities including day and night boat trips (TL20), trekking (TL25) and rafting (YT45). Prices include lunch and transfers. Rooms are bright, cheerful and well maintained, and there's a pleasant garden. It's next door to Fulya, and you may need to book.

**Alila Hotel** (☎ 262 1150; Emeksiz Caddesi 13; s/d high season TL40/70; 🏠 📺) By far the most character-filled hotel in town, 12 of the Alila's rooms also boast direct views of the water. The friendly owner Ömar, who built the hotel, runs the place professionally and attends to every detail (right down to the swan-folded towels).

**Panorama Plaza** (☎ 262 3773; www.panorama-plaza.net; Cengiz Topel Caddesi 69; s/d TL60/90; 🏠 📺) The Panorama is an ugly building with an outdated, cheesy lobby, but the rooms here are spiffy and well priced, while the swimming pool is five-star. Plus there's free sailing for guests. The only downside is the location 1km west of town.

## Eating

There are lots of cheap and cheerful restaurants off the main square.

**Mutlu Kardeşler** (☎ 262 2480; Tören Alanı 52; soup TL3, köfte TL5, kebab TL6, pide TL2-3; 🍷 7am-1am) Funky in

a rural kind of way, this simple place off the main square is much loved locally and has tables on a little green and shaded terrace out the back.

**Coliba** (☎ 262 2987; Cengiz Topel Caddesi 64; köfte TL6; 🍷 10am-1am) In the 'sweet little house', cool-headed staff serve delicious *ordövr* (mixed meze platter) to young couples and businessmen. The house speciality is *alabalık* (trout, TL15), though the grills (TL9) are a bargain. Whitewashed and wooden, it has a shaded terrace with views of the lake front. It's about 100m from the Alila Hotel.

**Pembe Restaurant** (☎ 262 2983; Cengiz Topel Caddesi 70; meals around TL8-10) Next door to Coliba is the Pembe, housed in a pink and purple building and does cheap seafood and meat dishes.

**Thera Fish Restaurant** (☎ 262 3514; Cengiz Topel Caddesi 1; fish per 350g TL14-25; 🍷 9am-midnight) Pick your fish from the large tank at the counter (don't order the owners' pets!) of this long-time local favourite. The red mullet fillets (TL8) are excellent value, likewise the bream (TL9). The Thera also has a waterfront terrace.

## Getting There & Away

Most buses will drop you at the Köyceğiz otogar on the outskirts of town, 2.5km from the lake. Dolmuşes (TL1) run every 15 minutes between the otogar and town.

Dolmuşes also run to Dalaman (TL4, 30 minutes, 34km), Marmaris (TL5, one hour, 60km) and Ortaca (TL2.50, 25 minutes, 20km) every half-hour. Buses run to Fethiye (TL8, 1¼ hour, 95km) every half-hour.

## EKİNCİK

☎ 0252 / pop 860

Ekincik is a beautiful lakeside village 36km south of Köyceğiz that offers genuine peace and quiet. It's surrounded by high pine-clad hills pitching down to a long, crescent-shaped gravel beach. It's a lovely place – isolation is its strength.

## Sights & Activities

Outside the Lycian Way, Ekincik is arguably the best base for **trekking** on the western Med. Ahmed at Hotel Akdeniz is the go-to-guy for information.

You can also hire boats from the **Ekincik Boat Cooperation** (☎ 266 0192; 🍷 9am-7pm May-Oct) on the southern side of the beachfront. Trips are for three hours (to Kaunos, TL200 for up

to 12 people), six hours (Kaunos and Dalyan, TL240) and a full day (Kaunos, hot springs, turtle beach etc, TL300). For swimming, try the municipality-run **Köyceğiz Belediyesi Restaurant ve Halk Plajı** (☎ 266 0001; Ekinçik Köyü Bulvarı; meals TL5-15; ☞ mid-Apr–mid-Sep) which has showers, sun lounges and tables, as well as cheap drinks and meals.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Ekinçik Pansiyon** (☎ 266 0179; fax 266 0003; s/d half-board TL40/60; ☞) A real bargain set 350m from the beach, this spotless, family-run pension has neat rooms and a pleasant shaded area outside under trees, with tables and hammocks. It's just to the right of the main road.

**Hotel Akdeniz** (☎ 266 0255; www.akdenizotel.com; s/d TL20/40, half-board TL40/80; ☞) A real bargain, the Akdeniz has cool, clean and light-filled rooms with tiled floors and balconies. Ahmed, the friendly owner, can guide you on treks in the mountain pine forests or organise picnics. There's also a roof terrace with sweeping views of the sea and surrounding landscape. It's just uphill from the Ekinçik Pansiyon.

**Ekinçik Hotel** (☎ 266 0203; www.hotelekinçik.com; Ekinçik Köyü; per person TL80-100; ☞) Recently renovated, this waterfront *butik* hotel is well designed and features a much-loved garden. All rooms have balconies and nine have direct sea views.

**Ship A Hoy** (☎ 266 0045; Ekinçik Köyü; mezes from TL5, mains TL20-25; ☞ 8am-midnight Apr-Oct) A fairly fancy restaurant serving freshly caught fish (TL15 to TL20 per 500g) under giant white parasols and grass-roofed huts. It's next to the Ekinçik Pansiyon right on the beach.

For cheap eats, there are plenty of cafés and stalls selling snacks and *tost* (toasted sandwiches, TL2) along the seafront in summer.

## Getting There & Away

Ekinçik is tricky to get to without a car. During the school holidays (mid-June to early September), a bus leaves the Köyceğiz main square (not the otogar) at 9.30am daily (TL4, one hour). It returns from Ekinçik at 6pm.

## DALYAN

☎ 0252

Dalyan is a laid-back river-mouth community with a strong farming pedigree and a growing penchant for tourism. It makes

an entertaining base for exploring the surrounding fertile waterways, in particular the popular turtle nesting grounds of İztuzu Beach and Lake Köyceğiz. Dalyan's most famous feature is the impressive cliff-side ruins of ancient Kaunos, which peer down on the pretty willow trees and bougainvillea that wilt on hot, windless days. Dalyan is just resisting the lure of package tourism, although on summer afternoons as the cruise boats shuttle through the reed beds, raising both volume and prices, you get the feeling the Dalyan folk won't dally on the fringe for much longer.

## Orientation

It's about 10km from the highway at Ortaca to Dalyan's Cumhuriyet Meydanı (main square) between the mosque and the PTT. Minibuses stop behind the square, near the large Atatürk statue and pair of concrete turtles.

The river runs along the west side of town. The preferred stretch of hotels is found along Maraş Caddesi, a 1km southbound road that ends at a sharp bend in the river.

## Information

There's an ATM on the southeastern side of the PTT building in the centre.

**Tourist office** (☎ 284 4235; Maraş Caddesi 2/C;

☞ 8am-noon & 1-5pm Mon-Fri winter, 8am-7pm summer) Seeking new premises at the time of writing.

**Ünsal Internet Café** (Karakol Sokak 23/A; per hr TL2;

☞ 8.30am-midnight) East of Maraş Caddesi, near the police station.

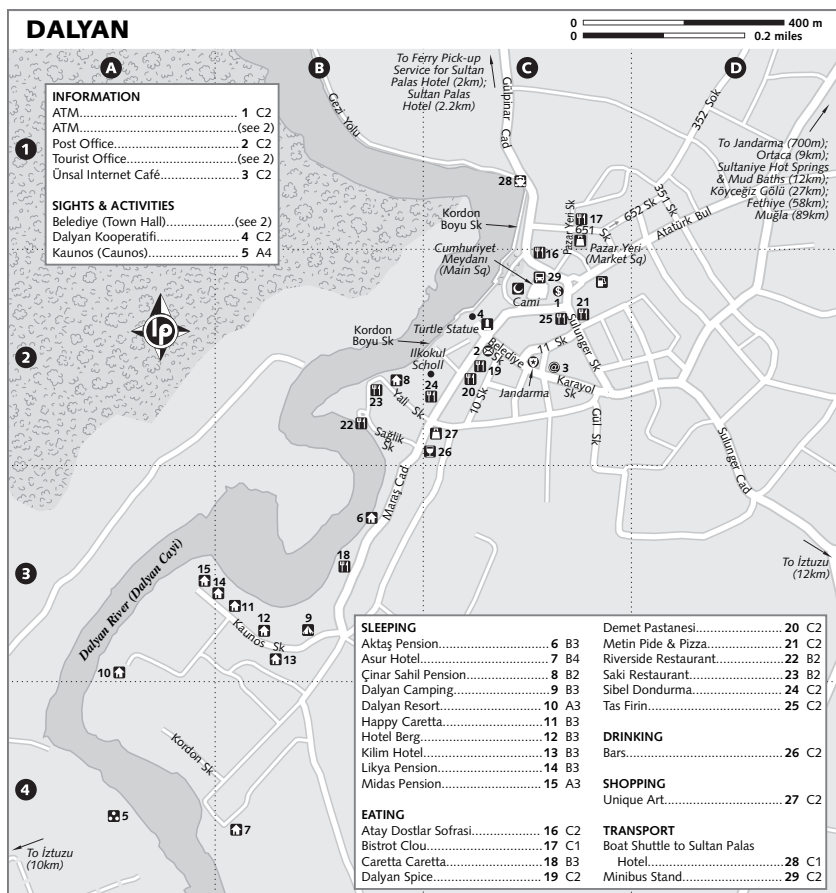
## Sights & Activities

### KAUNOS

Founded around the 9th century BC, **Kaunos** (admission TL8; ☞ 8.30am-5.30pm) became an important Carian city by 400 BC. Right on the border with the Kingdom of Lycia, its culture reflected aspects of both kingdoms. The **tombs**, for instance, are in Lycian style (you'll see many more of them at Fethiye, Kaş and other points east). If you don't take a boat, walk south from town along Maraş Caddesi for about 15 minutes to get a good view of the tombs.

When Mausolus of Halicarnassus was ruler of Caria, his Hellenising influence reached the Kaunians, who eagerly adopted that culture. Kaunos suffered from endemic malaria; according to Herodotus, its people were famous for their yellowish skin and eyes. The





Kaunians' prosperity was also threatened by the silting of their harbour. The Mediterranean Sea, which once surrounded the hill on which the archaeological site stands, has now retreated 5km to the south, pushed back by silt from the Dalyan River.

Apart from the tombs, the **theatre** is very well preserved; nearby there are parts of an **acropolis** and other structures, such as baths, a basilica and defensive walls. The curious wooden structures in the river are *dalyanlar* (fishing weirs).

Two-hour guided boat trips cost around TL15. Alternatively, you might snag a willing rowboat for around TL10. Either way, your boat will arrive at the western bank; then it's a five-minute walk to the site.

### BOAT TRIPS

You can save yourself a lot of money – and ensure your lira are spread evenly around town – by taking boats run by the local cooperative, **Dalyan Kooperatifi** (☎ 284 7843) located near the turtle statue. It's a fairly self-explanatory process, but if you need help, ask for Eddy.

Every day in summer, boats leave the quayside at 10am to cruise to Köyceğiz Gölü and the Sultaniye hot springs and mud baths (p350), the ruins of Kaunos (opposite) and İztuzu Beach (p350) on the Mediterranean coast. These excellent tours, including lunch, should cost around TL20 per person.

If you can drum up a team of like-minded folk, perhaps hire an entire passenger boat that holds from eight to 12 people. A two-hour

## TURTLE ALERT

Some years ago Dalyan's İztuzu Beach shot to world fame when a serious threat to one of the last Mediterranean nesting sites of *Caretta caretta*, the loggerhead turtle, was identified.

The loggerhead turtle (*deniz kaplumbağa* in Turkish) is a large flat-headed reptile, reddish brown on top and yellow-orange below. An adult can weigh up to 130kg.

Between May and September the female turtles come ashore at night to lay their eggs in the sand. Using their back flippers they scoop out a nest about 40cm deep, lay between 70 and 120 soft-shelled white eggs the size of ping-pong balls, then cover them over. If disturbed, the females may abandon the nests and return to the sea.

The eggs incubate in the sand for 50 to 65 days and the temperature at which they do so determines the gender of the ensuing young: below 30°C all the young will be male; above 30°C they will be female. At a steady 30°C an even mix of genders will hatch.

As soon as they're born (at night when it's cool and fewer predators are about), the young turtles make their way towards the sea, drawn by the reflected light. If hotels and restaurants are built too close to the beach, their lights can confuse the youngsters, leading them to move up the beach towards danger instead of down to the sea and safety. So when it was discovered that developers wanted to build a hotel right on the beach there was an outcry that eventually led to the plans being abandoned.

At the same time, rules were introduced to protect the turtles. Although the beach is still open to the public during the day, night-time visits are prohibited from May to September. A line of wooden stakes on the beach indicates the nest sites and visitors are asked to sunbathe behind the stakes to avoid disturbing the nests. It's particularly important not to leave any litter on the beach that could hamper the turtles' struggle for survival.

The loggerhead turtle also nests on the beaches at Dalaman, Fethiye, Patara, Kale, Kumluca, Tekirova, Belek, Kızılot, Demirtaş, Gazipaşa and Anamur and in the Gökusu Delta. See below for details of turtle-spotting boat tours.

tour just to Kaunos costs around TL50 for the entire boat; if you want to visit the Sultaniyeh hot springs as well, figure on three hours and TL100 for the boat, but it's a good idea to haggle.

Boats belonging to the boat cooperative also operate a 'river dolmuş' service between the town and İztuzu Beach (called 'Turtle Beach' by local tour operators), charging TL8 for the return trip. In high summer boats head out around every 20 minutes from 10am to 2pm and return between 1pm and 6pm. (In high summer minibuses make the 13km run to İztuzu by land as well and drop you at the other, less crowded end of the beach). There are multiple kebab stands on the beach.

The boat cooperative also offers a two-hour early morning turtle-spotting tour, which leaves at 6.30am every day (TL20). Dolmuş boats also go to Kaunos three times a day (TL15 return), and to the mud baths in the early evening (TL15). The cooperatives will reluctantly pick you up from your hotel if it's on the water.

Evening sunset cruises (TL25 per person including dinner) are also offered twice a

week (Wednesday and Friday, but also other nights if numbers warrant it) from June to September. You can get to Ekincik and back for TL30, and about the same for the icy-cold Yuvarlak waterfall.

## Sleeping

### BUDGET

**Dalyan Camping** (☎ /fax 284 4157; Maraş Caddesi 144; per tent/caravan TL15/25, 2-/3-/4-person bungalows TL20/40/60; ☎ Apr-Oct) This compact, well-shaded site is centrally located by the river opposite the tombs. The eight pinewood bungalows are simple, clean and quite attractive.

**Çınar Sahil Pension** (☎ 284 2402; [www.cinarsahilpension.com](http://www.cinarsahilpension.com); Yalı Sokak 14; s/d TL30/50) A revelation right in the heart of town, this savvy pension has impeccably clean rooms and a terrace with possibly the best views in Dalyan. The lobby restaurant and chill-out area is first class. Ask for one of the four rooms with balconies and river views. BBQs are organised in season and a boat is rented out for TL60 per day (for up to four people).

**Aktaş Pansiyon** (☎ 284 2042; [aktaspension@hotmail.com](mailto:aktaspension@hotmail.com); Maraş Caddesi 116; s/d TL30/60; ☎) Popular

with both international and domestic tourists, Aktaş is a fine budget choice with timber rooms and a top-notch restaurant. Though the rooms are simple and small (with even smaller bathrooms), seven have river views and there's a terrace right on the riverbank.

**Lilya Pension** (☎ 284 2233; www.lilyapansion.com; Kaunos Sokak 32; s/d TL50/60; 🏠) One of the oldest pensions in Dalyan is also one of the best. Tucked down the end of Kaunos Sokak, this self-described 'peaceful and pleasant' lodging is pretty much a sure thing. The pokey rooms have recently been renovated, and there's a genuine park life vibe.

**Midas Pension** (☎ 284 2195; www.midasdalyan.com; Kaunos Sokak 32; s/d TL50/60; 🏠) Selçuk and Saadet Nur are wonderful hosts of this riverside pension raised on stilts. The 10 rooms are smartly decked out, with private bathrooms attached. Free pick-ups from Dalaman airport are happily arranged.

**Dalyan Resort** (☎ 284 5499; www.dalyanresort.com; Kaunos Sokak 50; s/d TL50/60, ste TL200; 🏠) This elegant new hotel is a short hike from the town centre. The discreet service is typically five-star, and an evening by the pool is all class. The suites, however, are a touch brochure-like.

## MIDRANGE & TOP END

**Kilim Hotel** (☎ 284 2253; www.kilimhotel.com; Kaunos Sokak 7; s/d TL35/70; 🏠 Apr-Nov; 🏠 🏠) The active English owner Becky presides over this buzzing midrange hotel that features a pool and seating area set in a terrace shaded by old palms. Guests seem particularly at home in the spacious rooms containing king-size beds. There's a ramp for wheelchair access, complimentary use of bicycles, and daily yoga and aerobic workouts for TL5.

**Asur Hotel** (☎ 284 3232; www.asurotel.com; d €60-80; 🏠 May-Oct; 🏠 🏠) Award-winning architect Nail Çakırhan landed this peculiar hotel on the near-desert fringes, and it's a pretty cool place to stay. The 32 octagonal bungalows are rather Oriental-looking but are beautifully finished and each has a little veranda. There are also good-value apartments (€100) – set just around the corner – which have an equally lovely swimming pool.

**Hotel Berg** (☎ 284 5359; www.dalyanberghotel.com; Kaunos Sokak 20; s/d TL80/120, 🏠 🏠) Despite having an entrance like a real estate agency, the Berg is a great new addition to Dalyan. The corridor, which leads through to the open garden and waterfront, is sleek white, with

tasteful furnishings throughout, and the guest rooms are similarly chic.

**Happy Caretta** (☎ 284 2109; www.happycaretta.com; Kaunos Sokak 26; s/d TL80/150) National Geographic staff stay here, and so might you after a few minutes in the magical garden of cypress trees and grounded birds. Rooms are simple and smallish but stylishly decorated with natural materials. Munir, the owner, makes her own jams from her fruit trees and lays on a good breakfast.

**Sultan Palas Hotel** (☎ 284 2103; www.sultanpalas.dalyan.co.uk; Horozlar Mevkii; s/d with half-board TL60 per person; 🏠 May–mid-Oct; 🏠 🏠) Staying at Sultan Palas is worth it for the ferry ride alone. Guests here seek solitude and slow-cooked, home-style hosting courtesy of Nil, the becalmed manager. The suite rooms are satisfyingly restrained; each with its own veranda. The food is market fresh and the swimming pool is long enough to keep restlessness at bay. To get here, either catch one of the five scheduled daily boat shuttles from town or, outside hours, call the hotel for a ferry pick-up service from a spot on the riverbank 2km north of town.

## Eating & Drinking

Dalyan's restaurant scene swings between high quality and lousy value, so be selective where you eat. For a drink, keep your ears pricked along Maraş Caddesi.

## RESTAURANTS

**Atay Dostlar Sofrası** (☎ 284 2156; Cami Karşısı 69; mains TL5-6; 🏠 6.30am-midnight) Here you'll find great staff and unbeatable prices at the local workers' restaurant where visitors are greeted warmly. There's a point-and-pick counter and dishes are fresh daily. It's opposite the mosque.

**Metin Pide & Pizza** (☎ 284 2877; Sulunger Sokak 3/B; pide TL2-4, pizzas TL6-10; 🏠 8.30am-midnight) This is the busiest eatery in Dalyan, thanks to its freshly made pide and pizza. There are tables in a shaded garden opposite the restaurant.

**Caretta Caretta** (☎ 284 3039; Maraş Caddesi 124; mezes TL5, mains incl fish TL10-20; 🏠 8am-1am Mar-Nov) Lots of wagons and wooden platforms and Nail Çakırhan designs in this larger than average signature riverbank restaurant. The *bonfile ve tavuk ciğeri* börek (beef fillet with chicken livers baked in puff pastry) is still leading the impressive menu. It's a great place also for a beer (TL4).

**Saki Restaurant** (☎ 284 5212; Yalı Sokak; mezes TL4-8; 🏠 10am-11pm) A brilliant new location in the

town centre has only enhanced the offerings of this wholesome Turkish restaurant. There's no menu; just a glass cabinet of homemade goodness care of some very proud women.

**Bistrot Clou** (☎ 284 3452; Pazar Yeri Sokak; mezes TL4-6; ☎ 9am-midnight Apr-mid-Oct) A familial dining experience just off Market Sq where pretty much everything is made from scratch, including the crocheted tablecloths and gourd lamps. A fine wine list accompanies a range of juicy *güveç* (casseroles, TL12 to TL20). There's jazz and traditional music most nights.

**Riverside Restaurant** (☎ 284 3166; Sağlık Sokak 7; mezes TL5-15, fish per 450g TL9-11; ☎ 8.30am-midnight) Considered Dalyan's best fish restaurant, the Riverside also boasts a gorgeous and breezy terrace where you can dine under mulberry trees while admiring the Lycian tombs and listening to the quack of ducks. The owner, an ex-head chef who still does his own cooking, offers exquisite seafood and fish accompanied by his own special sauces. The stuffed fish is a speciality.

#### CAFÉS & QUICK EATS

**Tas Fırın** (☎ 284 3839; Sulunger Sokak 2) Diagonally opposite the Metin, it sells good fresh bread.

**Demet Pastanesi** (☎ 284 4124; Maraş Caddesi 39; coffee TL2; ☎ 7.30am-midnight) With priceless pastries and tantalising Turkish puds (TL3.50), it's a great place for brekkie or for picnic preparations. The hazelnut and walnut tart (TL4) is die for.

**Dalyan Spice** (☎ 284 4397; Maraş Caddesi 37; ☎ 8.30am-midnight Apr-Oct) Sells gorgeous Turkish delight (box TL8 to TL15), as well as local spices and honey. For ice cream, head for **Sibel Dondurma** (☎ 284 4363; Maraş Caddesi 43/A; 1 scoop TL1; ☎ 7am-midnight May-Oct), which sells 20 flavours, all locally made.

#### Shopping

**Unique Art** (☎ 284 4426; www.theuniqueart.com; Maraş Caddesi 42) Handmade semi-precious jewellery and ceramics, without an evil eye in sight.

#### Getting There & Away

There are no direct minibuses from here to Dalaman. First take a minibus to Ortaca (TL1.50, every 30 minutes in high season, every hour in low season) and change there. At Ortaca otogar buses go to Köyceğiz (TL2.50, 25 minutes, 20km) and Dalaman (TL1, 15 minutes, 5km). Dalyan's minibuses leave from the stop behind the mosque.

## AROUND DALYAN

### Sultaniye Hot Springs & Mud Baths

For good, dirty fun, head for **Sultaniye Hot Springs** (Sultaniye Kaplıcaları; admission TL5), southwest of Köyceğiz Gölü. These bubbling hot mud pools (temperatures can push 40°C) contain mildly radioactive mineral waters that are rich in calcium, sulphur, iron, nitrates, potassium and other mineral salts, and are said to be good for skin complaints and rheumatism. At the smaller baths just before Dalyan River joins the lake, pamper yourself with a restorative body-pack of mud in a steaming sulphur pool. It's quite an experience as strangers stand around chatting while their beauty treatments dry, before being power-showered shiny and new.

To get here, you can get a 'dolmuş boat' (TL5, 30 minutes), which leaves when full (around every half-hour in summer, every hour outside the high season).

### İztuzu Beach

This 4.5km sandbar is a victory for conservationists worldwide. An excellent swimming beach accessed from the Dalyan River, İztuzu Beach has long been the target of greedy hotel developers. Fortunately, the commercial activity is limited to a few snack bars and countless sun beds. More importantly, İztuzu is one of the last nesting sites in the Mediterranean of the loggerhead turtle (see boxed text, p348) and special rules to protect the turtles are strictly enforced. To get here on your own, minibuses (TL5, 15 minutes) run from Dalyan every half-hour in high season.

## DALAMAN

☎ 0252 / pop 19,600

Little has changed in this agricultural town since the regional airport was built on the neighbouring river delta. Most visitors pass straight through and bus connections are good.

It's 5.5km from the airport to the town, and another 5.5km from the town to the east-west highway. Besides seasonal flights to many European cities, there are about five daily flights from Dalaman to İstanbul year-round, costing around TL150 one way. In high season, several bus companies pick up passengers outside the airport. At other times you may need to get a taxi into Dalaman for roughly TL15.

From Dalaman's otogar, near the junction of Kenan Evren Bulvarı and Atatürk Caddesi, you can bus it to Antalya (TL15, 5½ hours, 272km), Köyceğiz (TL3, 45 minutes, 34km) and Marmaris (TL9, two hours, 120km). All routes north and east pass through either Muğla or Fethiye.

## GÖCEK

☎ 0252

Göcek was once the holiday retreat of Turgut Özal, Turkey's go-getting 1980s prime minister-cum-president. Today, the village has matured into a high-end yacht spot – pop star Rod Stewart often moors here – and the attractive bay makes a relaxing alternative to Fethiye if you want to pick up the 12-island cruise (see p353). Otherwise, the steep, dry mountain backdrop adds a touch of drama to an otherwise regulation seaside lullaby. For those desperate and boat-less among us, there's a fairly scrappy swimming **beach** at the western end of the quay.

Buses drop you at a petrol station on the main road, from where it's a 1km walk to the centre. Minibuses drive down to the main square, which has a bust of Atatürk, a collection of small restaurants, a PTT and ATMs. If you're driving from Marmaris, take the new toll road (3TL) heading straight through the tunnel.

## Sleeping

### CAMPING

About 10km east of Göcek, **Küçük Kargı Orman İçi Dinlenme Yeri** (per tent €2.75) has camping facilities in woodland overlooking a lovely bay. About 2km further east, at Katrancı, there's another picnic and camping ground with a small restaurant on a beautiful little cove with a beach.

## PENSIONS & HOTELS

**Tufan Pansiyon** (☎ 645 1334; Marina; s/d TL30/60) Just 25m from the sea, the family-run Tufan has small but spotless and rather sweet rooms, four of which have a shared balcony with sea views.

**Başak Pansiyon** (☎ 645 1024; fax 645 1862; Skoepa Marina; s/d TL40/60) At the western end of the harbour, it has simple but spotless rooms with a nice veranda.

**Dim Pansiyon** (☎ 645 1294; www.dimhotel.com; Sokak 14; s/d TL60/100; ☎ ☎) With simple but well-furnished rooms and a pleasant terrace, medium-

sized pool and a location 30m from the beach, this is great value.

**A&B Home Hotel** (☎ 645 1820; www.abhomehotel.com; Turgut Özal Caddesi; s/d high season TL120/160; ☎ ☎) The smallish rooms are dolled up a bit with wallpaper and furnishings, but the real boon is the medium-sized pool on the attractive terrace. A good breakfast buffet is served.

## Eating & Drinking

**Can Restaurant** (☎ 645 1507; Skoepa Marina; mezes €1.75, seafood mezes €3-8; ☎ 7am-midnight) Set back from the seafront but with a lovely terrace shaded by an old yucca tree, this is an old local favourite that serves a great selection of mezes. The speciality is *tuzda balık* (fish baked in salt, €42 for two to three people).

**West Café & Bar** (☎ 645 2794; Turgut Özal Caddesi; breakfast TL10, mains TL9-15; ☎ 9am-midnight low season, to 12.30am high season) Well-named, it's Western in cuisine and Western in feel with wireless internet connection, bacon for breakfast and tarts for tea. If you're kebabed-out it's good for a change, but it's not cheap.

**Anatolia** (☎ 645 6941; Marina; mezes TL5-15; mains TL20-30; ☎ 7am-midnight) Has a pleasant terrace at the back of its cavernous interior and specialises in Anatolian dishes.

**Dice Cafe** (☎ 620 8514; Safi Villalar Önü) This snappy new bar on the marina has good mojitos (TL10) and free wireless internet.

**Del Mar Cafe** (☎ 620 2181; Skoepa Marina) is a trendy poolside bar popular with yachties and fashionistas.

## Getting There & Away

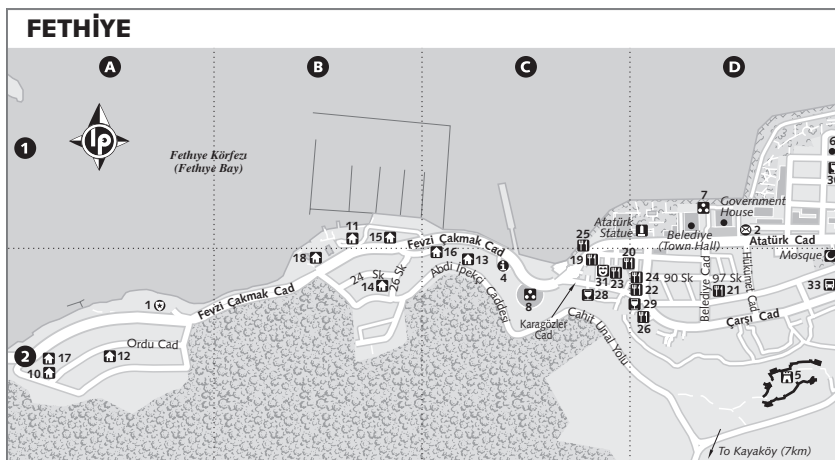
Minibuses depart every half-hour to Fethiye (TL3.50, 30 minutes, 30km). For Dalyan, change at Otacer (TL3, 25 minutes, 25km, every hour) first.

## FETHİYE

☎ 0252 / pop 56,000

In 1958 an earthquake levelled the old harbour city of Fethiye, sparing only the ancient remains of Telmessos (400 BC) from its wrath. Fifty years on and Fethiye is once again a prosperous and proud hub of the western Mediterranean. It's also an incredibly low-key place for its size, due mostly to the high-rise building restrictions and the transitory nature of the *güilet* gangs.

Fethiye's natural harbour, tucked away in the southern reaches of a broad bay scattered with pretty islands, in particular Şövalye

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Adası, is perhaps the region's finest. About 15km south is Ölüdeniz (p365), one of Turkey's seaside hot spots, and the surrounding countryside has many interesting sites to explore, including the ghost town of Kayaköy (Karmylassos, p367), waiting in silence just over the hill.

**Orientation**

Fethiye's busy otogar is 2.5km east of the town centre, with a separate station for minibuses 1km east of the centre. The bulk of accommodation options are either up the hill or west of the marina. Dolmuşes run along the main street, Atatürk Caddesi. The town's Tuesday market takes place along the canal between Atatürk Caddesi and the stadium (Pürşabey Caddesi). Yachting agencies are clustered around the marina.

**Information**

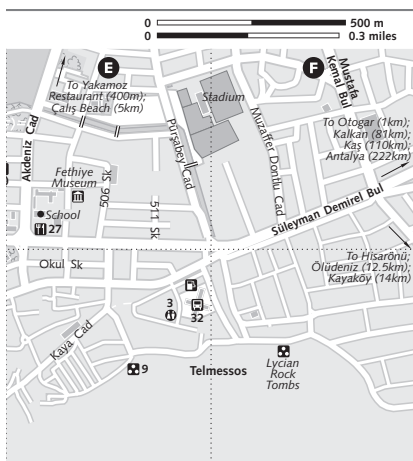
Atatürk Caddesi has banks with ATMs and foreign exchange offices.

**Tourist office** (☎ 614 1527; İskele Meydanı; ☒ 10am-noon & 1-5.30pm daily May-Sep, Mon-Sat Oct-Apr)

Opposite the marina, just past the Roman theatre. Open Sunday if the marina is busy enough.

**Sights & Activities****ANCIENT TELMESSOS**

The **Tomb of Amyntas** (admission TL5; ☒ 8am-7pm) is an Ionic temple facade carved into the sheer rock face in 350 BC. Located behind the town, it gets crowded at sunset in summer, the most pleasant time to visit. Other, smaller tombs lie about 500m to the east. Throughout the town you will notice curious Lycian stone **sarcophagi** dating from around 450 BC. There's one north of the



*belediye* and others in the middle of streets or in private gardens – the town was built around them. All were broken into by tomb robbers centuries ago.

On the hillside behind the town, just north of the road to Kayaköy, notice the ruined tower of a **Crusader fortress** built by the Knights of St John on earlier foundations dating back to perhaps 400 BC.

Behind the harbour you'll see the excavated remains of a **theatre** dating from Roman times.

## FETHİYE MUSEUM

Among its most interesting exhibits, **Fethiye Museum** (Fethiye Müzesi; 505 Sokak; admission TL5; ☎ 8.30am–5pm Tue–Sun) has some small statues and votive stones (the Stelae of Graves and Stelae of Promise) and the trilingual stele (Lycian-Greek-Aramaic) from Letoön (see p372), which was used to decipher the Lycian language. It describes how King Kaunos gave money to do some good work in honour of the gods. The museum was closed for renovations at the time of research, but should reopen in 2009.

## WATER SPORTS

Next to the tourist office, the friendly **Ocean Turizm & Travel Agency** (☎ 612 4807; [www.oceantravelagency.com](http://www.oceantravelagency.com); İskele Meydanı 1; ☎ 9am–9pm) sells boat tickets, diving trips (per person including two dives, all equipment and lunch TL100) and parasailing (per person for 30 minutes including all equipment TL150).

About 5km northeast of the centre is **Çalış**, a narrow stretch of gravel beach lined with mass-produced hotels and British retirees. Dolmuş depart for Çalış (TL1.50, 10 minutes) from the minibus station every five to 10 minutes throughout the day.

## Tours

Many travellers to Fethiye not partaking in a longer cruise instead opt for the **12-Island Tour** (per person incl lunch TL25; ☎ 9am–6.30pm, mid-Apr–Oct), a boat trip around Fethiye Bay (Fethiye Körfezi). The boats usually stop at six islands and cruise by the rest, but either way it's idyllic (though be sure to check beforehand if it's booze-cruise-style). Hotels and agencies sell tickets or you can negotiate a price with the boat companies at the marina.

The normal tour (Fethiye Körfezi) visits **Yassicalar** (Flat Island) for a stop and a swim, then **Tersane Island** for a dip in the turquoise waters and a visit to the ruins, followed by **Akvaryum** (Aquarium) for lunch, a swim and a snorkel. **Cennet Köü** (Paradise Bay) is next for a dip, followed by **Klopatra Hamamı** (Cleopatra's Bath), and finally **Kızıl Ada** (Red Island) with its beach and mud baths.

If there are too many boats at an island at the same time, itineraries may change and you may visit some of the other islands.

If you have another day or so, excellent boat tours go to or include **Butterfly Valley** (per person TL20; ☎ 9.30am–6.30pm mid-Apr–Oct) via Ölüdeniz and allow you to walk, swim and visit ruins; as well as the **Saklıkent Gorge Tour** (per person TL40; ☎ 9am–6.30pm), which includes the ruins at Tlos and walking, trout tickling and a trout lunch; and the **Dalyan Tour** (per person TL40; ☎ 9am–6.30pm), which includes a shuttle to Dalyan, a tour of the lake, Sultaniye mud baths, Dalyan, the tombs at Kaunos and beach at İztusu.

## Sleeping

Fethiye has some good value midrange digs, but not much at the deluxe end.

## BUDGET

Most budget places will pick you up from the bus station if you give them a call on arrival. Otherwise, regular dolmuş marked 'Karagözler' run along Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi towards the pensions.

**Ideal Pension** (☎ 614 1981; [www.idealpension.net](http://www.idealpension.net); 26 Sokak 1; dm/s/d from TL20/35/40; ☎ ☎) For the past two decades Ideal Pension has provided

## BLUE VOYAGES

Between the wars, writer and painter Cevat Şakir Kabaağaç lived in Bodrum and wrote an account of his idyllic sailing excursions along Turkey's southern Aegean and western Mediterranean coasts, an area completely untouched by tourism at the time. Kabaağaç called his book *Mavi Yolculuk* (Blue Voyage), a name now coopted for any cruise along these shores.

For many travellers a four-day, three-night cruise on a *gület* (wooden yacht) between Fethiye and Kale (Demre) is the highlight of their trip to Turkey. Usually advertised as a Fethiye to Olympos voyage, the boats actually start or stop at Kale and the trip to/from Olympos (1¼ hours) is by bus. From Fethiye, boats call in at Ölüdeniz and Butterfly Valley and stop at Kaş, Kalkan and Kekova, with the final night at Gökkyaya Bay. A less common route is between Marmaris and Fethiye, also taking four days and three nights. Aficionados say this is a much prettier route but for some reason it's not as popular.

Food and water is usually included in the price, but you have to buy your booze on the boat. All boats are equipped with showers, toilets and smallish but comfortable double cabins (usually six to eight of them). This might make a single person uneasy if they have to share with a stranger, but in practice most people sleep on mattresses on deck as the boats are without air-conditioning.

Depending on the season the price is usually €100 to €180 for Fethiye and €180 for Marmaris per person, not at all cheap, so it makes sense to look around. Be savvy and demanding – there are many shoddy operators working the waters and your wallet. Here are some of our suggestions to avoid getting fleeced:

- Ask for recommendations from other travellers.
- Bargain, but don't necessarily go for the cheapest option because the crew will skimp on food and alcohol.
- Check out your boat (if you are in Fethiye) and ask to see the guest list.
- Ask whether your captain and crew speak English.
- Don't pay until the day you leave, just in case the weather turns foul.
- Don't go for gimmicks such as free water sports. They often prove to be empty promises and boats rarely have insurance for them in case of accidents.
- Confirm whether the boat actually uses the sails, rather than relying on a noisy diesel engine.
- Don't buy your ticket in Istanbul, as pensions and commission agents take a healthy cut.
- Trust your gut (especially if your gills turn green) – if instinct tells you that three days at sea in this boat sounds horrible, then trust yourself!
- Don't take a boat just because it is leaving today.
- Book well ahead for July and August in order to be sure of getting on a cruise.

We recommend the owner-operated outfits because they run a much tighter ship. Boats come and go just about every day of the week between late April and October (the Marmaris boats usually run twice a week from mid-May to the end of September). Competition is stiff between the following: **Almila Boat Cruise** (☎ 0535-636 0076; [www.beforelunch.com](http://www.beforelunch.com)) Run by a Turkish-Australian couple who own two superior boats and offer the popular 12-Islands Cruise (see p353). Numbers are limited to 10 people and the food has garnered good reports.

**Big Backpackers** (☎ 0252-614 9312; [www.bluecruiseftethiye.com](http://www.bluecruiseftethiye.com)) A newish venture run from Ideal Pension in Fethiye and offering the Fethiye–Kale cruise.

**Interyouth Hostel** (☎ 0252-412 3687; [interyouth@turk.net](mailto:interyouth@turk.net)) In Marmaris, organises high-quality cruises on its own boat to Fethiye, stopping at the Dalyan mud baths and visiting the 12 islands. Numbers are limited to 12 people.

**Olympos Yachting** (☎ 0242-892 1145; [www.olymposyachting.com](http://www.olymposyachting.com)) Offers a four-day/three-night cruise direct from Olympos beach to Kaş, run in conjunction with Türkmen's at Olympos (p389).

**Yeşil Marmaris Travel & Yachting** (☎ 412 2290; [www.yesilmarmaris.com](http://www.yesilmarmaris.com)) In Marmaris, ask for the helpful Tolunay Bükülmez.



high quality, cheap beds to weary travellers. Aside from the clean (albeit small) rooms, a large terrace with bay views and a generous choice of breakfast, the owner, a retired teacher, offers various services and free boat trips for long-stays.

**Tan Pansiyon** (☎ 614 1584; fax 614 1676; 30 Sokak 43; s/d TL30/50) If the backpacker grind wears thin, try this traditional Turkish pension run by a charming elderly couple. Rooms are small (the bathrooms smaller), but it's sparkling clean and quiet. It's good also for self-caterers, who can enjoy their creations on the fabulous terrace.

**Ferah Pension** (Monica's Place; ☎ 614 2816; www.ferahpension.com; 2 Ordu Caddesi 21; dm/s/d TL20/30/50; 🍷 🍷) A reputation for cleanliness and expert local knowledge has long made the Ferah one of Fethiye's best. A stunning glass-enclosed terrace turns the dormitory experience into something quite special, while the greenery is reminiscent of a more rural, even tropical, escape. Also known as Monica's Place, the sizeable, tidy rooms have a real mother's touch. Call to arrange a shuttle from the otogar.

**Duygu Pension** (☎ 614 3563; www.duygupension.com; Ordu Caddesi 54; s/d TL30/50; 🍷 🍷) This is another appealing budget option at the west end of the harbour. Colourful mosaics and carpets brighten up these small, spiffy rooms. It also boasts a roof top with blinding bay views and a small pool.

**Horizon Hotel** (☎ 612 3153; Abdi İpekçi Caddesi 1; dm TL20, s TL40, d TL60 depending on season; 🍷 🍷) Fresh renovations should help match the Horizon to its lofty position high above Fethiye. The new management has responded to bad reports by completely refitting the 17 rooms and terrace restaurant, though the jury is still out on the service. The views, needless to say, are amazing.

#### MIDRANGE & TOP END

**İrem Hotel** (☎ 614 3006; tutantur@yahoo.com; Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi 38; s/d high season TL40/80; 🍷 🍷) Quieter and more private than many, this hotel is good value and has a well-maintained medium-sized pool. Three rooms have balconies overlooking the bay.

**Villa Daffodil** (☎ 614 9595; www.villadaffodil.com; Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi 115; s/d TL50/90; 🍷 🍷) This large Ottoman-designed guest house is one of the few older buildings to survive. The rooms have slanted ceilings and a homely feel; the best have sea views and anterooms.

The dining terrace and decent-sized pool light up in the evening, with a somewhat older travel set. Hussein, a retired colonel, is a general manager.

**Yacht Plaza Hotel** (☎ 612 5067; Karagozler 1; s/d TL80/120) The large pool terrace just a fence hop from the harbour is the most pleasing aspect of this efficient and friendly large hotel. Regulars return (always a good sign), and nostalgia for the locale may overwhelm the dim corridors and somewhat gloomy rooms.

**Ece Saray Marina & Resort** (☎ 612 5005; www.ecesaray.net; Karagozler Mevkii 1; s €100-165, d €125-195 depending on season; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Despite lacking much character, the Ece boasts good facilities including well-furnished rooms, a large pool, fitness centre, large landscaped gardens, a brilliant hamam (available for nonguests, TL80), its own supermarket, and a Wellness Centre.

#### Eating RESTAURANTS

**Tas Fırın** (Atatürk Caddesi 150; meals TL8-12) Opposite the school, the 'Furnace' is a hit with locals who gorge on cheap grilled fish and kebabs.

**Duck Pond** (☎ 614 4040; Lika Sokak 15; meals TL15-20) This lively place is surrounded by a pond replete with tepid waterfall. The Turkish food is straightforward and wholesome, such as the Adana kebab (TL15), served with piles of rice and potato.

**Hilmi et Balık Restaurant** (☎ 612 6242; Hal ve Pazar Yeri 53; mezes TL5, fish per 400g TL15-20; 🍷 10am-midnight) Set inside the fish market building, this place does meat dishes as well as fish (its speciality) and is a firm favourite locally. You can also bring-your-own (see boxed text, p356).

**Yakamoz Restaurant** (☎ 612 4226; Yeni Kordon Dolgu Sahası; meals TL20-25) Huge portions of somewhat pricey fish are dished up at this atmospheric restaurant on the promenade. The traditional Turkish menu will grab some; the sunset cocktails on the big cushions will grab others. It's 1km east of the centre.

**Meğri Restaurant** (☎ 614 4040; Lika Sokak 8-9; meals TL20-30; 🍷 9am-midnight) The Meğri is spread throughout a leafy covered bazaar decorated with traditional artefacts. The enormous menu is a little inconsistent (though the Italian dishes are a nice change), but the service is flash and friendly. Nearby shops open late for mid-meal browsing.

**Kızılada Lighthouse Hotel** (☎ 686 4686; www.kizilada.com; 🍷 9am-midnight) The historic lighthouse on Red Island has just been restored and

**BYOF – BRING YOUR OWN FISH**

One way to taste Fethiye's fabulous fish without losing too many Turkish lira is to bring your own! Follow fishy smells to find the market, browse what's on offer, check the day's prices chalked up on the boards, then take your time choosing. Next, ferry the fish to one of the rows of restaurants that surround the market – pick the most popular – and ask them to cook it. A nominal cover charge of just €2.75 is levied, but this will procure you a green salad, bread with garlic butter, a sauce to accompany the fish, and fruit and coffee; it's a bargain fit for a king.

reopened as a restaurant. This is a wonderfully romantic place. You can arrange a pick-up from Ece Say Marina Resort.

**CAFÉS**

**Café Öley** (☎ 612 9532; 38 Sokak 4; breakfast €3.35-6, meals TL8-10; ☎ 8am-midnight; ☑) The superstar Atila is famed for her smoothies, Vegemite and pancakes (served separately!). There are also good salads and sandwiches. Customers have free internet access and there's a book exchange.

**Özüt** (☎ 612 9989; Atatürk Caddesi; ☎ 8am-1am) Serving the usual tantalising Turkish puds and pastries, this excellent chain also sells good ice cream (TL1 per scoop).

**QUICK EATS**

**Nefis Pide** (☎ 614 5504; Eski Cami Sokak 9; meals TL5; ☎ 9am-midnight) Stark and simple but sparkling clean, this popular place does delicious pides (TL3 to TL6). It's right next to the mosque – and doesn't sell alcohol!

**Paşa Kebab** (☎ 614 9807; Çarşı Caddesi 42; mezés TL3-4, pide TL2-6, pizza TL8-10; ☎ 9am-midnight) Considered locally to offer the 'best kebabs in town', this honest and unpretentious place has a well-priced menu (with useful little photos of dishes!). Try the Paşa special (TL10) – a delicious oven-baked beef, tomato and cheese concoction.

**Meğri Lokantasi** (☎ 614 4047; Çarşı Caddesi 26; mains TL14-25; ☎ 8am-2am low season, 8am-4am high season) Packed with locals who spill onto the streets, the Meğri does excellent and hearty home-style cooking at very palatable prices. The *güveç* (casseroles, TL12 to TL20) are something of a speciality.

**Drinking & Entertainment**

Fethiye's bars and nightclubs are mostly cheek-by-jowl on one little street, Hamam Sokak, just off İskele Meydanı.

**Ottoman Dancing Bar** (☎ 612 9491; beer TL5; ☎ noon-4am) Decorated to the extreme à l'Ottoman, this is a long-time favourite with

both locals and travellers who come to drink or smoke a nargileh (water pipe, TL12) on the comfy outdoor seating.

**Car Cemetery** (☎ 612 7872; Haman Sokak 25; beer TL4; ☎ 10am-3am) British-pub-meets-club, this place is particularly popular with locals and rarely reports a dull night.

**Val's Bar** (☎ 612 2363; Müge Sokak; beer TL4; ☎ 9am-1am) English Val has been keeping the local expat community well informed and happily quenched for 18 years. Her cute little bar stocks a mean selection of poison and suitably strong coffee. It's near the new Cultural Centre.

**M & M Bar** (Haman Sokak 30; beer TL5; ☎ noon-3am) More straight-up Euro-techno for your jumping up and down pleasure in this fun establishment next to Car Cemetery.

**Club Bananas** (☎ 612 8441; beer TL5; ☎ 10pm-5am) Any venue where staff set fire to the bar then dance on it is hard to overlook on a big night out. Bananas is Fethiye's premier party joint – expect foam parties, random remixes and TL10 cover charge on the busiest nights. It's housed one block north of Hamam Sokak.

**Shopping**

**Unique Exclusive** (☎ 612 9515; 37 Sokak 4; ☎ 9am-8pm) The Unique emporium, popping up throughout the arcade, includes separate stores dedicated to silver, art, fashion, bric-a-brac and even real estate. The Exclusive store is a carpet specialist, with a stunning selection of quilts and tapestries. Like everywhere, bargain hard.

**Getting There & Away**

Fethiye is hemmed in by mountains, so for northbound buses, you must change at Antalya or Muğla. Buses from the otogar to Antalya (TL20, 7½ hours, 295km) head east along the coast at least every hour in high season, stopping at Kalkan (TL7, 1½ hours, 81km), Kaş (TL8, 2½ hours, 110km) and

(Continued on page 365)

(Continued from page 356)

Olympos (TL15, five hours, 219km). The inland road to Antalya (TL16, four hours, 222km) is much quicker.

For intermediate destinations, go to the minibus station near the mosque. Here you'll find rides to Faralya, Göcek, Hisarönü, Kabak, Kayaköy (Kaya), Kemer, Kumluova, Ovacık, Ölüdeniz (stops at main otogar as well), Saklıkent and Tlos.

## Getting Around

Minibuses ply the one-way system along Atatürk Caddesi and up Çarşı Caddesi to the otogar. There's a fixed charge of TL1.50 no matter how far you go. A taxi from the otogar to the pensions east of the centre costs about TL10.

A couple of agencies along Atatürk Caddesi hire out scooters for TL25 per day.

## ÖLÜDENİZ

☎ 0252

About 15km southeast of Fethiye e Ölüdeniz (Dead Sea), the once cherished paradise of the western Mediterranean. With its sheltered blue-ish lagoon beside a lush national park, a long spit of sandy beach, and Baba Dağ (Mt Baba) casting its shadow across the sea, Ölüdeniz is still a naturally stunning place. Sadly, however, package tourism has spoiled much of the Dead Sea's motionless charms, and those in search of quiet will be shocked.

Today, bawdy hotel operators jostle for your custom with faux-fancy restaurants and parasailing salesmen. The beachcombing bohemians of yesteryear have been replaced, en masse, by short-breakers out for 15 minutes of fun.

Still, on the upside, Ölüdeniz is a good place to party hearty before the mellows of Butterfly Valley or Kabak. Plus it's the stepping off point for the wonderful Lycian Way, which starts from near the nicer hotels, high above the madness below.

Note that the name of the lagoon (Ölüdeniz) is becoming synonymous with the town and that asking for Belcekız may draw a blank.

## Orientation & Information

The beach is very much the centre of things – pass through the package-tour colonies of Ovacık and Hisarönü till you reach it. Near the junction of the roads to Fethiye, Belcekız and to Ölüdeniz, you will find a *jandarma* post, a PTT and the entrance to the lagoon.

The road continues behind the park to several camping grounds.

To your left as you arrive, the beach promenade is closed to traffic and backed with restaurants and a tight cluster of hotels.

The wistful **Ölüdeniz Tourism Development Cooperative** (Ölüdeniz Turizm Geliştirme Kooperatifi; ☎ 617 0438; Ölüdeniz Caddesi; ☎ 8am–8pm) has an information booth on the access road just inland from the beach.

## Sights & Activities

### LAGOON

The **Ölüdeniz Tabiat Parkı** (Ölüdeniz Caddesi; TL2; ☎ 8am–8pm) is still a lovely place to while away a few hours on the beach with mountains soaring above you. It has been laid out with paths, showers, toilets and makeshift cafés.

### BOAT TRIPS

Throughout summer, boats set out to explore the coast, charging about TL30 for a day trip (including lunch). A typical cruise might take in Gemile Beach, the Blue Cave, Butterfly Valley (see p368) and St Nicholas Island, with time for swimming. Boats to Butterfly Valley leave from the beach around 11am and return around 5pm.

### PARAGLIDING

If ever you wanted to jump off a 1960m-high cliff, Ölüdeniz is the place to do it. The imposing Baba Dağ is the perfect place for paragliding. Indeed it now hosts the International Air Games each October.

The descent from the mountain can take up to 45 minutes, with amazing views over the Blue Lagoon, Butterfly Valley and, on a clear day, out to Rhodes.

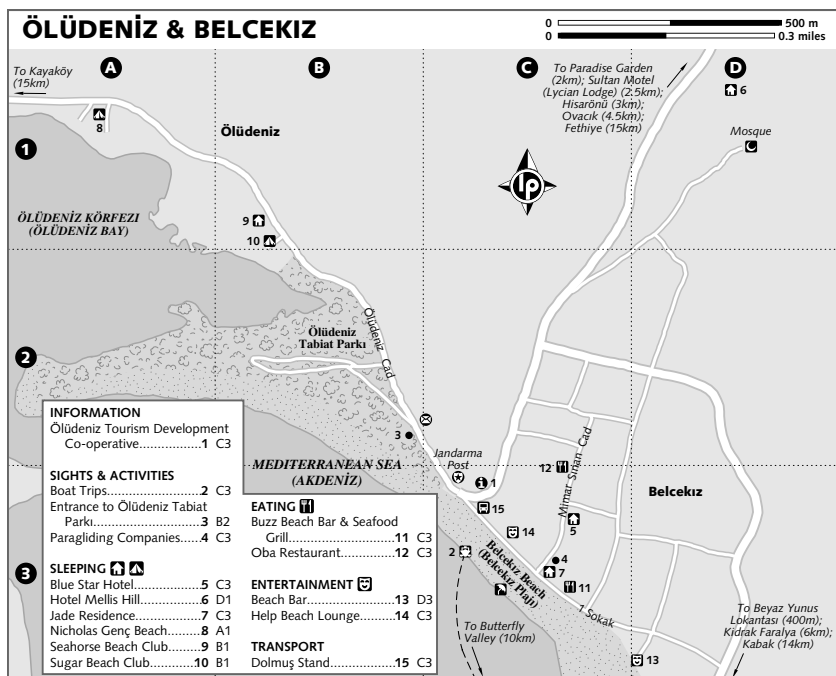
Various companies offer tandem paragliding flights, but prices vary greatly according to the reputation of the company and the experience of the pilot (usually around TL150 to TL200). Don't be a cheapskate – ensure the company has insurance and the pilot has appropriate qualifications and experience. Parasailing is also possible (TL100), but is infinitely less cool.

## Sleeping

### BUDGET

Camping grounds are the only budget options currently in Ölüdeniz, but some offer bungalows or cabins too.

**Sugar Beach Club** (☎ 617 0048; [www.thesugarbeachclub.com](http://www.thesugarbeachclub.com); Ölüdeniz Caddesi 20; camp site per person TL10, car



& caravan TL10, bungalows per person TL70, without bathroom TL35-45; (☒) Apr-Oct; (☒) About 600m to the right of the main drag, Sugar Beach is a well-run theme park for beach party backpackers. The redesign is first class – a private strip of beach shaded by palms, shaded lounging areas, a beach bar and café. The bungalows range from basic to air-conditioned and comfortable but they're all spotless. Bikes can be hired, small shops are on site. If you're not staying here but want to hang out, it costs TL5 to use the sun lounges, parasols and showers. Dolmuş pass along the road beside the camping.

**Seahorse Beach Club** (☎ 617 0123; [www.seahorsebeachclub.com](http://www.seahorsebeachclub.com); Ölüdeniz Caddesi; camp site per person TL10, caravan TL100-140) An excellent new boutique caravan park in fierce competition with the Sugar next door. The restaurant is superbly set in a lofted cabin, and the beach is a very short stroll away. The blue-and-white caravans are barely scratched and come with all the mod-cons. The manager will consider discounts.

**Nicholas Genç Beach** (☎ 617 0088; [www.nicholas-hotels.com](http://www.nicholas-hotels.com); Ölüdeniz Caddesi; s/d TL40/70) If you've ever wondered what it was like to be a caravaner,

here's your chance. This place rents out 10 small but comfortable air-conditioned caravans with fridge, satellite TV, private bathroom and even a table and chairs. It's a well run, well maintained place with a pleasant beach, though most visitors come through agencies. It lies around 1km from the town centre, past the Sugar Beach Club.

### MIDRANGE & TOP END

**Sultan Motel** (Lycian Lodge; ☎ 616 6139; [www.sultanmotel.com](http://www.sultanmotel.com); s/d TL40/80; (☒) (☒)) Just off the road down to Ölüdeniz, on the left as you descend from Hisarönü (2.5km from Ölüdeniz), the Sultan acts as a starting point for the Lycian Way and rooms are in simple but spotless stone chalets, some with good views.

**Blue Star Hotel** (☎ 617 0069; [www.hotelbluestaroludeniz.com](http://www.hotelbluestaroludeniz.com); Mimar Sinan Caddesi 8; s/d TL50/100; (☒) (☒) (☒)) Quite attractively designed and well maintained, this two-star place is 60m from the beach. Though they're not large, the rooms are light, bright and airy and have balconies overlooking the pool.

**Hotel Mellis Hill** (☎ 617 0690; Belcekiz Mevkii; s/d TL50/100; (☒) (☒) (☒)) This much-loved place has

a large swimming pool set against a mountain, a restaurant that heats up at night and a garden with all manner of furry, sometimes shelled, friends. Rooms are well presented and very clean. The beach is a 10-minute stroll down a dirt track.

**Jade Residence** (☎ 617 0124; Belcekiz Mevkii; s/d TL100/200; ☹ ☹ ☹) The diminutive Jade Residence, with its eight delicately presented rooms, feels a world away from the cackle of Ölüdeniz. Its intimacy is rare, while the rooms are fitted with French doors and filled with designer decor. The pool and garden layout is an oasis of good taste – surely the best small hotel in town.

**Paradise Garden** (☎ 617 0545; www.paradisegardenhotel.com; Ölüdeniz Yolu; s/d TL120/200; ☹ ☹ ☹) Situated up the hill to the right just before you enter Ölüdeniz village, around 2.5km from the centre, this Eden-like place is well named. Set in a 6-hectare garden, it boasts spectacular views, three pools, a menagerie and a gourmet restaurant. Rooms are attractively furnished with authentic arts and crafts.

## Eating & Drinking

**Buzz Beach Bar & Seafood Grill** (☎ 617 0526; 1 Sokak 1; beer TL4, mains TL10-30; ☹ restaurant 8am-midnight, bar noon-2am mid-Apr-Oct) With a nice situation on the waterfront, this place offers a wide menu from pizza and pasta to kebabs, fillet steak and seafood. At lunch time you can watch the paragliders plop down on the landing point outside. It's also a very popular nightspot.

**Oba Restaurant** (☎ 617 0158; Mimar Sinan Caddesi; mains TL15-25; ☹ 8am-midnight) Built like a log cabin, the restaurant of the Oba Hostel has a great reputation for home-style food at a palatable price. It also does great Turkish/European breakfasts (TL10/12) including homemade muesli with mountain yoghurt and local pine honey. Ranging from snacks to full-on mains, the menu also offers 12 veggie dishes.

**Beyaz Yunus Lokantası** (White Dolphin; ☎ 617 0068; Likya Yolu; beer TL6, fish per 450g TL40; ☹ 11am-midnight May-mid-Oct) Set on a stunning terrace overlooking the bay, the Beyaz is famous for its fresh fish and seafood. Sample some of the exquisite seafood mezes (TL15) such as calamari stuffed with feta, or octopus slow-cooked in red wine. Down some steps is a delightful 'Sunset Bar' – perfect for a pre-dinner aperitif. It's on the Faralya road about 1km from the town centre.

## Entertainment

**Help Beach Lounge** (Sugar Shack; ☎ 617 0650; 1 Sokak; beer TL5; ☹ 9am-4am May-Oct) The most happening place in town, this funky joint has a large terrace with a beach bar right on the seaford with comfy cushioned benches. Happy 'hour' (cocktails TL12) is from 6pm to 8pm.

## Getting There & Away

In high season, minibuses leave Fethiye for Ölüdeniz roughly every 10 minutes during the day (TL3, 25 minutes, 15km), passing through Ovacık and Hisarönü; in low season they go every 30 to 45 minutes.

## KAYAKÖY (KARMYLISSOS)

☎ 0252

About 5km west of Hisarönü is Kayaköy, a beautifully eerie town of 2000 **stone houses** (admission TL8; ☹ 9am-7pm) and a ghost-filled modern past. Recently it provided the inspiration for Eskibağçe, the village in Louis de Bernières' novel, *Birds Without Wings*, but the town's history needs no fictional embellishment.

Long known as Levissi, Kayaköy (Karmylassos) was deserted by its mostly Ottoman-Greek inhabitants after WWI and the Turkish War of Independence. The League of Nations supervised an exchange of populations between Turkey and Greece (see p40), with most Greek Muslims coming from Greece to Turkey and most Ottoman Christians moving to Greece. The people of Levissi, most of whom were Orthodox Christians, moved to the outskirts of Athens and founded Nea Levissi there.

As there were far more Ottoman Greeks than Greek Muslims, many of the Turkish towns were left unoccupied after the exchange of populations. Kayaköy, as it is called now, has only a handful of long-term Turkish inhabitants.

With the tourism boom of the 1980s, a development company wanted to restore Kayaköy's stone houses and turn the town into a holiday village. Scenting money, the local inhabitants were delighted, but Turkish artists and architects were alarmed and saw to it that the Ministry of Culture declared Kayaköy (or Kaya as it's called locally) a historic monument, safe from unregulated development. What remains is a gorgeous, timeless village set in a lush valley with some fine vineyards nearby. In the evening, when the stone houses are spotlit for visitors, Kayaköy is truly surreal.

Two churches are still prominent: the Katanogonia in the lower part of the town and the Taxiarkis further up the slope. Both retain some of their painted decoration and black-and-white pebble mosaic floors.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Selçuk Pension** (☎ 618 0075; [enginselcuk48@hotmail.com](mailto:enginselcuk48@hotmail.com); s/d TL20/40) Set in flower and veg gardens, the Selçuk has rooms that are spotless, quite spacious and homely; four have lovely views of Kaya. Guests can use the swimming pool of the restaurant next door.

**Villa Rhapsody** (☎ 618 0042; [www.villarrhapsody.com](http://www.villarrhapsody.com); s/d TL50/80; ☞ mid-Apr–Oct; ☞) With a swimming pool set in a rather grand walled garden, this place is friendly and welcoming. Comfortable rooms have balconies overlooking the garden. Atilla and Jeanne, the Dutch-Turkish owners, can also offer advice and sketch maps on walking in the area, as well as organising bike hire. Out of season, call first.

**Sarıç Café & Restaurant** (☎ 618 0118; large meze plate TL4, mains TL15–20; ☞ 10am–midnight) At the foot of the ruins off the main road about 100m beyond the Selçuk Pension, this is a real find. Located in a characterful 300-year-old stone house, its menu is select, more interesting than most and superb, offering regional dishes made with the freshest local ingredients. Prices are extremely reasonable.

**Levissi Garden** (☎ 618 0108; [www.levissigarden.com](http://www.levissigarden.com); meals TL15–25) This 400-year-old stone building has been a horse stable and mayoral residence, and is now a stunning wine house and restaurant, with a cellar that stocks over 400 of Turkey's finest drops. Spotlighting the ghostly ruins, the Levissi's kitchen stars a stone oven that ekes out slow-cooked lamb stew (TL25) and mouth-watering *klevliko* (leg of lamb cooked in red wine, garlic and herbs, TL25). The English-speaking owner is charismatic and cool, and happy to retell the history of the enchanting premises.

**Kaya Wine House** (☎ 618 0454; [www.kayawinehouse.com](http://www.kayawinehouse.com); Keçiler Mahallesi; meals around TL30; ☞ 11am–midnight) Set in a shaded courtyard within a beautiful old stone house, this is a delightful place for dinner, and the traditional Turkish dishes are delicious.

## Getting There & Away

Minibuses run to Fethiye (TL2.50, 20 to 30 minutes) every half-hour from mid-June to September, every hour in low season. A taxi costs TL30.

To Ölüdeniz, two to three minibuses run daily in high season, or you can go to Hisarönü (TL2.50, 20 minutes) from where minibuses go every 10 minutes to Ölüdeniz. A taxi there costs around TL30.

You can also walk here from Fethiye in 1½ to 2½ hours, depending on your route. The simplest is to follow the road that winds up behind Fethiye's fortress.

Alternatively it's about a one-hour walk downhill through pine forest from Hisarönü. Or we recommend the very pretty trail to Ölüdeniz that takes two to 2½ hours (8km).

## BUTTERFLY VALLEY & FARALYA

Tucked around the coast from Ölüdeniz is the paradise-found of Butterfly Valley, where mellow young Turks doss about in hammocks and curious day trippers wish they'd packed an overnight bag. As well as being home to the unique Jersey tiger butterfly, beautiful **Butterfly Valley** (☎ 614 2619; [www.butterflyvalley.com](http://www.butterflyvalley.com)) also boasts a 60m-high waterfall (admission TL5 for nonguests), a fine beach, and some lovely walks through a lush gorge. Almost the moment the last tour boat turns back for Ölüdeniz, Butterfly Valley turns on its beguiling, neo-hippy smile.

A rocky path that's steep in places winds up a cliff to the village of Faralya, on a terrace above the canyon on the right-hand (south) side of the valley. If you take this, be sure to wear proper shoes and keep to the marked trail (indicated with painted red dots) – an Australian backpacker died here after taking a wrong turn. It usually takes an hour to ascend from the valley; 30 to 40 minutes to descend. There are fixed ropes along the path in the steepest or most dangerous parts. Faralya is on a stage of the Lycian Way walk (p359).

Faralya is the first village south of Ölüdeniz (12km away) on the Yedi Burun (Seven Capes) coast, one of the last undeveloped stretches of the Turkish Mediterranean. Until a road was bulldozed along the steep side of Baba Dağ, the village was largely cut off from the world and the residents had to be self-sufficient. The views, as you'd imagine, are unforgettable.

## Sleeping

If you decide to stay in Butterfly Valley itself, you'll be getting back to nature in the aptly named **Butterfly Valley** (☎ 0538 511 6454; tent with half-board per person TL34, bungalow with half-board per person TL42). There are 16 clean, simple stilted

bungalows, with thin mattresses on the floor. Be warned that these rooms bake during the summer.

For those who prefer a little new-fashioned civilisation at the end of a hard day on the chill, the following places are all above the valley in Faralya.

**Gül Pansiyon** (☎ 642 1145; s/d TL30/50) With its firm family feel, here you can join the old ladies for a gossip on the attractive terrace, knitting and podding peas. Though the eight rooms are simple, they're very clean and some share a veranda overlooking the valley. A bubbling pond contains trout which can be cooked up for your feast (TL15). It's the first pension you come to on the road from Ölüdeniz.

**George House** (☎ 642 1102; [www.georgehouse.net](http://www.georgehouse.net); s/d TL30/50; ☑) Run by a charming family, the George offers mattresses in the family house, in tree houses (tented platforms) or in basic bungalows (at the same price). The home cooking is delicious and ingredients come fresh from the family's organic garden, cow or hives! It has a spring water source and a natural pool and the views are ethereal.

**Melisa Pansiyon** (☎ 642 1012; [melisapan@hotmail.com](mailto:melisapan@hotmail.com); s/d TL40/60) Next door to the Gül, the Melisa has four well-maintained and cheerful rooms, and a pretty terrace overlooking the valley. The owner, Mehmet, speaks English and is a good source of information. Home-cooked set menus are available for TL10 to TL15.

**Die Wassermühle** (The Watermill; ☎ 642 1245; [www.natur-reisen.de](http://www.natur-reisen.de); d per person with half-board TL80, ste TL120; ☑) This beautiful 150-year-old former wheat mill boasts a hillside setting that commands gorgeous views from its restaurant and pool terraces. The seven 'suites' are spacious and have kitchenettes. The gourmet kitchen serves six courses for dinner. To find it, take the small road heading uphill to the left immediately before the Gül Pansiyon.

## Getting There & Away

You can either take a tour to Butterfly Valley from Fethiye (see p353) or Ölüdeniz (p365) or – and particularly if you want to spend the night – you can take the 'water dolmuş' (TL6.25 each way), which departs daily from Ölüdeniz May to September at 11am, 2pm and 6pm. From Butterfly Valley to Ölüdeniz, they leave at 10am, 1pm and 5pm.

Besides the rocky path connecting Faralya to Butterfly Valley, there are six minibuses

daily (TL4, 25 minutes, 8km) in summer (three in spring and two in winter) between Faralya and Fethiye. Coming from Fethiye, they call in at the minibus stand in Ölüdeniz 30 minutes later.

If you miss the bus, you can take a taxi from either Ölüdeniz or Faralya (TL25). You can also get to Faralya by scooter, though the road is steep, twisting and not quite fully asphalted yet.

## KABAK

☎ 0252

The startlingly remote beach community of Kabak is slowly becoming the solitude searchers' end point. Regardless of how you make the steep, downward 40-minute trek – by tractor, trek or mule – you'll be rewarded with spectacular and empty Gemile beach flanked by two long cliffs. Eight kilometres south of Faralya – and worlds away from everywhere else – Kabak is for the camping and trekking enthusiast, yoga devotee or any doyen of quiet, untapped beauty.

The beach and almost all of the accommodation is a 25-minute walk from Faralya, which begins about 30m down from the minibus stop.

Kabak is on a section of the Lycian Way walk, described on p359.

## Sleeping

Accommodation in Kabak consists of camping or tented platforms (translated from the Turkish 'wood house'). All include half-board in the price, and most open only from May to October.

**Reflections** (☎ 642 1020; [www.reflections-camp.com](http://www.reflections-camp.com); own tent/camp tent/platform per person TL25/30/40) Built from scratch and an 'ongoing project' for American Chris and his Turkish girlfriend, this characterful place has views of the surrounding forest. The toilet, with ferns and ginger plants for decoration, boast the best views in Turkey!

**Full Moon** (☎ 642 1081; platform per person TL30; ☑) The Full Moon boasts a natural swimming pool (fed with mountain spring water) and pleasant platforms that have delightful little cushioned 'verandas' that give glorious views over the bay below. They're also nicely spread out from one another and there's a platformed *köşk* (chill-out area). Take the second road down – it's the first camp you cross.

**Turan Camping** (☎ 642 1227; [www.turancamping.com](http://www.turancamping.com); platform with/without balcony TL50/40; ☑) Run

### TOP SIX SPOTS SANS SUNBED

If you prefer your beach bumming without the crowds, the following will give you both privacy and the perfect tan:

- **Selimiye** (p340) A few boats, the odd goat and a promenade – heaven is such a simple place.
- **Patara Beach** (p373) With 20km of gorgeous white sand to lie on, you can pack a hundred oversized umbrellas for all we care.
- **Kabak** (p369) Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there... Wow.
- **Kaleköy** (p385) Undersea ruins to dive for (or at least paddle over). And not *quite* an island, but island-ish?
- **Kaputaş** For those who like a beach on the rocks, no people, then dinner till two in Kalkan (p374).
- **Çıralı** (p387) Up-scale and down beach from Olympos, the Baby Boomers return (near) to where it all began.

by the dynamic Ece and Ahmet, a young Turkish couple who fell for the place following a holiday here, the Turan has platforms with individuality (one with a tree growing inside!), lovely views and lots of mellow lounging areas. Three-week yoga courses are regularly held here, which guests are welcome to join. Meals (mainly vegetarian) are good too.

**our pick Shambala** (☎ 496 0870; www.theshambala.com; Indian tent TL40, tree house TL45, bungalow TL70-100; ♿ ♿ ♿) On occasions you come across a place that reminds you why you love travelling. Halfway down the Kabak Valley, this newly consecrated 'sacred ground' consists of bungalows, spacious tree houses and breezy Indian tents with the ultimate sea view. There's also a beautiful swimming pool, hip bar, chilled-out hammock seats, and Shamanic healing therapy. It's greater than the sum of its parts. Call ahead to arrange pick-up, or just to thank them with all your beating heart.

### Eating

Lying at the top of the valley, near the dolmuş stop (and the end of the main road) are a couple of simple restaurants.

**Mamma's Restaurant** (☎ 642 1071; mains TL7) Mamma's offers a couple of simple but hearty dishes as well as *gözleme* (TL3) and its own deliciously refreshing home-brewed *ayran* (yoghurt drink, TL2).

**Olive Garden** (☎ 642 1083; mezes TL5-10, mains TL12-15; ☞ mid-Apr-Oct) You'll find it down a side road 100m beyond Mamma's (though she may swear it's closed!). With a heavenly and

peaceful setting and gorgeous views from the cosy hillside platforms, it's a wonderful place for a meal. It's run by the friendly Fatih, an ex-chef, and many ingredients come from his family's 15 hectares of fruit trees, olive groves and vegetable gardens. If you can't tear yourself away, it has four wooden cabins (TL40 per person with half-board).

### Getting There & Away

The twisting road from Faralya is as memorable for its views as for its knuckle-whitening corners. There are minibuses from Fethiye to Kabak. For more information see p369.

### TLOS

(☎ 0252)

On a rocky outcrop high above a pastoral plain sits one of the oldest and most important cities of ancient Lycia. Tlos' prominence was matched only by its promontory; its elevated position so effective, in fact, that the city remained inhabited until the early 19th century.

There's plenty to see here. As you climb the winding road to the **ruins** (admission TL8; ☞ 8am-6pm), look for the fortress-topped **acropolis** on the right. What you see is Ottoman-era work but the Lycians once had a fort in the same place. Beneath it, reached by narrow paths, are the familiar **rock-cut tombs**, including that of Bellerophon, a pseudo-temple facade carved into the rock face that has a fine bas-relief of the hero riding Pegasus, the winged horse. You can reach the tomb by walking along a stream bed, then turning left and climbing a crude ladder.



The **theatre** is 100m further up the road from the ticket kiosk. It's in excellent condition, with most of its marble seating intact, although the stage wall is gone. There's a fine view of the acropolis from here. Off to the right of the theatre (as you sit in the centre rows) is an ancient **Lycian sarcophagus** in a farmer's field. The **necropolis** on the path up to the fortress has many stone sarcophagi.

One of the men at the ticket kiosk will offer to guide you (for a tip) – a good idea if you want to see all the rock-cut tombs.

Set in a pretty garden with a stream, a pool, lots of shade, seating areas and bird-song, **Mountain Lodge** (☎ 638 2515; www.themountainlodge.co.uk; r per person €20-31; 🗓️ Feb-Dec; 🚻 📶) is a peaceful and attractive place designed like an old stone house. Rooms are comfy and homely (rates vary according to size) and there is a pool set on a terrace with views. Melahat (Mel) offers home-cooked set menus (€11). From the theatre, it lies 2km back down the road to the highway and another 2km up a side road; coming by minibus, get off at the village of Güneşli, and walk or hitch the 2km up the road to Yaka Köyü.

## Getting There & Away

From Fethiye, minibuses travel to Saklıkent (TL4.50, 45 minutes) every 20 minutes via Güneşli (Tlos). If you are driving, follow the signs to Saklıkent from Kayadibi and watch for the yellow ancient monument sign on the left.

## SAKLIKENT GORGE

The spectacular **Saklıkent Gorge** (adult/student high season TL8/4, low season free; 🕒 8am-8pm) is literally a crack in the Akdağlar Mountains. This 18km gorge, found 12km after the turn-off to Tlos, is too narrow for even sunlight to squeeze through. Luckily you can, but prep yourself for some very cold water, all year round.

You approach the gorge along a wooden boardwalk above the river that opens out into a series of wooden platforms suspended above the water. Here you can buy and eat slippery fresh trout, and watch other tourists slip and slide their way across the river, hanging onto a rope, and then slop into the gorge proper. Good footwear is essential, though plastic shoes can be hired (TL2). Guides can also be hired and it's a good place to try tubing (TL15 per person).

## Sleeping

Across the river from the car park is **Saklıkent Gorge Camp** (☎ 659 0074; www.saklikentgorge.net; camp site TL10, dm on platform by river half-board TL20, tree house without bathroom s/d TL35/60; 🗓️ Jan-Nov; 📶 🚻), a rustic backpacker-oriented camp with basic but clean tree houses (all have little fridges), a natural pool, bar and restaurant (fresh trout TL10, *köfte* TL12).

The camp can organise various activities (which include transport and drinks), including tubing (TL25 per person, 45 to 60 minutes), rafting (TL25/50 for 45 to 60 minutes/three hours), canyoning (TL40/100/200 for trips of six hours/one day/two days and one night, minimum four people), fishing (TL20 including guide and equipment, half a day), and trekking (TL25, five hours). Also offered are jeep safaris (TL60 including lunch and guide) and tours of Tlos (TL20) and Patara (TL20).

## Getting There & Away

Minibuses run every 15 minutes between Fethiye and Saklıkent (TL4.50, 45 minutes).

## PINARA

Some 46km southeast of Fethiye, near the village of Eşen, is a turn-off (to the right) for the **Pinara ruins** (admission TL3), which lie another 6km up in the mountains.

Pinara was among the most important cities in ancient Lycia, but although the site is vast the actual ruins are not Turkey's most impressive. Instead it's the sheer splendour and isolation that makes the journey so worthwhile.

Rising high above the site is a sheer column of rock honeycombed with **rock-cut tombs**. Other **tombs** are within the ruined city itself. The one called the Royal (or King's) Tomb has particularly fine reliefs, including several showing walled cities. Pinara's **theatre** is in good condition, but its **odeum** and **temples** of Apollo, Aphrodite and Athena (with heart-shaped columns) are badly ruined.

The road winds through tobacco and corn fields and across irrigation channels for more than 3km to the village of Minare, then takes a sharp left turn to climb the slope. The last 2km or so are extremely steep. If you decide to walk make sure you stock up on water first. There's a café at the foot of the slope and nothing after that.

At the top of the slope is an open parking area and near it a cool, shady, refreshing

spring. The guardian will probably appear and offer to show you around the ruins – a good idea as the path around the site (which is always open) is not easy to follow. You should probably tip the guardian (about TL10).

Infrequent minibuses from Fethiye (TL3, one hour) drop you at the start of the Pınara road and you can walk to the site or plead with the driver to take you all the way. The village at Eşen, 3km southeast of the Pınara turn-off, has a few basic restaurants.

## SİDYMA

About 4km south of Eşen, a rough dirt road to the left goes 12km to Sidyma, where there are some minor Lycian ruins. The village of Dodurga sits in the centre of the site, with the **acropolis** and a badly damaged **theatre** above it. Many of the old stone houses in the village incorporate building materials from the ancient city. In the village outskirts you'll find the **necropolis**, which has an interesting collection of tombs from the Roman era.

## LETOÖN

The Unesco-designated World Heritage site of Letoön is home to some of the finest **ruins** (admission TL8; ☎ 8.30am-5pm) on the Lycian Way. Located 17km south of the Pınara turn-off, Letoön is often considered a double-site with the all-conquering, nearby Xanthos (right). However, with its near-permanently saturated **nymphaeum**, Letoön carries its own, somewhat soppy, romantic charm.

Letoön takes its name and importance from a large shrine to Leto, who, according to legend, was loved by Zeus and became the mother of Apollo and Artemis. Unimpressed, Zeus's wife Hera commanded that Leto spend an eternity wandering from country to country. According to local folklore she spent much of this time in Lycia, becoming the Lycian national deity. The federation of Lycian cities then built this very impressive religious sanctuary to worship her. It's possible that the shrine was originally dedicated to the Anatolian Mother Goddess.

The site consists of three **temples** side by side: to Apollo (on the left), Artemis (in the middle) and Leto (on the right). The Temple of Apollo has a fine mosaic showing a lyre and a bow and arrow. The **nymphaeum**, inhabited by frogs in ponds, is appropriate as worship of Leto was associated with water. Nearby is a large Hellenistic **theatre** in excellent condition.

## Getting There & Away

Driving from Patara, the turn-off is on the right-hand (southwest) side near the village of Kumluova. Turn right off the highway, go 3.2km to a T-junction, turn left, then right after 100m (this turn-off is easy to miss) and proceed 1km to the site through fertile fields and orchards, and past greenhouses full of tomato plants. If you miss the second turn you'll end up in the village's main square.

Minibuses run from Fethiye via Eşen to Kumluova (TL5.25, 60km, 65 minutes). Get out at the Letoön turn-off and walk with your thumb (or tongue, depending on the time of day) hanging out in hope.

## XANTHOS

At Kınık, 63km from Fethiye, the road crosses a river. Up to the left on a rock outcrop is the ruined city of **Xanthos** (admission TL5; ☎ 8.30am-5pm), once the capital and grandest city of Lycia, with a fine **Roman theatre** and pillar **tombs** with Lycian inscriptions.

It's a short uphill walk to the site. For all its grandeur, Xanthos had a chequered history of wars and destruction. Several times, when besieged by clearly superior enemy forces, the city was destroyed by its own inhabitants. You'll see the theatre with the **agora** opposite but the **acropolis** is badly ruined. As many of the finest sculptures and inscriptions were carted off to the British Museum in 1842, most of the inscriptions and decorations you see today are copies of the originals. However, French excavations in the 1950s have made Xanthos well worth seeing.

Follow the road round to the right to find more attractive **Lycian tombs** cut into the rock face.

Minibuses run to Xanthos from Fethiye and Kaş, and some long-distance buses will stop here if you ask.

## PATARA

☎ 0242

Scruffy little Patara (Gelemiş) is the perfect spot to mix your ruin-rambling with some dedicated sand-shuffling on 20-odd kilometres of wide, golden beach. The town is not at all inundated with travellers – a miracle given its obvious attractions – and traditional village life still goes on here. The friendly locals mix easily with a small community of eccentric foreigners, all pinched pink that Patara is still largely their own.

But perhaps it's all just seasonal good fortune, for Patara was once the birthplace of St Nicholas, the 4th-century Byzantine bishop who later passed into legend as Santa Claus. Before that though, Patara was famous for its temple and oracle of Apollo, of which little remains. It was once the major port for eastern Lycia and the Eşen valley – St Paul and St Luke had to change boats here – but the harbour silted up in medieval times and became a reedy wetland.

## Orientation

The Patara turn-off is just east of the village of Ovaköy; from here it's 2km to the village and another 1.5km to the Patara ruins. The beach is a further 1km past the ruins. Between June and October local minibuses trundle down to the beach from the village. In the height of summer, it's well worth swallowing your pride and grabbing a lift.

As you come into the village, on your left is a hillside holding various hotels and pensions. A turn to the right at Golden Pension takes you to the village centre, across the valley and up the other side to more pensions; go straight on for the beach and ruins.

## Sights & Activities

### RUINS

Admission to the **ruins** and **beach** costs TL5. Patara's ruins include a triple-arched triumphal arch at the entrance to the site with a necropolis containing several Lycian tombs nearby. Next are the baths and, much further, a basilica.

You can climb to the top of the theatre, which backs onto a small hill, for a view of the whole site. On top of the hill are the foundations of a Temple of Athena and an unusual circular cistern, cut into the rock with a pillar in the middle.

Squelch to the lake to see several other baths, two temples and a Corinthian temple. Across the lake is a granary.

Cars must be parked in either the village or beach car park as hungry bulldozers often ply the entry roads.

### PATARA BEACH

Backed by fluffy sand dunes (and not a pebble between toes), this splendid beach is quite unique for the region. You can get there by following the road past the ruins, or by turning right at Golden Pension and following the

track, which heads for the sand dunes and mimosa bushes along the western side of the archaeological zone. It's about a 30-minute walk, or minibuses run to the beach from the village dolmuş (TL1).

If you've walked this far barefoot, now's the time to run – the sand is hot and there are few places to escape the sun. You can rent an umbrella on the beach for TL6.

To the left as you approach, **Patara Restaurant** (grilled fish TL12) provides shade and sustenance. The beach closes at dusk as it's a nesting ground for sea turtles. Camping is prohibited.

### ÇAYAĞZI BEACH

On the western side of the stream by the access road from the highway to Patara, a sign points the way to Çayağzı Beach 5km away. There are basic beach services and camping facilities.

## Tours

**Dardanos Travel** (☎ 843 5151; 🕒 9am–6pm) offers three-hour horse-riding trips through the Patara dunes (TL80) and excellent full-day canoeing trips (with BBQ lunch TL50) along the Eşen stream, ending at Patara Beach.

## Sleeping

**Rose Pension** (☎ 843 5165; [www.rosepensionpatara.com](http://www.rosepensionpatara.com); s/d TL20/35; 🍷) This large sand-coloured pension is favoured by shrewd travellers who can spot genuine hospitality from the ass-end of a dolmuş. The 16 double rooms are cosy and clean, but it's the extra efforts such as garden fresh produce and stylish lounge that make this an appealing place to stay.

**Akay Pension** (☎ 843 5055; [www.pataraakaypension.com](http://www.pataraakaypension.com); s/d/t TL25/35/45; 🍷 📺) Run by super-keen-to-please Kazım and family, the pension has well-maintained little rooms and comfortable beds with balconies overlooking orange trees. You pay an extra TL5 per room for air-con. Mrs Akay does a good breakfast.

**Flower Pension** (☎ 843 5164; [www.pataraflowerpension.com](http://www.pataraflowerpension.com); s/d TL20/40, 2-/3-person apt TL50/60; 🍷) On the road into town, the Flower has simple, sparkling and well-maintained rooms with balconies overlooking the garden. There's a free shuttle to the beach.

**Sema Hotel** (☎ 843 5114; [www.semahotel.com](http://www.semahotel.com); s/d TL25/40; 🍷) The Sema is not the most luxurious hotel you will find in Turkey, but is ideal for those who prefer to share their travel experience with warm locals such as Ali and

Hanife, the proprietors. The large hotel sits 60 steep steps above the town where rooms are basic but spotless and cool (and pretty much mosquito-free!). Meals are served in the family kitchen.

**St Nicholas Pension** (☎ 843 5154; www.stnicholas.pension.com; s/d TL25/40; 🍷) This fine pension sports a lush terrace covered in grapevines and sleeping pets. Rooms are small but have recently been redecorated in a beach motif.

**Golden Pension** (☎ 843 5162; www.goldenpension.com; s/d TL30/40; 🍷 📺) With homely rooms with balconies, a pretty shaded terrace and a friendly family that's not overeager to please, it's peaceful and private. There are also plans for a pool. Arif, the village mayor and owner, can take guests canoeing (TL30 per day) or on boat trips (TL40) including lunch, and also owns a travel agency.

**Delfin Hotel** (☎ 843 5154; s/d TL30/50; 🍷 📺 🚿) The same folk who run St Nicholas are also in charge of this neighbouring, smart top-end alternative, befit with exquisite swimming pool and palm trees.

**Zeybek 2 Pension** (☎ 843 5086; www.zeybek1pension.com; s/d TL30/50; 🍷 📺) Rooms are clean, homely and hung with traditional rugs, and have lovely views from their balcony – as does the attractive roof terrace that boasts 360-degree vistas of the hills. To get here, follow the road past Dardanos Travel up the hill.

**Zeybek 1 Pension** (☎ 843 5072; www.zeybek1pension.com; s/d TL30/50; 🍷 📺) Near the Zeybek 2 Pension – and equally as good – is Zeybek 1. It's a touch older (as you'd expect), but still a relaxing option set back from the village.

**Patara View Point Hotel** (☎ 843 5184; www.patara.viewpoint.com; s/d TL60/90; 🍷 Apr-Oct; 🍷 📺 🚿) Off the main road, it has a nice swimming pool, an Ottoman-style cushioned terrace and rooms with balconies that have views over the valley. The interior is hung with old farm implements – heirlooms from the owner's grandmother. There's a tractor-shuttle twice a day to and from the beach.

## Eating

**Lazy Frog** (☎ 843 5160; mains €6-9; 🍷 8am-midnight) With its own kitchen garden, this place offers various vegetarian options, as well as *gözleme* on its relaxing terrace. 'Frog' steaks cost TL16.

**Golden Terrace** (☎ 843 5162; www.goldenpension.com; mains TL10-20) The restaurant at the Golden Pension enjoys good foot traffic thanks to

a comprehensive menu of meat, fish and vegetarian dishes.

**Tlos Restaurant** (☎ 843 5135; mezes €2, mains €4.50-10; 🍷 8am-midnight Apr-Oct) The Tlos is run by the moustached and smiling Osman, the chef-owner of proud culinary stock. The Turkish goulash (TL10) is particularly recommended. About 50m north of the Golden Pension on the main road into the village. Bring your own booze.

## Drinking

**Medusa Bar** (☎ 843 5193; beer TL4; 🍷 9am-3am Apr-Sep) Styled like an old pub with cushioned benches and walls hung with old photos and posters, it has a fairly eclectic CD collection.

**Gypsy Bar** (beer TL4; 🍷 9am-3am) Tiny but traditional and much loved locally, the Gypsy has live Turkish music from 10pm to 3am every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

## Getting There & Away

Buses on the Fethiye-Kaş route drop you on the highway 4km from the village. From here dolmuşes run to the village every 45 minutes.

Minibuses run from the beach through the village to Fethiye (TL6, six daily) and regularly to Kalkan (TL5, 20 minutes, 15km) and Kaş (TL8, 45 mins, 41km).

## KALKAN

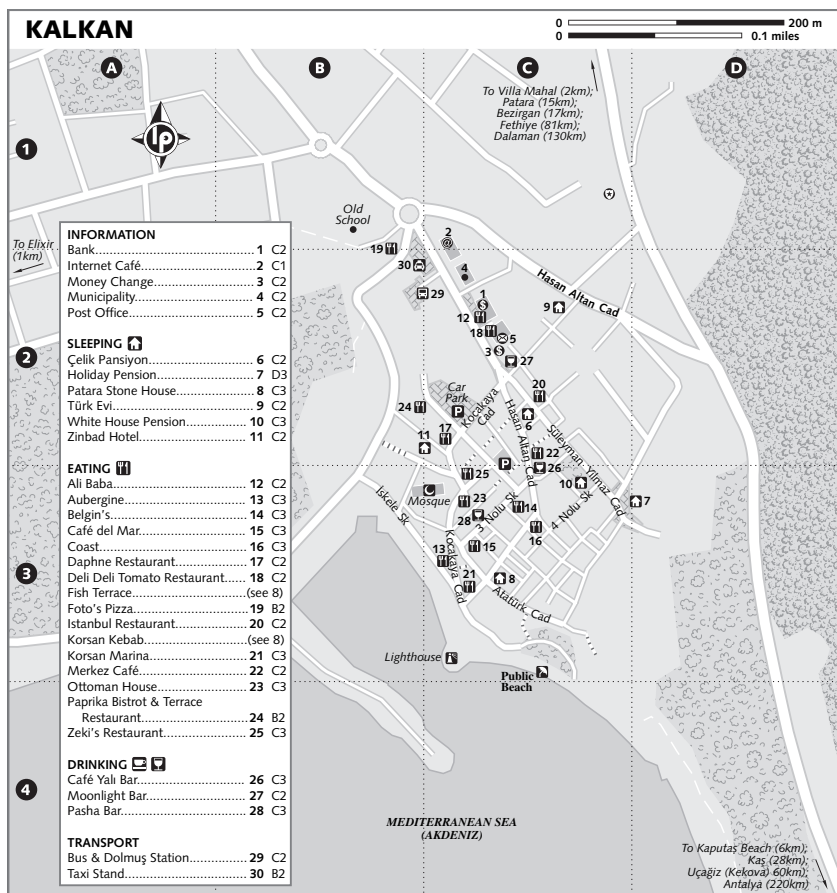
☎ 0242

Kalkan is a stylish hillside harbour town that slides steeply into a sparkling blue bay. It's as rightly famous for its restaurants as its sublimely pretty beach, and makes a smart alternative to the better-known, neighbouring Kaş.

Although Kalkan was once an Ottoman-Greek fishing village called Kalamaki, the town is now devoted to upscale tourism. Development continues unchecked on the outskirts of town (see boxed text, p378), but thankfully Kalkan's charms are found right in the middle. Spend a night or two in one of many great value pensions, and you'll quickly see why foreign investors have driven up property prices faster than the new Turkish lira can shed zeroes.

## Orientation & Information

Coming in from the highway the road zigzags down past a taxi rank, the PTT, municipality building and banks to a central car park. It then enters the main commercial area and



descends the hill as Hasan Altan Caddesi (also called 6 Sokak).

There are several places to go online in Kalkan. The most established **internet café** (☎ 844 1670; Hasan Altan Caddesi; ☎ 9am-5pm), opposite the dolmuş stand, is really just a stationery shop with two computer terminals perched outside. Kalkan has a **website** ([www.kalkan.org.tr](http://www.kalkan.org.tr)) instead of a tourist office.

## Sleeping

### BUDGET

**Çelik Pansiyon** (☎ 844 2126; Süleyman Yılmaz Caddesi 9; s/d TL30/40; ☎) One of the few cheap guest houses open year-round, the Çelik has simple and rather spartan rooms, though they're spotless and quite spacious. Two, attic-like,

have a balcony overlooking the rooftops and marina, as does the roof terrace.

**Holiday Pension** (☎ 844 3777; Süleyman Yılmaz Caddesi; d without/with breakfast TL35/50) Though rooms are simple, they're spotless and charming, some with old wooden beams, antique lace curtains and delightful balconies with good views. It's run by the charming Ahmet and Şefika, who make delicious breakfast jams.

**our pick Türk Evi** (☎ 844 3129; [www.kalkanturkevi.com](http://www.kalkanturkevi.com); Hasan Altan Caddesi; d TL60-80; ☎) Multilingual and multitalented Önder and Selma Elitez lay claim to the finest small hotel in Kalkan. In fact, this beautifully restored stone house is considered among the more endearing places to stay on the western Mediterranean. The

eight rooms (some with original bathtubs) are filled with rare antique furniture and huge beds, while the downstairs 'family' room feels lifted from an interiors magazine. Breakfast on the terrace draped in bougainvillea and oleander trees is enough to make you campaign for the good life.

### MIDRANGE & TOP END

**White House Pension** (☎ 844 3738; www.kalkanwhitehouse.co.uk; Yalıboyu Mah; s/d TL40/80; 🏠) Situated on a quiet corner at the top of the hill, this attentively-run place has 10 compact, breezy rooms in a spotless family home. The real winner here though is the view from the terrace, worth the price alone.

**Zinbad Hotel** (☎ 844 3404; www.zinbadhotel.com; Yalıboyu Mah 18; s/d TL60/80; 📞 mid-Apr-Nov; 🏠) The Zinbad has cheerful and comfortable rooms sponged Mediterranean blue, some with balconies and sea views. Close to the beach, central and with a large terrace, it's a good choice. Prices rise by €8 per person in high season. Renate, the German manager, offers guests archaeological tours (you pay just for the petrol).

**Patara Stone House** (☎ 844 3622; www.korsankalkan.com; Atatürk Caddesi; d TL80/110; 🏠) Above the Fish Terrace restaurant, it offers just two rooms in a lovely old stone house. Spacious, elegantly decorated and right on the waterfront, they're a great choice.

**our pick Elixir** (☎ 843 5032; Kalamar Yolu 8; d €100-120; 🏠 📞 📺) It's always exciting to see a hotel attempt something new, even more so when it pulls it off. Part body-focused retreat, part designer hotel, the Elixir features two swimmingly handsome pools (one on the roof) and a smooth-edged Turkish bath. The rooms have a palpably modern, healthy feel, and all come with balcony. It's a short, appetising walk from town.

**Villa Mahal** (☎ 844 3268; www.villamahal.com; d €120-220; 🏠 📞) One of the most elegant hotels in Turkey lies on a steep hillside on the western side of Kalkan bay, about 2km from town. The 13 rooms, all individually designed in Mediterranean minimalist fashion, are unspeakably tasteful. All have superb views from the walls of windows that open onto private terraces. The pool suite has its own swimming pool, spectacularly suspended on the edge of the hill. There's a bathing platform by the sea. A taxi from Kalkan costs about TL8.

## Eating

### RESTAURANTS

**Istanbul Restaurant** (☎ 844 2282; Süleyman Yılmaz Caddesi; mains TL10-20) This understated classic Turkish, without the pretence fancier Kalkan restaurants, serves delicious *ali nazik* (aubergine, pepper and beef puree) and *ahtapot güveç* (octopus casserole). Its few white-clothed tables are usually filled with knowing diners.

**Deli Deli Tomato Restaurant** (☎ 844 2655; mains TL12-17) It may have a strange name, but there's a friendly buzz and an interesting international menu at this brand-new restaurant next to the PTT. Chicken is the go, in all its permutations: tarragon, sesame, Thai, Indian. It's popular for breakfast and can be found beside the post office.

**Belgin's** (☎ 844 3614; Hasan Altan Caddesi; mains TL12-20; 📞 10am-midnight Apr-Oct) A 150-year-old former olive-oil press, Belgin's serves traditional Turkish food at very palatable prices. The speciality is *mantı* (TL14). Despite the faux Ottoman artefacts and stuffed sheep, the roof terrace is very pleasant. There's usually live Turkish music nightly from 8pm to 1am.

**Zeki's Restaurant** (☎ 844 3884; Kocakaya Caddesi; starters €3-5, mains €9-11; 📞 10am-midnight May-Nov) Small but chicly decked out right down to the fresh oleander flowers and crisp linen tablecloths, Zeki's does excellent French-Turkish cuisine. It claims to serve 'the best steaks in Kalkan' and its *tarte au chocolat* is much sought-after.

**Foto's Pizza** (☎ 844 3464; large pizza TL15-25) Listing a pizza joint in a town of such culinary repute seems sacrilege, yet the views from Foto's deck – and the wonderful pizzas themselves (try the Turkish special!) – make it hard to overlook. It's next to the fish market.

**Daphne Restaurant** (☎ 844 3547; Kocakaya Caddesi; mains TL15-30; 📞 May-Oct) Owned by the same crowd as the heralded Aubergine, big things were expected of the former Daphne Hotel. Luckily, thanks largely to the uber cool cocktail bar, this place delivers. The food is also excellent, with an emphasis on wok-style dishes and seafood. Live music, sometimes jazz, is played on most nights. There's also a small gift shop selling lovely prints.

**Ottoman House** (☎ 844 3867; Kocakaya Caddesi 35; 📞 9am-1am) Carpet- and cushion-clad à l'Ottoman, this traditional-style restaurant serves excellent Turkish classics such as *testi kebab* (Cappadocian pots containing beef or

chicken, broken at your table, TL22). The attractive roof terrace has good views.

**Coast** (☎ 844 2971; Yalıboyu 3; ☎ 9am-midnight Apr-Oct) This modern and minimalist place offers superb Turkish dishes with a European twist. Try the speciality, the steak served flaming on a block of hot marble (€14).

**Korsan Marina** (☎ 844 3622; Kocakaya Caddesi; mezes €3-7, mains €9.50-14.50; ☎ 9.30am-midnight May-Oct) Neighbouring the town beach is one of the oldest (1979) and most consistent restaurants in Kalkan. Its mezes are a speciality (try the mouth-watering *mücver* – courgette fritters), as is the Korsan paella (€11.50), loaded with seafood and spices.

**Aubergine** (☎ 844 3332; İskele Sokak; mains €10-20; ☎ 9am-midnight) With tables right on the yacht marina, as well as cosy seats inside, the restaurant is famous for its slow-roasted wild boar (€13), as well as its swordfish fillet served in a creamy vegetable sauce (€13).

**Paprika Bistrot & Terrace Restaurant** (☎ 844 1136; Yalıboyu 12/B; mains €11-15) Lying opposite the municipal car park, Paprika specialises in meat dishes, which you can eat on its terraces. Try the sumptuous speciality, *incik* (€15) – roasted shank of lamb served with a wine and onion sauce – or the famous hot chocolate fondant (€5.50).

**Fish Terrace** (☎ 844 3076; Atatürk Caddesi; meals TL30-40; ☎ 9.30am-midnight) On the roof of Patara Stone House, this restaurant is the finest seafood experience in Kalkan. We suggest you linger over the meze. On Monday and Thursday from 8.30pm to 10pm there's live jazz. Its homemade lemonade (TL3.50) is legendary.

## CAFÉS & QUICK EATS

**Ali Baba** (☎ 844 3627; Hasan Altan Caddesi; mains €2.75; ☎ 5am-midnight low season, 24 hr high season) With its long opening hours and rock-bottom prices, this is the local choice. It's a great place for breakfast (€3.50), and also does good veggie dishes (€1.75 to €2.50).

**Café Del Mar** (☎ 844 1068; Hasan Altan Caddesi; ☎ 8am-1am) A tiny but rather sweet place that claims to offer over 70 varieties of coffee (€1.70 to €2.80), as well as milkshakes and smoothies (€2.50).

**Merkez Café** (☎ 844 2823; Hasan Altan Caddesi 17; ☎ 8am-1am May-Oct) With its own bakery, this modest-looking café makes ethereal pastries and cakes, many of them its own inventions, such as the gorgeous chocolate baklava (€4

for four pieces) and the legendary coconut and almond macaroons (€1.50)! With fresh fruit juices (€2) and *pain au chocolat* (€0.75) too, it also makes a great choice for brekkie or a snack. The pizzas (€3.50 to €6) please even its Italian clientele.

**Korsan Kebap** (☎ 844 2116; Atatürk Caddesi; meals TL20) With tables on a terrace by the harbour, Korsan does delicious, upmarket kebabs (TL12) and pide (TL8 to TL10). Try the speciality, the *dürüm kebab* made with spicy tender steak.

## Drinking

**Moonlight Bar** (☎ 844 3043; Süleyman Yılmaz Caddesi 17; beer €2; ☎ 10am-4am or later mid-Apr-Oct) Kalkan's oldest bar and still its most 'happening', though 95% of people sitting at the tables outside, or on the small dance floor inside, are tourists.

**Pasha Bar** (☎ 844 3256; Yalıboyu Mah; beer TL5) This hot new place sees Kalkan's young and mobile drink beers on the street level tables then fire up the tight dance floor inside – as is their wont.

**Café Yalı Bar** (☎ 844 2417; Hasan Altan Caddesi 19; beer TL4; ☎ 1pm-midnight May-Oct) Positioned as it is on a three-road junction, this is a popular place for getting drunk in public.

## Getting There & Away

In high season, minibuses connect Kalkan with Fethiye (TL7, 1½ hours, 81km) and Kaş (TL2.50, 35 minutes, 29km). Around eight minibuses also run daily to Patara (TL3, 25 minutes, 15km).

## AROUND KALKAN

### Bezirgan

In a high-hanging valley roughly 17km behind Kalkan sits the beautiful village of Bezirgan and a delightful sample of Turkish rural life. Fields of plump fruit trees are ringed by golden shocks of sesame, and the unexplained cisterns and citadel of **Pirha**, another mystery site of the Lycian age.

If you decide to stay over, then by far the best choice is **Owlsland** (☎ 837 5214; www.owlsland.com; s/d €37/74, with half-board €57/114), a 150-year-old farmhouse run by a charming Turkish-Scottish couple. Erol, a trained chef, turns out traditional Turkish dishes made with the freshest village ingredients and Pauline makes her own breakfast jams. Rooms are simple but cosy and decorated with old farm implements,

### THE GOOD FIGHT *Önder Elitez*

I was born in Istanbul in 1939. I always wanted to play football, but as a student I worked in the streets laying rainwater drain pipes. In the '50s and '60s there was no money in football and, although my skills gave me advantages during military service, I moved east to Lake Van to work on the railroad lines being built up to the Persian border. I earned enough money to travel to Croatia and Albania.

There I developed a taste for Europe and when, in the early '60s, workers were being asked to go to Germany a friend and I applied. Those days were chaos. We were driven to the factories at dusk and returned home on foot in darkness. Unable to find their hostels or speak the language, most workers spent their first nights in Germany in police stations. I persisted for two years, learning the language, though missing the pay in Turkey, and wondering what we were doing.

I went back to work in the east of Turkey at a time when everyone else was trying to go to Europe. There the villagers gave me a pet bear cub that I fed with milk, honey and biscuits until one day after a short wrestling match I thought I would never be able to walk again. He was getting strong. I took him to the forest where we parted ways, both of us with tears in our eyes.

I decided to go back to Germany. I worked various jobs and became a football trainer, coaching foreign youngsters to keep them off the streets. All my savings in the '70s went towards travelling – England, Sweden with jazz musicians, and France's Côte d'Azur. One evening a friend invited me to join him on his journey to Kathmandu. I asked him where that was, and the next day we bought two buses. Taking passengers on the way, we drove from Düsseldorf down to Istanbul to the infamous 'Pudding Shop' by the Blue Mosque. We moved according to the number of passengers: Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and finally Nepal where we sold our buses. Our passengers were hippies, from Japanese to Americans, getting on and off the bus with no sense of time, on the 'silk route'. We experienced the magic of Mt Ararat, caviar and ram's bollocks with Russian vodka by the Caspian Sea (try doing that now); the rough but peaceful highlands of Afghanistan; the dangerous mountain pass area crossing into Pakistan; and the smugglers' territory around Peshawar. When the Pakistanis saw my passport with a star and crescent they kissed and hugged me as their long lost brother.

I passed by Kalkan in the mid-'70s and decided to retire here to open a small hotel and meet people from all over the world. I wanted to swim in this sea exactly, which is refreshed by cold water springs during the hot summers. I finally came back in 1983 and bought an old village house which I restored and later enlarged as the Türk Evi hotel.

During my life I learned to fight. First as a footballer, then in military service guarding the President (and later the General) during the military coup of 1960. And then there was the fight to earn a living so I could travel.

Now, as a retired man still active in tourism, I am fighting to keep the sea clean in Kalkan. We live here to be able to swim in the sea, not in a swimming pool. And that's what I intend to do every day from now on. Kalkan is growing too big, too fast. I hope others will join me in this fight.

*Önder Elitez is a seasoned traveller who runs Türk Evi in Kalkan with his wife, Selima.*

heirlooms from Erol's grandfather. Walking tours (TL50 including lunch) are also offered. There's a free transfer to/from Kalkan.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Unless you're staying at Owlsland, the easiest way to get to Bezirgan is by car or scooter from Kalkan or Kaş. From Kalkan head towards Fethiye, then take the turn-off to Elmalı. The road climbs steadily, with stunning views across the sea. Eventually you enter the gorge that runs down to the sea at Kaputaş, then at

a T-junction turn left and head further up the mountain. Once the road crests the pass you can see Bezirgan below you. Where the road descends to the basin floor there is a turn-off to the left that leads into the village.

Otherwise, the one minibus (TL1.50) heads back to the village from Kalkan at around 3pm.

### Kaputaş

About 7km east of Kalkan and 21km west of Kaş, Kaputaş is a striking mountain gorge



crossed by a small highway bridge. Below the bridge is a perfect little sandy cove and often empty **beach**, accessible by a long flight of stairs. A dolmuş from Kalkan will take you there in high season for TL1.25, but the water here is so beautiful it's half-tempting to tip the driver.

## KAŞ

☎ 0242 / pop 5990

The 500m-high mountain known as 'Sleeping Man' (Yatan Adam) has watched Kaş evolve from an incongruously beautiful place of exile for political dissidents, to a funky boutique shopping and café strip, to a seaside adventure playground. Its amused and charming local establishment, however, is borne mostly of proud fishing stock.

While Kaş proper may not sport the finest beach culture in the region, it's a yachties' haven and the atmosphere of the town is wonderfully mellow. The surrounding areas are ideal for day trips by sea or scooter, and a plethora of adventure sports are on offer, in particular some world-class diving.

A well-preserved ancient theatre is about all that's left of ancient Antiphellos, which was the Lycian town here. Above the town several Lycian rock tombs in the sheer rock mountain wall are illuminated at night.

Lying just offshore is the geopolitical oddity of the Greek island of Meis (Kastellorizo).

## ORIENTATION

The otogar is a few hundred metres uphill north of the town centre; descend the hill along Atatürk Bulvarı to get into the town centre. Cheap pensions are mostly to your right (west), the more expensive hotels and restaurants to the left (east). At the Merkez Süleyman Çavuş Camii (mosque), turn left to reach the main square, Cumhuriyet Meydanı. İbrahim Serin Caddesi strikes north to the PTT and a bank with an ATM. From the mosque, Likya Caddesi cuts east past lovely shops and bars in restored wooden houses and on past some Lycian rock tombs. Beyond the main square over the hill are more hotels and a small pebble beach.

Turning right at the mosque onto Necip Bey Caddesi and Yaşar Yazıcı Caddesi takes you to the ancient theatre and a camping ground. Beyond lies the Çukurbağ Peninsula and the narrow stretch of sea to the island of Meis.

## INFORMATION

There are several banks with ATMs along Atatürk Bulvarı.

**Net-C@fé** (☎ 836 4505; İbrahim Serin Caddesi 16/B; per hr TL2; ☎ 9am-1am)

**Tourist office** (☎ 836 1238; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-7pm Mon-Fri May-Oct, to 5pm Nov-Apr) On the main square.

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

### Antiphellos Ruins

Walk up the hill on the street behind (to the east of) the tourist office to reach the **Monument Tomb**, a Lycian sarcophagus mounted on a high base. Kaş was once littered with such sarcophagi but over the years most were broken apart to provide building materials.

The **theatre**, 500m west of the main square, is in very good condition and was restored some time ago. You can walk to the rock tombs in the cliffs above the town. The walk is strenuous so go at a cool time of day.

### Swimming

For swimming, head for pretty Büyük Çakıl beach – there's a scene among young Turks here in high season. It's clean and just 1.3km from the town centre. Although it's largely pebble-based, parasols and sun beds are free, and a few shaded cafés sell beer.

### Hamam

It's small and part of a resort, but the mixed bath at the **Phellos Health Club** (☎ 836 1953; Doğrunyol Sokak 4; massage TL50) is well worth a visit.

## TOURS

Most companies offer more or less the same journeys, but you can always tailor your own (for a negotiated price).

Among the stalwarts, the three-hour **boat trip** (TL25-30) to Kekova and Üçağız (see p385) is a fine day out, and includes time to see several interesting ruins as well as swimming stops.

Other standard tours go to the Mavi Mağara (Blue Cave), Patara and Kalkan or to Liman Ağzı, Longos and several small nearby islands. There are also overland excursions to Saklıkent Gorge.

A great idea is to charter a boat from the marina. A whole day spent around the islands of Kaş should cost between TL150 and TL200 for the entire boat (for up to eight people).

Good tour companies in Kaş include the following:



## ALIVE & KAYAKING IN KAŞ

Kaş is a great place for adventure and activities. The listed agencies offer the following:

**Canoeing** TL60 per person for a full day on Patara River. Scheduled trips run three times a week.

**Canyoning** TL100 per person for a full day.

**Mountain biking** TL80 per person per full day.

**Paragliding** TL200 per person. Flights last 20 to 30 minutes, depending on weather.

**Scuba diving** For qualified divers, TL60 per dive including all equipment. For beginners keen to qualify, a three-day PADI open-water course costs €340 all-inclusive.

**Sea kayaking** TL50 per person for a full day all-inclusive.

Bougainville Travel also hires out mountain bikes for TL25 per day and canoes (though you'll need to be qualified) for TL25/35 for a single/double.

### Amber Travel (☎ 836 1630; www.ambertravel.com)

Run by a British couple, Amber specialises in country-wide itineraries with an intrepid focus. Good option for activities too.

**Bougainville Travel** (☎ 836 3737; www.bougainville-turkey.com; İbrahim Serin Caddesi 10) A long-established English-Turkish tour operator with a good reputation and much experience in organising activities for travellers; see above for what is on offer.

**Olympica** (☎ 836 2049; www.olympicatravel.com; Ortaokul Sokak 1; 🕒 8.30am-5.30pm) Run by an Austrian-Turkish team who combine Teutonic efficiency with local know-how, it specialises in 'build your own activity packages' according to clients' time, interests and budget. The more activities you book, the cheaper the package.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The annual **Kaş Lycia Festival** runs for three days at the end of June. It features prominent folk-dancing troupes and musicians – and an international swimming race – and works to foster an improved relationship between Greece and Turkey.

## SLEEPING

### Budget

**Kaş Camping** (☎ 836 1050; Yaşar Yazıcı Caddesi; 2-person camp sites TL20) Situated on an attractive rocky site 800m west of town, this has long been the most popular place for camping. The main draw is the lovely swimming area and bar.

**Santosa Pension** (☎ 836 1714; Recep Bilgin Caddesi 4; s/d TL20/40; 🍷 📺) Clean, quiet and cheap is how best to describe this backpacker hang-out. The rooms are bare and simple, but excellent for the price. The family who runs the show are fine hosts (and cooks!). There's also a handy book exchange.

**Ateş Pension** (☎ 836 1393; www.atespension.com; Amfi Tiyatro Sokak 3; s/d TL30/50; 🍷 📺) Well run by

Ahmed and his family, this is a friendly place with a pleasant roof terrace where BBQs are sometimes held. Guests also have free use of the kitchen and internet.

**Anı Motel** (☎ 836 1791; www.motelani.com; Süleyman Çavuş Caddesi; dm/s/d TL15/30/50; 🍷 📺) Though rooms are rather small and spartan, they're spotless and have been lent a little charm with personal touches such as towels folded to look like bows. All rooms have balconies, there's a book exchange and a relaxing roof terrace with DVD player. Guests can also use the kitchen.

**Hilal Pansiyon** (☎ 836 1207; www.korsan-kaş.com; Süleyman Çavuş Caddesi; dm/s/d TL15/30/50; 🍷 📺) Run by the friendly Süleyman and family, the Hilal offers similar rooms to the Anı. It also has a plant-potted terrace where BBQs (TL15) sometimes take place. The travel agency below it offers guests 10% discounts on activities including kayaking, diving and trips to Saklıkent.

## Midrange

**Hideaway** (☎ 836 1887; www.kasturkey.com; Amfi Tiyatro Sokak; s TL50, d TL70-80; 🍷 📺) Aptly named, the Hideaway is located at the far end of town and so is quieter than many. Rooms are simple but in good order and all have a balcony. There's a roof terrace with sea views over the water and amphitheatre, and a pool.

**Otel Sardunya** (☎ 836 3080; www.sardunyaotel.com; Necip Bey Caddesi 56; s/d 50/80; 🍷 📺) Set in a modern white building, rooms are reasonably spacious and all have balconies; eight have direct sea views. The big boon is the verdant and peaceful seashell-clad restaurant across the road, where breakfast is served under mulberry and orange trees a few metres from the water. Just below, there's a sunbathing terrace and swimming platform.

**Kaş Otel** (☎ 836 1271; fax 836 2170; Necip Bey Caddesi 15; s/d TL50/80; 🍷) One of the best locations, right above the water: the sea's so close you can hear it lapping from the pleasant terrace or the balconies of the eight simple rooms. The sea views are great too and it's not as noisy as many.

**White House Pension** (☎ 836 1513; fazisevenz@hotmail.com; Yeni Cami Caddesi 16; s/d TL60/80) Decked out in wood, wrought iron, marble and terracotta paint, this is a stylish little gem with attractive rooms and a pretty little terrace. Ask for one of the attic rooms with a balcony.

**Sonne Hotel** (☎ 836 1528; www.sonneotel.com; Yeni Cami Yanı 6; s/d TL60/90; 🍷 📺) Located at the town-end of 'hotel hill', the Sonne is a tightly managed beauty that constantly attracts return visitors. The rooms are tasteful and quite spacious, all with LCD televisions and Ottomanesque mirrors. The junior suite (TL100) is worth the minor splurge. The breakfast terrace and bar are brilliant, while the Turkish-German owners are super keen.

**Kale Otel & Pension** (☎ 836 4074; hotelkale@hotmail.com; Yeni Cami Caddesi 8; s/d pension TL90/110, s/d hotel TL120/150; 🍷 📺) Close to the amphitheatre, this well-run hotel offers simple but pleasantly furnished rooms with balconies, many with gorgeous views over the water. Breakfast is an excellent open buffet (the chef cooks omelettes to order in front of you), and you can eat it in the garden overlooking the water. The rooms of the pension are more basic with views set back but are still good value.

**Hotel Club Phellos** (☎ 836 1953; Doğrunyol Sokak 4; s/d/tr TL100/130/170; 🍷 📺) Though something of an eyesore sprawling down the hillside, it's got a great pool overlooking the sea and three-star comfort.

## EATING

### Restaurants

**Smiley's Restaurant** (☎ 836 2812; Yat Limanı Girişi; mains TL20-30; 🍷 9am-midnight) Smiley's is a congenial dining experience, starting with the delicious complimentary homemade dips, and ending with Ismael, the hilarious owner, ensuring your satisfaction. In between can be a touch pricey, particularly fish dishes.

**Leymona Restaurant** (☎ 836 2647; Hastane Caddesi; 🍷 9am-11pm) Anatolian and fish specialities, such as rolled strips of salmon stuffed with spinach, are to be found in this lemon grove by the sea. The olive oil and pomegranate vinegar combination makes a great salad

dressing. The wine list is extensive and the service is sharp.

**Bi Lokma** (☎ 836 3942; Hukümet Caddesi 2; 🍷 9am-midnight) The Bi Lokama has tables meandering around a terraced garden overlooking the harbour. Sabo (Mama) turns out great traditional dishes including famous *mantı* (TL8 to TL12) and Mama's pastries (TL8). The wine list is also reasonably priced.

**Sultan Garden Restaurant** (☎ 836 3762; Hükümet Caddesi; mains TL15-25; 🍷 10am-midnight) This is a very pretty place complete with original Lycian tombs and a functional cistern. The staff have a wealth of restaurant experience, which feeds into their excellent meat and vegetarian dishes. The veggie burger (TL15) is awesome, and the *hünkâr beğendi* (spiced lamb pieces on aubergine puree, TL18) is soft and flavoursome. The long wine list starts at around TL22.

**Mercan** (☎ 836 1209; Balıkçı Barınağı 2; mains TL15-30; 🍷 9am-midnight) Since 1956 – back when the owner's father was working the magic – the Mercan has been satisfying customers with fish and meat creations and confident, disarming service. The swordfish kebab (TL20) should win awards. Get there early to nab a table on the marina.

**Natur-el** (☎ 836 2834; Gürsöy Sokak 6; meals TL15-20) With its dishes cooked to old Ottoman recipes passed down from generation to generation, Natur-el and the family who runs it provide a chance to sample Turkish cuisine at its brilliant best. If you haven't yet eaten *mantı*, then chose from the three varieties (TL10) here.

**Sympathy Restaurant** (☎ 836 2418; Uzun Çarşı Gürsöy Sokak 11; meals TL10-20) Mrs Sevim's cooking is well known locally and attracts a loyal and regular following. Try the delicious aubergine fritters.

**Fes Restaurant** (☎ 836 3759; Sandıkçı Sokak 3; mezes TL5; 🍷 10am-midnight Apr-Oct) With tables on a peaceful terrace overlooking the harbour, steak (served with enticing sauces) is the speciality (TL20) but ask about the daily specials, which are usually superb.

**Bahçe Restaurant** (☎ 836 2370; Likya Caddesi 31; meals around TL25; 🍷 dinner) Up behind the Lycian sarcophagus, this place has a pretty garden and serves excellent dishes at decent prices, including a terrific range of mezes (TL4). The fish in paper (TL16) has received rave reviews.

**Chez Evy Restaurant** (☎ 836 1253; Terzi Sokak 2; 🍷 7pm-midnight mid-Apr-Oct) Run by Evy, the restaurant's French namesake, and ex-head chef

for a private yacht, this place is unabashedly French *haute cuisine*. It serves superb classics such as *gigot d'agneau* (TL35) or *filet de boeuf sauce Béarnaise* (TL40). If you can, opt to sit in the beautiful and verdant courtyard and listen out for Şahin the parrot, which can be heard whistling for Evy and usually makes a nightly appearance himself!

### Cafés

**Café Mola** (☎ 836 7826; Halk Pazan Sokak; ☎ 8am-10pm) A great and inexpensive place for a Turkish breakfast (TL8) or a snack such as a crêpe or sandwich (TL4) with coffee or juice.

**Noel Baba Café Pastanesi** (☎ 836 1225; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 1; beer or cappuccino TL4, tea TL1.50; ☎ 7am-6pm low season, to midnight high season) On the main square yet not overpriced, this is a favourite local meeting point. With its shaded terrace it also makes a welcome escape from the midday sun.

**Café Merhaba** (☎ 836 1883; İbrahim Serin Caddesi 19; coffee TL3-5; ☎ 9.30am-midnight Mon-Sat mid-April-Oct) Claiming to make the 'best cakes in Kaş', the mellow Merhaba sells delicious confections cooked from natural products. It's not the cheapest place (slices TL5 to TL6) but it's the atmosphere you come for. It also stocks one-day-old European and American magazines.

**Hideaway Café & Bar** (☎ 836 3369; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 16/A; meals around TL15-20; ☎ 8.30am-3am Apr-Oct) Well named, this enchanting café-garden is hidden from the street and a whole world away from it. Charming owners, Nur and Erdem, are proud of their fresh fare all made with the highest quality local ingredients. On Sunday there's a fabulous eat-all-you-can buffet. At night, lit up with lanterns, it seems truly magical.

### Quick Eats

**Oba Restaurant** (☎ 836 1687; İbrahim Serin Caddesi 26; mezés TL4, moussaka TL6) With a pleasant walled terrace under bitter orange trees, the Oba offers tasty Turkish dishes cooked daily by Nuran, the owner's mother. Hearty, tasty and great value, it's simple Turkish home cooking at its best. Try the speciality, *köfte* – oven-baked or sautéed – or chicken or beef *güveç*.

**Çınarlar** (☎ 836 2860; Müftü Efendi Sokak 4; pide TL5-8, pizza TL8-15; ☎ 8am-1am) Perennially popular among Kaş' young, who come for the affordable pide and pop music, it also has a pleasant courtyard tucked away off the street.

### DRINKING

**Echo Bar** (☎ 836 2047; www.echocafebar.com; Gürsöy Sokak; ☎ 9am-midnight) This hip new bar on the harbour makes classic fruit daiquiris (TL10) to acid-jazz soundtracks. The airy upstairs sections hosts regular video installations and artist exhibitions; downstairs is a gourmet sandwich shop. The owner Kemal is a prominent local artist who knows the Kaş cultural scene backwards. Check it out.

**Hi-Jazz Bar** (☎ 836 1165; Zümrüt Sokak 3; ☎ 5pm-3am May-Oct) Run by Yılmaz, a retired New York City taxi driver who has a story or two to tell, this is a mellow little bar with seating inside and out. From mid-June to the end of September there's live jazz daily from 10pm to 2am.

**Mavi Bar** (☎ 836 1834; Müftü Efendi Sokak; ☎ 5pm-3am Apr-Oct) Seasonal hi-jinx are played out at the far end of the main square at the Mavi. Permanently packed with people, it plays a good mix of music and has tables outside.

**Sun Café Bar Restaurant** (☎ 836 1053; Hükümet Caddesi; ☎ 9am-3am) With its garden setting next to the Lycian sarcophagus, its decor and lighting, this is a civilised and rather glamorous place for a drink. There's live music nightly (9pm to midnight in low season, 11pm to 2am in high season).

**Queen Bar** (☎ 836 1403; Orta Sokak; ☎ 4pm-3am) Popular with travellers and locals alike, this place has a lively dance floor on the 1st floor and a more sedentary bar on the 2nd. The friendly DJ, Emin, encourages musical requests!

**Café Barcelona** (☎ 836 4490; Uzun Çarşı Gürsöy; ☎ 9am-midnight) Another hole-in-the-wall to give you holes in the head.

### SHOPPING

Kaş has a great selection of little shops selling traditional wares that range from carpets and ceramics to wood-carved furniture and jewellery. Every Friday there's a market on the Kaş to Fethiye road opposite the marina.

**Tombak Hediyelik Eşya** (☎ 836 1820; Ortaokul Sokak 1; ☎ 8.30am-midnight Apr-Sep) Run by the charming İsmail, who will happily tell you about his wares, the shop sells high-quality Turkish artefacts including İstanbullu coloured-glass lanterns (TL25 to TL400), intricate inlay work, and good-quality backgammon sets (TL20 to TL550).

**Efeoğlu Spice, Herbs & Turkish Delights** (☎ 836 7429; İbrahim Serin Caddesi 16; ☎ 9am-8.30pm) If you're

keen on culinary keepsakes or looking for a pressie for mamma, then this shop sells all sorts, from mountain tea and strings of dried chillies (so urban-chic) to wonderful spices and delicious Turkish delight (TL20 per kg).

**Libera** (☎ 836 4396; Uzaçarşı Caddesi 14; ☎ 9am-6pm) A great little bookshop with local photography and English-language books, and a small CD collection. Upstairs is a café to browse through your purchase.

**Gallery Göekseki** (☎ 839 7078; www.gallerygoekseki.com; open Sundays 2-5pm) This German three-artist collective 5km west of Kaş holds regular exhibitions in town, and welcomes curious visitors every Sunday afternoon. Ceramic workshops are held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1pm to 4pm.

**Uçarlar Manav** (☎ 836 3096; ☎ 7am-midnight) Come to this place, about 100m northwest of the Belediye Parkı, for gorgeous local honey as well as high-quality fresh fruit.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Boat

Kaş is not a serious ferry hub, though you can book tickets here for Marmaris then make your own way across.

Ferries from Kaş sail every weekday throughout the year for the tiny Greek island of Meis (Kastellorizo) at 10am (TL70 per person return, 30 minutes) and return at 3.30pm. Meis is a simple fishing village with a sprinkle of restaurants, which makes an expensive mission just to get your passport stamped. However you can now make it a one-way service by either staying overnight in Meis, or continuing onwards into Greece. There are five regular ferries (euros 18, 5 hours) and five fast ferries (36 euros, 21/2 hours) between Meis and Rhodes per week. Alternatively, flights between Meis and Rhodes (euros 28) go every day but Thursday.

Tickets can be bought from any travel agency. When booking you'll need to take your passport 24 hours prior to departure. If you charter your own boat (around TL50 per person), you can usually supply passports two hours before the trip. If you can muster up four or five people, it's worth a day trip with a local boat. Negotiate hard with the boat captains at the harbour.

If you don't have a multiple-entry visa, you'll need to renew your Turkish visa even for the day trip to Meis. You can usually pick these up at an immigration desk near Customs at Meis.

Note that you cannot currently travel to Rhodes from Meis.

### Bus

There are daily buses from the Kaş otogar to İstanbul (TL65, 15 hours) at 6.30am, a nightly one to Ankara (TL50, 11 hours) at 8.30pm, and two a day to İzmir (TL25, 8½ hours), at 9.15am and 9pm.

There are also dolmuşes every half-hour to Kalkan (TL2.50, 30 minutes, 29km), Olympos (TL8, 2½ hours, 109km) and Antalya (TL9, 3½ hours, 185km) and every hour to Fethiye (TL7, two hours 50 minutes, 110km). Services to Patara (TL5, 45 minutes, 42km) run every half-hour in high season, hourly in low season.

## ÜÇAĞIZ (KEKOVA)

☎ 0242

Declared off-limits to development, Üçağız (Three Mouths) is a Turkish fishing and farming village in an absolutely idyllic setting on a bay amid islands and peninsulas. Little has changed here (locals say otherwise!) aside from the steady trickle of high-end visitors, some choosing to stay long-term. There's not a lot to do – the water isn't especially good for swimming – but it's a regular stop on the *gület* junket, and a final taste of the mainland before the sunken city at Kekova or secluded Kaleköy (Kale). Here and there are remnants of ancient Lycian tombs.

## Orientation & Information

The village you enter is Üçağız, the ancient Teimiussa. Continue through to the harbour car park, where you'll find fishermen, restaurants and tour buses. Across the water to the east is Kaleköy (Kale) – a village on the site of the ancient city of Simena – which is accessible only by boat, or a much longer walk.

South of the villages is a harbour (called Ölüdeniz) and south of that is the channel entrance, shielded from the Mediterranean's occasional fury by a long island named Kekova.

There's a small shop selling groceries in the village centre, opposite an information booth that is open in high summer. If it's closed, ask the Onur Pension for advice.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Ekin Hotel Pension** (☎ 874 2064; www.ekinhotel.com; s €11-22, d €19.50-28; ☎) Run by two busy brothers, the Ekin's attractive rooms have balco-

## UNRAVELLING ÜÇAĞIZ (KEKOVA) & KALEKÖY

Given the difficulty of getting to Üçağız (Kekova) and Kaleköy/Simena by public transport, most people end up taking a boat tour of the area from Kaş or Kalkan. A standard boat excursion might start by passing Kekova Island (Kekova Adası).

Along the shore of the island are Byzantine ruins, partly submerged 6m below the sea and called the Sunken City (Batık Şehir). The result of a series of terrible earthquakes during the 2nd century AD, most of what you can still see is said to be the residential part of ancient Simena. Foundations of buildings, staircases and the old harbour can be viewed. Some tour operators have become slack in recent years and cruise rather fast over the most interesting parts. Note, however, that it is now forbidden to stop, photograph or swim around or near the Sunken City (though you can swim around Kekova Island).

Afterwards you have lunch on the boat and then head on to Kaleköy, passing sunken Lycian tombs just offshore. There's usually about an hour to explore Kaleköy and climb up to the eponymous castle. On the way back to Kaş there should be time for another swim. Tours generally leave at 10am and charge around TL40 to TL50 per person.

The closest you can get to the underwater walls and mosaics is to take a sea-kayaking tour run by one of the travel agencies in Kaş (p379). This superb day excursion, suitable for all fitness levels, also ensures you beat the rush of large tour cruises. A sea-kayaking tour including transfers from Kaş and lunch in Üçağız is TL60 per person.

nies and sea views. Try to get a room in the new block.

**Telemenin Evi** (☎ 874 2076; s/d TL20/40; 🍴) Telemen has opened his cute house to a maximum of 10 guests, but is most happy in the kitchen preparing your evening meal. Rooms are fairly simple but everything's in its right place.

**Onur Pension** (☎ 874 2071; www.onurpension.com; s/d TL40/60; 🍴 📺) With a picturesque setting right above the sea, this well-run pension combines charm with attentive service. It offers free internet access, a free boat service to reach the beaches and a book exchange. Locally born Onur can give great trekking advice and also act as guide. Four of the rooms, kept ship-shape by Onur's Dutch wife, Jacqueline, have full sea views.

**Kekova Pension** (☎ 874 2259; kekovatour@hotmail.com; d TL60-80; 🍴) Set on the far end of the waterfront, this is a peaceful and handsome old stone building with a terrace dotted with flowerpots. Rooms are comfortable and share a lovely veranda with views over the water and comfy cushioned benches. There's a free boat service to beaches. Louise is the helpful English manager.

**Kordon Restaurant** (☎ 874 2067; Üçağız Köyü; mixed plate mezés TL10, fish per 500g TL25; 🍷 9am-midnight 20 Apr-25 Oct) With an attractive and cool terrace overlooking the marina and fresh fish served daily, the Kordon is considered the best restaurant in town and its prices are reasonable.

## Getting There & Away

Unless you can arrange pick-up in Demre, Kekova is a tricky place to get to. One dolmuş leaves Antalya for Üçağız daily at 2pm (TL10), and returns at 8am. Dolmuşes also run every 40 minutes from Antalya to Demre (TL6, three hours), from where you can get a taxi (TL40) to Üçağız.

From Kaş, no dolmuşes run to Üçağız. A taxi (TL70) is the only option. However, in summer, you can hitch a lift (TL20 one way, two hours) with one of the boat companies making daily tours to Üçağız.

From Kale (Demre), one dolmuş runs daily to Üçağız at 5pm (TL4, 30 minutes). From Üçağız, dolmuşes leave at 8am.

After all this, perhaps the most adventurous – and the simplest – way to get here is by hired scooter from Kaş.

## KALEKÖY

☎ 0242

Kaleköy is one of the western Mediterranean's truly delightful outposts. This tiny inhabited rock is also home to the ruins of ancient **Simena** and a Crusader **fortress** perched above a lovely hamlet facing flat out to sea. Within the fortress a little theatre is cut into the rock and nearby you'll find ruins of several temples and public baths, several sarcophagi and Lycian tombs; the **city walls** are visible on the outskirts. There are also several sandy spots from where you can splash about.

Be prepared for peace and quiet – Kaleköy is accessible only from Üçağız by motorboat (10 minutes) or on foot (45 minutes) along a rough track.

Kaleköy has a couple of pensions, including the well-run **Kale Pansiyon** (☎ 874 2111; kalepansiyon@superonline.com; s/d TL60/90; 📶), closest to the harbour, which has eight homely little rooms all with balconies (with direct views) that are so close to the sea you can hear the water lapping, as well as a nice swimming area. The family also owns the restaurant (set menu with meze, main and beer TL25) next door with tables sitting prettily on the pier.

The family dynasty spreads to the **Olive Grove** (☎ 874 2234; kalepansiyon@superonline.com; s/d TL70/100), which is set back from the harbour. It's a gorgeous 150-year-old Greek stone house (look out for the lovely mosaic on the veranda). The four rooms are simple but elegant and share a large veranda with sea views. Amid the cooing doves and ancient olive trees, it's a blissfully peaceful place.

The premier choice is the **Mehtap Pansiyon** (☎ 874 2146; www.mehtappansiyon.com; camp site TL20, s/d TL90/110; 📶), with spectacular views over the harbour and the Lycian tombs below. The 200-year-old stone house is so quiet and tranquil you may start snoozing as you check in.

You can either eat at your pension or there are a couple of restaurants on the seafloor, all offering similar fare for similar prices. Check out what's currently in favour when you get there.

## KALE (DEMRE)

☎ 0242 / pop 14,600

The sprawling, dusty town of Kale was once the Roman city of Myra and by the 4th century was important enough to have its own bishop (including St Nicholas of Santa Claus fame). Several centuries before that, St Paul stopped here on his voyage to Rome.

Once situated by the sea, Kale slid inland in pursuit of precious alluvium from the Demre stream. That silting is the foundation of the town's wealth, but most visitors will only pass through here for the wonderful Myra ruins or the ancient stone church of St Nicholas.

Though Myra had a long history as a religious, commercial and administrative town, Arab raids in the 7th century and the silting of the harbour led to its decline. Today, as you pass by endless greenhouses, you'll see that Kale is all about vegetables.

## Orientation & Information

Kale is spread out over an alluvial plain. The street going west from the square to the Church of St Nicholas is Müze Caddesi (aka St Nicholas Caddesi). Alakent Caddesi leads 2km north to the Lycian rock tombs of Myra (below). PTT Caddesi (or Ortaokul Caddesi) heads east to the PTT. The street going south from the square passes the otogar (100m).

Looming above the town on a hilltop to the north is the huge *kale* (castle).

## Sights

### CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

Not vast like Aya Sofya or brilliant with mosaics like İstanbul's Chora Church (Kariye Museum), the **Church of St Nicholas** (admission TL10; 🕒 8.30am-7pm May-Oct, to 5.30pm Nov-Apr) is nonetheless a star attraction for pilgrims and tourists alike. The remains of the eponymous saint were laid here upon his death in AD 343.

The bare earthen church features some interesting Byzantine frescoes and mosaic floors, though its dignity is often tainted by noisy, thinly-clad tour group. It became a Byzantine basilica when it was restored in 1043. Italian merchants smashed open the sarcophagus in 1087 and carted St Nicholas' bones off to Bari.

Restorations sponsored by Tsar Nicholas I of Russia in 1862 changed the church by building a vaulted ceiling and a belfry. More recent work by Turkish archaeologists was designed to protect it from deterioration.

It's a block west of the main square.

### MYRA

If you only have time to see one striking honeycomb of rock-hewn **Lycian tombs**, then choose the memorable ruins of **Myra** (admission TL10; 🕒 7.30am-7pm May-Oct, 8am-5.30pm Nov-Apr). Located about 2km inland from Kale's main square, they are among Turkey's finest and also feature a well-preserved **Greco-Roman theatre**, which includes several carved theatrical masks lying in the nearby area. St Nicholas was one of Myra's early bishops and after his death Myra became a popular place of pilgrimage.

A section of the Lycian Way (p359) begins at Myra.

A short taxi ride from the quare will cost TL5 – the site is fairly self-explanatory.

### ÇAYAĞZI (ANDRIAKE)

About 5km west of Kale's centre is Çayağzi (Stream Mouth), called Andriake by the



Romans at a time when the port was an important entrepot for grain on the sea route between the eastern Mediterranean and Rome.

The **ruins** of the ancient town cover a wide area around the present settlement, which is little more than a dozen boat yards and a beachfront restaurant with decent food and sea views. Some of the land is swampy, so the great **granary** built by Hadrian (finished in AD 139), to the south of the beach access road, can be difficult to reach in wet weather. Boat builders are often at work here.

You can usually find an excursion boat or a taxi boat to Üçağız from here, too.

Dolmuşes sporadically run out to Çayağzı – your best bet is probably a taxi (TL10).

## Sleeping & Eating

Most visitors visit the area on a day trip. Alas, sleeping options are limited.

**Şahin Otel** (☎ 871 5687; yusuffkamilkolcu@hotmail.com; Müze Caddesi 2; s/d TL30/50; 🏠) Huge rooms like your grandpa used to doze in, featuring dusty armchairs and velvety drapes. Lying 20m from the clock tower off the main square, the hotel is conveniently located and has an enormous shaded terrace outside which regularly fills with day trippers.

**Hotel Andriake** (☎ 871 4640; antriakehotel@hotmail.com; Finike Caddesi 62; s/d €17/33; 🏠) On the main road at the junction into town stands this standard provincial three-star. It's rather '70s and impersonal but comfortable enough. The pool could do with some chlorine.

**Akdeniz Restaurant** (☎ 871 5466; Müze Caddesi; pide TL3, köfte TL5; 🍷 7am-midnight) On the main square in front of the clock tower, this simple but spotless place is a local favourite for its home-style dishes made daily.

**Sabancı Pastaneleri** (☎ 871 2188; PTT Caddesi 12; fresh orange juice TL2, pastries TL3; 🍷 7am-1am; 🏠) Down the road past the Şahin, this place is fabulous for breakfast or a snack. It also does ice cream (TL1 per scoop).

## Getting There & Away

Buses and dolmuşes travel to Kaş (TL3, one hour, 45km) every hour, and to Antalya (TL9.25, 2½ to three hours).

## FINİKE TO OLYMPOS

East of Finike the highway skirts a sand and pebble **beach** that runs for about 15km. Once past the long beach, 19km east of Finike,

the road transits **Kumluca**, a farming town surrounded by citrus orchards and plastic-roofed greenhouses. The town is only worth visiting on Friday for its lively market or – as Olympos/Çıralı do not have banking facilities – for its ATMs.

After Kumluca the highway winds back up into the mountains for about 30km until you enter the **Beydağları Sahil National Park** (Beydağları Sahil Milli Parkı).

## OLYMPOS, ÇIRALI & CHİMAERA

📍 0242

Midway between Kumluca and Tekirova a road leads southeast from the main highway – veer to the right then follow the signs – to Çavuşköy, Olympos, Çıralı, and Adrasan beach.

## Olympos

Olympos has long had an ethereal hold over its visitors. An important Lycian city in the 2nd century BC, the Olympians devoutly worshipped Hephaestus (Vulcan), the God of Fire. No doubt this veneration sprang from reverence for the mysterious Chimaera, an eternal flame that still springs from the earth not far from the city. Along with the other Lycian coastal cities, Olympos went into a decline in the 1st century BC. With the coming of the Romans in the 1st century AD, things improved, but in the 3rd century pirate attacks brought impoverishment. In the Middle Ages the Venetians, Genoese and Rhodians built fortresses along the coast (bits of which still hang from the cliff tops) but by the 15th century the site had been abandoned.

**Olympos** (admission per day TL3) is fairy tale pretty. Set inside a deep shaded valley that runs directly to the sea, its enchanting ruins appear 'undiscovered' among wild grapevines, flowering oleander, bay trees, wild figs and pines. Rambling along the trickling stream that runs through a rocky gorge, listening to the wind in the trees and the songs of innumerable birds is a rare treat, with never a tour bus in sight.

The site is open all the time but during daylight hours a custodian (sporadically) collects the fee.

## Çıralı

Çıralı is a relaxed, family-friendly township of upscale pensions on a long, empty beach. It's a near shout from Olympos – or a pleasant trudge through shifting pebbles – and makes

an excellent alternative from the backpacking set down beach. It's also the nearest bed to mystical Chimaera.

## Chimaera

Also known as Yanartaş or Burning Rock, the Chimaera is a cluster of flames that blaze spontaneously from crevices on the rocky slopes of Mt Olympos. This site is the stuff of legend and it's not difficult to see why ancient peoples attributed these extraordinary flames to the breath of a monster – part lion, part goat and part dragon.

In mythology, Chimaera was the son of Typhon, himself the fierce and monstrous son of Gaia, the earth goddess; he was so frightening that Zeus set him on fire and buried him alive under Mt Etna, thereby creating the volcano. Chimaera was killed by the hero Bellerophon on the orders of King Iobates of Lycia. Bellerophon killed the monster by aerial bombardment – mounting Pegasus, the winged horse, and pouring molten lead into Chimaera's mouth.

Today gas still seeps from the earth and bursts into flame upon contact with the air. The exact composition of the gas is unknown, though it is thought to contain some methane. Although the flames can be extinguished by covering them, they will reignite when uncovered again. In ancient times they were much more vigorous and easily recognised at night by coastal mariners.

These days there are 20 or 30 flames in the main area and a less impressive collection at the top of the hill. By far the best time to visit is after dark, and preferably in a small group to better appreciate their gaseous intrigue.

From Çıralı, follow the road along the hillside marked for the Chimaera until you reach a valley and walk up to a car park. From there it's another 20- to 30-minute climb up a dirt track through the forest (bring a torch) to the site. It's about a 7km walk from Olympos, but most pensions will run you there for around TL10.

## Sleeping & Eating

### OLYMPUS

Much like its colourful though largely unrecorded history, staying in an Olympos tree-house has long been the stuff of travel legend. The former Med hippie hot spot has gentrified considerably over the past decade but, love it or hate it, Olympos still offers fabulous value

and community-minded accommodation in a stunning natural setting.

The tree-house dream is fading to modern convenience, but all camps include breakfast and dinner in the price (drinks are extra). Bathrooms are generally shared, but many bungalows have their own bathroom and some have air-conditioning. Not all tree houses have reliable locks, so store valuables at reception.

Note that it's worth being extra attentive with personal hygiene while staying here. Every year some travellers wind up ill. Unfortunately the huge numbers of visitors, over the summer in particular, can overwhelm the camps' capacity for proper waste disposal, so be vigilant in particular about when, what, where and how you eat. And don't swim around the point area.

A dozen or so camps line the track along the valley down to the ruins.

**Kadir's Yörük Top Treehouse** (☎ 892 1250; [www.kadirstreehouses.com](http://www.kadirstreehouses.com); dm TL20, bungalows TL40; ♿ ♻) Kadir's started it all back before people lived in trees. For the first time in many years, however, this quirky place has grown smaller due to a recent fire damaging a large section of the property. But the fun has resurfaced with even greater irony. There are three bars (including the time-honoured Bull Bar) and, if you please, a rock-climbing wall. It veritably buzzes with backpackers but is well managed. The on-site Adventure Centre (p390) offers a range of activities.

**Şaban** (☎ 892 1265; [www.sabanpansion.com](http://www.sabanpansion.com); dm/tree house TL20/30, bungalows TL35-40; ♿ ♻) The sight of travellers laid out in hammocks snoozing in the shade soon confirms the local lore: that you come here to chill. In the words of the charming manager Meral, 'It's not a party place' and instead sells itself on tranquillity, space, a family feel and great home cooking. It's an excellent choice for single women.

**Caretta Caretta** (☎ 892 1292; [carettaolympos@hotmail.com](mailto:carettaolympos@hotmail.com); dm/tree house TL20/30, bungalow with bathroom TL40) Pretty and peaceful with wooden benches under shady orange trees, it also prides itself on its food, which is home-cooked by the family's mother.

**Bayram's** (☎ 892 1243; [www.bayrams.com](http://www.bayrams.com); tree house TL30, bungalow with/without air-con TL50/40; ♿ ♻) Here chilled-out 20-somethings sit on cushioned benches in post-party states. Backgammon, books and orange-tree serenading are Bayram's activities of choice, except for the odd swim in the sea.

**Orange Pension** (☎ 892 1317; www.olymposorange.com; bungalow with/without bathroom TL40/35; ☹) A long-standing favourite that's especially big with Turkish university students and, oddly enough, Japanese guests, the Orange has morphed in size in recent years, but Yusuf and friend still run a good show. The wooden en-suite rooms upstairs feel like a Swiss Family Robinson future, while the concrete rooms downstairs are perhaps the future of Olympos. It's got a great communal dining area and the same guys run a nightclub hidden in the valley.

**Türkmen Tree Houses** (☎ 892 1249; www.olymposturkmentreehouses.com; tree house TL20, bungalow with/without bathroom TL40/35; ☹ ☹) With the capacity to sleep over 400 guests, the Türkmens is pretty much a village within a village, and the biggest party rival to Kadir's. It's no longer all wilderness either, with small convenience store located on site. The comfy bungalows are made from the pine trees in the orange garden. The dinner is allegedly the best in Olympos. Yacht trips to Kaş can also be arranged.

**Pirate's Camp** (☎ 892 1265; www.pirates-camp.com; s/d/t bungalows TL55/80/100; ☹ ☹) This newcomer to the wilds of Olympos has unwrapped 24 pretty, ready-made bungalows and plonked them on the road to the beach. Aside from the gaudy sign, however, it's a sympathetic site with a developing sense of balance.

**Varuna** (☎ 892 1347; beer TL3, mains TL10-15; ☹ 8am-2.30am) Next to Bayram's, this popular restaurant serves a fair range of snacks and mains including fresh trout (TL10), *gözleme* (TL4) and *şiş kebabs* (roast skewered meat, TL8 to TL10) in some attractive open cabins.

## ÇIRALI

Çıralı, to put it crudely, is just two dirt roads lined with pensions. To put it another way, it's a delightful beach community for nature lovers and post-backpackers. Driving in, you cross a small bridge where a few taxis wait to run people back up to the main road. Continue across the bridge and you'll come to a junction in the road disfigured with innumerable signboards – there are about 60 pensions here. Go straight on for the pensions nearest to the path up to the Chimaera. Turn right for the pensions closest to the beach and the Olympos ruins.

**Olympia Treehouse & Camping** (☎ 825 7311; camp site/tree house per person TL10/20) Copying the tree

house experience of its namesake, Olympia, but lacking the party atmosphere, this is a pleasant, peaceful place set by the beach amid fruit trees. Boat and snorkelling excursions can be organised.

**Orange Motel** (☎ 825 7327; www.orangemotel.net; s/d TL50/90; ☹ ☹) Another smart and affordable choice right on the beach. The garden is hung with hammocks and the stairs leading to the agreeable rooms are wrought in iron design. The evening meal is about as wild as it gets at the Orange – indeed, in all Çıralı – though nonguests often drop by for a taste of what's cooking.

**Myland Nature** (☎ 825 7044; www.mylandnature.com; s/d/tr TL80/110/140; ☹ ☹) This is an arty, holistic and laid-back place that has a vibe to rub you the right way. The spotless bungalows are set around a pretty garden and the food garners high praise. Bikes are available and there are daily boat trips.

**Hotel Canada** (☎ 825 7233; www.hotelcanada.com; s/d TL80/100; ☹ ☹ ☹) This is a beautiful place to stay offering pretty much the quintessential Çıralı experience; warmth, friendliness and steady relaxation. The garden is filled with hammocks, citrus trees, and the odd chicken and rabbit. It's ideal for families and children. Carrie and Saban are impeccable hosts.

**Odile Hotel** (☎ 825 7163; www.hotelodile.com; s/d TL70/100; ☹ ☹) This unassuming hotel is set on a large garden property with the best mountain backdrop in Çıralı. The rooms are spacious, the pool spectacular, though the service is a little detached. It's opposite the beach opening.

**Arcadia Hotel** (☎ 825 7340; www.arcadiaholiday.com; d with half-board TL200; ☹ ☹) Escaping over-developing Ölüdeniz, the Canadian-Turkish owners of these four luxury bungalows have established a lovely escape amid verdant gardens at the northern end of the beach, across the road from Myland Nature. The place is well laid out and well managed, and the friendly owners are keen to please. The food at the restaurant is also of a high standard.

**Olympos Lodge** (☎ 825 7171; www.olymposlodge.com.tr; s/d with half-board TL280/350; ☹ ☹) Not only situated right on the beach, it also boasts over 1.5 hectares of cool citrus orchards and verdant, manicured gardens. It's professionally managed and the private villas are very peaceful and comfortable. Find it by walking along the beach towards the Olympos ruins.

**ACTIVE IN OLYMPOS**

If you're chilled-out to the bone, Kadir's Yörük Top Treehouse (p388) has an **Adventure Centre** (☎ 892 1316; 🕒 8.30am-7pm), which offers the following activities (prices are per person):

**Boat cruises** Full-day trip TL40 (minimum eight to 10 people); includes snorkelling gear and lunch.

**Canyoning** Full-day trip TL60; includes lunch at trout farm in mountains.

**Chimaera Flame Tours** TL20 for three hours; departures after dinner at 9pm.

**Jeep safaris** Full-day trip for TL50 includes lunch and transport.

**Mountain biking** TL40 for four hours.

**Rock climbing** On a natural wall; TL25 for two climbs.

**Scuba diving** TL60 for two dives (qualified divers only); the full-day trip includes all equipment and lunch.

**Sea-kayaking** Half-day trip (noon to 4pm) TL40; includes lunch on beach.

**Trekking** TL35, five hours; lunch included.

**Getting There & Away**

Generally any bus taking the coast road between Antalya and Fethiye will drop you or pick you up from the roadside restaurant at the top of the hill – just look for the travellers lying about. From there, minibuses leave for Çıralı and Olympos.

From May to October, the first minibus (TL2.75, 20 minutes) leaves the restaurant at 8.30am, then they depart every hour on the half-hour until 6.30pm. Returning, minibuses leave Olympos at 9am, then every hour until 7pm. They pick up all along the road, so just stick out your hand to hail one.

After October they will wait until enough passengers arrive, which can sometimes take quite a while. Assuming enough people show up, the dolmuş then passes all the camps until it reaches the one the driver is paid to stop at.

To Çıralı there are six daily minibuses (TL2.25) from May to November, leaving at 9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 6pm. Minibuses do a loop along the beach road, then pass the turn-off to the Chimaera and head back along the edge of the hillside.

On Friday there are dolmuşes from Çıralı to Kumluca market.

**ADRASAN**

☎ 0242

Attached to the farming village of Çavuşköy – about 10km south along the coast from Olympos – is the expatriate corner of Adrasan. Especially popular with older British expats, this tiny place is often overlooked by the younger crowd, even though it consists of a mile of pebbly beach – with some non-native litter – a sheltered bay, and another sublime mountain backdrop. An unpaved road

skirting the beach has a few nice pensions and restaurants.

**Eviniz Pension** (☎ 883 1110; www.eviniz.de; r per person TL60; 🕒 May-Nov; ♿ 🚿) About 1km back from the beach on the road between Adrasan and Çavuşköy, this is a boutique hotel that boasts a beautiful pool on a terrace. The comfortable, attractive rooms have balconies and distant sea views.

**Grand Çengis Kaan** (☎ 883 1012; www.cengizkaan.hotel.com; s/d with half-board TL80/140; ♿ 🚿 🚿) The newest hotel in Adrasan comes courtesy of the Pinar family, who efficiently manage these better-than-average premises. The spacious rooms which surround an attractive pool are replicas of resort chic.

**Ön Otel** (☎ 883 1099; www.onotel.com; s/d TL40/60; ♿ 🚿) An attractive whitewashed building with a lovely pool and a tennis court set amid gorgeous grounds, the Ön is a family-run and friendly sort of place. Rooms are simple but spacious and attractive, and all have balcony. There's also a good book collection and bikes are available.

North of the beach along the delightful tree-lined river is a string of restaurants where you eat on wooden platforms set in the water.

**Paradise Café** (☎ 883 1267; meals TL20-30; ♿), run by Nikret and Jill, has a pleasant atmosphere and exquisitely prepared food.

**Getting There & Away**

To Antalya (TL8, two hours) three buses leave daily in high season at 7.30am, 11am and 5pm; and in low season at 7.30am only. From Antalya two buses leave daily at 9am and 3.30pm in high season; in low season they go at 3.30pm only.

In high season, boats run from Adrasan beach to Kale and Kaş.

## PHASELIS

About 3km north of the Tekirova turn-off (56km from Antalya) is the incomparably romantic and ruined Lycian city of Phaselis. Apparently founded by Greek colonists on the border between Lycia and Pamphylia around 334 BC, its wealth came from being a port for the shipment of timber, rose oil and perfume. These days it's just another unforgettable holiday hideaway.

Shaded by pines, the **ruins of Phaselis** (admission TL8; ☎ 8am-7pm May-Oct, 9am-5.30pm Nov-Apr) are arranged around three small, perfect bays, each with its own diminutive beach. The ruins are not particularly exciting, and are all from Roman and Byzantine times, but the setting is divine.

About 1km from the highway is the site entrance, with a small building where you can buy soft drinks, snacks and souvenirs, use the toilet and visit a one-room museum. The ruins and the shore are another 1km further on.

The aptly named **Sundance Nature Village** (Sundance Camp; ☎ 821 4165; www.sundancecamp.com; camp site/s/d/tr tree houses per person TL15/22/27/35, bungalows TL40/60) is a lifestyle you'll most likely embrace in Phaselis. It's sublimely peaceful with charming bungalows and tree houses shaded under fragrant pine trees. The restaurant offers excellent organic food. BBQs and camp fires are often set up for guests and horses are available for rides (TL40 per person for up to three hours).

## Getting There & Away

Frequent buses between Kaş and Antalya pass the Phaselis turn-off. To get to Sundance Camp from Antalya, alight at the Tekirova junction, turn left and follow the signs. It's a 20-minute walk from the junction or – if you're lucky/lazy – you can get a taxi.

## ANTALYA

☎ 0242 / pop 798,500

Once seen by travellers as the gateway to the 'Turkish Riviera', Antalya quickly became a bona fide international travel destination unto itself. Situated directly on the Gulf of Antalya (Antalya Körfezi), the largest Turkish city on the Mediterranean is both stylishly modern and classically beautiful. It also boasts the creatively preserved Roman-Ottoman quarter of Kaleiçi, a splendid and pristine Roman harbour, plus stirring ruins in the surrounding Beydağları (Bey Mountains).

Antalya is generating a buzz among culture-vultures. The city's restaurants rival those throughout the country, many of its boutique hotels are of tremendous quality and value, and the archaeological museum is world-class. For nightlife lovers, there are a number of chic Med-carpet clubs, while the opera and ballet season at the Aspendos amphitheatre continues to draw critical attention.

Kaleiçi is also a boon for architecture buffs, with some of Turkey's best preserved Ottoman houses – many with *Satilik* ('For Sale') signs disappearing overnight. And with the town council effortlessly rebranding Antalya as a luxury yachting must-moor, its future is crystal blue.

## History

This area has been inhabited since the earliest times. The oldest artefacts, found in the Karain Cave (Karain Mağarası; p402) 2km inland from Antalya, date back to the Palaeolithic period. As a city, Antalya is not as old as many others that once lined this coast, but it is still prospering while the older ones are dead.

Founded by Attalus II of Pergamum in the 1st century BC, the city was named Attaleia after its founder. When the Pergamene kingdom was bequeathed to Rome, Attaleia became a Roman city. Emperor Hadrian visited here in AD 130 and a triumphal arch (now known as Hadrian's Gate) was built in his honour.

The Byzantines took over from the Romans but in 1207 the Seljuk Turks based in Konya snatched the city from them and gave Antalya a new version of its name, and also its symbol, the Yivle Minare (Grooved Minaret). After the Mongols broke the Seljuk grip on power, Antalya was held for a while by the Turkish Hamidoğullari emirs. It was taken by the Ottomans in 1391.

After WWI the Allies divided up the Ottoman Empire. Italy got Antalya in 1918 but by 1921 Atatürk's armies had put an end to all such foreign holdings.

## Orientation

At the centre of the historic city is the Roman harbour, which is set to undergo a many-million-lira makeover (not that you really need it, dear). Around it is the old-stone historic district called Kaleiçi, which features fine Ottoman houses and remnants of the Roman Empire. Around Kaleiçi, beyond the ivy-decked Roman walls, is the commercial centre of the city.



Antalya's central landmark and symbol is the Yivli Minare. It stands near the main square, called Kale Kapısı (Fortress Gate), which is marked by an old stone *saat kalesi* (clock tower). The broad plaza with the bombastic equestrian statue of Atatürk is Cumhuriyet Meydanı (Republic Sq).

From Kale Kapısı, Cumhuriyet Caddesi goes west past the tourist office and Turkish Airlines office, then becomes Kenan Evren Bulvarı, which continues for several kilometres to the Antalya Museum and Konyaaltı Plajı, a 10km-long pebble beach.

Northwest from Kale Kapısı, Kazım Özalp Caddesi (formerly Şarampol Caddesi), is a pedestrian way. Antalya's small bazaar is east of Kazım Özalp Caddesi. East from Kale

Kapısı, Ali Çetinkaya Caddesi goes to the airport (10km).

The Gazi Bulvarı *çevreyolu* (ring road) carries long-distance traffic around the city centre. Antalya otogar (Yeni Garaj) is 4km north of the centre on the D650 Hwy.

## Information

### BOOKSHOPS

**Owl Bookshop** (Map p395; ☎ 243 2944; owlbookshop@yahoo.com; Barbaros Mahallesi, Akarçeşme Sokak 21; 🕒 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) The best secondhand bookshop on the Turkish Mediterranean has moved around the corner. Owl Bookshop is very well edited and pretty well stocked, care of literary larrikin, Kemal Özkurt. The owner's booming voice gives heartfelt reading advice. Shout out if unattended.

## SIX QUESTIONS ABOUT BOOKS

Sharing stories is half the fun of travel – Kemal from Owl Books has the finest in town.

**When, where and why did you first start selling secondhand books?** I grew up in Antalya where 25 years ago I started selling books. During the early days I sold books to backpackers at a local hotel. Before that I sold lemon juice to passengers boarding buses to İstanbul.

**Which writers best describe Turkey?** For the Turkish mentality, Kurban Said's *The Girl from Golden Horn*; for the landscape, *The Towers of Trebizond* by Rose Macaulay.

**Which five books could you not live without?** *Portnoy's Complaint* by Philip Roth (this is more than enough).

**How has the traveller to Turkey changed over the years?** The traveller now has more money.

**Is there one book you would never sell?** I never sell holy books.

**What's the best deal you've ever made with a traveller?** I once exchanged a book for a kiss.

## INTERNET ACCESS

There are numerous internet cafés in the alleys and arcades off Atatürk Caddesi, most within easy walking distance of Hadrian's Gate.

**Cevher Internet** (Map p395; ☎ 9am-midnight) This tiny café offers high-speed access in an alley across the street from Hadrian's Gate.

**Natural Internet Café** (Map p395; ☎ 8am-11pm) The city's most atmospheric internet café, located within the maze of eateries down the steps behind the Atatürk statue. Next door is the Natural Nargile Café, a cosy spot offering decent food and nargilehs.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

**About Antalya** ([www.aboutantalya.net](http://www.aboutantalya.net)) Historical information about the region and its preserved ancient cities.

**Antalya Guide** ([www.antalyaguide.org](http://www.antalyaguide.org)) A comprehensive site with info on everything from climate to TV channels.

## MONEY

A number of banks are located on Kazım Özalp Caddesi (Map p392) as are several *döviz* (currency exchange) offices.

## POST

There are several post offices within walking distance of Kaleiçi.

**Central Post office** (Map p392; Kenan Evren Bulvarı) A few hundred metres past the tourist office and across the street. Use the Seleker tram stop.

## TELEPHONES

**Türk Telecom** (Map p395; Recep Peker Caddesi 4; ☎ 8.30am-10.30pm) Call centre near Hadrian's Gate. International calls placed here are generally cheaper than those made with a Turkish calling card.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**Tourist office** (Map p392; ☎ 241 1747; Yavuz Ozcan Parkı; ☎ 8am-7pm) In a small wooden shack tucked be-

hind the souvenir vendors of Yavuz Ozcan Parkı. Employees speak English, French and German, depending on the shift.

## Sights & Activities

### YIVLI MINARE & THE BAZAAR

The Yivli Minare (Map p395), downhill from the **dock tower**, is a handsome and distinctive minaret erected by the Seljuk sultan Alaeddin Keykubad I in the early 13th century, next to a church that the sultan had converted to a mosque. It is now the **Güzel Sanatlar Galerisi** (Fine Arts Gallery) with changing exhibits. To its northwest is a **Mevlevi tekke** (whirling dervish monastery), which probably dates from the 13th century; nearby are two **tombs**, those of Zincirli Mehmet Bey (built 1377) and the lady Nigar Hatun.

### KALEİÇİ (OLD ANTALYA)

Go down Uzun Çarşı Sokak, the street opposite the clock tower. On the left is the **Tekeli Mehmet Paşa Camii** (Map p395), built by the Beylerbey (Governor of Governors) Tekeli Mehmet Paşa. The building was repaired extensively in 1886 and 1926. Note the beautiful Arabic inscriptions in the coloured tiles above the windows.

Wander further into Kaleiçi, now a historical zone protected from modern development. Many of the gracious old **Ottoman houses** have been restored then converted to pensions, hotels or, inevitably, carpet and souvenir shops. The northern part of Kaleiçi is the most touristy; persevere and explore the quieter backstreets abutting Karaalioğlu Parkı.

The **Roman harbour** at the base of the slope was restored during the 1980s and is now a marina for yachts and excursion boats. It was Antalya's lifeline from the 2nd century BC until late in the 20th century, when a new port

was constructed about 12km west of the city, at the far end of Konyaaltı Plajı.

In the southern reaches of Kaleiçi is the **Kesik Minare** (Cut Minaret; Map p395; Hesaççı Sokak), a stump of a minaret which marks the ruins of a substantial building. Built originally as a 2nd-century Roman temple, it was converted in the 6th century to the Byzantine Church of the Virgin Mary.

**Korkut Camii** (Map p395) nearby served the neighbourhood's Muslim population until 1896, when it was mostly destroyed by fire. Gates and walls prevent fire now, but it's possible to see bits of Roman and Byzantine marble from outside.

At the southwestern edge of Kaleiçi, on the corner with Karaaliğlu Parkı, rises the **Hıdırlık Kalesi** (Map p395), a 14m-high tower in the ancient walls, which dates from the 1st century AD.

Down Atatürk Caddesi is the monumental marble **Hadriyanüs Kapısı** (Hadrian's Gate, Üçkapılar or the Three Gates, Map p395), erected during the Roman emperor Hadrian's reign (AD 117–38). It leads into Kaleiçi.

Further along Atatürk Caddesi towards the sea is **Karaaliğlu Parkı** (Map p395), a large, attractive, flower-filled park good for a stroll, particularly at sunset.

### SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ KALEİÇİ MUSEUM

In the heart of Kaleiçi, just off Hesaççı Sokak, you'll find a **museum** (Map p395; Kocatepe Sokak 25; admission €0.85; ☎ 9am-noon & 1-6pm Thu-Tue). The main building is a lovingly restored Antalya mansion; the 2nd floor contains a very well done but still somewhat hokey series of life-size dioramas depicting some of the most important rituals and milestones in typical Ottoman lives.

Much more impressive is the collection of Turkish ceramics found in the museum's next building – the former Greek Orthodox church of Aya Yorgo (St George) – which has been so well restored that it's worth seeing in itself.

### ANTALYA MUSEUM

Comprehensive, inspired and thoroughly entertaining is how best to describe the **Antalya Museum** (Map p392; Cumhuriyet Caddesi; admission TL15; ☎ 9am-7.30pm Tue-Sun), roughly 2km west of the centre and easily reachable by tram. Beginning your leisurely, measured walk through time is a collection of small works, including finely detailed figurines, which are arranged chrono-

logically from the Stone and Bronze Ages, and then through to the Mycenaean, Classical and Hellenistic periods. It's tempting to yield and hurry through to the Hall of Gods and the museum's simply phenomenal collection of priceless treasures. We forgive you.

Even those not particularly fascinated by Greek mythology will be moved by this collection, which includes numerous representations of 16 gods, some in near-perfect condition. The curatorial artistry is again on display as a motion detection system that casts a dramatic light upon each statue as a visitor approaches. The vast majority of the statues were found during excavations of the nearby city of Perge in the 1970s; some were uncovered at Aspendos. Viewing the gods either before or after a visit to Perge will certainly enhance your experience.

Other exhibitions include an ancient piggy-bank in the Hall of Coins, and a curious collection of stone legs and feet in the shaded back garden.

### BEACHES & WATER PARK

**Lara Plajı** is your best bet for swimming; it's about 12km southeast of the centre, and plays host to a hot new summer rock festival, Rock'n Antalya. The alternative is **Konyaaltı Plajı**, a name synonymous with mega beach culture; it can be accessed by taking the tram to its final stop (Müze), and then walking further west and down the snaking road.

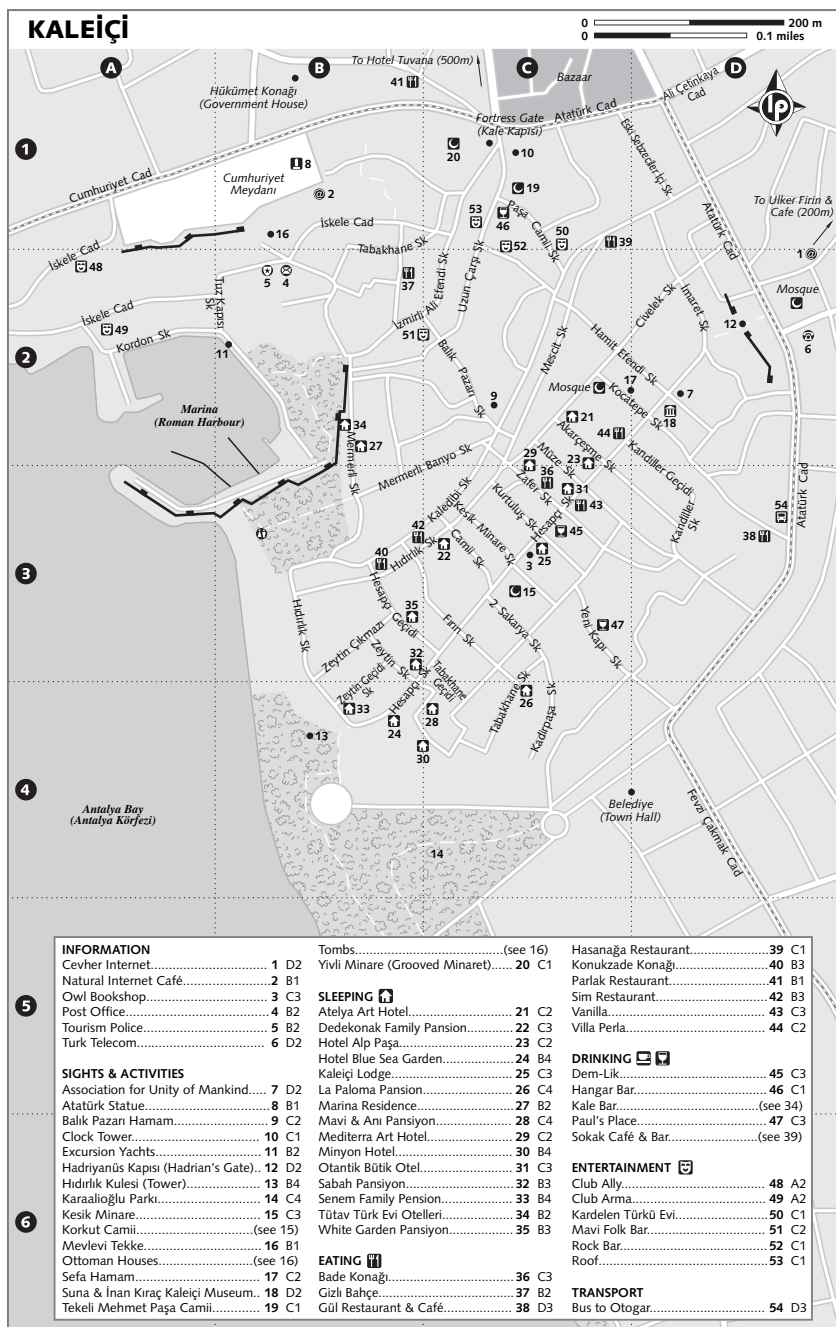
Continue west and you'll come to the **Aqualand** (☎ 249 0900; www.beachpark.com.tr) water park, complete with slides and, yes, live dolphins. Also 6km south of Antalya is the **Dedeman Aquapark** (☎ 316 4400; Dedeman Hotel; Lara Yolu; admission TL25; ☎ 10am-6pm), said to be the largest water park in the Middle East. The latest addition is a giant half-pipe.

Dolmuşes run from Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi to Lara Plajı, passing the aquapark (TL1).

### HAMAMS

Kaleiçi is a great place to start your massage fetish, most notably at the 700-year-old **Balık Pazarı Hamam** (Map p395; ☎ 243 6175; cnr Balık Pazarı Sokak & Paşa Camii Sokak; ☎ 8am-midnight for men, 8am-9pm for women) where a bath, a peeling, and a soap and oil massage cost TL30, or it's TL10 for a bath only. More of the good oil is found at the atmospheric **Sefa Hamam** (Map p395; www.sefahamam.com; Kocatepe Sokak 32; ☎ 9am-11pm), which retains much of its 13th-century Seljuk





architecture. A bath here costs TL15, or it's TL35 for the recommended works.

### BOAT & RAFTING TRIPS

**Excursion yachts** (Map p395) tie up in the Roman harbour in Kaleiçi. Some trips go as far as Kemer, Phaselis, Olympos, Kale (Demre) and Kaş. You can take one-hour (TL20) or two-hour (TL35) trips or a six-hour voyage (TL80 with lunch) which visits the Lower Düden Falls (p401), Gulf of Antalya islands and some beaches for a swim. It's a good idea to ask about lunch when comparing prices; there's a big difference between a sandwich and a three-course seafood feast. Ask also if alcoholic beverages are included.

Many travel agencies in town offer white-water rafting in the Köprülu Kanyon (see p404).

### YOGA SCHOOLS & INSTRUCTION

The **Association for the Unity of Mankind** (Map p395; ☎ 244 5807; Hesaçı Sokak 7) is an all-encompassing socio-spiritual organisation that includes a yoga and meditation studio. Morning and evening classes are held daily in a variety of disciplines, as well as classes in aerobics and arts and crafts. A weekly schedule is posted outside the front door.

### Festivals & Events

Antalya is famous for its **Golden Orange Film Festival** (Altın Portakal Film Festivali; <http://altinportakal.tursak.org.tr/indexen.php>), held in late September or early October. **Rock'n Antalya** (Lara Plajı) should become a regular fixture on the Antalya music scene, as a huge crowd turned out in late June for this inaugural three-day celebration of contemporary Turkish rock.

### Sleeping

Undoubtedly the place to stay in Antalya is the old town of Kaleiçi. In this virtually vehicle-free district is everything you need, including some of the better guest houses in Turkey. To reach Kaleiçi, pass through Hadrian's Gate and walk along Hesaçı Sokak. Kaleiçi's winding streets can be confusing to navigate, although signs pointing the way to most pensions are posted in alleys and on street corners.

### BUDGET

**White Garden Pansiyon** (☎ 248 9115; [www.xhost.co.uk/whitegarden](http://www.xhost.co.uk/whitegarden); Hesaçı Geçidi 9; s/d TL30/40; ☺ ☑) The White Garden combines tidiness, dis-

cretion and class beyond its price, not to mention impeccable service from Metin and co, the proprietors. The building itself is a fine restoration – the courtyard particularly charming.

**Sabah Pansiyon** (Map p395; ☎ 247 5345; [www.sabahpansiyon.8m.com](http://www.sabahpansiyon.8m.com); Hesaçı Sokak 60/A; dm/s/d without shower TL20/30/40, s/d with shower TL30/40; ☺ ☑) Long the first port of call for budget travellers to Kaleiçi, rooms vary greatly in size and standard, so insist on seeing a few. Service can be aloof, though the kitchen serves delicious home-cooked meals. The real draw is the shaded courtyard, perfect for hooking up with other travellers.

**Senem Family Pension** (Map p395; ☎ 247 1752; fax 247 0615; Zeytin Geçidi Sokak 9; s/d TL40/50; ☺) Homesick backpackers will feel immediately comfortable here, as Mrs Seval Ünsal (call her 'Mama') clearly enjoys doting on guests. Some of the spotless but simple rooms have bay views; rooms without air-conditioning or a view are cheaper.

**Dedekonak Family Pansion** (Map p395; ☎ 248 5264; Hıdırlık Sokak 13; s/d TL30/50) An affordable, super-clean and more upscale alternative. The rooms, with retro French advertising on the walls and satellite television, aren't terribly impressive, although the outdoor patio with built-in bar more than picks up the slack. Definitely stick around for the evening feast, created nightly by the French-Turkish owners.

**Hotel Blue Sea Garden** (☎ 248 8213; [www.blueseagarden.com](http://www.blueseagarden.com); Hesaçı Sokak 65; s/d with half-board TL40/60; ☺ ☑) The two pluses here are the extra large swimming pool area – vital in the heat of summer – and the go-getting management team who works in happy droves. The rooms are nothing special, though the elevated ones are more peaceful. The restaurant prepares excellent meals.

**Mavi & Ani Pansiyon** (Map p395; ☎ 247 0056; [www.maviani.com](http://www.maviani.com); Tabakhane Sokak 26; s/d TL40/60) Something of an odd cross between a lovingly restored Ottoman house and Japanese *ryokan* where some rooms sport a mattress laid directly atop raised wooden floors, and the common areas are decorated in Anatolian style. Ask for the single or double rooms with the attached terrace and sea view; they also have a shared refrigerator. Discounts are available for stays longer than three days, and guests can swim for free at the nearby Backside Hotel.

**MIDRANGE**

**Kaleiçi Lodge** (☎ 243 2270; www.kaleicilodge.com; Hesapçı Sokak 37; s/d TL50/80; 🏠 📶) This stylish, small hotel is sparkingly new and very affordable. The stark white lobby and hallways reveal red-draped, sharp-lined rooms, with hard, clean surfaces.

**Tütav Türk Evi Otelleri** (Map p395; ☎ 248 6591; www.turkeviotelleri.com; Mermerli Sokak 2; s/d TL50/100; 🏠 📶) Because it is comprised of three restored Ottoman guest houses, this is easily the largest hotel of its type in the area. The pool area, surrounded by the towering harbour wall, is especially charming. Don't be fooled by the rococo lobby; the 20 Turkish- and Ottoman-themed rooms are detailed with particularly impressive taste.

**La Paloma Pansion** (Map p395; ☎ 244 8497; www.lapalomapansion.com; Tabakhane Sokak 3; s/d TL80/100; 🏠 📶 🚿) A change in ownership has not dented the condition of this excellent mid-range hotel. Despite being housed in a single Ottoman building, La Paloma has surprisingly large rooms – some with Jacuzzi, all with satellite TV – with the best facing inwards to the figure-eight-shaped swimming pool. Except to produce a reasonable breakfast spread, the kitchen does not open.

**Atelya Art Hotel** (☎ 241 6416; www.atelyahotel.com; Civelek Sokak 21; d TL120; 🏠 📶) Timelessness is hard to pin down, but the Atelya makes a bold effort in this eccentric art-inspired hotel. The owner displays his diverse portfolio on the walls, but it's the sultan's splendour of richly coloured fabrics and beautiful furniture cast in beams of sunlight that best capture the spirit of the Ottomans. As you'd expect with such a breathy place, in winter it can get a little musty.

**Otantik Butik Otel** (☎ 244 8530; www.otantikbutikotel.com; Hesapçı Sokak 14; d TL120; 🏠 📶) Six brand-new, intimate rooms, each with ample space and privacy, set above a well-stocked wine cellar on a main street of Kaleiçi – Otantik is off to a good start.

**Tuvana** (Map p395; ☎ 247 6015; www.tuvanahotel.com; Tuzcular Mah, Karanlık Sokak 7; s/d TL100/150; 🏠 📶 🚿) This hidden once-royal compound of six Ottoman houses has been converted into a fine inner-old city inn. The Tuvana is refinement personified by its hosts, Aziz and Nermin who prepare this 'Special Class' hotel (and dreamy breakfast table) with precision and grace. Rooms are suitably plush, with kilims, linen and light fittings emitting soft

oranges and yellows; the small swimming pool tops it off.

**TOP END**

**Mediterra Art Hotel** (☎ 244 8624; www.mediterraart.com; Zafer Sokak 5; d TL160, ste TL200; 🏠 📶 🚿) The sign of things to come in Antalya, perhaps, is this brand-new up-scale masterpiece of wood and stone that immediately impresses in both service and design. The Mediterra offers sanctuary by a cutting-edge pool and has a marvellous winter dining room. Space is harnessed to maximum effect, especially in the small though modestly luxurious rooms, all with LCD TVs.

**Minyon Hotel** (Map p395; ☎ 247 1147; www.minyonhotel.com; Tabakhane Sokak 31; s/d TL150/200; 🏠 📶) Seven artfully decorated rooms send the Minyon beyond boutique hotel to a private townhouse for the wealthy and cultured. Critically acclaimed for its attention to detail (imagine laying the tiles on the pool deck), the Minyon is attentively priced to match. For all that it's worth, request a sea view.

**Hotel Alp Paşa** (Map p395; ☎ 247 5676; www.alppasa.com; Hesapçı Sokak 30-32; s/d €65/85, with jacuzzi €70/95; 🏠 📶 🚿) The most effectively signposted hotel in the Kaleiçi labyrinth has 60 individually designed rooms fitted out with tasteful Ottoman detail. The outdoor courtyard, where swimming and dining takes place, displays Roman columns and other artefacts unearthed during the hotel's construction. There's an on-site hamam and an atmospheric stone-walled restaurant featuring an impressive list of French and Turkish wines – the evening set menu (TL40) is open to nonguests. A remarkable drop in prices will make booking essential.

**Marina Residence** (Map p395; ☎ 247 5490; www.marinar Residence.net; Mermerli Sokak 15; s/d €110/130; 🏠 📶) Located away from the hubbub, the Marina is known as one of Antalya's signature top-end hotels. The rooms, however, are starting to show their 18 years, despite the efforts of the smiling and efficient staff. The Marina's oddest touch is its outdoor pool; a glass wall on one side allows café patrons a view of the underwater goings-on.

**Hillside Su** (☎ 249 0700; www.hillsidesu.com; s/d €160/240; 🏠 📶) Architect Eren Talu's jaw-dropping peon to 1960s minimalism is a blinding wash of clean white. The rooms themselves have sleek low-level plinths as beds, lava lamps and goldfish bowls, and a disco choice of lighting – red, pink or, you guessed it, white. Sadly,

however, the service got a little mixed up in the wash. The pool deck, where celeb-spotting is in season, is made from criss-crossed Icoo wood. There's a very good sushi bar, but general bar prices (TL25 for a whisky!) will get lodged firmly in your throat.

## Eating

A nearly endless assortment of cafés and eateries are tucked in and around the harbour area; those perched over the bay command the highest prices. For cheap eating, cross over Atatürk Caddesi and poke around deep in the commercial district.

**Ulker Fırın & Café** (Map p395; ☎ 247 0324; Recep Perker Caddesi 21A; baklava TL3) Take care not to over-order at this thoroughly modern bakery, which is packed with both traditional and non-traditional Turkish sweets – the tiny pieces of *şöbiyet* (walnut curd) and *fıstıklı* (pistachio) baklava are significantly more filling than they first appear. It's close to Plaza Cinemas.

**Can Can Pide Yemek Salonu** (Map p392; ☎ 243 2548; Hasim İscan Mahallesi, Arik Caddesi 4A; Adana durum TL6; ☎ 9am-11pm Mon-Sat) Looking for very cheap and cheerful? The Can Can most certainly can! Fantastically prepared *çorba* (soup), pide and Adana *durum* at bargain prices. It's elbow room only, so go ahead and nudge right in. It's located diagonally across the street from Plaza Cinemas.

**Konukzade Konağı** (Map p395; ☎ 244 7456; Hıdırlık Sokak 20; mains TL10-15) This lovely living-room restaurant, with couches and paintings in the style of Australian Aboriginal art, is overseen by a friendly Dutch woman and long-term expat. The busy kitchen makes reasonably priced and quickly prepared Turkish dishes, plus a gorge-worthy *appeltaart* (apple pie). There's a lovely alfresco garden at the front.

**Bade Konağı** (Map p395; ☎ 248 0185; Zafer Sokak 7; mains TL10-20) This stylish and friendly two-storey restaurant – popular in winter for its warm interiors – doubles as a jumping live music bar on weekends. The grills are delicious, but the sides are the stars here, such as *siyah pirinçli pilav* (wild black rice) and the dill and mint salad served in a fruit bowl.

**Hasanağa Restaurant** (Map p395; ☎ 242 8105; Mescit Sokak 15; meals TL10-20) Expect to find the garden dining area here absolutely packed on Friday and Saturday nights, when traditional Turkish musicians and folk dancers entertain. Entrées are predictable – *köfte* and mixed grills and such – although the chefs seem to regularly

work wonders and all veggie dishes clock in at around TL10.

**Gül Restaurant & Café** (Map p395; ☎ 247 5126; Kocatepe Sokak 1; meals TL10-20) On the cusp of Atatürk Caddesi is the backyard garden at this intimate eatery, popular with German couples. It's shaded by a crop of Antalya's famous orange trees. Small but affordable portions include octopus with baked veggies and cheese (TL12), and an entrée of mushrooms and veggies for TL8.

**Sim Restaurant** (Map p395; ☎ 248 0107; Kaledibi Sokak 7; meals TL10-20) A choice of seated areas make this simple, charming restaurant an experience worthy of return. When the weather's balmy, dine underneath the canopy in the narrow passageway at the front – the Byzantine walls will keep your secrets. Inside, global graffiti gives it a youthful pulse, while upstairs, eclectic antiques complement *köfte*, white bean salads and glorious *çorba*.

**Güneyliler** (Map p392; ☎ 241 1117; Elmali Mahallesi 4 No 12; meals TL12) With its spare, cafeteria-style interior, this very reasonably priced locals-only joint isn't much to look at. But the wood-fired *lahmacun* (Arabic-style pizza) and expertly grilled kebabs are served with so many complimentary extras, you'll likely find yourself returning again and again. If you get lost on the way, ask for directions at the Best Western on Kazım Özlal Caddesi.

**Parlak Restaurant** (Map p395; ☎ 241 6553; Kazım Özlal Qvenue Zincirlihan 7; meals TL12-25) Behind the jewellery bazaar is this sprawling open-air patio favoured by locals and legendary for its slow-roasted chicken. The service is theatrical and exact, as waiters shuffle mezes and seafood off white table cloths, while cute kittens keep you company. A good choice if you're looking to relax for a while, and just steps away from Kale Kapısı.

**Vanilla** (Map p395; ☎ 247 6013; Zafer Sokak 13; mains TL20-30) Another indicator of Antalya's rising stock is this outstanding, ultra-modern restaurant led by English chef Wayne and his brilliant host and wife, Emel. Glass surfaces and creamy vanilla leather seating let in an attractive mid-summer cool. The evolving menu is a Western European blend of steaks, pasta and reinvigorated Turkish dishes. Presentation and service are first-class.

**Villa Perla** (Map p395; ☎ 248 9793; Hesapçı Sokak 26; meals TL20-30) A small garden restaurant attached to a pension, this relaxing spot has a locally renowned meze plate (TL15).

**Gizli Bahçe** (Map p395; ☎ 244 8010; Dizdar Hasan Bey Sokak 1; meals TL25-35) The location atop the harbour is the reason to visit this pseudo-Italian restaurant. The pasta and grills are fairly standard, though the fish – lemon sole, TL30 – are beautifully prepared. Smart dress is encouraged, but the service isn't worthy of the price.

**7 Mehmet Restaurant** (Map p392; ☎ 238 5200; www.7mehmet.com; Atatürk Kültür Parkı 333; meals TL25; ☎ 11am-midnight) One of Antalya's most legendary and highly regarded eateries, 7 Mehmet's spacious indoor and outdoor dining areas sit on the hillside overlooking Konyaaltı Plajı, the city and the bay. The menu of mostly standard grilled entrées and mezes contains some of the most creatively prepared and toothsome food you're likely to encounter anywhere in Turkey.

## Drinking

Kaleiçi after dark is getting cooler by the season. The café and cocktail cultures are merging as venues jostle for harbour views. There are also pretty beer gardens humming with rhetoric; live music venues brimming with discord; and raunchy discotheques where drinks are outrageously expensive and Russian and Turkish prostitutes are in full effect. Choose wisely.

**Kale Bar** (Map p395; ☎ 248 6591; beer TL6; ☎ 11am-2am) Attached to the Tütav Turk Evi Hotel and artfully constructed around the old city wall, this is a wonderful choice for quiet evening conversation. But much better is the rooftop patio bar, which may very well own the most spectacular harbour and sea view in all of Antalya. Cocktails (TL15 to TL20) are accordingly charged for the pleasure.

**Dem-Lik** (Map p395; ☎ 247 1930; Zafer Sokak 16; beer TL4, coffee TL3.50; ☎ noon-midnight) Hidden behind high stone walls, Antalya's university crowd reshapes the world between ice-cold beers, while watching rock and blues bands perform on weekends. Meals are about TL10.

**Hangar Bar** (Map p395; Uzun Çarşı Sokak; beer TL7) The new bar in town is very loud and very proud. Set back from the street, there's a feeling of quiet opulence as you enter the all-purpose grounds. Yes, you may come inside.

**Paul's Place** (Map p395; ☎ 244 6894; www.stpaulcc-turkey.com; Yeni kapı Sokak 24; latte TL5, smoothie TL6; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri) The good word comes in coffee cups at this informal expat 'club' on the 2nd-floor of St Paul Cultural Center.

Regardless of faith, enjoy the espresso coffee, real filter coffee and home-baked pastries on offer to the genuinely needy. There's a fairly well-stocked lending library, and Turkish language classes and conversation groups happen weekly.

## Entertainment

### NIGHTCLUBS

**Club Ally** (Map p395; ☎ 244 3000; Selçuk Mahallesi, Musalla Sokak; admission TL20) A massive outdoor discotheque complete with seven bars, laser lights, and an ear-drum-shattering sound system featuring Top 40 and hip-hop. Club Ally is best experienced late at night, when a sea of beautiful bodies can be found dramatically gyrating around the dance floor's circular bar. An on-site restaurant offers seafood and meat entrées (TL16 to TL20) with a gorgeous sea view.

**Club Arma** (Map p395; ☎ 244 9710; www.clubarma.com; Yatlimani 42; admission TL15) Formerly known as Club 29, this fantastically garish outdoor disco is built right into the cliff-side above the harbour. This may in fact be Antalya's sexiest club in which to watch *gülets* float by while sipping a gin and tonic, but do take care not to fall over the railing or you'll literally end up in the drink.

**Mavi Folk Bar** (Map p395; ☎ 244 2825; Uzun Çarşı Sokak 58) A laid-back audience of mostly young Turks gathers around the candle-lit tables here – a multitiered, outdoor bar where Turkish folk musicians take to the stage nightly. The vibe is decidedly low-key and the bands set up on a stage cut right out of the old stone wall.

**Rock Bar** (Map p395; Uzun Çarşı) Something of a non-ironic throwback to the grunge era, this dark and slightly seedy tavern features local guitar bands playing covers of alt-rock classics. Located down the long alley directly across the street from Mevlana Tours on Uzun Çarşı Sokak; look for the ad-hoc motorcycle parking lot.

**Roof** (Map p395; Uzun Çarşı Sokak 36; admission TL6) The strobe lights inside this cramped 2nd-floor dance club are enough to give you a brain aneurism, but the music – banging techno and jungle – more than makes up for it. The crowds here are generally small and, although the music is played at a ridiculously high volume, there's an outdoor balcony well suited to conversation.

**Sokak Café & Bar** (Map p395; ☎ 243 8041; Mescit Sokak 17; beer TL5) Over a low stone wall from Hasanağa Restaurant is this canopy-covered

beer (Efes, TL5) garden that plays loud music to light drinkers.

**Kardelen Türkü Evi** (☎ 244 6962; Cami Sokak 9, beer TL5) An interesting mix of indie singer-songwriters and classical folk groups perform in this small, sweaty live venue.

## CINEMA

**Plaza Sinemas** (Map p392; ☎ 312 6296; Sinan Quarter, Recep Peker Caddesi 22; admission TL10) First-run Hollywood blockbusters and the occasional Turkish film are shown at this four-screen cinema, located on the ground floor of a modest shopping centre. Exit Kaleiçi from Hadrian's Gate, walk straight ahead and look for the large building with 'Antalya 2000' posted across the facade.

## THEATRE

**Antalya Kültür Merkezi** (☎ 238 5444; www.altimpor.takal.org.tr; 100 Yil Bulvarı Atatürk Kültür Parkı İci) West of the city centre by the Sheraton Hotel, this theatre has an interesting program of cultural events, from opera and ballet to folk dancing and performances by the university choir. Tickets are cheap – never more than €5.

## Getting There & Away

### AIR

Antalya's small but busy airport is 10km east of the city centre on the Alanya highway. A helpful tourist information desk is located in the lobby; a number of car-hire agencies have counters here as well. **Turkish Airlines** (Map p392; ☎ 243 4383; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 91) has at least eight

nonstop daily flights in high season to/from İstanbul and at least two from Ankara. Its office is across the street and two blocks west from the recently relocated tourist office. Across the street is the office of the more affordable **Atlasjet** (Map p392; ☎ 330 3900; Cumhuriyet Caddesi), which also has daily nonstop flights to/from İstanbul.

## BUS

Antalya's otogar (Yeni Garaj), about 4km north of the city centre, consists of two large terminals fronted by a park. Looking at the otogar from the main highway or its parking lot, the Şehirlerarası Terminali (Intercity Terminal), which serves long-distance destinations, is on the right. The Provincial Terminal, serving nearby destinations such as Side and Alanya, is on the left. Buses heading to Olympus and Kaş depart from a stop directly across the street from the Sheraton Voyager Hotel.

## Getting Around

Antalya's *tramvay* (TL1) has 10 stops and provides the simplest way of crossing town. You pay as you board and exit through the rear door. The tram runs from the Antalya Museum (the stop nearest to Konyaaltı Plajı) along Cumhuriyet Caddesi, Atatürk Caddesi and Isiklar Caddesi.

## TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Havas buses (TL10) depart from the Antalya airport every 30 minutes or so. Passengers

### SERVICES FROM ANTALYA'S OTOGAR

Destination	Fare (TL)	Duration (hr)	Distance (km)	Frequency (per day)
Adana	35	11	555	several buses
Alanya	10	2	115	every 20 min
Ankara	30	8	550	frequent
Bodrum	38	11	600	once
Denizli (Pamukkale)	20	4½	300	several
Eğirdir	15	2½	186	every hr
Fethiye (coastal)	30	7½	295	several
Fethiye (inland)	16	4	222	several
Göreme/Ürgüp	38	10	485	frequent
İzmir	28	9	550	several
Kaş	14	4	185	frequent in high season
Kemer	5	1½	35	every 10 min
Konya (via Isparta)	18	6	365	several
Konya (via Akseki)	15	5	349	several
Marmaris	35	7	590	a few
Olympos/Çıralı	8	1½	79	several minibuses & buses
Side/Manavgat	8	1½	65	every 20 min in high season

are conveniently dropped off at Kale Kapısı, just outside Kaleiçi. But to return to the airport, you'll have to get the shuttle outside the Turkish Airlines office on Cumhuriyet Caddesi (take the tram to the Selekler stop).

#### TO/FROM THE BUS STATION

The blue-and-white Terminal Otobusu 93 (TL1) heads for Atatürk Caddesi in the town centre every 20 minutes or so from the bus shelter near the taxi stand. To get from Kaleiçi to the otogar, go out of Hadrian's Gate, turn right and wait at any of the bus stops along Atatürk Caddesi. Look for 'No 93' on the bus stop's marker.

If you're in a hurry, take a dolmuş: go out of Hadrian's Gate, cross Atatürk Caddesi and walk one block towards the large Antalya 2000 building. Follow the constant stream of dolmuş traffic to the nearby glass shelter; most drivers pass the otogar on the highway (just ask). Be sure the driver knows to let you off at the otogar, and be forewarned that you'll need to dart across a wide and busy highway to reach your destination.

Too complicated? A taxi between the otogar and Kaleiçi should cost approximately TL15 during the day and TL20 at night.

### AROUND ANTALYA

Antalya is regularly used as a base for excursions to Phaselis Termessos, Perge, Aspendos and Selge. If you're travelling strictly along the coast, however, substantial time can be saved by visiting Phaselis on your way to or from Olympos or Kaş. Likewise, visiting Perge and Aspendos is easiest when travelling to or from Side or Alanya.

There's a huge array of travel agencies in Antalya's Kaleiçi area, although it's often simpler to book tours at your pension or guest house; the vast majority of sleeping options also have agencies attached. A half-day tour to the Düden Şelalesi (Düden Falls) and Termessos costs TL60 per carload. A full-day tour to Perge and Aspendos with side trips to Side and the Manavgat waterfall costs TL80. There are plenty of agencies in Antalya hiring out cars for TL50 to TL70 per day.

#### Düden Şelalesi (Düden Falls)

Less than 10km north of the city centre, the **Yukari Düden Şelalesi** (Upper Düden Falls) can be reached by dolmuş from the Antalya dolmuş stand. Within view of the falls is a

pleasant park and teahouse. This can be a relaxing spot on a hot summer afternoon, but avoid it on summer weekends when the park is crowded.

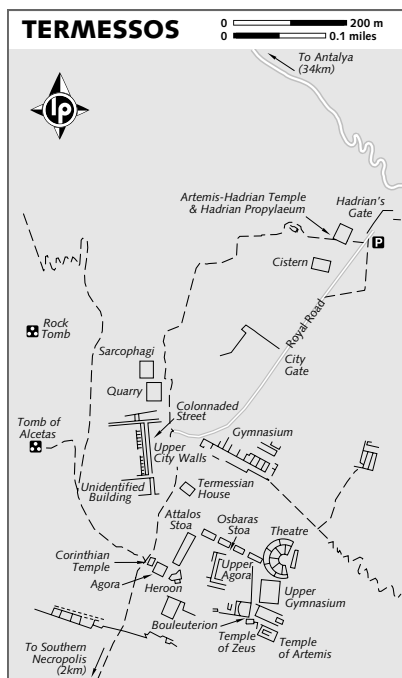
**Asağı Düden Şelalesi** (Lower Düden Falls) are down where the Düden Creek meets the Mediterranean at Lara Plajı, southeast of Antalya. Excursion yachts (p396) include a visit to the Lower Düden Falls on their rounds of the Gulf of Antalya.

#### Termessos

Hidden high and deep in a rugged mountain valley, 34km inland from Antalya, lies the ruined but still massive city of **Termessos** (admission TL8; ☎ 8am-5.30pm). It is believed that the Termessians, a Pisidian people, were fierce and prone to battling. It's known that they successfully fought off Alexander the Great in 333 BC; and that the Romans (perhaps wisely) accepted the Termessos' wishes to remain an independent ally in 70 BC.

Certainly one of the best preserved archaeological sites in Turkey, Termessos is also magnificently situated: the backdrop of forested mountains against bits and pieces of the ruined city, especially the somewhat difficult-to-reach theatre, is absolutely majestic. Yet to reach many parts of the city requires much scrambling over loose rocks and up steep paths. Do allow a minimum of two hours to explore; you need closer to four hours if you plan to see everything. Also keep in mind that, on a hot day, Termessos boils over. There's nowhere to buy refreshments, so pack your own water.

The first remains you'll come across are, conveniently enough, located within the car park. The portal on the elevated surface was once the entrance to the **Artemis-Hadrian Temple** and **Hadrian Propyleum**. Next, follow the steep path and glance occasionally to your left, where you see remains of the lower city walls and the city gate before reaching the **lower gymnasium** and **colonnaded street**, which leads to the **quarry** and some **sarcophagi**. It's a full hour's walk all the way to the southern necropolis with a detour to the **upper agora** and its five large partitions. The upper agora is an ideal spot to explore slowly and in which to catch a bit of shade. Next, push on to the nearby **theatre**, which sits in an absolutely jaw-dropping locale atop a peak, surrounded by a mountain range that seems remarkably closer than it actually is. Return from the temple to view the cut-limestone



**bouleuterion**, but use caution when scrambling across the crumbled **Temple of Artemis** and **Temple of Zeus** south of it. Both are in a fairly sorry state of disrepair, although the Temple of Zeus does offer a rather pleasant view.

The **southern necropolis** (*mezarlik*) is at the very top of the valley, 3km up from the car park. Viewed from afar, it's a rather disturbing scene of still-intact sarcophagi that seem to have been tossed intermittently from the mountainside by angry gods. In reality, earthquakes and grave robbers created the mess. There isn't much to see at the nearby **tomb of Alcetas** (head back to the main path, take a left and follow the signs), but continue on to encounter a magnificent set of **rock-hewn tombs** before returning to the car park. Free Termessos city plan maps are available for the asking at the ticket booth.

**Güllük Dağı National Park** has mountain goats, fallow deer, golden eagles and other wild and endangered animals. You'll need to pay a separate park admission fee (TL8) at the entrance, which is also where you'll find the **Flora and Fauna Museum**, which contains a bit of information about the ruined city, as

well as about the botany and zoology of the immediate area.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Taxi tours from Antalya cost around TL80. A cheaper option is to catch a Korkuteli-bound bus to the entrance of Güllük Dağı National Park where, in summer, taxis wait about an hour to run you up the Termessos road and back for TL25.

If you're driving, leave Antalya by the highway towards Burdur and Isparta, turning left after about 11km onto E87/D350, the road marked for Korkuteli, Denizli and Muğla. About 25km from Antalya, look for a road on the right marked for Karian.

Just after the Karian road, look on the left for the entrance to the national park.

### Karain Cave

A simply astounding site and one of the more unusual locales in this region of the Turkish Mediterranean, the Karain Mağarası (Karain Cave) is believed by archaeologists (who first excavated the site between 1946 and 1973) to have been continuously occupied for 25,000 years. Much of what was discovered, including stone hand-axes and arrowheads, now resides in Antalya's archaeology museum and in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. Bone fragments of Neanderthal man were also found. The largest fragment found belonged to the skull of a child. An on-site **museum** (admission TL3; ☎ 8am-6pm) has an interesting collection of animal bones and teeth that were found in the cave.

Expect to spend about 15 minutes trekking from the museum to the cave. Once you've arrived, look for the somewhat disturbing relief mask of a human face, which is carved on the central pillar of the main inner room.

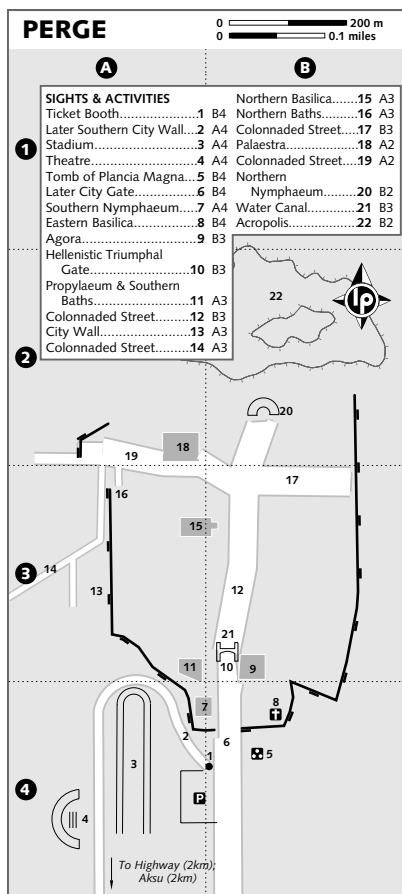
### GETTING THERE & AWAY

With your own car you can visit Termessos and Karain in the same day; a taxi tour combining the two costs around TL100. Descending from Termessos, take the Karain road just outside the national park then follow the signs. Coming from Antalya it's the next left after the road to Muğla.

### Perge

Now little more than a ruined site that can easily be explored in an hour, **Perge** (admission TL15; ☎ 9am-7.30pm), 15km east of Antalya





and 2km north of Aksu, was one of the most important towns of ancient Pamphylia. Perge experienced its golden age during the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC under the Romans; the town surrendered to Alexander the Great in 334 BC. Turkish archaeologists first began a series of excavations here in 1947 and a selection of the statues uncovered – many in magnificent condition – can be seen at the Antalya Museum.

Before approaching the site proper, the **theatre** (capacity 15,000) and **stadium** (capacity 12,000) appear along the access road. Both have been closed for some time due to unsafe conditions. The massive **Roman and Hellenistic gates** are found just inside the site. Walk through the Roman Gate, which is cu-

riously off axis, to reach the **colonnaded street**, where an impressive collection of columns still stands erect.

Stroll the length of the street, which ends at the fantastic northern **nymphaeum**; it was responsible for supplying water to the colonnaded street. Look closely at the street and notice the narrow concave channel running down the centre. From the nymphaeum, which dates to the 2nd century AD, it's possible to follow a path through the brush to the ridge of the acropolis hill. The ruins in this part of the city date from the Byzantine era, when many of the city's inhabitants relocated here after attacks from invaders on the flat land below.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

A visit to Perge can be included in the trip eastwards to Aspendos and Side, doing it all in a very long day.

Dolmuşes leave for Aksu from the Antalya otogar. Ride the 13km east from Antalya to Aksu and the turn-off for Perge, then walk (20 to 25 minutes) or hitch the remaining 2km to the ruins. You can include Perge in a taxi tour to Aspendos for roughly TL110.

### Silyon

About 7km east of Perge are the remains of Silyon, a thriving city when Alexander the Great came through in the 4th century BC. Unable to take the city, the conqueror left it and passed on. The greatest curiosity here is an inscription in the Pamphylian dialect of ancient Greek, a unique example of this little-seen language.

The ruins are difficult to reach without your own vehicle. Despite the sign saying 'Silyon 8km' on the highway, it is further: 7.2km to another right turn (unmarked); go 900m and bear left, then another 100m and turn left at a farm. The ruins are visible 1km further along.

### Aspendos

They come to **Aspendos** (Belkis; admission TL15, parking TL5; ☎ 8am-7pm) with one solitary objective in mind: to view the ancient city's awe-inspiring **theatre**, generally agreed to be the finest structure of its type in all of Anatolia, and the best preserved Roman theatre of the ancient world.

The structure was constructed by the Romans during the reign of Emperor Marcus

Aurelius (AD 161–80), and restored during the 13th century. Yet while the golden age of Aspendos stretched only from the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, the history of the city goes all the way back to the Hittite Empire (800 BC). In 486 BC a battle took place here between the Greeks and the Persians in which the Greeks were victorious.

After a tour of the region in the early 1930s, Atatürk declared Aspendos too fine an example of historical architecture to not be in use. Following a restoration that many purists weren't entirely pleased with (some questioned the authenticity of the project) the theatre continues to stage operas, concerts and folklore festivals even today.

Should your schedule allow a visit to any event happening at Aspendos, take advantage. The acoustics and lighting radically changes the atmosphere of the stadium once night falls, and the experience is 2000-year dreamy.

When leaving the theatre, follow the path on the left marked for Theatre Hill. Hack through overgrown thornbushes for a phenomenal view of the theatre, the surrounding farm land and the Taurus Mountains. Follow the 'Aqueduct' fork in the trail for a good look at the remains of the city's **aqueduct** and of the modern village to its left. You can also follow the unpaved road north for 1km for fine views of the aqueduct.

The ruins of the ancient city are extensive and include a stadium, *agora* and basilica, but they offer little to look at. Follow the aqueduct trail along the ridge to reach them.

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The internationally regarded **Aspendos Opera & Ballet Festival** is held in the Roman theatre from mid-June to early July. Tickets are TL20 (travel agencies charge a lot more) and can be bought at the office near to the tourist office in Antalya, from the office at the theatre in Side and from the Side museum (see p407).

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Aspendos lies 47km east of Antalya. If you are driving, go as far as the Köprü Creek, and notice the old Seljuk humpback bridge. Turn left (north) along the western bank of the creek, following the signs to Aspendos.

Minibuses to Manavgat drop you at the Aspendos turn-off, from where you can walk (45 minutes) or hitch the remaining 4km to the site. Taxis waiting at the highway junc-

tion will take you to the theatre for an outrageous TL12, or you can take a taxi tour from Antalya for TL90, perhaps stopping in Perge along the way.

### Selge (Zerk) & Köprülü Kanyon

The ruins of ancient Selge are scattered about the Taurus-top village of Altınkaya, 12km above spectacular Köprülü Kanyon. It's a heady place with a proud history.

As you wander through the village and its ruins, consider that Selge once boasted a population as large as 20,000. This may have had something to do with the fact that, for the majority of its existence, Selge was never sacked by any invader. Because of the city's elevated position, its enclosed wall and surrounding ravines and bridges, approaching undetected wasn't a simple task. Nevertheless, the Romans eventually took hold of the territory, which survived into the Byzantine era.

About 350m of the wall still exists, and along with it a tower and a small building that is thought to be a customs house.

At the foot of the ascent, you'll discover a dramatically arched Roman bridge spanning a deep canyon with the Köprü Irmağı (Bridge River) at its base; the bridge has been in service for close to 2000 years.

### ACTIVITIES

Around the bridge itself, you'll find villagers keen to guide you on **hikes** up from Köprülü Kanyon (Bridge Canyon) along the original Roman road, about two hours up (1½ hours down), for about TL20 each way. You can find more qualified guides at the pensions, namely Adem at Perge Pansiyon (opposite).

You can also arrange mountain treks for groups to Mt Bozburun (2504m) and other points in the Kuyucuk Dağları (Kuyucuk Range), with a guide, *katırcı* (muleteer) and *yemekçi* (cook) for about TL120 per day. There is a three-day walk through the Köprülü Kanyon on the St Paul's Trail (p359).

Numerous agencies in Antalya offer **rafting trips** in the canyon, but there are also a few sleeping options if you want to do it independently. The best rafting company is certainly **Medraft Outdoor Camp** (☎ 312 6296; www.medraft.com), a large Turkish adventure company, with fit, young staff. A day on the excellent intermediate rapids is about TL80 which includes a lesson and a four-hour trip, including a break for

lunch. Other operators charge less, but be wary of compromise.

### SLEEPING & EATING

A string of riverside pensions with excellent restaurants and a couple of good camping grounds are situated about 2km past Medraft, on the Selge side of the river. The best is **Perge Pansiyon** (☎ 765 3074; bungalow with half-board s/d TL30/50), which has brand new stylish timber bungalows, with good bathrooms, and is right on the water's flowing edge. Camping is around TL15 per person. **Selge Pansiyon** (☎ 765 3244; TL30/50) is also good value.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Köprülü Kanyon Milli Parkı and Selge are included in tours from Antalya, Side and Alanya for about TL70 per person. If you'd rather do it independently, the one daily minibus departs from Antalya's otogar in the morning for Altunkaya (TL15, two hours), returning to Antalya in the evening.

If you have your own vehicle, you can visit in half a day, though it deserves a lot more time. The turn-off to Selge and Köprülü Kanyon is about 5km east of the Aspendos road (48km east of Antalya) along the main highway.

The road is paved for the first 33km. Then, about 4km before the town of Beşkonak, the road divides, with the left fork marked for Altunkaya, the right for Beşkonak. If you take the Altunkaya road along the river's western bank, you'll pass Medraft Outdoor Camp, then a few lodgings at the river's edge. About 11km from the turn-off is the graceful old Ottoman Oluk bridge.

If instead you follow the road through Beşkonak, it is 6.5km from that village to the canyon and the bridge. The unpaved road on the western bank of the river marked for Altunkaya or Zerk (the Turkish name for Selge) climbs some 12km from the bridge to the village through increasingly dramatic scenery.

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