

Western Mediterranean



While the development – some would say destruction – of Turkey's Western littoral is well documented, it doesn't take much to discover what drew the developers here in the first place. Just a step inland will take you tumbling back to the Turkey of the pre-'70s. From around a corner trots a dusky donkey chivvied on by its headscarfed owner, off to sell her half-dozen cheeses at the local market.

And even amid the highways, high-rises and discos, the beauty of the place still manages to shimmer through. Marmaris is as shocking for the stunning beauty of its natural harbour as it is for the concrete jungle engulfing its once-charming old town.

Named the 'Turquoise Coast' by early visitors, you can see why when skimming through the surf on board a *gület* – the region's traditional wooden yacht. And most development has its upside, or so some would see it. The region has recently become something of a Mecca for activities and adventure. You can walk the beautiful Lycian Way, paraglide over Ölüdeniz's lovely lagoon, scuba dive at Kaş, or go canyoning at Saklıkent.

Best of all is the region's seamless mix of history and holiday. A stroll at midnight along a beach in Olympos or Patara will suddenly send you back thousands of years as you pass a Lycian tomb or a tremendous Corinthian temple. And between the two extremes lie some quaint coastal towns still clinging to their original charm, such as Kalkan, Kekova, Kaş or the very beautiful Kaleköy. There are signs too that things are a-changing as the region's authorities at last awaken to the importance of sensitive development.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sea-kayak over the stunning sunken city of **Üçağız** (Kekova; p376)
- Hire a scooter and hit the high roads and hidden coves of the **Hisarönü Peninsula** (p342)
- Marvel at the mythical flames of the **Chimaera** (p379) on a moonless, peopleless night
- Bargain for a boat and take a trip around the islands off **Fethiye** (p354) or **Kaş** (p371)
- Explore the Lycian ruins at **Xanthos** (p366), **Kaunos** (p348) and **Myra** (p378)
- Take flight with a paraglider and soar over the sea at **Ölüdeniz** (p359) and sample a section of the Lycian Way hike
- Potter around the ruins of **Patara** (p366) before plunging into the sea on its beautiful beach



MUĞLA

☎ 0252 / pop 49,000

If only all of Turkey's provincial capitals were like Muğla, a compact, tree-lined city set in a rich agricultural valley that prides itself on having appointed Turkey's first female *vali* (governor).

Drop your bags at the otogar and walk around the historic quarter for a couple of hours – Muğla's old Ottoman neighbourhoods, *çay bahçesi* (tea gardens) and markets are a breath of fresh air after the many concrete resorts.

Orientation & Information

Muğla's centre is Cumhuriyet Meydanı, the traffic roundabout with the statue of Atatürk. Everything you are likely to need is within walking distance: the otogar is 1km downhill (south), and the bazaar and historic quarter 500m uphill (due north) along İsmet İnönü Caddesi.

The **tourist office** (☎ 214 1261; fax 214 1244; Marmaris Bulvarı 24/1) is 100m past the Hotel Petek 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. Centuries ago there was a small fortress at the top of the hill, but not a stone remains now.

Muğla's **museum** (☎ 214 4933; Eski Postahane Caddesi; admission €1.10; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-5pm) is close to the *belediye* (town hall) and contains a small but quite interesting 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. The museum faces the beautiful **Konakaltı İskender Alper Kültür Merkezi**, which houses a community centre.

The **Vakıflar Hamamı** (☎ 214 2067; Mustafa Muğlalı Caddesi 1; bath/massage €5/14; ☎ 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, Kütüphanesokak 1; d €17) A long block northeast of the Kurşunlu Cami (follow the signs), the hotel has simple but clean and spacious rooms; four have balconies.

Hotel Petek (☎ 214 1897; fax 214 3135; Marmaris Bulvarı 27; s/d €25/45) Though the three-star Petek's a bit characterless, it's comfortable and professionally run.

Muğla Lokantası (☎ 212 3121; İsmet İnönü Caddesi 51; mains €0.85-1.65; ☎ 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; ☎ 9am-11pm) Next door to the tourist office, this new place has become a favourite locally for its delicious pide (€1.40 to €1.95) and *köfte* (grilled meatballs, €2.50). It has a few tables outside.

Muğla Belediyesi Kültür Evi (Muğla Culture House; ☎ 212 8668; İsmet İnönü Caddesi 106; breakfast €1.65, coffee €0.28; ☎ 8am-8.30pm) Recently opened by the municipality after restoration, 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.

Sanat Evi (☎ 213 0220; Hekimbaşı Sokak 9; breakfast €2.75, mains €2-3.50, beer €2.20; ☎ 7am-2am) In a 150-year-old Ottoman house, this café is great for a drink or 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.

Getting There & Away

Muğla's busy otogar runs services to all major destinations in the region. For points along the Mediterranean coast east of Marmaris, you may have to take a bus to Marmaris first and change there. Buses leave every half-hour (one



hour in low season) to Marmaris (€2.75, one hour, 55km), to Bodrum (€6.10, 2½ hours) every half-hour (one an hour in low season).

GÖKOVA (AKYAKA)

☎ 0252
About 30km north of Marmaris the road from Muğla comes over the Sakar Geçidi (Sakar Pass; 670m) to reveal breathtaking views of the Gulf of Gökova. It then switchbacks down into a fertile valley.

At the base of the hill, signs point the way to Akyaka, often called Gökova after the beautiful bay nearby. Backed by pine-clad mountains, this village descends to a little grey sand beach beside a river mouth. There are attractive two-storey houses with pantile roofs and intricate wooden balconies.

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 €15.

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

Sleeping & Eating

Susam Otel (☎ 243 5863; www.mepartours.com; Lütfiye Sakici Caddesi; s/d high season €25/31, low season €17/25; ☎) On the same road as the Şirin, the Susam has immaculate and pleasant rooms, as well as a small garden with a pretty pool. It's great value.

Otel Yücelen (☎ 243 5108; www.yucelen.com.tr; s €42-83, d €56-111 depending on room & season; ☎) Large, well managed and well designed, the Yücelen is not unlike an upmarket holiday camp. Facilities include two pools, a fitness centre, a *hamam* and table tennis, as well as the excellent and well-managed Yücelen Hotel Sports Club. Avoid the weekends if possible; it's packed with Muğla students.

Şirin Lokanta (Lütfiye Sakici Caddesi 45; mains €1.65-2.20; ☎ 8am-2am) Around 25m from the Golden Roof, this place does great home cooking at unbeatable prices. Dishes change daily and it's a good choice for veggies.

Golden Roof Restaurant (☎ 408 9898; Lütfiye Sakici Caddesi 43; meze €1.95, mains €4.70-11; ☎ 8am-1am Apr-mid-Nov) About 250m west of Otel Yücelen, this is considered Gökova's best. It's a simple, family-run affair, but mamma's cooking is good and the prices are fair too.

About 750m beyond the village is the **Gökova Orman İci Dinlenme Yeri** (picnic & camp ground; ☎ 243 4398; admission per person/car €0.40/3.80, camp site per tent/car €4.70/5.55; bungalow up to 6 people €83).

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 €42-56, d €56-75 depending on room & season; ☎) housed in an old seamen's lodging and beautifully set on the seafront amid gardens, a cool mountain stream and a pool, is a tranquil and pretty place. Rooms are smallish but comfortable and 13 have sea views. It's great value.



Getting There & Away

Minibuses run from Gökova to Muğla (€1.10, 30 minutes, 26km) every half-hour, and to Marmaris (€1.40, 30 minutes) twice a day in high season only. Minibuses coming from Marmaris can drop you at the highway junction, from where it's about a 2.5km walk down to the beach or you can wait for a minibus.

MARMARIS

☎ 0252 / pop 35,160

The once-sleepy fishing village of Marmaris sits on the marvellous natural harbour where Lord Nelson organised his fleet for the attack on the French at Abukir in 1798. The setting may still be glorious but the picturesque old part of town around the harbour and castle is now all but lost in the concrete sprawl trailing off to the west.

In the summer the town's population swells to around 200,000, mostly package holiday-makers. The bazaar is full of expensive souvenirs and budget tourists, the streets are full of traffic, and the restaurant scene is based on fish and chips with beer by the gallon. But, to its credit, the town council has woken up and the harbourside promenade now boasts some handsome albeit modern stone buildings. The town also has a disarmingly liberal attitude – there aren't many other places in Turkey where a bikini-clad, tattooed tourist draining a can of beer on the main street at noon doesn't raise an eyebrow.

If it's a last night out, a boat cruise or a ferry to Greece you're after, this is the place.

Marmaris still has Turkey's largest and most modern yacht marina and is consequently the country's busiest yacht-charter port; and the bar district and harbour have a great range of places to drink.

The rugged coastline around Marmaris is an undiscovered gem – only 10km from Marmaris' bright lights, the deeply indented coastline holds bays of azure sea backed by pine-covered mountains. When you need to escape, hire a car or motorcycle and cruise around the rugged Reşadiye and Hisarönü Peninsulas.

Orientation

The otogar is about 3km north of the town centre. From there, dolmuşes run down the wide Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı and deposit arrivals at the Tansaş Shopping Centre, which is a useful landmark, as well as at the Sitele dolmuş stop.

At the end of Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı, marked by the obligatory Atatürk statue, Yeni Kordon Caddesi veers left along the waterfront for 300m to the İskele Meydanı, the harbourside 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).

Inland from İskele Meydanı stretches the *çarşı* (bazaar) district, much of it a pedestrianised covered bazaar.

Also known as Hacı Mustafa Sokak and – popularly – Bar St, 39 Sokak runs from the bazaar to a canal from where a bridge leads over to the marina.

Uzunyalı, a beach district full of hotels and tourist restaurants, is about 3km west of İskele Meydanı; Sitele, also called Şirinyer, is about 5km southwest of İskele Meydanı; and İcmeler, 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 Günlücek Park, a forest park reserve; and just beyond it is Aktaş, a relatively unspoiled seaside village with several hotels and camping grounds.

Information

There is a cluster of internet cafés in the alley beside the PTT. 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 €1.65; ☎ 10am-midnight low season, to 2am high season) A new place. You can buy drinks from the café below.

Internet C@fé (☎ 412 0799; Atatürk Caddesi, Huzur Apt 30; per 30 mins €1.10; ☎ 10am-1am). More expensive than the CED.

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) 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. The fortress is now the **Marmaris Museum** (Marmaris Müzesi; ☎ 412 7420; admission €1.10; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-5pm Tue-Sun). Exhibits are predictably nautical, historical, ethnographic and fairly unexciting, though the building itself, draped in bougainvillea, and the views over the marina and out to sea are lovely.

BEACHES

For such a major holiday resort it's strange that there aren't any good beaches near town. Hotel swimming pools provide the solution.

The beaches at İçmeler and Turunç (p341) can be reached by dolmuşes from outside the Tansaş Shopping Centre, and water taxis from

INFORMATION		Marina Hotel.....12 C3		ENTERTAINMENT	
CED Internet C@fé.....	1 D3	Özcan Pension.....	13 A2	Arena.....	23 D2
Internet C@fé.....	2 A3	Royal Maris Otel.....	14 A3	Back Street.....	24 D2
Money Exchange Offices.....	3 B2			Crazy Daisy.....	25 D2
Post Office (PTT).....	4 C3			Greenhouse.....	26 C3
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		EATING			
		Café Yavuz			
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		SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES			
Deep Blue Dive Center.....	6 C3	Doyum.....	15 B2	TRANSPORT	
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		İdil Mantil Evi.....	17 D2	İçmeler Dolmuş Stop.....	29 B2
		Liman Restaurant.....	18 C2	Marmaris Taxi.....	30 A3
		Meyrem Ana.....	19 C2	Sitelir Dolmuş Stop.....	31 B2
		Ney Restaurant.....	20 C3	Taxi Stand.....	32 C3
		Özsüt.....	21 B3	Turkish Airlines.....	33 A3
		SLEEPING		Water Taxi to Turunç.....	34 B3
Ayçe Otel.....	8 A2			Water Taxi to İçmeler.....	35 B3
Barış Motel.....	9 A2			Water Taxi to Turunç.....	36 C3
Hotel Begonya.....	10 D2	DRINKING			
Interyouth Hostel.....	11 C2	Panorama Bar.....	22 C3		

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 €0.85, to Turunç €2.75.

HAMAM

The clean and modern **Armutalan Hamam** (☎ 417 5375; 136 Sokak 1; bath & scrub €14, with massage €19.50; ☎ 8.30am-10pm May-Oct) lies behind the government hospital just off Datça 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 TRIPS

Besides the daily boats to Rhodes (p340), yachts, cheek-by-jowl along the waterfront, offer day tours of Marmaris Bay, its beaches and islands. They cost around €175 to €200 per boat (up to four people – around €24 to €28 per person), but you'll need to negotiate. Yachts sail from May (some from April) to October.

Boats usually leave between 9.30am and 10.30am and return at around 5pm to 5.30pm.

SAIL YOUR OWN GÜLET

If you want to charter a boat, Marmaris and Fethiye are good places to ask around the yachting companies. 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 €350 per day, with prices rising to €600 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 €2000. In high summer expect to pay €2700. 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, p356, describes other *gület* cruises and, for a cautionary tale, see the boxed text, p357.

Before signing up, check where the excursion goes, its cost and whether lunch is included and, if so, what's on the menu.

Bay excursions usually visit Paradise Island, Amos, Turunç, Green Sea and İçmeler.

Two-day trips (around €385 for the boat) and three-day trips (€555) popularly go to Dalyan and Kaunos. You can also charter longer, more serious boat trips to Datça and Knidos, west of Marmaris.

DIVING

Several centres offer scuba diving excursions and courses from April to October. The **Deep Blue Dive Center** (☎ 412 4438; Yeni Kordon Caddesi) charges €280 for a PADI Open Water course over two to four days. Day excursions cost €35 including two dives, all equipment, a dive-master and lunch.

Sleeping

Interyouth Hostel (☎ 412 3687; interyouth@turk.net; 42 Sokak 45; dm or s without bathroom with/without ISiC card €5.60/7, d without bathroom €14; ☎) Located inside the covered bazaar (signposted up the

stairs), this hostel is efficiently run by the helpful Halit who's also a great source of travel information. Rooms, though smallish and rather Spartan, are spotless and well maintained. It also has 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 (€17 per day), and boat tickets to Rhodes and for *gület* cruises (see the boxed text, p356) are sold here.

Bariş Motel (☎ 413 0652; barismotel@hotmail.com; 66 Sokak 10; s/d €17/22; ☹; high season only) With its clean and quite spacious rooms and its firm family feel, this is a pleasant choice. Rooms have balconies.

Özcan Pension (☎ 412 7761; 66 Sokak 17; s/d high season from €11/17, low season from €5.50/14) Appearing rather elderly, tired and unwelcoming, this pension's nevertheless a clean and good-value place. A few rooms have balconies and there's a pleasant garden terrace.

THE SPONGE DIVERS OF MARMARIS

'Before tourism came, our main source of income in Marmaris was sponge diving. I remember that every year, in early April or May when the seas were calm, most of the men of the village would say goodbye to their families and leave to go diving. We didn't see them again for six months. Working along the reef from Marmaris to Antalya and around Bodrum too, they covered maybe 600km.

'Each diving team basically had three boats, a mother boat where the divers slept and ate, a working boat that pumped air directly to them as they dived, and a rowing boat taking the divers to and from their fishing.

'When they dived, they would walk along the sea bed at depths of 35m or 40m, collecting as many sponges in their baskets as they could. When their dive time was up or they began to go too deep, the captain would pull on the pilot string attached to their lead basket.

'But because they were paid by the kilo, many divers went well beyond their safety limits. Sometimes they went as deep as 50m or 60m or more! If a diver lost consciousness or stopped responding to the pilot string, they'd haul him up to a shallower depth and leave him in the water until he began to respond again.

'Yes, serious accidents did unfortunately happen and divers were injured – or even killed – every year. Maybe the air pipe would get caught in a propeller or the air pump would break down, but usually it was the divers themselves that got themselves into trouble.

'I remember all the women and children at the quayside keeping their eyes on the Straits of Marmaris waiting for their husbands or fathers to return. When a diver didn't come home, all of Marmaris went into mourning. It would be the talk of town for weeks. All of us boys had uncles who had been injured or died. Usually they were paralysed – sometimes from the waist down. I had a neighbour who was crippled.

'But it wasn't just for the money that they took these risks. There was terrible competition not just between the different boat crews but also between the divers themselves. There was huge prestige in the amount of sponges a diver collected – his daily tally was chalked up on a board on the boat. Also how deep he dared to go and how long he dared to dive for. After the dives, many divers would drink. I remember them buying lots of bottles of raki. My father had a grocery shop in Marmaris where they used to come. But they never paid their bills and in the end my father went bankrupt.

'We all knew that it was a hard job and I guess we thought that they were brave and in a way heroic. They were definitely richer than the rest of us (though I don't think any died rich – though the agents did) and they dressed in a certain way, walked in a certain way, and spent money. Sometimes you'd see them building quite big houses. There were many folk songs about them too – or about their families and the losses they endured.'

The 1970s saw the final demise of Marmaris' divers, but some are still alive and still full of tales of their diving days. You can ask to meet them if you like, though none speak English. Look out also for the diver memorial statue in Marmaris.

With thanks to Erol Uysal, local guide and historian, for agreeing to be interviewed in Marmaris.

Ayçe Otel (☎ 412 3136; fax 412 3705; 64 Sokak 11; s €17-20, d €22-28 depending on season; ☹; ☹) Central, friendly, family-run and with good facilities, this is a two- or three-star hotel at one-star prices. With comfortable rooms with balconies, a medium-sized pool and a pleasant roof terrace, it's terrific value.

Royal Maris Otel (☎ 412 8383; www.royalmarisotel.com; Atatürk Caddesi 34; s €22-50, d €39-83 depending on season; ☹; ☹) Comfortable and stylish (with a roof terrace that's designed to resemble a ship's deck), this hotel is great value. Facilities include two pools, a private beach, a hamam and a fitness centre. All rooms have balconies and 50 have direct sea outlooks. The views from some rooms and from the roof terrace are stunning.

Marina Hotel (☎ 412 0010; www.marmarismarinahotel.com; Barbaros Caddesi 39; s €28, d €40-44; ☹; Apr-Oct) 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-spectators.

Hotel Begonya (☎ 412 4095; fax 412 1518; 39 Sokak 101; d high/low season €34/17; ☹) 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.

Eating RESTAURANTS

If you're planing a feast of fish, be sure to ask about prices before ordering, particularly on the waterfront. 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 €1.40-2.25 ☹; 8am-11pm) Though 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 of many dishes costs €4.45).

Liman Restaurant (☎ 412 6336; 40 Sokak 38; ☹; 8.30am-1am) Though something of an institution and well known for its mezes (€2.50 to €8), this lively restaurant inside the bazaar is not the cheapest of places. But the fish soup (€4) is famous, and the *buğlama* (steamed fish, €19 for 500g) a sumptuous speciality.

Fellini (☎ 413 0826; Barbaros Caddesi 61; meals €10; ☹; 9am-midnight) Perennially popular with both locals and visitors in the know, this attractively set waterfront restaurant does great thin-crust pizzas (€7 to €9) and also has pasta (€5 to €9).

Ney Restaurant (☎ 412 0217; 26 Sokak 24; meze €2.20, mains €5-11) 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).

CAFÉS & QUICK EATS

Café Yavuz Pastisserie (☎ 412 6876; Atatürk Caddesi 34/A; ice cream per scoop €0.85, ☹; 6.30am-9.30pm low season, to 1.30am high season) Also offering an appetising array of Turkish tentalisers, this place is particularly known for its baklava (€1.65 for four pieces), made daily.

Özsüt (☎ 413 4708; Atatürk Caddesi 4; ice cream per scoop €0.70, puddings €1.95-2.20; ☹; 9am-midnight) With tables set on the seafont, this is the perfect place to tuck into a Turkish pud or two. This ever-popular chain offers the usual freshness and high quality that will have you moaning for more. Try the delightfully named *aşure* (Noah's pudding).

Doyum (☎ 413 4977; Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı 17; ☹; 24 hr) Serving fresh home cooking at fabulous prices, the Doyum is all-too-rare in Marmaris. Perhaps that's why it's packed with appreciative locals. Clean, friendly and always open, it's a good place for an early breakfast (€2.20), and also serves an array of tasty veggie dishes (€1.10 to €2.20)

İdil Manti Evi (☎ 413 9771; 39 Sokak 140; meze 2.20-2.75, mains €5.50-10; ☹; 4pm-4am) Conveniently located in Bar St, this is a great place if you get 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 (€3.35 to €6.65) are available. The *gözleme* (crêpes, €2.75 to €4.45) make a great snack.

Drinking & Entertainment

Marmaris' nightlife rivals anything on the Turkish coast. The aptly named 'Bar St' (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 €3.90, spirits €4.40 and there are foam parties every night as well as dance and laser shows.

Bars 'in' when we visited included the ever-popular **Back Street** (☎ 412 4048; 39 Sokak 93) and a close second, **Areena** (☎ 412 2906; 39 Sokak 54; beer €4.50), with its bar elevated above a large dance floor and high-quality lasers. Ranking number-three in the trendy stakes is **Crazy Daisy** (☎ 412 4048; 39 Sokak 121; ☎ 3pm-4am May-mid-Sep) with its raised terraces (good for dancing on), as well as the cavernous **Greenhouse** (☎ 412 8792; 39 Sokak; beer €3.90).

The **Panorama Bar** (☎ 413 4835; Hacı İmam Sokağı 40; beer €2.75; ☎ 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 Net-sel Marina, there is also an **open-air cinema** (tickets €3.85; ☎ Jun-Sep) behind the Keyif Bar. All movies are English-language releases and are screened at sunset. At the time of writing it was closed, but there were plans to reopen it in the future.

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; €3) for their 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 (€3.90) from Marmaris otogar, and take a short but quite expensive taxi ride (€14) from there.

Turkish Airlines (☎ 412 3751; Atatürk Caddesi 26-B) has an office about 400m west of the Atatürk statue on the waterfront. See p351 for info on flights.

BOAT

Catamarans sail daily to Rhodes Town in Greece (one way/same-day return/open re-

turn €42/42/73 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 €57/57/75) at 8am daily, returning from Marmaris at 4.30pm. Cars cost €150/180/180 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.

Tickets can be bought from any travel agency including **Yeşil Marmaris Travel & Yacht-ing** (☎ 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 (€6.70, 3½ hours, 165km) every one to two hours in high season, every three hours in low season. All year round, buses run to İstanbul (€25, 13 hours, 805km) four times a day, to İzmir (€10.65, 4¼ hours, 320km) every hour, to Fethiye (€5.55, three hours, 170km) every half-hour, and to Antalya (€15, six hours, 590km) twice a day.

For Dağça (€3.90, 1¾ hours) dolmuşes run every hour in high season and every 1½ hours

in low season. For Köyçeğiz (€2.80, 40 minutes) take the Fethiye bus. For Dalyan, take the Fethiye bus and change at Ortaca (€3.40, 1½ hours) and take the dolmuş.

Getting Around

Frequent dolmuşes run around the bay, beginning and ending at the Tansaş Shopping Centre on Ulusal Egemenlik Bulvarı. Recently, they have been colour-coded to denote their different routes: the green dolmuşes go to Uzunyalı (€0.55, 3km) and Turban-Sitelere (€0.90, 6km), and the orange ones to İçmeler (€1.70, 11km).

AROUND MARMARIS

Once a separate fishing village, **İçmeler**, 8km west and south around the bay, is now merely a beach suburb of Marmaris. However, it feels a much classier place, not least because it has been better planned and has a relatively clean beach.

Turunç is the next beach resort, but its isolated position has given it some protection from massive overdevelopment. It is popular with British tourists seeking a more relaxed atmosphere than the Marmaris scene. Dolmuşes make the trip over the mountains and down a steep hillside to the cove every 40 minutes (€3.40).

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 (€4.15, 30 minutes, every 30 minutes) and Turunç (€5.55, 50 minutes, every hour).

REŞADİYE & HISARÖNÜ PENINSULAS

A narrow, mountainous finger of land stretches west from Marmaris for about 100km into the Aegean Sea between the Greek islands of Kos and Rhodes. Known in ancient times as the Peraea, it is now called the Reşadiye or Dağça Peninsula; its southern branch is known as the Hisarönü or Daraçya Peninsula, with the ruins of the ancient city of Loryma at its tip.

The peninsulas have some of Turkey's most beautiful coastline, with deep blue bays, rugged mountains and islands shimmering in the distance, and some excellent, well-priced pensions where you can laze for days.

A road twists its way from Marmaris west to the tip of the Reşadiye Peninsula, perfect for hiring a scooter, although a voyage by boat is

preferable. 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 Bozburun (a fishing town 56km from Marmaris), Dağça (a resort town about 60km west of Marmaris) and the hamlet and ruins of Knidos (the ancient city of the great sculptor Praxiteles) 35km west of Dağça. Here there are ferry connections to Rhodes and the neighbouring Greek island Simi (Symi).

Selimiye

☎ 0252

About 9km south of Orhaniye is an intersection with roads to Bayır and Bozburun. Follow the Bozburun road to reach the village of Selimiye, a traditional boat-builders' village on its own lovely bay facing an islet topped by bits of ancient ruin. Some hotels have been built beside the beach here.

SLEEPING & EATING

Hotel Begovina (☎ 446 4292; fax 446 4181; s/d low season €11/17, high season €14/28) 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 lies just metres from the shingle beach and is excellent value.

Hydas Otel (☎ 446 4297; fax 446 4298; Selimiye Köyü; s/d €20/42; ☎ Apr-Oct; ♿) Despite the rather lurid Mediterranean colours and twee towels arranged like bows, rooms are spotless and comfortable. Those on the upper level share a large zigzag terrace overlooking the café and seafront. It lies around 100m east of the Yakana, and has a medium-sized pool.

Sardunya Bungalows (☎ 446 4003; s €20-26, d €33-45 depending on season; ♿) Nestled behind the Sardunya Restaurant, these attractive stone bungalows are set around a garden less than 50m from the water. A good choice for travellers with children.

Yakana Beach Hotel (☎ 446 4360; www.yakana.com; Selimiye Köyü; s/d €22/44; ♿ ♿) East of the Begovina, the Yakana is a modern, well-designed hotel by the beach. There are 35 rooms around a pleasant pool; some have balconies and sea views.

Beyaz Güvercin Motel (White Pigeon; ☎ 446 4274; www.beyazguvercin.com; Selimiye Köyü; s €34-56, d €45-75 depending on season; ♿ ♿) Perched on a hillside at the end of the bay 3km from the town centre, the hotel has a peaceful location amid large

and attractive gardens that stretch over 6500 sq m. The chalet-style rooms are simple but some have glimpses of the sea. Windsurfing and sailing are possible and there's a floating restaurant aboard a *taka* (Black Sea boat).

Sardunya Restaurant (☎ 446 4003; meals around €6) It's not quite as pretty as the Aurora but serving even better food. Local organic products are used and it specialises in fish and seafood. Its *kalamar* (squid) stuffed or fried (€6.65) are famous. Try also the delicious *buğulama* (fish casserole, €14).

Aurora Restaurant (☎ 446 4097; Bahçeçi; meals €17-22; ☞ 9am-1am Apr-Oct) With a good reputation locally, 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 mouthwatering too.

Falcon Restaurant & Pansiyon (☎ 446 4105; Selimiye Köyü; ☞ 9am-midnight) Offering similar fare to the Aurora, this is a new, family-run restaurant about 100m from the town centre and 40m from the sea.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Dolmuşes run to and from Marmaris (€2.75) every two hours. For Bozburun, you can hop

on the Bozburun to Marmaris bus (which passes through Selimiye) if there's space.

Bozburun

☎ 0252

From Selimiye the road twists onwards until, after 12km, you reach Bozburun, a sleepy seaside village and one of the biggest boat-building ports on the Mediterranean. Bozburun is a perfect antidote to the tourist madness of Marmaris. Fishing and farming still employ most villagers, though some work in bars and shops set up to serve the yachting who drop anchor in Sömbeki Körfezi (Sömbeki Bay). There are a few small, well-run pensions and a PTT. Some of the shops exchange currency.

Bozburun is not known for its beaches, but you can dip into the startlingly blue water from the rocks by the primary school south-east of the bust of Atatürk, and charter private vessels to explore the surrounding bays. There are also many interesting walks in the surrounding countryside.

SLEEPING

Yilmaz Pansiyon (☎ 456 2167; www.yilmazpansion.com; İskele Mahallesi 391; s/d €11/22) This convenient and

friendly little pension is around 100m from the centre and 200m from the dolmuş station. Rooms are simple but cheerful and there's a vine-covered terrace metres from the sea. Six rooms have direct sea views and the hotel boasts a good breakfast.

Pembe Yunus (Pink Dolphin; ☎ 456 2154; www.pembeyunus.net; Kargı Mahallesi 37; s/d €14/22; ☞ Apr-Oct; ☞ ☑) Around 700m from the dolmuş station (though you can ask to be dropped here) is this delightful pension run by a mother and her ex-model daughter. Rooms, lavender blue as if sponged with rugs and rustic-style furniture, are clean and homely. Four have stunning sea views. Fatma, the mother, cooks famously. Set-menu dinners cost €14.

Dolphin Pansiyon (☎ 456 2408; Plaj; www.dolphinpansion.com; Kargı Mahallesi 51; s/d €22/44) A four-year labour of love built stone by Bozburun stone by Yılmaz (son of the indefatigable Fatma from Pembe Yunus), this well-designed place has 10 good-sized and pleasantly decorated rooms with balconies and sensational sea views. There's also a verdant terrace and sundeck above the water. From May to September Yılmaz runs daily boat excursions (€8 per person, minimum two people) around the bay. Swimming, snorkelling and fishing are all available.

Sabrinashaus (☎ 456 2045; Plaj; www.sabrinashaus.de; r €47-61, 15% extra May-mid-Nov) Only reachable by boat or a 20-minute walk from the Dolphin Pansiyon, Sabrinashaus 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

Kandıllı Restaurant (☎ 456 2227; İskele Mahallesi 3; meze €1.65; ☞ 7.30am-midnight) The local favourite, this restaurant does good home-style cooking as well as excellent fresh fish. Try the delicious *kalamar tava* (fried squid, €6.40).

Bozburun Restaurant (☎ 456 6943; ☞ 8.30am-midnight Apr-Sep) Though it looks hideously touristy (and proudly brandishes photos of Bill Gates eating here), it offers some great value two-course fixed meat/fish menus (including 17 types of meze) for €8/€10. Grab a table on the seafront.

Fishermen House (☎ 456 2730; İskele Mahallesi 391; meze €1.40, seafood meze €3.35, fish €10-12 per 500g;

☞ 8am-midnight Apr-7 Nov) Run by a local fisherman, this place offers fresh fish at unbeatable prices. There are tables on the waterfront.

Sabrinashaus (☎ 456 2045; ☞ dinner) 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 (including a meze buffet and seasonal fish) costs €22. 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.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Minibuses run between Bozburun and Marmaris (€2.75, 50 to 60 minutes) six times a day via Selimiye year-round.

Datça

☎ 0252 / pop 10,570

Connected only tenuously to the mainland, the little harbour town of Datça seems to have floated away from the big resorts. It has some decent beaches and an easy-going mix of yachting, English and particularly German retirees, as well as trendy İstanbullus and families. A weekly hydrofoil connects the town to Rhodes.

Datça's 'undiscoveredness' may not last long. A big shopping mall is billed to open by the end of 2007, and the road from Marmaris is being improved so that in future it will take just 45 minutes to get to Datça from Marmaris.

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.

ORIENTATION

The main street, İskele Caddesi, runs downhill from the highway, before arriving at 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).

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 Datça-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 €14 to €17. 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.

SLEEPING

Illica Camping (☎ 712 3400; www.illicacamping.com; Taşlık Plajı; per person/campervan €4.45/11, bungalow with/without bathroom (€17/11)) On the eastern bay and right on the seafrost is this pleasant and grassy camping ground shaded by eucalyptus trees. Watch where you camp; the 15 resident ducks leave eggs everywhere!

Tunç Pansiyon (☎ 712 3036; Buxerolles Caddesi; s/d €11/20, apt for up to 5 people €33) Down the second street on the right after the *hükümet* (government) building, the Tunç is family run and very friendly. Rooms are simple but sunny and spotless. The owner also runs one-day car excursions to Knidos and surrounds, charging just for the petrol (€11 for one to three people).

Villa Tokur (☎ 712 8728; www.hoteltokur.com; r €42, 1-bedroom apt for up to 4 people €61; ☞ mid-Apr–mid-Nov; ☞ ☞) Built and designed by the German-Turkish couple who live here, the Villa Tokur is Datça's best and is situated in a quiet and peaceful location about a five- to 10-minute walk uphill from Taşlık Plajı. Rooms are attractively furnished and have balconies with views over the pool, bay and village.

Villa Carla (☎ 712 2029; www.villacarladatca.com; Kargı Koyu Yolu; s/d high season €36/61, low season €28/50; ☞ ☞) Perched halfway up the hill, the biggest boon of this hotel is its stunning views all the way to Rhodes. All rooms have direct sea views and most have balconies too. The pleasant outdoor pool also boasts a lovely outlook. 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 in the village centre.

EATING

Emek Restaurant (☎ 712 3375; Yat Limanı; mains €5.50-8); ☞ 9am-1am Mar-Sep) Datça's oldest restaurant boasts delightful views over the bay from its terrace elevated above the waterfront. The owner's son is a fisherman, which guarantees fresh fish at pleasing prices.

Fevzinn Yeri (☎ 712 9746; Ambarcı Caddesi 13/A; meals around €7.50; ☞ 7pm-1am) Specialising only in fish, the theme's so nautical here it looks almost like a marine museum, and guests leave their comments too, but on the walls! The fish has an excellent reputation and the prices are unbeatable.

Papatya Restaurant & Bar (☎ 712 2860; Kargı Yolu Caddesi 4; köfte €4.45) This pretty old stone house, with a gorgeous terrace under a vine-

covered pergola, is about 60m up the hill from the mosque above the marina. It offers a mouthwatering menu. Try the exquisite *karides güveç saraplı fırında* – shrimps oven-baked in wine.

Zekeriya Sofrası (☎ 712 4303; İskele Caddesi 60; Turkish/English breakfast €2.75/5.25, köfte €3.35) Run by its namesake, the friendly Zekeriya, this place is popular locally for its home-style cooking at decent prices. 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.

DRINKING

Datça's nightlife centres on the harbour, where there are a few small music pubs and bars. The following were among the most popular at the time of writing:

Bolero (☎ 712 9865; Yalı Caddesi 16; beer €1.65; ☞ 8am-2am) Ever popular.

Nurs Gallus Garden (☎ 712 9865; admission incl drink €5.55, beer €2.50; ☞ 11am-4am Jun-Sep) On the hill about 150m from the beach. A new place, it shares the pleasant pool-side bar and the views over the bay with the Sound Dance Club.

Sound Dance Club (admission incl drink €5.55, beer €2.50; ☞ 11am-4am Jun-Sep) Next door to Nurs Gallus, it's the only nightclub in town and sometimes stages live music.

Sun Café Bar (Gallus Bar; ☎ 712 9465; Yat Limanı; beer €2.25; ☞ 10am-3am) Another new place about 50m beyond the Bolero.

Sunries Café Bar (☎ 712 9518; Yat Limanı; beer €1.65; ☞ 9.30am-3am) The owner is a colourful character and a local draw.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Dolmuşes run to Marmaris (€3.85, 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 and provide a free shuttle service to and from the otogar.

From May to September hydrofoils to Rhodes (single/return €35/70, 45 minutes) and Simi (single/return €30/60, 15 minutes) leave 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 (€50, 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; www.knidosyachting.com; 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 (€30/50 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 about 5km from Datça on the Gulf of Gökova). Ferries leave for Bodrum (passenger single/return €11/14, car and driver €28, extra passengers €2.75) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9am, and on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 5pm. 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 (€139 per day, maximum 10 people) or more. In high season the price can double.

Eski Datça

☎ 0252

Lying 3km from Datça, Eski Datça (Old Datça) is a picturesque hamlet of cobbled streets and old stone houses, most of them lovingly restored. If you're in search of peace and quiet there are a couple of delightful places to stay.

In a 150-year-old stone house with a pool set in a gorgeous walled garden, **Dede Pansiyon** (☎ 712 3951; Can Yücel Sokak; www.dedepansiyon.com; s/d €28/56; ☞ ☞) is a lovely place to stay. The six rooms have individual characters and their own little kitchen. About 350m beyond the village (follow the signs), **Doğa Pansiyon** (☎ 712 2178; www.dogapansiyon.com; Datça Mahallesi 9; s/d low season €17/33, high season €20/39) has simple but spotless rooms with fridge and a little kitchenette that share a veranda overlooking the yard.

There are now two restaurants and two cafés in town, all of them recently opened. With tables under a vine-clad pergola, **Datça Sofrası** (☎ 712 4188; Hurma Sokak 16; mains €3.85-5.55; ☞ 7.30am-midnight) 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 €2.20-3.05; ☞ 10am-midnight) on the main square, with tables inside and outside.

Around 50m before the Dede Pansiyon is the **Antik Café** (☎ 712 9176; Can Yücel Sokak 1; coffee €1.10, mains €2.75-3.85; ☞ 9am-1am) which, with cushioned benches set in a pleasant terrace-garden shaded by almond trees, is a very peaceful place for a coffee, tea or snack.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

From Datça to Eski Datça (€0.85), 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

At the very tip of the peninsula, 35km west of Datça, are the ruins of the prosperous port city of Knidos dating from about 400 BC. The Dorians who founded it were smart: 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 prosperous 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.

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 (not open to the public at the time of research). 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.

The ruins of Knidos 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.

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.

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 €35.

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 €12 per person.

KÖYCEĞİZ

☎ 0252 / pop 7,520

This sleepy little town, set inside a nature reserve, perches at the northern end of a large lake, Köyceğiz Gölü, which is joined to the Mediterranean Sea by the Dalyan River. Except for its small (but growing) tourist trade, Köyceğiz is a farming town producing citrus fruit, olives, honey and cotton. This region is also famous for its liquidambar trees, source of precious amber gum. The only real attraction here is the lake itself – broad, beautiful and serene.

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. Kordon Boyu, the road skirting the lake, has several pensions and restaurants, and some fine mature eucalyptus trees. The local market, which brings in people from outlying villages, is held every Monday.

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.

Sights & Activities

Stroll along the lakeshore promenade past the pleasant town park, shady tea gardens and several restaurants. Several pensions rent out bicycles, so take a ride out to the surrounding orchards and farmland. The road along the western shore of the lake to the Sultaniye mud baths (p351) 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) – they all seem to know where to drop you (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 €9 to €12 per person including lunch; the vessels line up on the waterfront.

Sleeping

Most of the accommodation options are off to the west as you approach the mosque when coming into town.

Fulya Pension (☎ 262 2301; fulyapension@mynet.com; Ali İhsan Kalmaz Caddesi 100; s/d €8.50/16.50; ☎ ☎) Though small and simple, rooms are clean and cheap, all have balconies and there's a roof terrace. The friendly owner offers free use of 24 bikes and boat trips (€5.55) to the local attractions, including lunch.

Flora Hotel (☎ 262 4976; www.florahotel.info; Kordon Boyu 96; s/d/apt €11/22/33; ☎ ☎) Around 800m from the centre, this has a peaceful lakeside location, but rooms and balconies have only side views of the lake. Apartments sleep two adults and two children. The manager can arrange treks into the nearby Gölgeci Moun-tains.

Alila Hotel (☎ 262 1150; Emeksiz Caddesi 13; s/d high season €20/28, low season €14/22; ☎ ☎) Uniquely set right by the lakeside, 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!). It also boasts a pool set in gardens at the lakeside and is by far the best value in town.

Tango Pansiyon (☎ 262 2501; www.tangopension.com; Ali İhsan Kalmaz Caddesi 112; dm/s/d per person €6.50/11/15.50; ☎ ☎) Managed by the local school sports teacher, this place is big on activities including day and night boat trips (€6.65 to €8), trekking (€11) and rafting (€22). Prices include lunch and transfers. Rooms are bright, cheerful and well maintained, and there's a pleasant garden. It's popular with tour groups, so you may need to book.

Panorama Plaza (☎ 262 3773; www.panorama-plaza.net; Cengiz Topel Caddesi 69; s/d €22/39; ☎ ☎) Lying

almost 1km west of the mosque, this rather ugly-looking building has a pleasant pool in peaceful gardens with lake views. Rooms are comfortable and are good value. Bikes, windsurfing and sailing are all free to guests.

Eating

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

Köyceğiz Belediye (☎ 262 4090; Ulucamii Mahallesi; coffee or tea €0.27, cola €0.85; ☎ 8am-10pm) It's actually part of government-owned camping, but the café, 1km out of town on the Ekincik road, serves drinks at rock-bottom prices right on the beach. You can swim and sunbathe here.

Mutlu Kardeşler (☎ 262 2480; Tören Alanı 52; soup €1.10, köfte 2.20, kebab €2.75, pide €1.10-2; ☎ 7am-1am) A simple but charming place off the main square, it is much-loved locally and has tables on a little green and shaded terrace out the back. The prices are unbeatable.

Coliba (☎ 262 2987; Cengiz Topel Caddesi 64; köfte €3.35; ☎ 10am-1am) Its name means 'sweet little house', and that's what this is. Whitewashed and wooden, it has a shaded terrace with views of the lake front. The locals love it for grills at good prices. Try the delicious *ordövr* (mixed meze platter) or the house speciality *alabalık* (trout, €5.55). It's about 100m from the Alila Hotel.

Thera Fish Restaurant (☎ 262 3514; Cengiz Topel Caddesi 1; 350g fish €6.65-11; ☎ 9am-midnight) Close to the Coliba and a favourite locally for its fish, the Thera also has a waterfront terrace. It offers a good range of fresh fish, and prices are not bad. If you haven't yet tasted Turkey's fish, now might be the time.

Getting There & Away

Most buses will drop you at the Köyceğiz otogar on the outskirts of town, 2km from the lake. Dolmuşes (€0.42) run every 15 minutes between the otogar and town.

Dolmuşes run to Dalaman (€2, 30 minutes, 34km), Marmaris (€2.75, one hour, 60km) and Ortaca (€1.40, 25 minutes, 20km) every half-hour. Buses run to Fethiye (€3.35, 1¼ hour, 95km) every half-hour.

EKİNCİK

☎ 0252 / pop 860

This isolated beach village, 36km south of Köyceğiz, is surrounded by high pine-clad hills pitching down to a crescent beach. The

scenery is marred only by the half-built shell of a hotel near the beach, construction of which was halted after legal complications.

Sights & Activities

Ekincik has some great trekking possibilities. Ahmed at Hotel Akdeniz is a good source of 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, €100 for up to 12 people), six hours (Kaunos and Dalyan, €133) and a full day (Kaunos, hot springs, turtle beach etc, €166). If you fancy a swim or some sun-soaking, head for the municipality-run **Köyceğiz Belediyesi Restaurant ve Halk Plajı** (☎ 266 0001; Ekincik Köyü Bulvarı; meals €3.35-7; ☎ mid-Apr-mid-Sep) which has showers, sunlounges and tables, as well as cheap drinks and meals.

Sleeping & Eating

The first two options offer *yarım pension* (half board).

Ekincik Pansiyon (☎ 266 0179; fax 266 0003; s/d half board €17/33; ☎) About 350m from the beach just to the right of the main road is this bright, light and spotless, family-run pension. There's a pleasant shaded area outside under trees, with tables and hammocks.

Hotel Akdeniz (☎ 266 0255; www.akdenizotel.com; s/d €11/22, half board €22/44; ☎) Just uphill from the Ekincik Pansiyon, the Akdeniz has simple but spotless rooms with 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.

Ekincik Hotel (☎ 266-0203; www.hotelekincik.com; Ekincik Köyü; per person €19-28 depending on season; ☎ May-Oct; ☎) Set on the seafont and with a garden, the Ekincik is quite nicely designed and maintained. All rooms have balconies and nine have direct sea views.

Ship A Hoy (☎ 266-0045; Ekincik Köyü; meze from €2.20; mains €10-14; ☎ 8am-midnight Apr-Oct) Next to the Ekincik Pansiyon right on the beach, this brand new place has pleasant tables set under giant white parasols and grass-roofed huts and serves good-quality Ottoman-inspired dishes as well as fish fresh from the sea (€10 to €14 for 500g).

For cheap eats, there are plenty of cafés and stalls selling snacks and *tost* (toasted sandwiches, €1) along the seafont in summer.

Getting There & Away

During the school holidays (mid-June to early September), one to two buses run daily between Ekincik and Köyceğiz (€2.20, one hour). The bus leaves the main square (not the otogar) at 9.30am and returns from Ekincik at 6pm.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing the completion of the new road linking Ekincik to Marmaris had been halted by the military, who are concerned about security.

DALYAN

☎ 0252
Once a somnolent farming town and now increasingly a package-tour colony, Dalyan has so far managed to keep some of its peaceful atmosphere. On top of those who choose to stay here, summer afternoons bring an armada of excursion boats from Marmaris and Fethiye carving a path through the reed beds of the Dalyan River (Dalyan Çayı) on their way to the ruins of ancient Kaunos (Caunos) and İztuzu beach. Above the river the façades of Lycian rock tombs gaze silently down on all this activity. Dalyan may be filling up with identical restaurants and the town centre has become another bland concrete agglomeration, but it only takes a few minutes' walk to reach the charming old Dalyan of gardens and willow trees.

Orientation

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

Most of the village's better hotels and pensions are along Maraş Caddesi, which runs for 1km south and ends near the riverbank.

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)

Ünsal Internet Café (Karakol Sokak 23/A; per hr €1.10; ☎ 8.30am–midnight) East of the tourist office on the left.

Sights & Activities

KAUNOS

Founded around the 9th century BC, **Kaunos** (admission €2.50; ☎ 8.30am–5.30pm) became an im-

portant 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 river cruise, 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.

Your boat will pull up to the western bank; then it's a five-minute walk to the site. The curious wooden structures in the river are **dalyanlar** (fishing weirs). No doubt the ancient Kaunians also benefited from such an industry.

BOAT TRIPS

Every day in summer, excursion boats leave the quayside at 10am to cruise to Köyceğiz Gölü and the Sultaniye hot springs and mud baths (p351), the ruins of Kaunos (left) and İztuzu beach (p351) on the Mediterranean coast. You can save yourself a lot of money by taking boats run by the local cooperative, **Dalyan Kooperatifi** (☎ 284 7843), for €11 per person including lunch; various pirates charge considerably more.

If you can organise a small group, it may be more economical to hire an entire passenger boat that holds from eight to 12 people. Haggle to get the best price, particularly if it's early or late in the season and many boats are standing idle. A two-hour tour just to Kaunos costs €29 for the entire boat; if you want to visit the Sultaniye hot springs as well, figure on three hours and €45 for the boat.

Boats belonging to the boat cooperative operate a 'river dolmuş' service between the town and İztuzu beach (called 'Turtle Beach'

by local tour operators), charging €2.75 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). Take some food as you might not like the 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 (€8.50). Dolmuş boats also go to Kaunos three times a day (€8.50 return), and to the mud baths in the early evening (€8.50). The cooperatives can also pick you up from your hotel if it's on the water.

Evening sunset cruises (€14 per person including dinner) are also offered twice a week (usually on Wednesday and Friday) from June to September.

Sleeping

BUDGET

Dalyan Camping (☎ /fax 284 4157; Maraş Caddesi 144; per tent/caravan €8/14, 2-/3-/4- person bungalows €14/20/28; ☎ Apr–Oct) Though not very large, rather ramshackle and unkempt, the camping has a nice location by the river opposite the tombs. The eight pinewood bungalows are simple, clean and quite attractive.

Aktaş Pansiyon (☎ 284 2042; aktaspension@hotmail.com; Maraş Caddesi 116; s/d €17/22; ☎) Though the rooms are simple and small (with even smaller

DALYAN

0 400 m
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INFORMATION

- ATM..... (see 1)
- Post Office (PTT)..... 1 C2
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SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Belediye (Town Hall)..... (see 2)
- Dalyan Kooperatifi..... 4 C2
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SLEEPING

- Aktaş Pension..... 6 B3
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EATING

- Atay Dostlar Sofrası..... 13 C2
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DRINKING

- Bars..... 23 C2

TRANSPORT

- Boat Shuttle to Sultan Palas Hotel..... 24 C1
- Minibus Stand..... 25 C2

bathrooms), seven have river views and there's a terrace right on the riverbank. It's good value.

Cınar Sahil Pension (☎ 284 2402; www.cinarsahilpansiyon.com; Yali Sokak 14; s/d €17/28) Rooms are simple and spotless, but the big boon here is its central location and its roof terrace with possibly the best views in Dalyan. Ask for one of the four rooms with balconies and river views. BBQs are organised in season and a boat is rented out for €33 per day (for up to four people).

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Kilim Hotel (☎ 284 2253; www.kilimhotel.com; Kaunos Sokak 7; s/d €22/33; ☎ Apr-Nov; ☎) With a pool and seating area set in a terrace shaded by old palms, this is a relaxing and peaceful place. The spacious rooms contain king-size beds and most have balconies. Guests also have free access to bikes. There's a ramp for wheelchair access.

Asur Hotel (☎ 284 3232; www.asurotel.com; s €27-35, d €40.50-49.50 depending on season; ☎ May-Oct; ☎) Lying in the far southwestern corner of town, diagonally opposite Kaunos (but on the other side of the river), is the Asur. Set in landscaped gardens full of birds, it was designed by the award-winning architect Nail Çakırhan. The 32 octagonal bungalows are rather oriental-looking but are beautifully finished and each has a little veranda. The hotel also has a lovely pool.

Happy Caretta (☎ 284 2109; www.happycaretta.com; Kaunos Sokak 26; s/d 39/50) With a terrace kept cool by cypress trees and hung with hammocks, the Caretta is a pleasant and peaceful place. 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.

THE AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Sultan Palas Hotel (☎ 284 2103; www.sultanpalasdalyan.co.uk; Horozlar Mevkii; s/d €44/73, with half board €51/87; ☎ May-mid-Oct; ☎) Accessible from Dalyan only by ferry, you really have the sensation of crossing the Styx with Charon to reach the Sultan. With rooms set in a luscious garden full of fruit trees and a gorgeous pool, it's truly a heavenly haven. Here no traffic, no tour groups and no pop music are allowed to pass the celestial portals. Nil, the redoubtable manager keeps the place shipshape and chooses the veg personally from the local markets for her table. Styled on old Ottoman dishes, dinner is delicious. Rooms, designed like little suites, are restrained but attractive and comfortable; each has its own veranda. 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.

Dalyan Hotel (☎ 284 2239; www.hoteldalyan.com; Kordon Boyu Sokak; s €39-47, d €53-72 depending on season; ☎ May-Oct; ☎) Attractively designed in a series of semicircles, the Dalyan is stunningly set right above the river opposite the Lycian tombs. Rooms, simple but stylish, surround the pool in a semicircle and have attractive bougainvillea-clad verandas with Spanish arches. Ten have river views, ten pool views. The hotel has a free boat service to İztuzu Beach.

Eating & Drinking

Several readers have complained of overcharging in Dalyan's restaurants. Be sure to check prices before ordering (particularly fish), as well as your bill afterwards.

For a drink, head for the point on Maraş Caddesi where it widens slightly. Bars are cheek-by-jowl; choose the most popular one that evening.

RESTAURANTS

Atay Dostlar Sofrası (☎ 284 2156; Camı Karşısı 69; mains €2.20; ☎ 6.30am-midnight) Opposite the mosque, this is firm favourite locally for its home-style cooking at unbeatable prices. There's a point-and-pick counter and dishes are fresh daily. It does good veggie dishes too (€1.65).

Metin Pide & Pizza (☎ 284 2877; Sulunger Sokak 3/B; ☎ 8.30am-9.30pm low season, to midnight high season) Hugely popular for its delicious pide (€1.40 to €2.20) and pizza (€2.75 to €5) freshly made, this is a family affair with all members helping out. There are tables in a shaded garden opposite the restaurant.

Caretta Caretta (☎ 284 3039; Maraş Caddesi 124; meze €2.20, mains incl fish €5-11; ☎ 8am-1am Mar-Nov) Also designed by Nail Çakırhan, this place does delicious Turkish dishes (such as *bonfile ve tavuk çiğnerli börek* – beef fillet with chicken

livers baked in puff pastry) at pleasing prices. With a number of tables on the riverbank and the wooden platform above the water, you have a fair chance of bagging one. It's a great place also for a beer (€1.95).

Bistrot Clou (☎ 284 3452; Pazar Yeri Sokak; meze €1.65-2.50; ☎ 9am-midnight Apr-mid-Oct) Just off Market Sq, this delightful little place offers home-style cooking at fair prices. The family who runs it makes everything – from the house speciality, the delicious *güvec* (casseroles, €4.75 to €11) to the crocheted tablecloths and gourd lamps. There's jazz and traditional music most nights.

Okakbaşı Restaurant (☎ 284 5294; Maraş Caddesi 127; meze €2.20; ☎ 9.30am-midnight Apr-Sep) With tables in a lovely garden with a pool and orange, plum and pomegranate trees, this place is known for its scrumptious kebabs (€6.50).

Riverside Restaurant (☎ 284 3166; Sağlık Sokak 7; meze €3-8, 450g fish €9-11; ☎ 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 Firin (☎ 284 3839; Sulunger Sokak 2; ☎ 7am-6pm low season, to 10pm high season) Diagonally opposite the Metin, it sells good fresh bread.

Demet Pastanesi (☎ 284 4124; Maraş Caddesi 39; coffee €0.85; ☎ 7.30am-6pm low season, to midnight high season) With priceless pastries and tantalising Turkish puds (€1.65) it's a great place for brekie or for picnic preparations. The hazelnut and walnut tart (€1.95) is to die for.

Dalyan Spice (☎ 284 4397; Maraş Caddesi 37; ☎ 8.30am-midnight Apr-Oct) Sells gorgeous Turkish delight (box €2.75 to €5), as well as local spices and honey. For ice cream, head for **Sibel Dondurma** (☎ 284 4363; Maraş Caddesi 43/A; 1 scoop €0.55; ☎ 7am-midnight May-Oct), which sells 20 flavours, all locally made.

Getting There & Away

There are no direct minibuses from here to Dalaman. First take a minibus to Ortaca (€0.85, every 30 minutes in high season, every hour in low season) and change there. At Ortaca otogar buses go to Köyceğiz (€1.40, 25 minutes, 20km) and Dalaman (€0.40, 15

minutes, 5km). Dalyan's minibuses leave from the stop west of the PTT.

AROUND DALYAN Sultaniye Hot Springs & Mud Baths

Southwest of Köyceğiz Gölü, the **Sultaniye Hot Springs** (Sultaniye Kaplıcaları; admission €1.95) 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. Temperatures sometimes reach 40°C. At the smaller mud baths just before Dalyan River joins the lake, you can give yourself a body-pack of mud in a sulphur pool with temperatures as hot as in the Sultaniye baths.

To get here, you can get a 'dolmuş boat' (€2.75, 30 minutes), which leave when full (around every half-hour in summer, every hour outside the high season). You can also contract a private boat, though you'll need to negotiate hard.

İztuzu Beach

About 13km south of town, this 4.5km sandbar separating the sea from the mouth of the Dalyan River is an excellent swimming beach. Developers have been itching to get their paws on it for years, but the government has resolutely forbidden the sort of hotel development you find between Kuşadası and Alanya. The beach has a few snack bars and ranks of sunbeds but you don't have to walk far to escape the crowds. İztuzu is important as one of the last nesting sites in the Mediterranean of the loggerhead turtle (see the boxed text, above) and special rules to protect the turtles are strictly enforced. To get here, minibuses (€2.20, 15 minutes) run from Dalyan every half-hour in high season.

DALAMAN

☎ 0252 / pop 19,600

This agricultural town was fairly dozy until the regional airport was built on the neighbouring river delta. Now it stirs (but doesn't wake) whenever a jet arrives. 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 flights to many European cities during the tourist season, there are about five daily flights from Dalaman to İstanbul year-round, costing €78 one

TURTLE ALERT

Some years ago Dalyan's Iztuzu 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 the 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 Göksu Delta. See p348 for details of turtle-spotting boat tours.

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 €7 to €9.

At Dalaman's otogar, near the junction of Kenan Evren Bulvarı and Atatürk Caddesi, you can buy tickets to many destinations, such as Antalya (€8, 5½ hours, 272km), Köyceğiz (€1.50, 45 minutes, 34km) and Marmaris (€5, two hours, 120km). All routes north and east pass through either Muğla or Fethiye.

GÖCEK

☎ 0252

This small-scale holiday village is halfway between Köyceğiz and Fethiye on an attractive bay almost enclosed by dry, pine-speckled mountains. It first came to prominence in the 1980s as the favoured holiday retreat of Turgut Özal, Turkey's go-getting prime minister and later president.

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.

Göcek is a place for relaxing. There's only a fairly scrappy **beach** at the western end of the quay, although you can take a '12-island cruise' (see p354) to beaches on nearby islands.

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 Katrançı, 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 high season €14/17, low season €11/14) 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 €22/33) 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 high season €28/44, low season €28/33; 📶 🚰)

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 €67/83, low season €56/67; 📶 🚰) 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

Can Restaurant (☎ 645 1507; Skoepa Marina; meze €1.65, seafood meze €3-8; 🕒 7am-midnight) Set back from the seafort 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 €5, mains €4.50-12.50; 🕒 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; meze €2.20-8; mains €11-17; 🕒 7am-midnight) Has a pleasant terrace at the back of its cavernous interior and specialises in Anatolian dishes.

Getting There & Away

Minibuses depart every half-hour to Fethiye (€1.95, 30 minutes, 30km). For Dalyan, change at Otacer (€2.75, 25 minutes, 25km, every hour) first.

FETHİYE

☎ 0252 / pop 50,700

Tucked into the southern reaches of an appealing broad bay, Fethiye is a very old town with few old buildings. An earthquake in 1958 levelled it and left only tombs from the time when Fethiye was called Telmessos (400 BC). It's an incredibly relaxed place despite its size, often visited at the beginning or end of a *güilet* cruise.

Fethiye's inner bay is an excellent natural harbour, protected from storms by an island, Şövalye Adası; the much larger outer bay has 11 more islands. About 15km south is Ölüdeniz (p359), one of Turkey's seaside hot spots, and the Fethiye region has many interesting sites to explore, including the ghost

town of Kayaköy (Karmylassos, p361), 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. Midrange and top-end hotels are near the centre, but many of the inexpensive pensions are west of it past the marina. Dolmuşes run along the main street, Atatürk Caddesi. The *belediye* seems to enjoy renaming streets, so the smaller streets can be known by several names. The town's Tuesday market takes place along the canal between Atatürk Caddesi and the stadium (Pürşabay Caddesi). Yachting agencies are clustered around the marina.

Information

Atatürk Caddesi has banks with ATMs and foreign exchange offices.

Imagine Bookshop (☎ 614 8465; Atatürk Caddesi 18; 🕒 9am-6pm) Sells foreign newspapers and magazines, English-Turkish dictionaries and books and maps on Turkey, and Turkish CDs.

Tourist Office (☎ 614 1527; İskele Meydanı; 🕒 8.30am-noon & 1-5.30pm daily May-Sep, Mon-Fri Oct-Apr) Next to the marina, just past the Roman theatre.

Sights & Activities

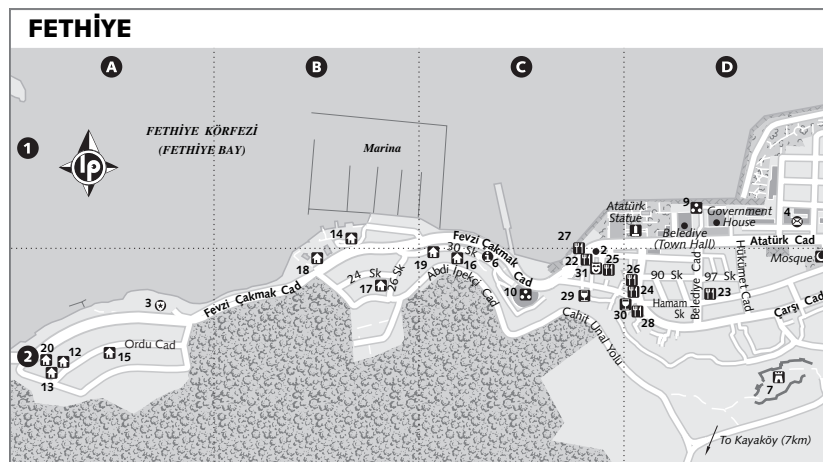
ANCIENT TELMESSOS

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.

Behind the town is the **Tomb of Amyntas** (admission €2.50; 🕒 8am-7pm), an Ionic temple façade carved in the sheer rock face in 350 BC. It gets crowded at sunset in summer, the most pleasant time to visit. It's a steep climb up steps to get there; on a hot day it's worth first considering how much Lycian funerary monuments really mean to you. Other smaller tombs lie about 500m to the east.

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

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.



INFORMATION		SLEEPING		MEALS	
Hospital.....	1 E1	Artemis Hotel.....	12 A2	Meğri Restaurant.....	25 C2
Imagine Bookshop.....	2 C2	Duygu Pension.....	13 A2	Nefis Pide.....	26 D2
Jandarma (Police).....	3 A2	Ece Saray Marina & Resort.....	14 B1	Özsüt.....	27 C1
Ocean Turizm & Travel		Ferah Pension.....	15 A2	Paşa Kebab.....	28 D2
Agency.....(see 6)		Horizon Hotel.....	16 C2		
Post Office (PTT).....	4 D1	Ideal Pension.....	17 B2	DRINKING	
Toilets.....	5 E2	Irem Hotel.....	18 B2	Car Cemetery.....	29 C2
Tourist Office.....	6 C2	Tan Pansiyon.....	19 C2	Ottoman Dancing Bar.....	30 D2
		V-Go's Hotel & Guesthouse.....(see 13)			
		Villa Daffodil.....	20 A2	ENTERTAINMENT	
				Club Bananas.....	31 C2
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		EATING		TRANSPORT	
Crusader Fortress.....	7 D2	Café Oley.....	22 C2	Boat Tour Companies.....(see 6)	
Lycian Rock Tombs.....	8 F2	Hilmi et Balik Restaurant.....	23 D2	Minibus Station.....	32 E2
Lycian Stone Sarcophagi.....	9 D1	Meğri Lokantasi.....	24 D2	Minibuses to Ölüdeniz.....	33 E2
Roman Theatre Ruins.....	10 C2				
Tomb of Amyntas.....	11 E2				

FETHİYE MUSEUM

Among its most interesting exhibits, **Fethiye Museum** (Fethiye Müzesi; 505 Sokak; admission €2.75; ☎ 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 the Letoön (see p365), 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 ethnography section has some interesting Ottoman-era exhibits although it's sometimes closed.

BEACHES & WATER SPORTS

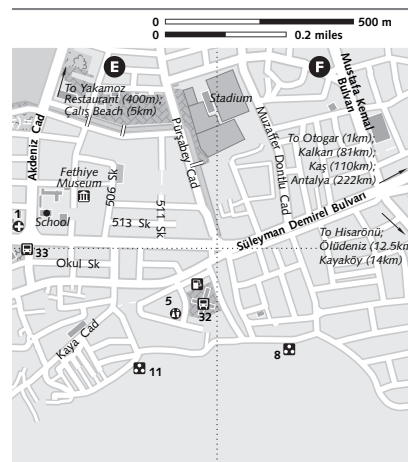
Ocean Turizm & Travel Agency (☎ 612 4807; www.oceantravelagency.com; İskele Meydanı 1; ☎ 9am-9pm) sells boat tickets and can also organise diving (per person including two dives, all equipment and lunch €45) and parasailing (per person for 30 minutes including all equipment €75).

About 5km northeast of the centre is **Çalış**, a narrow stretch of gravelly beach lined with mass-produced hotels. Once very popular, it's now overshadowed by Ölüdeniz. Dolmuş depart for Çalış (€0.85, 10 minutes) from the minibus station every five to 10 minutes throughout the day.

Tours

Many travellers sign up for the **12-Island Tour** (per person incl lunch high season €11, low season €14-17; ☎ 9am-6pm or 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. Some are booze-cruise-style tours so check you're getting what you want. Hotels and agencies sell tickets or you can negotiate a price with the boat companies around the tourist office at the marina.

The normal tour (Fethiye Körfezi) visits **Yassıcalar** (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.

Highly recommended are the boat tours that go to or include **Butterfly Valley** (per person €11; ☎ 9.30am-6.30pm mid-Apr-Oct) via Ölüdeniz and include walking, swimming and ruin-visiting; as well as the **Saklıkent Gorge Tour** (per person €22; ☎ 9am-6.30pm), which includes the ruins at Tlos and walking, trout tickling and a trout lunch; and the **Dalyan Tour** (per person €22; ☎ 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.

Other options include beach or archaeological tours. Going by minibus will be cheaper, but is usually more time-consuming and a lot less fun.

Sleeping

Fethiye has a good selection of budget and midrange accommodation, but little in the way of luxury.

BUDGET

Dolmuş marked 'Karagözler' run along Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi towards the pensions every five to 10 minutes. Most budget places

will pick you up from the bus station if you give them a call on arrival.

Ideal Pension (☎ 614 1981; www.idealpension.net; 26 Sokak 1; dm/s/d from €7/8/14; ☎) The cheapest option, yet still offering clean (albeit small) rooms, a large terrace with bay views and a choice of breakfast, it's very good value. The owner, a retired teacher, is keen to please and offers various services and long-stay incentives (such as a free boat trip for more than three days' stay).

Tan Pansiyon (☎ 614 1584; fax 614 1676; 30 Sokak 43; s/d €11/14) If you'd rather swap backpacker banter for traditional Turkish hospitality and a firm family feel, here's your place. Rooms are small (the bathrooms smaller), but it's sparkling clean and quiet. Guests can use the kitchen and there's a large terrace with bay views.

Artemis Hotel (☎ 612 4980; www.artemishotelfethiye.com; Ordu Caddesi 48; s/d €11/14; ☎) Try this one if the others listed are full; with pool and bay views, it's a good choice.

Ferah Pension (Monica's Place; ☎ 614 2816; www.ferahpension.com; 2 Ordu Caddesi 21; dm/s/d €5.50/14/20; ☎) Monika, the manager, 'likes clean' and the rooms, though small and simple, are certainly that. Those with air-con cost an extra €4.45 per day. The 'dormitory' (a glass-enclosed roof terrace) has beautiful views as do two of the rooms. The hotel 'lobby' is so verdant it's like entering a clearing in a forest and is a popular hang-out for backpackers. It's a good source of local information and there's a free shuttle to/from the otogar.

Duygu Pension (☎ 614 3563; www.duygupension.com; Ordu Caddesi 54; s/d €14/20; ☎) It may look unpromising, but the Duygu's a homely little place with a lovely position on the bay. It boasts a roof top with blinding bay views and a small pool. Rooms are simple but spotless.

V-Go's Hotel & Guesthouse (☎ 614 5904; www.boatcruiseisturkey.com; Ordu Caddesi 66; dm/s/d €8/11/22; ☎) Brand new when we visited and bristling to bring in the backpackers, V-Go's offers 14 spotless, pleasant rooms, as well as a medium-sized pool and a small roof terrace. Six rooms have direct sea views and small balconies. Good value, well-run and dynamic, it also does BBQs (€5.55 per person).

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Horizon Hotel (☎ 612 3153; www.otelhorizon.net; Abdül İpekçi Caddesi 1; dm €6-11, s €8-22, d €17-39 depending on season; ☎) Aply named, the Horizon easily

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 (Denre) 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 Gökçaya Bay where you have the option of partying at the cheesy but fun Smugglers Inn (Pirates Disco). 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 it's so hot (the boats are without air-conditioning).

Backpacker cruises are usually quoted in pounds sterling. Depending on the season the price is usually €84 to €150 for Fethiye and €150 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 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.
- Don't buy your ticket in İstanbul, as pensions and commission agents take a healthy cut.
- 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.

See also the boxed text, opposite for more tips from a classic cautionary tale.

We recommend the owner-operated outfits because they run a much tighter ship. During summer the larger companies often farm out unknowing tourists to lazy captains with suspect boats. 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) Run by a Turkish-Australian couple, who own two superior boats and offer the popular 12-islands cruise (see p354). Numbers are limited to 10 people and the food has garnered good reports.

Big Backpackers (☎ 0252-614 9312; www.bluecruiseftethiye.com) A newish venture run from Ideal Pension in Fethiye and offers the Fethiye–Kale cruise.

Interyouth Hostel (☎ 0252-412 3687; 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.olympusyachting.com) Offers a four-day/three-night cruise direct from Olympos beach to Kaş, run in conjunction with Türkmen's at Olympos (p380).

Yeşil Marmaris Travel & Yachting (☎ 412 2290; www.yesilmarmaris.com) In Marmaris, ask for the helpful Tolunay Bükülmez.

steals the best-view-in-Fethiye crown. Views from the pool, terrace and 17 rooms are stunning. Ibrahim, the new manager, has ambitious plans for the place. 'Extras' currently include free internet use, free city shuttle every hour, free otogar pick up and a good-value set menu (€4).

Irem Hotel (☎ 614 3006; tutantur@yahoo.com; Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi 38; s/d high season €22/33, low season €20/28; 🚗 🚶) 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 low season €20/33, high season €25/42; 🚗 🚶) This large Ottoman-designed guesthouse boasts a decent-sized pool, a dining terrace with gorgeous views, and comfortable and homely rooms (all with balcony; eight with direct sea views). Hussein, a retired colonel, keeps the place shipshape. Be

sure to book in high season as tour groups gather here.

Ece Saray Marina & Resort (☎ 612 5005; www.ecesaray.net; Karagözler 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 *hamam*, its own supermarket, and a Wellness Centre.

Eating RESTAURANTS

Yakamoz Restaurant (☎ 612 4226; Yeni Kordon Dolgu Sahası; meals €8) A pleasant 1km walk from town along the promenade, this is a great place to head for a sunset drink and dinner. It's a traditional Turkish menu and the fish can be pricey, but there's plenty of atmosphere and an attractive outdoor area with big cushions down by the water.

THE CRUISE FROM HELL *Virginia Maxwell*

It was late June, supposedly the perfect time of the year to take a *gület* cruise on the Turkish Mediterranean. Arriving in Fethiye, we went straight to the harbour, keen to check out the boats and sign up for a cruise leaving on the next day. Prices seemed to vary little (was there a cartel at work?), but what we wanted was a quiet and relaxing time soaking up the sun and swimming in the famous blue waters. One company looked good – it promised everything we were looking for and seemed professional – so we asked to have a look at the boat that was leaving on the following day. Alas, we were told, that particular boat wasn't in the harbour today. We could have a look at another, very similar, boat, though...

Deep down, warning bells were ringing, but we liked the guy we were dealing with and we decided to do as he suggested. The *gület* he showed us was fabulous, with spacious, comfortable cabins and an enormous, well set-up deck. Assured that the following day was going to offer perfect sailing conditions, we decided to sign up (which involved paying in full).

How stupid of us. The next morning brought with it gale-force winds. Making our way down to the harbour, we entered the company office and asked if it was possible to delay our departure until a calm day. The answer was a flat 'no' – all tickets were nontransferable, as we would have noted when we read the (minuscule) conditions on the back of our tickets. And worse was to come – our *gület* was half the size and twice the age of the boat we had been shown on the previous day. Outraged, we made our feelings known. The response? A shrug of the shoulders.

Needless to say, the trip was a disaster. The conditions were so rough that everyone (including members of the crew) spent hour upon hour being violently ill over the side. The meals (for those who could bring themselves to eat) were meagre in size and dubious in quality. There were cockroaches and grubby linen in all of the cabins. And the last shreds of our romantic vision of a traditional Blue Voyage were destroyed when we were told that hardly any modern *gülets* use their sails (in fact, these are often purely ornamental). Instead, the boat's unbelievably noisy diesel engine would be used, and we would have to live with the vile diesel fumes for the entire trip.

The moral? Don't pay until you have confirmed on the day that the weather conditions are favourable, made 100% sure that you are happy with the boat you will be leaving on, and spoken with the captain about meals and whether the diesel engine will be used for the whole cruise.

Hilmi et Balık Restaurant (☎ 612 6242; Hal ve Pazar Yeri 53; meze €2.20, 400g fish €8-11; 🍴 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 the boxed text, right).

Meğri Restaurant (☎ 614 4040; Lika Sokak 8-9; meals €10-15; 🍴 9am-midnight) In a beautiful old stone house decorated with traditional artefacts, this place serves a varied menu in a nice atmosphere. With Turkish, Italian and French food all on offer, it might suit bickering couples who can't agree on where to go.

CAFÉS

Café Oley (☎ 612 9532; 38 Sokak 4; breakfast €3.35-6, meals €4-7; 🍴 8am-midnight; 📺) Run by the dynamic Atilla, the Oley offers the best breakfast in town serving everything from bacon and Cornflakes to Vegemite and pancakes. It also does good salads and sandwiches (€2.75 to €4.45). Customers have free internet access and there's a book exchange.

Özsüt (☎ 612 9989; Atatürk Caddesi; 🍴 8am-1am) Serving the usual tantalising Turkish puds and pastries, this excellent chain also sells good ice cream (€0.55 per scoop).

QUICK EATS

Meğri Lokantasi (☎ 614 4047; Çarşı Caddesi 26; mains €5.55-14; 🍴 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* (casserole, €5.55 to €11) are something of a speciality.

Nefis Pide (☎ 614 5504; Eski Cami Sokak 9; meals €2; 🍴 9am-9pm low season, to midnight high season) Stark and simple but sparkling clean, this popular place does delicious pides (€1.40 to €2.75). It's right next to the mosque – and doesn't sell alcohol!

Paşa Kebap (☎ 614 9807; Çarşı Caddesi 42; meze €1.65-2.20, pide €1.10-3.35, pizza €4-5; 🍴 9am-midnight) Considered locally to offer the 'best kebaps in town', this honest and unpretentious place has a well-priced menu (with useful little photos of dishes!). Try the Paşa special (€4.70) – a delicious oven-baked beef, tomato and cheese concoction.

Drinking & Entertainment

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

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.

Ottoman Dancing Bar (☎ 612 9491; beer €2.20; 🍴 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, €5.55) on the comfy outdoor seating.

Car Cemetery (☎ 612 7872; Haman Sokak 25; beer €2; 🍴 5pm-3am low season, 10am-3am high season) British-pub-meets-club, this place is particularly popular with locals and rarely reports a dull night.

Club Bananas (☎ 612 8441; beer €2.75; 🍴 10pm-5am daily high season, Fri & Sat only low season) The only true club in town (as opposed to pub-club), Bananas is styled like a big barn and plays a mixture of local and Western music. There's usually at least one 'party night' (admission €5.55 including one drink) every week. It lies one block north of Hamam Sokak.

Getting There & Away

The mountains behind Fethiye force transport to go east or west and for many destinations you must change buses at Antalya or Muğla. Buses from the otogar to Antalya (€10, 7½ hours, 295km) head east along the coast at least every hour in high season, stopping at Kalkan (€2.50, two hours, 81km), Kaş (€3, 2½ hours, 110km) and Olympos (€7.50, five hours, 219km). The inland road to Antalya (€9, four hours, 222km) is much quicker.

For intermediate destinations, go to the minibus station off Atatürk Caddesi, around 0.5km east of the centre. Destinations served by minibuses include 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 all day. Take a minibus with a 'Karagözlük' sign in the window to get to the pensions west of the centre. There's a fixed charge of €0.85 no matter how far you go. A taxi from the otogar to the pensions east of the centre costs about €5.55.

A couple of agencies along Atatürk Caddesi hire out scooters for €14 per day (or €11 per day for three days or more).

ÖLÜDENİZ

☎ 0252

Ölüdeniz (Dead Sea), about 15km southeast of Fethiye, is not devoid of life like its biblical namesake. Rather, it's a sheltered lagoon hidden from the open sea. The scene as you come down from the pine-clad hills is absolutely beautiful: in the distance open sea, in the foreground a long spit of sandy beach.

Unfortunately the paradise that many past travellers fondly recall has all but been ruined by the tightly packed belt of hotels behind the beach. Ölüdeniz (the lagoon) and Belcekız (the adjacent beach resort) used to be one of the highlights of independent travel in Turkey but the development of identical air-conditioned hotels, loud bars and overpriced restaurants has hardly bolstered its appeal. Many travellers may prefer to shoot straight through. 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

As you approach Ölüdeniz, the road passes through the hilariously awful package-tour colonies of Ovacık and Hisarönü. It then descends steeply from Hisarönü another 3km to a beautiful beach backed by hotels.

The beach is very much the centre of things. 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 **Ölüdeniz Tourism Development Co-operative** (Ölüdeniz Turizm Geliştirme Kooperatif; ☎ 617 0438; Ölüdeniz Caddesi) has an information booth on the access road just inland from the beach.

Sights & Activities

LAGOON

The **Ölüdeniz Tabiat Parkı** (Ölüdeniz Caddesi; adult/student €1.40/0.55; 🍴 8am-8pm) is 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 €14 for a day trip (including lunch). A typical cruise might take in Gemile Beach, the Blue Cave, Butterfly Valley (see p362) and St Nicholas Island, with time for swimming. Boats to Butterfly Valley leave from the beach around 11am and return around 5pm.

PARAGLIDING

With 1960m-high Baba Dağ (Mt Baba) on the doorstep, Ölüdeniz 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 €78 to €111). Ensure the company has insurance and the pilot has appropriate qualifications and experience. Parasailing is also possible (€50).

Sleeping

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; Ölüdeniz Caddesi 20; camp site per person, car and caravan €3.90; bungalows per person with bathroom €17-22, without bathroom €8; 🍴 Apr-Oct; 📺) Recently renovated, the Sugar Beach is well designed, well run and fun. With its own pleasant strip of beach shaded by palms, it's a chilled out place, with lots of shaded lounging areas, a funky beach bar and a great café. The bungalows range from basic to air-conditioned and comfortable but they're all spotless. Future plans include tree houses, a dorm, bike hire, trekking, beach parties, DJ concerts and BBQs. If you're not staying here but want to hang out, it costs €2.20 to use the sunlounges, parasols and showers. It's about 600m from Ölüdeniz;

follow the signs to the Hotel Meri. Dolmuş pass back and forth along the road beside the camping.

Nicholas Genç Beach (☎ 617 0088; www.nicholas-homes.com; Ölüdeniz Caddesi; s/d low season €17/28, high season €20/33) If you've ever wondered what it was like to be a caravaner, here's your chance. This new place rents out 10 small but comfortable air-conditioned caravans with fridge, satellite TV, private bathroom and even a table and a couple of chairs! It's a well run, well maintained place with a pleasant beach. It also rents out canoes (€2.75 per hour) and pedalos (€5.55 per hour) and has beach parties and BBQs, though most of its 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; s/d incl breakfast €14/28; 🚻 🚿) 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.hotelbluestar-oludeniz.com; Mimar Sinan Caddesi 8; s €22-39, d €28-47 depending on season; 🚻 🚿) 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.

Paradise Garden (☎ 617 0545; www.paradisegarden-hotel.com; Ölüdeniz Yolu; s €47-72, d €62-122 depending on season; 🚻 🚿) 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

Oba Restaurant (☎ 617 0158; Mimar Sinan Caddesi; mains €3.60-15; 🍷 8am-midnight May-Oct) 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 (€2.75/€3.60) including homemade muesli with mountain yogurt and

local pine honey. Ranging from snacks to full-on mains, the menu also offers 12 veggie dishes.

Buzz Beach Bar & Seafood Grill (☎ 617 0526; 1 Sokak 1; beer €2, mains €4-14; 🍷 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.

Be Yaz Yunus Lokantası (White Dolphin; ☎ 617 0068; Likya Yolu; beer €2.75, fish per 450g €22; 🍷 11am-midnight May-mid-Oct) Set on a stunning terrace overlooking the bay, the Be Yaz is famous for its fresh fish and seafood. Sample some of the exquisite seafood mezes (€7.75) 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 apéritif! It's on the Faralya road about 1km from the town centre.

Entertainment

Help Beach Lounge (Sugar Shack; ☎ 617 0650; 1 Sokak; beer €2.50; 🍷 9am-4am May-Oct) The most happening place in town, this funky joint has a large terrace with a beach bar right on the seafont with comfy cushioned benches. Happy 'hour' (cocktails €5.55) is from 6pm to 8pm.

Getting There & Away

In high season, minibuses leave Fethiye for Ölüdeniz roughly every 10 minutes during the day (€1.65, 25 minutes, 15km), passing through Ovacık and Hisarönü; in low season they go every 30 to 45 minutes.

KAYAKÖY (KARMYLASSOS)

☎ 0252

Called Levissi for much of its history, this ghost town of 2000 **stone houses** (admission €2.75; 🍷 9am-7pm), about 5km west of Hisarönü, 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 p41), 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 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. Scanting 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. Recently it provided the inspiration for Eskibağçe, the village in Louis de Bernières' latest blockbuster novel, *Birds Without Wings*.

Two **churches** are still prominent: the Kataponagia 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.

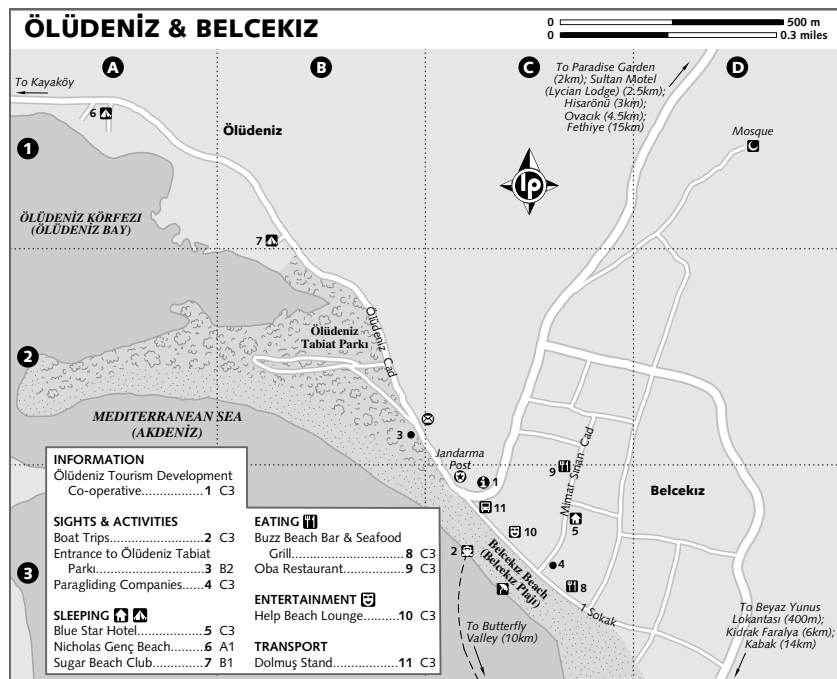
Sleeping & Eating

Villa Rhapsody (☎ 618 0042; www.villarhapsody.com; s/d €25/33.50; 🍷 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.

Selçuk Pension (☎ 618 0075; enginselcuk48@hotmail.com; s/d €8/14) 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. You'll pay an additional €2.80 in high season.

Sarıç Çafé & Restaurant (☎ 618 0118; large meze plate €2.20, mains €6.70-11; 🍷 10am-midnight, closed Mon low season) 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.

Kaya Wine House (☎ 618 0454; www.kayawinehouse.com; Keçiler Mahallesi; meals around €15; 🍷 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 (€1.65, 20 to 30 minutes) every half-hour from mid-June to September, every hour in low season. A taxi costs €14.

To Ölüdeniz, two to three minibuses run daily in high season, or you go to Hisarönü (€1.40, 20 mins) from where minibuses go every 10 minutes to Ölüdeniz. A taxi there costs €14.

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

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

BUTTERFLY VALLEY & FARALYA

As well as being home to the unique Jersey tiger butterfly, beautiful **Butterfly Valley** (☎ 614 2619; www.butterflyvalley.com) also boasts a 60m-high waterfall (admission €1.25 for day-trippers) a beach, and some lovely walks.

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, which is described on p78.

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 – the views across to the sea won't soon be forgotten. 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.

Sleeping

In Butterfly Valley you can stay at the aptly named **Butterfly Valley** (☎ 0538 511 6454; bungalow with half-board per person €17, tent with half-board per person €14, mattress on beach with half-board per person €11). There are currently five bungalows though another 16 are planned.

The following places are all in Faralya above the valley.

Gül Pansiyon (☎ 642 1145; s/d €11/22) 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 you fast (€7). It's the first pension you come to on the road from Ölüdeniz.

George House (☎ 642 1102; www.georgehouse.net; s/d €11/22; 🏠) 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; s/d €17/28) Next door to the Gül, the Melisa has four well-maintained and cheerful rooms, and a pretty terrace overlooking the valley. Mehmet speaks English and is a good source of information. Home-cooked set menus are available for €5.50 to €8.

Die Wassermühle (The Watermill; ☎ 642 1245; www.natur-reisen.de; d per person with half-board €43, ste €65; 🏠) 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 p355) or Ölüdeniz (p359) or – and particularly if you want to spend the night – you can take the 'water dolmuş' (€2.75 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 (€2.20, 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.

TOP FIVE SPOTS SANS SUNBEDS

In the middle of summer it can seem like there isn't an inch of coast not filled with gleaming bodies and beach umbrellas. But if you are discerning and a bit adventurous the following will let you tan without feeling as if you're a sardine:

- **Selimiye** (p341) The yachting set has kept this remote village on the Marmaris Peninsula a secret for far too long.
- **Kabak** (below) Where a mule ride takes on a whole new meaning.
- **Patara Beach** (p366) The world-famous 20km stretch of gorgeous white sand has room enough for most.
- **Kaleköy** (p377) A delightfully secluded hideout with ruins.
- **Çıralı** (p379) The grown-up's Olympos – the same beach, the same mountains, a million miles away.

If you miss the bus, you can take a taxi from either Ölüdeniz or Faralya (€14). You can also get to Faralya by scooter, though the road is steep, twisting and not quite fully asphalted yet.

KABAK

☎ 0252

If you are in search of the Turkey that hasn't been lost to the package-holidaymakers, try Kabak, a remote beach community 8km south of Faralya frequented by a curious mix of expats, trekkers and yoga devotees. The twisting road dug into the steep side of Baba Dağ (Mt Baba) is as memorable for its views as for knuckle-whitening corners. The beach and almost all of the accommodation is a 25-minute walk from Faralya, which begins about 30m down from the minibus stop. However, most of the camps will send a mule to carry your luggage down.

Kabak is on a section of the Lycian Way walk, described on p78.

Sleeping

All accommodation in Kabak includes half-board and is in tented platforms sometimes misleadingly called 'tree houses' (translated from the Turkish 'wood house'). Most open only from May to October.

Full Moon (☎ 642 1081; platform per person €14; 🏠) Halfway up the hill, 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).

Turan Camping (☎ 642 1227; www.turancamping.com; platform with/without balcony €20/17; ☞ Apr-Oct; 🏠) Run 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.

Sultan Camp (☎ 642 1238; www.sultancamp.com; platform per person €17) Run by a friendly local family, it offers 12 platforms as well as a tiny bathing pool, veg from its own garden and freshly baked bread daily. Metin, the son, can also take you trekking.

Reflections (☎ 642 1020; www.reflections-camp.com; own tent/camp tent/platform per person €8/11/14) 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!

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 €3.40) Mamma's offers a couple of simple but hearty dishes as well as *gözleme* (€1.10) and its own deliciously refreshing home-brewed *ayran* (yogurt drink, €1.10).

Olive Garden (☎ 642 1083; meze €2.75-4.50, mains €6-7; ☞ mid-Apr-Oct) You'll find it down a side road 100m beyond Mamma (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 (€17 per person with half-board).

Getting There & Away

There are minibuses from Fethiye to Kabak. For more information see Getting There & Away under Butterfly Valley & Faralya, p362.

TLOS

☎ 0252

As one of the oldest and most important cities in ancient Lycia, Tlos' prominence was matched by its promontory: the ancient city had a dramatic setting high on a rocky outcrop. As you climb the winding road to the ruins (admission €2.75/free Apr-Oct/Nov-Mar; ☎ 8am-6pm), look for the fortress-topped **acropolis** on the right. What you see is Ottoman-era work but the Lycians 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 façade 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 streambed, 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 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 (€1.65) 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

Another 12km after the turn-off to Tlos you will come to the spectacular **Saklıkent Gorge** (adult/student €1.40/0.90 high season, free low season; ☎ 8am-8pm) cut into the Akdağlar Mountains. The gorge is 18km long and so steep and narrow that the sun doesn't penetrate, so the water is icy-cold even in summer.

You approach the gorge along a wooden boardwalk above the river that opens out into a series of wooden platforms suspended above the water, where you can buy and eat trout. From there you wade across the river, hanging onto a rope, and then continue into the gorge proper, sometimes walking in mud, sometimes in the water. Plastic shoes can be hired for €0.85, but you're better off bringing your own shoes with good grip.

Guides can be hired and it's a good place for outdoor activities including canyoning.

Sleeping

Across the river from the car park is **Saklıkent Gorge Camp** (☎ 659 0074; www.saklikentgorge.net; tree house with shared bathroom s/d €11/22, camping per tent €2.75, dm on platform by river half-board €5.55; ☎ Jan-Nov; ♿ ♿), a rustic backpacker-oriented camp

SAKLIKENT'S SCAM

Reports have reached us recently of touts hanging around Fethiye's dolmuş station (near the bazaar). They intercept travellers heading to the Saklıkent Camp and, after bundling them into a dolmuş, take the travellers to an expensive restaurant or Yuka Park before returning them again to Fethiye. To prevent this, upon arrival at Fethiye head straight for the dolmuş station and ask the driver of the Saklıkent dolmuş to take you directly to the Camp.

with basic but clean tree houses that have little fridges, as well as a natural pool, bar and restaurant (fresh trout €4.45, *köfte* €5.55).

The camp can organise various activities (which include transport and drinks), including tubing (€11 per person, 45 to 60 minutes), rafting (€11/25 for 45 to 60 minutes/three hours), canyoning (€20/50/100 for trips of six hours/one day/two days and one night, minimum four people), fishing (€8 including guide and equipment, half a day), and trekking (€11, five hours). Also offered are jeep safaris (€28 including lunch and guide) and tours of Tlos (€8) and Patara (€8).

Getting There & Away

Minibuses leave every 15 minutes between Fethiye and Saklıkent (€2.75, 45 minutes).

PINARA

Some 46km southeast of Fethiye, near the village of Eşen, is a turn-off (to the right) for the **Pınara ruins** (admission €1.40), which lie another 6km up in the mountains. Infrequent minibuses from Fethiye (€1.70, one hour) drop you at the start of the Pınara road and you can walk to the site or bargain with the driver to take you all the way.

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.

Pınara 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 of the isolated setting that makes the journey so worthwhile.

The sheer column of rock behind the site and the rock walls to its left are honeycombed with **rock-cut tombs**; to reach any of them would take several hours. Other **tombs** are within the ruined city itself. The one called the Royal (or King's) Tomb has particularly fine re-

liefs, including several showing walled cities. Pınara's **theatre** is in good condition, but its **odeum** and **temples** of Apollo, Aphrodite and Athena (with heart-shaped columns) are badly ruined.

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

About 17km south of the Pınara turn-off is the road to Letoön, which, with Xanthos (p366), is a Unesco-designated World Heritage site.

When you get to the **ruins** (admission €1.40; ☎ 8.30am-5pm) a person selling soft drinks and admission tickets will greet you.

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** is permanently flooded (and inhabited by frogs), which is appropriate as worship of Leto was somehow 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. Get out at the Letoön turn-off.

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 €1.40; ☎ 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

The slightly scruffy, rambling village of Patara (Gelemiş) attracts an interesting mix of Turkish and foreign eccentrics. Its ruins come with a bonus in the form of a wonderful white-sand beach some 50m wide and 20km long. While there are plenty of pensions and a few mid-range hotels, traditional village life still goes on here. Transport can be irregular, so hopefully this means it will stay the way it is.

Patara was the birthplace of St Nicholas, the 4th-century Byzantine bishop who later passed into legend as Santa Claus. Before that, 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, but the harbour silted up in medieval times and became a reedy wetland. St Paul and St Luke once changed boats here.

About 95 of the 110 buildings in the village have been served with a court demolition order, which has put a stop to further development. There are ambitious plans to reconstruct the ruins into a spectacle to rival Ephesus, but don't hold your breath.

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.

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 and the three-star Hotel Beyhan Patara; go straight on for the beach and ruins.

Sights & Activities

RUINS

Admission to the ruins and beach costs €8, valid for over a week, possibly longer if you remember to wave to the man at the ticket gate every day. Patara's ruins include a triple-arched **triumphal gate** at the entrance to the site with a **necropolis** containing several **Lycian tombs** nearby. Next are the **baths** and much later, 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.

There are also several other **baths**, two **temples** and a **Corinthian temple** by the lake, although the swampy ground may mean they are difficult to approach. Across the lake is a **granary**.

PATARA BEACH

The beach is simply splendid. 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 stop (€0.55).

Be sure to bring footwear for crossing the 50m of scorching sand to the water's edge,

and also something for shelter as there are few places to escape the sun. You can rent an umbrella on the beach for €2.75.

Behind the beach, Patara Restaurant provides shade and sustenance. There's also a wooden shack on the sand selling kebabs. 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 Çayağzi Beach 5km away. There are basic beach services and camping facilities.

Tours

Dardanos Travel (☎ 843 5151; www.dardanostravel.com; ☎ 9am-6pm) offers three-hour horse-riding trips through the Patara dunes (€42) and full-day canoeing trips (with BBQ lunch €25) along the Eşen Stream, ending at Patara Beach.

Sleeping

Zeybek 2 Pension (☎ 843 5141; zeybekpension2@hotmail.com; s/d €11/17; ☎) Rooms, clean, homely and hung with traditional rugs, 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.

Flower Pension (☎ 843 5164; www.pataraflowerpension.com; s/d €10/17, 2-/3-person apt €22/28; ☎) On the road into town, the Flower is well named with simple, sparkling and well-maintained rooms with balconies overlooking the garden. There's a free shuttle to the beach.

Akay Pension (☎ 843 5055; www.pataraakaypension.com; s/d €9.50/17.50, 4-person apt €33; ☎) 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 €2.75 per room for air-con. Mrs Akay does a good breakfast.

Golden Pension (☎ 843 5162; www.goldenpension.com; s/d €14/20; ☎) 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 (€14 per day) or on boat trips (€17) including lunch, and also owns a travel agency.

Mehmet Hotel (☎ 843 5032; www.kirattravel.com; s/d €14/22, 4-/6-person apt €33/67; ☎) Though popular with groups, it lies off the main road, has a

pleasant pool and is good value. It's about 100m beyond the Patara View Point.

Patara View Point Hotel (☎ 843 5184; www.pataraviewpoint.com; s/d €20/33; ☎ Apr-Oct; ☎) Off the main road, so more tranquil than most, it has a nice swimming pool, an Ottoman-style cushioned terrace and rooms with balconies that have views over the valley. The characterful 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 veggie options, as well as *gözleme* on its relaxing terrace.

Bread & Water (☎ 843 5080; mains €7-9; ☎ 8am-midnight May-Sep) Styled like a wood cabin with an attractive terrace, the restaurant's reputable İstanbullu chef creates 'Turkish fare with a modern European twist'. It's fairly upmarket for Patara, but the food is excellent.

Tlos Restaurant (☎ 843 5135; meze €2, mains €4.45-10; ☎ 8am-midnight Apr-Oct) The Tlos is run by the moustached and smiling Osman, the chef-owner who takes great pride in his kitchen ('fresh, no frozen'). The Turkish goulash (€5.55) is particularly recommended. Alcohol is not served. About 50m north of the Golden Pension on the main road into the village.

Drinking

Medusa Bar (☎ 843 5193; beer €1.95; ☎ 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 €1.95; ☎ 9am-3am) Tiny but traditional and much loved locally, it has live Turkish music from 10pm to 3am every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Tropic Bar (beer €1.65; ☎ 11am-3am May-Sep) Patara's sole bar-cum-club, the Tropic has cosy cushions on stone benches around a pleasant open terrace. Happy 'hour' (cocktails €2.75) is from 8pm to 11pm nightly.

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.

Three to four minibuses a day run to Fethiye (€3.35) as well as Kalkan (€2.75, 20 minutes, 15km) and Kaş (€4.15, 45 mins, 41km).

KALKAN

☎ 0242

Although it was once an Ottoman-Greek fishing village called Kalamaki, Kalkan is now completely devoted to tourism. Discovered by travellers in the 1980s in search of the simple, cheap, quiet life, this perfect Mediterranean village with its Bohemian air soon boasted a yacht marina, then some modern hotels and finally holiday complexes on the outskirts of town.

Most visitors to Kalkan would describe themselves as 'comfortable'; it is not a haven for backpackers or lager lovers. For independent travellers there are some excellent pensions and hotels to suit all budgets, with an excellent restaurant scene. In winter it turns into a ghost town.

Orientation & Information

Kalkan is built on a steep hillside sloping down to a bay. Coming in from the highway the road zigzags down past a taxi rank, with 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).

The local **Internet café** (☎ 844 1670; Hasan Altan Caddesi; ☎ 9am-5pm) is really just a stationery shop with two computer terminals perched outside. It's up the hill diagonally opposite the bus and dolmuş stops. Kalkan has a **website** (www.kalkan.org.tr) instead of a tourist office.

Sleeping

BUDGET

Çelik Pansiyon (☎ 844 2126; Süleyman Yılmaz Caddesi 9; s/d €17/20; ☎) Though rooms are simple and rather Spartan, they're quite spacious and spotless. Two, attic-like, have a balcony overlooking the rooftops and marina, as does the roof terrace. It's also centrally located.

Holiday Pension (☎ 844 3777; Süleyman Yılmaz Caddesi; d with/without breakfast €22/17) 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.

Türk Evi (☎ 844 3129; www.kalkanturkevi.com; Hasan Altan Caddesi; s €14-25, d €22-33) At the upper end of town this traditional and charming restored stone house has much atmosphere and character including creaky floorboards, antique furniture and walls hung with pictures painted

by enamoured guests. There's also a stepped terrace shaded by vines and oleander trees, and rooms are beautifully furnished. It's great value.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Zinbad Hotel (☎ 844 3404; www.zinbadhotel.com; Yalıboyu Mahallesi 18; s/d €28/33; ☎ mid-Apr–Nov; ☎) Around the corner from the Daphne, 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).

Daphne Pansiyon (☎ 844 2788; daphne_kalkan@hotmail.com; Kocakaya Caddesi; r for 2 or 3 persons €45; ☎) Near the mosque on the road to the harbour, the Daphne boasts a pleasant roof terrace with a restaurant and lovely views, and rooms attractively decorated with traditional touches and furniture.

Patara Stone House (☎ 844 3622; www.korsankalkan.com; Atatürk Caddesi; d €36-50 depending on season; ☎) On the waterfront opposite the harbour entrance, it offers just two rooms in a lovely old stone house. Spacious, elegantly decorated and right on the waterfront, they're a great choice.

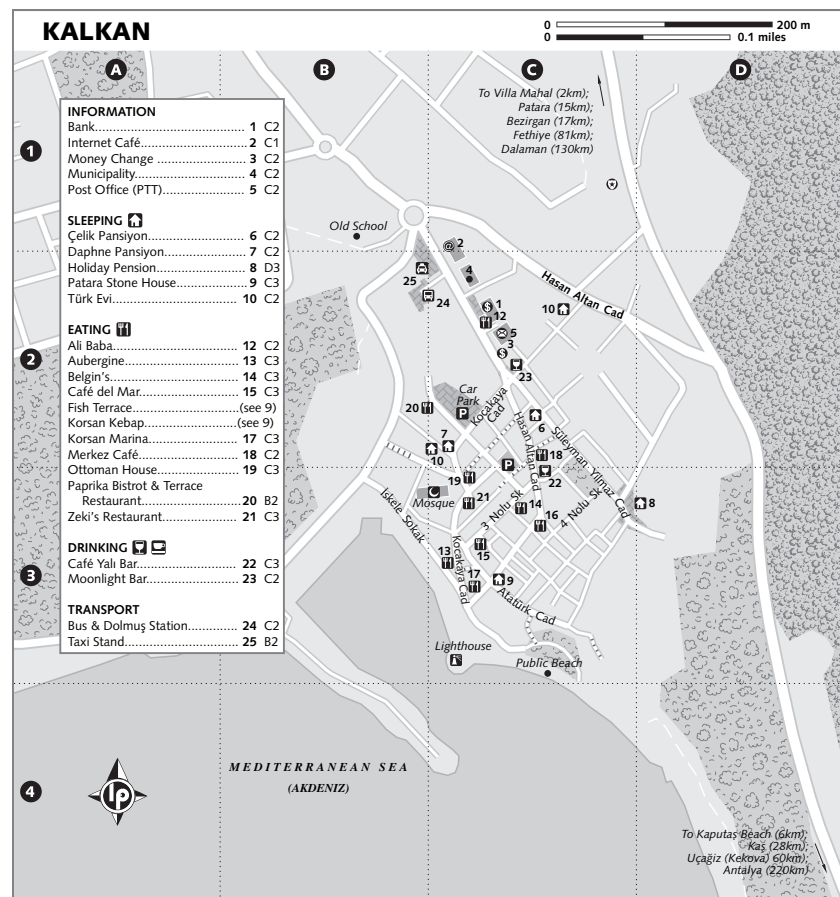
Villa Mahal (☎ 844 3268; www.villamahal.com; d €120-220; ☎) One of the most elegant hotels in Turkey lies on a steep hillside on the western side of Kalkan bay, about 2km from town. The 13 rooms, all individually designed in Mediterranean minimalist fashion, are unspeakably tasteful. All have superb 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 €3.

Eating

RESTAURANTS

Belgin's (☎ 844 3614; Hasan Altan Caddesi; mains €6.50-8; ☎ 10am-midnight Apr-Oct) A 150-year-old former olive-oil press, it serves traditional Turkish food at very palatable prices. The speciality is *manti* (Turkish ravioli, €6.65). 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.

Ottoman House (☎ 844 3667; 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, €11.50). The attractive roof terrace has good views.

Coast (☎ 844 2971; Yalıboyu 3; ☎ 9am-midnight Apr-Oct) This new, 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; meze €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 mouthwatering *mıçver* – courgette fritters), as is the Korsan paella (€11.50).

Aubergine (☎ 844 3332; İskele Sokak; ☎ 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, it 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 €15; ☎ 9.30am-midnight) On the roof of Patara Stone House, this restaurant is highly rated by long-term residents for its superb fish at pleasing prices. On Monday and Thursday from 8.30pm to 10pm there's live jazz. Its homemade lemonade (€1.65) 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 (€3.35), and also does good veggie dishes (€1.65 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 Cafe (☎ 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 macarons (€1.40)! With fresh fruit juices (€1.95) and *pain au chocolat* (€0.55) 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 €9) With tables on a terrace by the harbour, it does delicious, upmarket kebaps (€6) and pide (€3.85 to €5). 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.

Café Yalı Bar (☎ 844 2417; Hasan Altan Caddesi 19; beer €2; ☎ 1pm-midnight May-Oct) Positioned as it is on a three-road junction, this is a popular place for people-watching.

Getting There & Away

In high season, minibuses connect Kalkan with Fethiye (€3.35, 1½ hours, 81km) and

Kaş (€1.65, 35 minutes, 29km). Around eight minibuses also run daily to Patara (€1.40, 25 minutes, 15km).

AROUND KALKAN Bezirgan

Set in a flat, fertile basin ringed by hills, Bezirgan is a beautiful village about 17km in distance, but a world away in atmosphere, from Kalkan. Above the village is the ruined Lycian city of **Pirha**, about which little is known – it's just one of thousands of ancient sites in Turkey that lie in obscurity. It's possible to walk around the citadel walls that encircle its acropolis.

Located in the hills behind Kalkan, **Owlsland** (☎ 837 5214; www.owlisland.com; s/d €34/68, with half board €53/106) is a 150-year-old farmhouse and about as close as you can get to bucolic bliss. Run by a charming Turkish-Scottish couple, it's set in lovely rambling gardens. 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, heirlooms from Erol's grandfather. Walking tours (€30 including lunch) around the village are also offered. It provides a great glimpse into local rural life. There's a free transfer to/from Kalkan.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Unless you're staying at the 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.

Kaputaş

About 7km east of Kalkan and just over 20km 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 **beach**, accessible by a long flight of stairs. A dolmuş from Kalkan will take you there in high season for €0.55.

KAŞ

☎ 0242 / pop 7700

Once a place to which political dissidents were sent, the seaside town of Kaş must have been a rather pleasant place of exile. Fishermen bring their catch into the harbour, the locals gather in the shady tea gardens to discuss politics, and wealthy retired Turks, along with the tourists, investigate the shops and boutiques. Watched over by a 500m-high mountain shaped like a human figure lying on its side (Yatan Adam, 'Sleeping Man'), and with the geopolitical oddity of the Greek island of Meis (Kastellorizo) lying offshore, Kaş manages to cling to its distinctive character even today.

The town's appeal doesn't lie in its beaches – the local bays are small and pebbly – but in its excellent array of pensions, restaurants and bars, and its wonderfully mellow atmosphere. For such a relaxed place it is ironic that Kaş is now styling itself the 'Adventure Capital of the Med', but with paragliding, scuba diving and hiking all readily available, as well as fascinating coastal excursions, it makes an ideal base for a few days' strenuous activity.

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.

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 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 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 Meis.

Information

There are several banks with ATMs along Atatürk Bulvarı.

Net-C@fé (☎ 836 4505; İbrahim Serin Caddesi 16/B; per hr €0.80; ☎ 9am-1am)

Tourist office (☎ 836 1238; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-7pm 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. It's clean and just 1.3km from the town centre. Although it's largely pebble-based, there's a few metres of sand at one end where there is free use of parasols and sun beds, as well as a shaded café.

HAMAM

It's small and part of a resort (Hotel Club Phellos), but the mixed bath at the **Phellos Health Club** (☎ 836 1953; Doğrunol Sokak 4; massage €25) is well worth a visit.

Tours

Several excursions will take you along the coast for cruising and swimming.

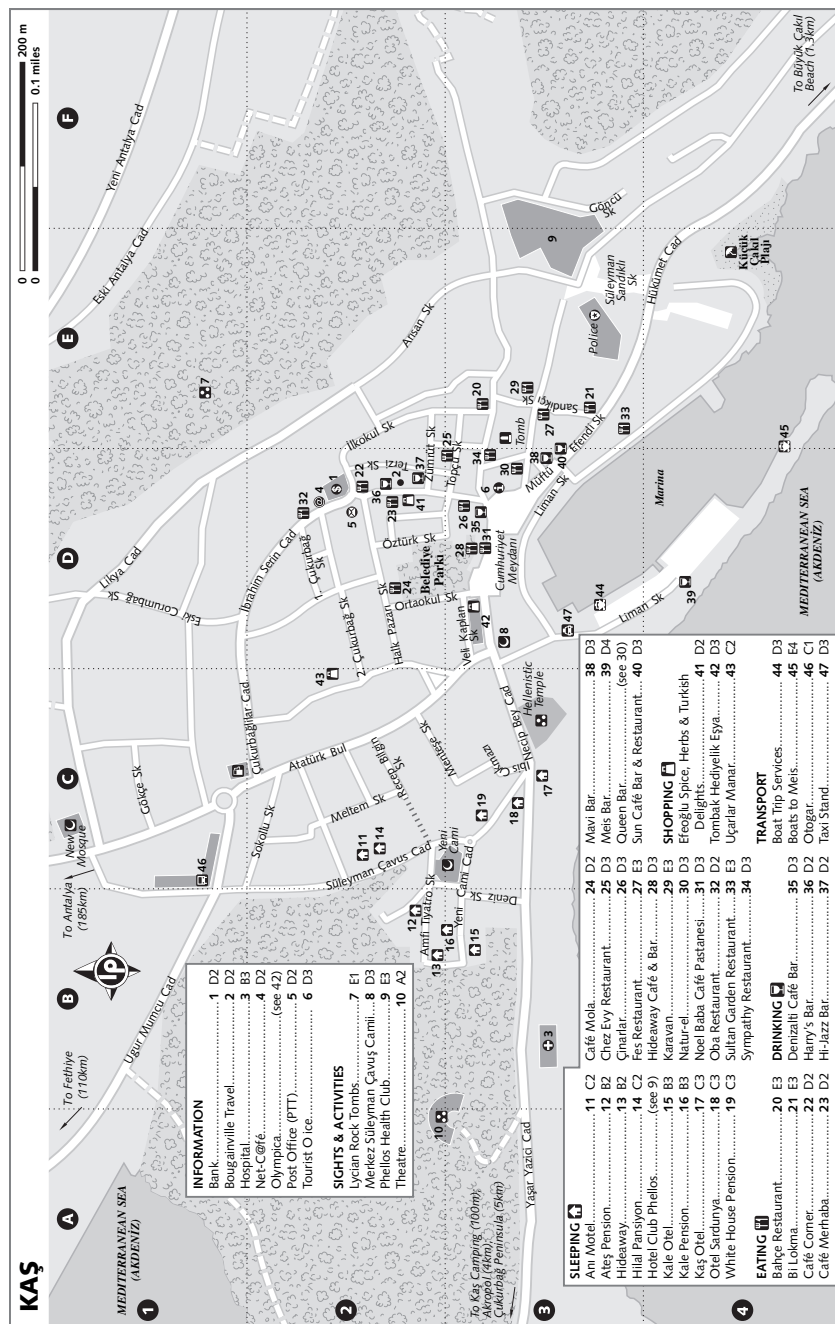
The popular three-hour **boat trip** (€12 to €14) to Kekova and Uçağız (see p377 and p376) includes time to see several interesting ruins as well as swimming stops.

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.

You can also charter a boat from the marina in Kaş. A whole day spent around the islands of Kaş should cost between €75 and €100 for the whole boat (for up to eight people).

Good tour companies in Kaş include the following:

Amber Travel (☎ 0242-836 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 below 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 client's 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 folk-dancing troupes from around the country and sometimes international acts as well.

Sleeping

BUDGET

Kaş Camping (☎ 836 1050; Yaşar Yazıcı Caddesi; 2-person camp sites €11) 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.

Ateş Pension (☎ 836 1393; www.atespension.com; Amfi Tiyatro Sokak 3; s/d €11/12.50; ☎ ☎) 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.

Ani Motel (☎ 836 1791; www.motelani.com; Süleyman Çavuş Caddesi; dm/s/d €5.50/8/14; ☎ ☎) 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-kas.com; Süleyman Çavuş Caddesi; dm/s/d €5.50/8/17; ☎ ☎) Run by the friendly Süleyman and family, it offers similar rooms to the Ani. It also has a plant-potted terrace where BBQs (€6.65) sometimes take place. The travel agency below it offers guests 10% discounts on activities including kayaking, diving and trips to Saklikent.

White House Pension (☎ 836 1513; faziseven@hotmail.com; Yeni Cami Caddesi 16; s/d €25/33; ☎ ☎) May-Sep) 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.

MIDRANGE

Hideaway (☎ 836 1887; www.kasturkey.com; Amfi Tiyatro Sokak; s €22, d €28-33; ☎ ☎) 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 €22/30.50; ☎ ☎) 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; ☎ 836 2170; Necip Bey Caddesi 15; s/d €28/34; ☎ ☎) One of the best locations,

ALIVE & KAYAKING IN KAŞ

Kaş is a great place for adventure and activities. The sea-kayaking day trips over the Kekova sunken city are particularly recommended (see the boxed text, p377). All prices include transfers, guides and lunch. Ask any of the agencies listed (p371) to book you on a trip.

Canoeing €30 per person full day on Patara River. Scheduled trips three times a week.

Canyoning €50 per person for full day.

Mountain biking €36 per person for full day.

Paragliding €100 per person. Flights last 20 to 30 minutes depending on weather.

Scuba diving for qualified divers, €30 per dive including all equipment. For beginners keen to qualify, a three-day PADI open-water course costs €340 all-inclusive.

Sea kayaking €30 per person for full day all-inclusive.

Bougainville Travel also hires out mountain bikes for €14 per day and canoes (though you'll need to be qualified) for €20/35 for a single/double.

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.

Kale Otel & Pension (☎ 836 4074; hotelkale@hotmail.com; Yeni Cami Caddesi 8; info@gultturkey.com; s/d pension €39/56; s/d hotel €56/77; 🍷) 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 €50/65/85; 🍷 🍷) Though something of an eyesore sprawling down the hillside, it's got a great pool overlooking the sea and three-star comfort.

Eating

Kaş has a thriving restaurant scene.

RESTAURANTS

Bi Lokma (☎ 836 3942; Hükümet 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 *mantı* (€3.90 to €4.40) for which she's well known and Mama's pastries (€3.60). The wine list is also reasonably priced.

Sultan Garden Restaurant (☎ 836 3762; Hükümet Caddesi; meze €1.65-3.35, mains €4.45-6.65; 🍷 10am-midnight) Not yet tried-and-tested but promising much is this restaurant. Specialising in Anatolian-Ottoman cuisine, its dishes are delicious but not at all dear. Try the *içli köfte* (mother-in-law's meatballs) for €3.

Natur-el (☎ 836 2834; Gürsöy Sokak 6; meals €7-10) With its dishes cooked to old Ottoman recipes passed down from generation to generation, Natur-el and the family who run it provides a chance to sample Turkish cuisine at its brilliant best. If you haven't yet eaten *mantı* (Turkish ravioli), then chose from the three varieties (€4.75) here. The Ottoman *hınkar beğendi* (spiced lamb cubes on a bed of smoked aubergine purée) is wonderful.

Sympathy Restaurant (☎ 836 2418; Uzun Çarşı Gürsöy Sokak 11; meals €5-10) 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; meze €2.20; 🍷 10am-midnight Apr-Oct) With tables on a peaceful terrace overlooking the harbour, steak (served with enticing sauces) is the speciality (€10) but ask about the daily specials, which are usually superb.

Karavan (☎ 836 3991; Sandıkçı Sokak; 🍷 10.30am-midnight) For something a little different, this place is creative in both its cuisine and presentation.

Bahçe Restaurant (☎ 836 2370; Likya Caddesi 31; meals around €12; 🍷 dinner) Up behind the Lycian sarcophagus, it has a pretty garden and serves excellent dishes at decent prices, including a terrific range of mezes (€1.94). The fish in paper (€8.35) 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* (€17) or *filet de boeuf sauce béarnaise* (€18). 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 (€3.40) or a snack such as a crêpe or sandwich (€1.70) with coffee or juice.

Noel Baba Café Pastanesi (☎ 836 1225; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 1; beer or cappuccino €2, tea €0.60; 🍷 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 €1.65-2.50; 🍷 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 €2.25 to €2.50) but it's the atmosphere you come for. It also stocks one-day-old European and American magazines.

Café Corner (☎ 836 1409; İbrahim Serin Caddesi 20) Long loved by locals and travellers alike, it's the range of food at feasible prices that's the draw, ranging from casseroles (€5 to €7) and

salads (€3 to €5) to chips (€2) and omelettes (€3). It's a good place for breakfast (€3.60).

Hideaway Café & Bar (☎ 836 3369; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 16/A; meals around €6-11; 🍷 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; meze €1.95, köfte €2.75-3.35, moussaka €2.75) 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* (casserole).

Çınarlar (☎ 836 2860; Müftü Efendi Sokak 4; pide €2.50-3.35, pizza €3.85-5.55; 🍷 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

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) Conveniently sited at the far end of the main square the Mavi's permanently packed with people – it was Kaş' favourite when we visited. It plays a good mix of music and has tables outside.

Meis Bar (Liman Sokak 20; 🍷 7pm-3am) Newly opened in a lovely old stone house, this place functions as a bar (7pm to 10pm), venue for live music (10pm to 2am) and full-blown nightclub. It's *the* place to be seen currently.

Sun Café Bar Restaurant (☎ 836 1053; Hükümet Caddesi; 🍷 9am-3am) With its garden setting next to the Lycian sarcophagus, its décor 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 second. The friendly DJ, Emin, encourages musical requests!

Denizaltı Café Bar ('Submarine'; ☎ 836 1315; Deniz Sokak; beer €1.65; 🍷 4.30pm-3am Apr-Oct) Another place for jazz and a 'mean martini' according to one local, it has tables outside, as well as a pleasant terrace that looks out over Atatürk's shoulders across the whole square.

Harry's Bar (☎ 836 1379; İbrahim Serin Caddesi 13; 🍷 4pm-2am) English-owned and English-leaking, this pub-like place is unashamedly expat, but it gets some traveller traffic too.

Shopping

Kaş has a good 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 (€14 to €194), intricate inlay work, and good-quality backgammon sets (€11 to €278).

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 (€11 per kg).

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

Regulations regarding travel to and from Greece change frequently. Be sure to get the latest information from one of Kaş' travel agencies before making plans.

At the time of writing there were no ferries to Rhodes (though they do sail from Marmaris; see p340). You can book tickets here then make your way over.

Ferries do sail daily throughout the year for the Greek island of Meis (Kastellorizo) – though, as it consists of little more than a tiny fishing village and a sprinkle of restaurants, it's not, frankly, a must-do.

Boats leave Kaş daily at 10am (€35 per person return, 30 minutes) and return from Meis at 4pm the same day. Tickets can be bought from any travel agency. When booking with an agency, you'll need to take in your passport 24 hours prior to departure. If you charter your own boat (around €27 per person), you can usually supply passports two hours before the trip. Note also that you can't currently overnight in Meis, nor enter Greece here (go to Rhodes instead). Bizarrely you can enter Turkey through Kaş if coming from Meis. Alternatively, if you can get a group of four or five people together, go for a four- to five-hour day trip with a local boat. Ask the boat captains at the harbour and be prepared to negotiate hard.

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 can no longer travel to Rhodes from Meis.

BUS

There are daily buses from the Kaş otogar to Istanbul (€30.50, 15 hours) at 6.30am, a nightly one to Ankara (€23.40, 11 hours) at 8.30pm, and two a day to Izmir (€13.35; 8½ hours), at 9.15am and 9pm.

There are also dolmuşes every half-hour to Kalkan (€1.40, 30 minutes, 29km), Olmpos (€5, 2½ hours, 109km) and Antalya (€5.55, 3½ hours, 185km) and every hour to Fethiye (€3.90, 2 hours 50 minutes, 110km). Services to Patara (€2.20, 45 minutes, 42km) run every half-hour in high season, hourly in low season.

ÜÇAĞIZ (KEKOVA)

☎ 0242

About 14km east of Kaş, a road leads south for 19km through the scrubby maquis and past farming villages to the tiny outpost of Üçağız (Three Mouths). This area is regularly visited by day-trippers on boats and yachts from Kaş and Kalkan but you can also stay overnight.

Declared off-limits to development, Üçağız was until recently an unspoilt Turkish fishing

and farming village in an absolutely idyllic setting on a bay amid islands and peninsulas. Nowadays it's becoming an upmarket 'undiscovered hideaway', with prices to match.

Here and there are remnants of ancient Lycian tombs. The little bay is shallow and almost enclosed, but locals don't recommend swimming here as it's not overly clean.

Orientation & Information

The village you enter is Üçağız, the ancient Teimiussa. Across the water to the east is Kaleköy (Kale), a village on the site of the ancient city of Simena, which is accessible by boat.

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.

Sleeping

Ekin Hotel Pension (☎ 874 2064; www.ekinhotel.tr.gsg; s €11-22, d €19.50-28; 🍷) Run by two brothers, the newer block of the Ekin is the better option, with its pretty roof terrace with panoramic views, and attractive rooms with balconies and sea views. The rooms in the old wing are rather Spartan and dusty.

Onur Pension (☎ 874 2071; www.onurpension.com; s/d €17/22; 🍷 🍷) 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 shipshape by Onur's Dutch wife, Jacqueline, have full sea views.

Kekova Pension (☎ 874 2259; kekovatour@hotmail.com; d €28-33; 🍷) 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 meze €3.90, fish per 500g €14; 🍷) 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

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 €22 to €25 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 (p371). 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 €30 per person.

best restaurant in town and its prices are reasonable.

Getting There & Away

Kekova is a tricky place to get to. One dolmuş leaves Antalya for Üçağız daily at 2pm (€5.55). Dolmuşes also run every 40 minutes from Antalya to Demre (€4.44, three hours), from where you can get a taxi (€16.50) to Üçağız. Dolmuşes no longer run from Demre to Üçağız and taking a boat is very expensive.

From Kaş, no dolmuşes run to Üçağız. A taxi (€22) is the only option. However, in summer, you can hitch a lift (€8.35 one way, two hours) with the boat company 'Aquarium' which makes daily tours to Üçağız.

From Kale (Demre), one dolmuş runs daily to Üçağız at 5pm (€2.20, 30 minutes). From Üçağız, dolmuşes leave at 8am.

If you find yourself stuck at Demre, call one of the pensions to see if they can pick you up.

Perhaps the most adventurous – and the simplest – way to get here is by hired scooter from Kaş on a day trip.

KALEKÖY

☎ 0242

Tours from Kaş normally head for the postcard-perfect Kaleköy to see the ruins of ancient **Simena** and the Crusader **fortress** perched above the lovely hamlet. Within the fortress a little theatre is cut into the rock and

nearby are ruins of several temples and public baths, several sarcophagi and Lycian tombs; the **city walls** are visible on the outskirts. It's a delightful spot, also accessible by motorboat from Üçağız (10 minutes) or on foot (45 minutes) along a rough track. There are also several sandy and peaceful spots from where you can swim.

Kaleköy has a couple of pensions, including the well-run **Kale Pansiyon** (☎ 874 2111; kalepansiyon@superonline.com; s/d €33/50; 🍷), 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 €14) next door with tables sitting prettily on the pier.

Near the Kale Pansiyon (and owned by the same family) but set back from the harbour is the **Olive Grove** (☎ 874 2234; kalepansiyon@superonline.com; s/d €33/50), freshly christened with the author's help! It's a gorgeous 150-year-old Greek stone house (look out for the lovely mosaic on the veranda) that's almost boutiquey. 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.

Higher on the hill is the **Mehtap Pansiyon** (☎ 874 2146; www.mehtappansiyon.com; camping per tent €11, s/d €44.50/55.50; 🍷), with spectacular views over the harbour and the Lycian tombs below.

The 200-year-old stone house has a firm family feel (complete with Granny snoozing on the terrace) and is quiet and tranquil. You can either eat at your pension or there are a couple of restaurants on the seafront, all offering similar fare for similar prices. Check out what's currently in favour when you get there.

KALE (DEMRE)

☎ 0242 / pop 14,560

Winding past rocky, scrubby terrain from Kaş, the road descends from the mountains to a fertile river delta, much of it covered in greenhouses, to Kale. Kale was the Roman city of Myra and by the 4th century was important enough to have its own bishop (one of them being St Nicholas of Santa Claus fame). Several centuries before that, St Paul stopped here on his voyage to Rome.

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 that same silting is the foundation of the town's wealth. The rich alluvial soil supports the intensive greenhouse production of flowers and vegetables – there is even a tomato on the town's coat of arms!

Orientation & Information

Kale sprawls over an alluvial plain. At the centre is the main square, near which are several cheap hotels and restaurants. The street going west from the square to the Church of St Nicholas is Müze Caddesi (also called St Nicholas Caddesi). Going north is Alakent Caddesi, which leads 2km to the Lycian rock tombs of Myra (right). PTT Caddesi (also called 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*.

Sights

CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

A block west of the main square, the **Church of St Nicholas** (admission €2.75; ☎ 8.30am–7pm May–Oct, to 5.30pm Nov–Apr) was first built in the 3rd century and held the saint's remains after he died in 343. 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.

Not vast like Aya Sofya or brilliant with mosaics like İstanbul's Chora Church (Kariye Museum), the Church of St Nicholas at Kale is, at first, a disappointment, though the remains of Byzantine frescoes and mosaic floors are interesting. What redeems it is the dignity lent it by its age and history.

MYRA

About 2km inland from Kale's main square lie the ruins of **Myra** (admission €2.75; ☎ 7.30am–7pm May–Oct, 8am–5.30pm Nov–Apr), with a striking honeycomb of rock-hewn **Lycian tombs** and 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 walk begins at Myra. See p80 for more details.

Taxi drivers in town will offer to take you on a tour, but the walk from the main square takes only about 20 minutes and 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 entrepôt 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.

Besides the ruins and the 1km-long **beach**, it's interesting to watch the boat builders at work. You can usually find an excursion boat or a taxi boat to Üçağız from here, too.

Occasional dolmuşes run out to Çayağzi from the centre of Kale, but you'll probably have to take a taxi (€5).

Sleeping & Eating

Despite its attractions, Kale doesn't have much accommodation.

Şahin Otel (☎ 871 5687; yusufkamilkolcu@hotmail.com; Müze Caddesi 2; s/d €14/19.50; ☎) Lying 20m from the clock tower off the main square, the hotel is conveniently located even if its rooms are rather small. It has an enormous shaded terrace outside.

Hotel Andriake (☎ 871 4640; anriakehotel@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 and has a pool – albeit not especially clean-looking.

Akdeniz Restaurant (☎ 871 5466; Müze Caddesi; pide €1.40, köfte €2.75; ☎ 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 €0.85, pastries €1.40; ☎ 7am–1am; ☎) Fabulous for breakfast or a snack. It also does ice cream (€0.55 per scoop).

Getting There & Away

Buses and dolmuşes travel to Kaş (€1.65, one hour, 45km) every hour, and to Antalya (€4.45, 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 from Finike, the road transits **Kumluca**, a farming town surrounded by citrus orchards and plastic-roofed greenhouses, worth visiting on Friday for its lively market. Kumluca is the nearest town to Olympos/Çıralı that has banking facilities.

After Kumluca the highway winds back up into the mountains with an especially good panorama about 28km from Finike. About 3km later you enter the **Beydağları Sahil National Park** (Beydağları Sahil Milli Parkı).

OLYMPOS, ÇIRALI & CHIMAERA

☎ 0242

Midway between Kumluca and Tekirova a roads leads southeast from the main highway towards Çavuşköy, Olympos and Çıralı, to Adrasan beach, and to the ruins of ancient Olympos and the site of the Chimaera, all set within the glorious Beydağları Sahil Milli Parkı (Bey Mountains Coastal National Park).

Olympos

The early history of Olympos is shrouded in mystery. We know that it was an important

Lycian city by the 2nd century BC and that the Olympians worshipped Hephæstus (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 remain) but by the 15th century the site had been abandoned.

Olympos (admission per day €1.10) is fascinating not just for its ruins (which are fragmentary and widely scattered among wild grapevines, flowering oleander, bay trees, wild figs and pines), but also for its location, just inland from a beautiful beach, alongside a stream that runs through a rocky gorge. The stream dries to a rivulet in high summer and a ramble along it, 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 collects the fee.

Çıralı

As Ölüdeniz once was, Çıralı still is – a beautiful beach backed by mountains, with an array of high-quality pensions. Just down the beach from Olympos, it's an acceptable alternative if you've had your fill of the backpacker fraternity.

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

ACTIVE IN OLYMPOS

If all that chilling gets too much, Kadir's Yörük Top Treehouse (below) has an **Adventure Centre** (☎ 892 1316; 🕒 8.30am-7pm), which offers the following activities (prices are per person):

Boat cruises Full-day trip €20. Minimum eight to 10 people. Includes snorkelling gear and lunch.

Canyoning Full-day trip €28. Includes lunch at trout farm in mountains.

Chimaera Flame Tours €8 for three hours. Departures after dinner at 9pm.

Jeep safaris Full-day trip €22. Includes lunch and transport.

Mountain biking €20 for four hours.

Rock climbing On their natural wall, €14 for two climbs.

Scuba diving €33 for two dives. Qualified divers only. Full-day trip. Includes all equipment and lunch.

Sea-kayaking Half-day trip (noon to 4pm) €17. Includes lunch on beach.

Trekking €17, five hours. Includes lunch.

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. The best time to visit is after dark. Various pensions in Olympos run tours here for a modest fee in the evening, but it's worth making the journey in a smaller group to appreciate it in peace and quiet. It's about a 7km walk from Olympos. 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.

Sleeping & Eating
OLYMPOS

Staying in a rustic tree-house camp at Olympos has become one of the most popular backpacker stops in Turkey. Some people love it and stay far longer than they'd anticipated, others feel they're back at school camp and move on. Regardless, the camps have a fine beach, interesting ruins, a fabulous setting in a steep forested valley and, above all, an atmosphere so mellow you may not want to leave.

All the tree-house camps include breakfast and dinner in the price, although drinks are extra. Bathrooms are generally shared,

but many bungalows have their own bathroom and some have air-conditioning. Few tree houses have 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.

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

Türkmen Tree Houses (☎ 892 1249; www.turkmen treehouses.com; tree house €10, bungalow with/without bathroom €17/14; 🕒 📍) With a capacity for up to 420 people, this is the biggest camp in Olympos and the only real rival to Kadir regarding party reputations. The tree houses and bungalows are comfortable and the camp claims to serve the best dinner in Olympos. Yacht trips to Kaş can be organised from here.

Kadir's Yörük Top Treehouse (☎ 892 1250; www.kadirstreehouses.com; dm/tree house €8/11, bungalows €17; 🕒 📍) The original tree-house camp that began it all, it just gets ever larger, ever quirrier and ever more fun, with a capacity now for 300. There are three bars (including the very popular Bull Bar) and a new rock-climbing wall. It veritably buzzes with backpackers, but is well managed. It's Adventure Centre (see above) offers a range of activities.

Şaban (☎ 892 1265; www.sabanpansion.com; dm/tree house €8/11, bungalows €14-17; 🕒 📍) 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 tranquility,

space, a family feel, and great home cooking. It's an excellent choice for single women (but keep in mind the boxed text, below).

Bayram's (☎ 892 1243; www.bayrams.com; tree house €11, bungalow with/without air-con €17/14; 🕒 📍) Close to the beach, this large camp is run by the friendly Bayram, whose mantra 'Take it easy' about sums up the place. Travellers sit on cushioned benches under orange trees playing backgammon or reading, and the camp has a tangible chilled-out feel.

Caretta Caretta (☎ 892 1292; carettaolympos@hotmail.com; dm/tree house €11/14, bungalow with bathroom €17) 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.

Varuna (☎ 892 1347; beer €1.65, mains €3.90-7; 🕒 8am-2.30am) Next to Bayram's, this popular restaurant serves a fair range of snacks and mains including fresh trout (€3.90), *gözleme* (€1.65) and *şiş kebabs* (roast skewered meat, €3 to €4) in some attractive open cabins.

ÇIRALI

Arriving in Çıralı, 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 (☎ 8257 311; camp site/tree house per person incl breakfast €5/10) 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.

WARNING

Lonely Planet has recently heard reports about two female travellers claiming to have been drugged with drinks at Olympos. While hundreds of other women may have had happy, trouble-free experiences there, it pays to be cautious. If you're in a group, keep a sharp eye on one another and stay close. If you're alone, hook up with others, explain your concerns, and do a careful head count at the end of each evening.

Myland Nature (☎ 825 7044; www.mylandnature.com; s/d/tr €42/55.50/72; 🕒 📍) Run by a photographer, this is an arty, holistic and laid-back place with 'great vibes' according to some travellers. The spotless bungalows are set around a pretty garden and the food garners high praise. Bikes are available and there are daily boat trips.

Arcadia Hotel (☎ 825 7340; www.arcadiaholiday.com; d with half-board €99; 🕒 📍) 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 €140/175; 🕒 📍) 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.

Getting There & Away

Buses plying the main road between Antalya and Fethiye will drop you or pick you up about 1km further uphill from the turn-off at a roadside restaurant, from where minibuses leave for Çıralı and Olympos.

The first minibus (€1.65, 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.

Starting from late May, Olympos dolmuşes (€1.25) leave every hour from 9am to 7pm. After October they wait until enough passengers arrive, which can sometimes take a while. Assuming enough people show up, the dolmuş passes all the camps until it reaches the one the driver is paid to stop at.

To Çıralı there are six daily minibuses (€1.25) 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

About 10km south along the coast from Olmpos is Adrasan, a tiny, little-known coastal resort with a rambling collection of beachfront hotels and pensions. The road runs through the farming village of Çavuşköy, from where it is about 2km to Adrasan. The beach is stark, flanked on two sides by rugged mountains, and seemingly postapocalyptic – remote and exposed – with a row of little restaurants and hotels set back from the water.

The **Ön Otel** (☎ 883 1099; www.onotel.com; s/d €22/33; 🍷 🚰), an attractive whitewashed building with a lovely pool and a tennis court set amid gorgeous grounds, 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.

About 1km back from the beach on the road between Adrasan and Çavuşköy, **Eviniz Pension** (☎ 883 1110; www.eviniz.de; r per person €31; 🍷 May–Nov; 🍷 🚰) is a boutique hotel that boasts a beautiful pool on a terrace with comfortable, attractive rooms with balconies and distant sea views.

North of the beach along the delightful tree-lined river is a string of restaurants where you eat on wooden platforms set on the water. **Paradise Café Inn** (☎ 883 1267; meals €10–15; 🍷) is an attractive place with a reputation for good food and service and a pleasant atmosphere.

Getting There & Away

To Antalya (€3.90, two hours) three buses leave daily in high season at 7.30am, 11am and 5pm; in low season at 7.30am only. From Antalya two buses leave daily at 9am and 3.30pm in high season; in low season 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, 12km before the turn-off to Kemer and about 56km from Antalya, there is a road marked for Phaselis, a ruined Lycian city on the shore 2km off the highway.

Phaselis was 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.

Shaded by pines, the **ruins of Phaselis** (admission €6.25; 🕒 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 incomparably romantic.

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.

At the opposite end of the bay to the Phaselis archaeological site, **Sundance Nature Village** (Sundance Camp; ☎ 821 4165; www.sundancecamp.com; camp site/s/d/tr tree houses per person €7/14/12/10, bungalows €20–30) is well named. 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 (€22 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 you can get a taxi.

ANTALYA

☎ 0242 / pop 603,200

Situated directly on the Gulf of Antalya (Antalya Körfezi), this quickly growing epicentre of both ancient history and thoroughly modern Turkish culture has, since the 1960s, become known as a gateway city for the country's so-called "Turkish Riviera". Over the past decade sun-worshippers heading to nearby Mediterranean resorts have been laying over in Antalya in such great numbers that the guesthouse industry has experienced astounding growth of its own – by more than 200%, according to tourism officials.

It isn't difficult to discern why: The preserved Roman-Ottoman quarter of Kaleiçi commands a heart-stopping view of the Beydağları (Bey Mountains), as well as the Roman harbour at Kaleiçi's base and the refreshingly clean body of water in between. And although its populace hasn't yet reached the level of urban sophistication found in

Istanbul or Ankara, life here nonetheless pushes forward at a remarkably modern clip. Antalya lays claim to some of Turkey's finest restaurants, one of its most impressive archaeological museums, and some of its best-preserved Ottoman architecture.

History

This area has been inhabited since the earliest times. The oldest artefacts, found in the Karain Cave (Karain Mağarası; p394) 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 Ataleia after its founder. When the Pergamene kingdom was bequeathed to Rome, Ataleia 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 Hamidoğulları 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, now the yacht marina. Around it is the peaceful historic district called Kaleiçi, which features Ottoman houses sprinkled with Roman ruins. 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 Cetinkaya 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**

Joy Bookstore (Map p386; Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi;

🕒 9am–midnight) Head downstairs to find a limited selection of English-language novels, travel guides and cookbooks. There's a small café selling ice cream and sandwiches on the top-floor balcony.

Owl Bookshop (Map p386; Barbaros Mahallesi, Akarçeşme Sokak 21; 🕒 10am–1pm & 3–7pm Mon–Sat) A small but well-edited selection of new and used English-language books. The owner, Kemal Özkurt, keeps odd hours. Knock with persistence if the shop appears to be closed.

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 p386; 🕒 9am–midnight) This tiny café offers high-speed access in an alley across the street from Hadrian's Gate.

Natural Internet Café (Map p386; 🕒 8am–11pm)

Possibly 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) Historical information about the region and its preserved ancient cities.

Antalya Guide (www.antalyaguide.org) A comprehensive site for visitors with info on everything from climate to TV channels.

MONEY

A number of banks are located on Kazım Özalp Caddesi (Map p384) as are several *döviz* (currency exchange) offices.

POST

There are several post offices within walking distance of Kaleiçi.

Merkez PTT (Map p384; Kenan Evren Buvanı) A few hundred metres past the tourist office and across the street. Use the Seleker tram stop.

TELEPHONES

Turk Telecom (Map p386; 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 p384; ☎ 241 1747; Yavuz Ozcan Parkı; ☎ 8am-7pm) In a small wooden shack tucked behind the souvenir vendors of Yavuz Ozcan Parkı. Ask around if the office is unattended; a staff member is probably nearby. Some employees speak fluent English, German and French.

Sights & Activities

YIVLI MINARE & THE BAZAAR

The **Yivli Minare** (Map p386), downhill from the **clock tower** is a handsome and unique 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 Zincirkıran 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 p386), 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 p386; Hesapçı 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 p386) nearby served the neighborhood'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 Karaalioğlu Parkı, rises the **Hıdırlık Kalesi** (Map p386), 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 p386), erected during the Roman emperor Hadrian's reign (AD 117-38). It leads into Kaleiçi.

Further along Atatürk Caddesi towards the sea is **Karaalioğlu Parkı** (Map p386), 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 Hesapçı Sokak, you'll find a **museum** (Map p386; 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

Roughly 2km west of the centre and easily reachable by tram (Müze stop) is the **Antalya Museum** (Map p384; Cumhuriyet Caddesi; admission €6; ☎ 9am-7.30pm Tue-Sun), generally regarded as one of the country's most important archaeological collections. Founded in 1919, the museum has only been in its present location since 1972; it was formerly housed in a mosque near the Yivli Minare.

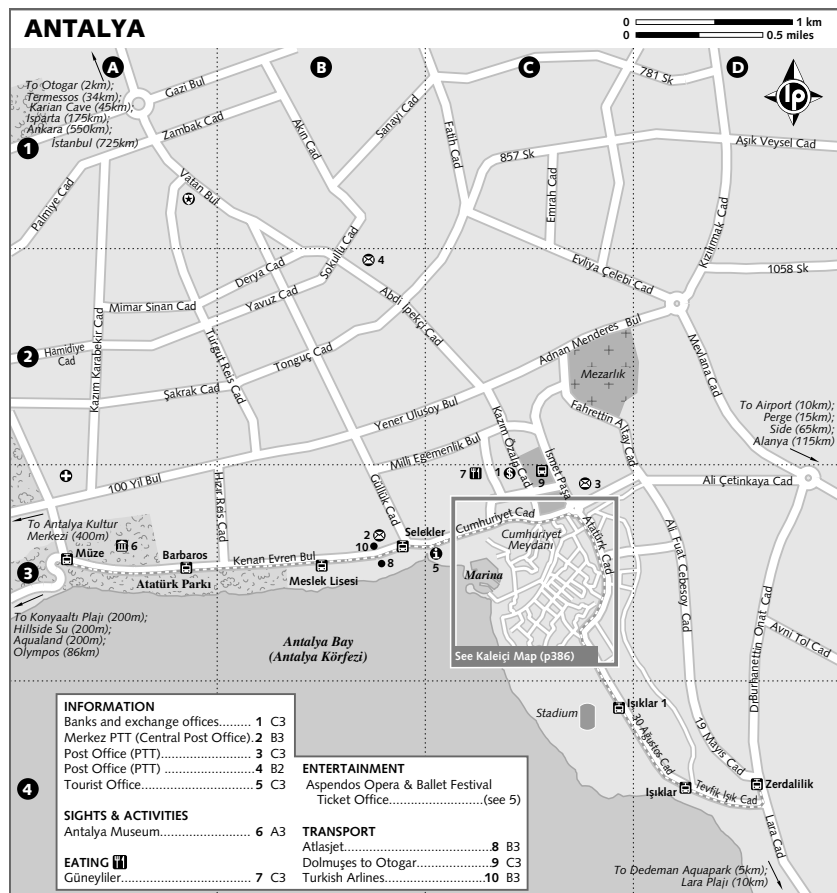
In the first hall is a collection of small works, including finely detailed figurines, which are arranged chronologically from the Stone and Bronze Ages, and then through to the Mycenaean, Classical and Hellenistic periods. Yet while the impressively ancient collection is in an impressively preserved state, visitors approaching museum burnout may not be duly impressed by the displays at first glance. But not to worry: the museum's simply phenomenal collection of priceless treasures lies just ahead, in the Hall of Gods.

Even those not particularly fascinated by Greek mythology will surely be moved by the collection, which includes numerous representations of 16 gods, some in near-perfect condition, and all awe-inspiring. Adding to the experience is a motion detection system that casts a dramatic light upon each statue as a visitor approaches. The vast majesty 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 there.

The shaded back garden features a collection of artefacts in somewhat deteriorating condition; look out for the curious row of displaced legs and feet.

BEACHES & WATER PARK

Alas, neither of Antalya's two beaches have much to recommend them – at least not as far as silken sand nor paradise views are concerned. **Lara Plajı** is your best bet for



KALEİÇİ

INFORMATION

Cevher Internet.....	1 D2	Tekeli Mehmet Paşa Camii.....	20 C1	Gül Restaurant & Café.....	38 D3
Joy Bookstore.....	2 D4	Tombs..... (see 17)		Hasanağa Restaurant.....	39 C1
Natural Internet Café.....	3 B1	Yivli Minare (Grooved Minaret).....	21 C1	Parlak Restaurant.....	40 C1
Owl Bookshop.....	4 D3			Restaurant 36.....	41 B3
PTT.....	5 B2	SLEEPING		Sim Restaurant.....	42 B3
Tourism Police.....	6 B2	Dedekonak Family Pansion.....	22 C3	Villa Perla..... (see 34)	
Türk Telecom.....	7 D2	Hotel Alp Paşa.....	23 C3	DRINKING	
		La Paloma Pansion.....	24 C4	Castle Café-Bar.....	43 B4
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		Lazer Pension.....	25 B4	Dem-Lik.....	44 C3
Association for the Unity of Mankind.....	8 D2	Marina Residence.....	26 B2	Kale Bar..... (see 33)	
Atatürk Statue.....	9 B1	Mavi & Anı Pansiyon.....	27 B4	Paul's Place.....	45 C3
Balık Pazan Hamam.....	10 C2	Minyon Hotel.....	28 B4	Sokak Café & Bar..... (see 39)	
Clock Tower (Saat Kulesi).....	11 C1	Ozmen Pansiyon.....	29 B4	ENTERTAINMENT	
Excursion Yachts.....	12 B2	Sabah Pansiyon.....	30 B4	Club Ally.....	46 A2
Hadriyanüs Kapısı (Hadrian's Gate).....	13 D2	Secret Palace.....	31 B3	Club Arma.....	47 A2
Hidriik Kulesi (Tower).....	14 B4	Senem Family Pension.....	32 B4	Mavi Folk Bar.....	48 B2
Karaalioglu Parki.....	15 B4	Tütav Türk Evi Otelleri.....	33 B2	Rock Bar.....	49 C1
Kesik Minare.....	16 C3	Villa Perla.....	34 C2	Roof.....	50 C1
Korkut Camii..... (see 16)		White Garden Pansion.....	35 B3	TRANSPORT	
Mevlevi Tekke.....	17 B1			Bus to Otagar.....	51 D3
Ottoman Houses..... (see 17)		EATING			
Sefa Hamamı.....	18 D2	Ayar Meythane Restaurant.....	36 C3		
Suna & Inan Kıraç Kaleiçi Museum.....	19 D2	Gizli Bahçe.....	37 B2		

swimming; it's about 12km southeast of the centre. But for a good dose of well-rounded beach culture amusement, head to the much nearer **Konyaaltı Plajı**; 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 €15; ☎ 10am-6pm), said to be the largest water park in the Middle East.

Dolmuşes run from Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi to Lara Plajı, passing the aquapark (€0.50).

HAMAMS

The 700-year-old **Balık Pazarı Hamam** (Map p386; ☎ 243 6175; cnr Balık Pazarı Sokak & Paşa Camii Sokak; ☎ 8am-midnight for men, 8am-9pm for women) saw its latest restoration just four years ago. A bath, a peeling, and a soap and oil massage cost €16, or it's €5 for a bath only. Slightly more atmospheric is the **Sefa Hamam** (Map p386; Kocatepe Sokak 32; ☎ 9am-11pm). Also restored recently, it boasts 13th-century Seljuk architecture. A bath here costs €6, or €18 for the works.

BOAT & RAFTING TRIPS

Excursion yachts (Map p386) 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 (€20) or two-hour (€35) trips or a six-hour voyage (€55 with lunch) which visits the Lower Düden Falls (p392), Gülf 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. Also ask if alcoholic beverages are included.

Many travel agencies in town offer white-water rafting in the Köprülü Kanyon (see p396).

YOGA SCHOOLS & INSTRUCTION

The **Association for the Unity of Mankind** (Map p386; ☎ 244 5807; Hesapçı Sokak 7) is a yoga, meditation and aerobics studio offering different morning and evening classes daily, as well as classes in group meditation and arts and crafts. A weekly schedule is posted outside the front door. Yoga takes place on Thursdays only, from 10.30am to 11.30am.

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.

Sleeping

Although sleeping options are scattered throughout the city, the most welcoming pensions and small hotels are found in the old town of Kaleiçi, an almost vehicle-free district which is also the perfect base from which to explore Antalya's restaurants, night-life and sights.

BUDGET

To reach Kaleiçi, pass through Hadrian's Gate and walk along Hesapçı 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.

Lazer Pension (Map p386; ☎ 242 7194; www.geocities.com/lazerpension; Tabakhane Sokak 30; s/d €11/17; ☎) Right across the street from Sabah, this is one of the cheaper pensions in town. The shaded outdoor garden is comfortably homely, although some of the rooms are a bit shabby around the edges. It's especially popular with Japanese backpackers.

Sabah Pansiyon (Map p386; ☎ 247 5345; www.sabahpansiyon.8m.com; Hesapçı Sokak 60/A; dm/s/d without shower €11/14/19, s/d with shower €14/22; ☎) Certainly the most popular backpackers' destination in Kaleiçi, and for good reason: the English-speaking family who operates the place consistently goes out of its way to make guests feel comfortably at home. The shaded courtyard is a perfect spot for hooking up with other travellers, and a wide variety of clean, cosy rooms is available in numerous price ranges. Free wireless internet access is available, and the home-cooked meals are superior to much of what you'll find in local restaurants. Competitive prices on tours and car hire are offered.

Özmen Pansiyon (Map p386; ☎ 241 6505; www.ozmenpension.com; Zeytin Çikmazı 5; dm/s/d €9/14/22; ☎) Not necessarily the cleanest or most comfortable place in town; cheap rates and the massive rooftop patio are the main draws at this backpacker standby, which maintains a decidedly hostel-like vibe. Other plusses: dorm rooms here aren't bunk-bed style, the patio bar frequently fills up after dark, and

the enthusiastic, German-speaking owner is quick to share local travel tips.

Senem Family Pension (Map p386; ☎ 247 1752; fax 247 0615; Zeytin Geçidi Sokak 9; s/d €20/25; 🏠) Climb two flights of stairs to reach the outdoor patio and reception area, which has an absolutely stunning view of the bay and often mist-shrouded mountains beyond. 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 Pension (Map p386; ☎ 248 5264; Hıdırlık Sokak 13; s/d €14/25) An affordable, super-clean and more upscale alternative to the nearby Özmen Pansiyon. The rooms, with retro French advertising on the walls and satellite TV, 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.

Mavi & Ani Pansiyon (Map p386; ☎ 247 0056; www.maviani.com; Tabakhane Sokak 26; s/d €19/28) Something of an odd cross between a restored Ottoman house and Japanese *ryokan*, 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 free at the nearby Backside Hotel.

MIDRANGE

La Paloma Pension (Map p386; ☎ 244 8497; www.lapaloma.pension.com; Tabakhane Sokak 3; s/d €35/40; 🏠) A somewhat cramped but creatively laid out retreat in a restored Ottoman house. Free wireless access was recently installed, and the rooms – some with Jacuzzi, all with satellite TV – are surprisingly roomy. A few sunken rooms have a pleasing pool view.

Secret Palace (Map p386; ☎ 244 1060; Fırn Sokak 10A; s/d €33/44; 🏠) It's not really much of a secret – you'll find the back entrance next door to White Garden Pansiyon. What this restored and traditional Turkish house does have is an outdoor garden with orange and tangerine trees, and a kidney-shaped pool. Particularly classy is the outdoor bar complete with marble countertop, and a delightfully

decorated 'oriental corner', ideal for Turkish tea-sipping.

Tütav Türk Evi Otelleri (Map p386; ☎ 248 6591; www.turkeviotelleri.com; Mermerli Sokak 2; s/d €25/45; 🏠) Because it is comprised of three restored Ottoman guesthouses, 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 detail; the 20 Turkish- and Ottoman-themed rooms are detailed with particularly impressive taste.

Minyon Hotel (Map p386; ☎ 247 1147; www.minyon.hotel.com; Tabakhane Sokak 31; s/d €45/55; 🏠) Staying at this self-described private town house is meant to feel something like staying at the residence of a wealthy and cultured local: heart-stopping antiques and a lobby and pool ringed with tiles are just a few of the artful touches that make life here so decidedly grand. The attention to precise detail extends to the rooms although, for an especially unique stay, request a sea view.

Villa Perla (Map p386; ☎ 248 9793; www.villaperla.com; Hesaçlı Sokak 26; s/d €45/60; 🏠) A wonderfully restored Ottoman house with an atmospheric vibe that feels much more homely and lived-in than upscale. The common areas and 12 rooms (some with Jacuzzi) are outfitted with Turkish carpets, wooden furniture and nargileh pipes. The outdoor garden dining area (see p390) is home to a small pool and bar.

TOP END

Marina Residence (Map p386; ☎ 247 5490; www.marina.residence.net; Mermerli Sokak 15; s/d €75/95; 🏠) An absolute bastion of class, this is clearly one of Antalya's smartest and most modestly posh Ottoman house renovations. 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. All rooms come complete with Jacuzzi and the usual top-end accoutrements. A health centre and sauna are on site.

Hotel Alp Paşa (Map p386; ☎ 247 5676; www.alppasa.com; Hesaçlı Sokak 30-32; s/d €90/120, with Jacuzzi €120/150; 🏠) Although it's often packed full with tour groups, a room in this carefully restored 18th-century mansion is well worth booking in advance. The 60 individually designed rooms are fitted out with tasteful Ottoman detail, and the outdoor courtyard, where swimming and dining takes place, displays Roman columns and other artefacts unearthed during

the hotel's construction. An on-site *hamam* and an atmospheric stone-walled restaurant featuring an impressive list of French and Turkish wines, round out the amenities.

Hillside Su (☎ 249 0700; www.hillsideu.com; s/d €160/225; 🏠) One of only three officially designated design hotels in Turkey (the others are in İstanbul and Bodrum), architect Eren Talu's jaw-dropping peon to 1960s minimalism is equal parts modern-art brilliance and pure over-the-top ridiculousness: the entire structure and every last room is a blinding wash of clean white. A sushi bar, a Mediterranean eatery, a health club and a luxurious spa serve beautiful Euro-tourists (and the occasional celebrity).

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, although the quality of food and service won't necessarily be any better or worse than at restaurants found further inland. For cheap eating, cross over Atatürk Caddesi and poke around deep in the commercial district.

Ulker Fırın & Café (☎ 247 0324; Recep Perker Caddesi 21A; baklava €1.50) Take care not to over-order at this thoroughly modern bakery, which is packed with both traditional and nontraditional 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 (☎ 243 2548; Hasim İscan Mahallesi, Arik Caddesi 4A; Adana durum €3; 🕒 9am-11pm Mon-Sat) Dig into fantastically prepared *çorba* (soup), pide and Adana *durum* at prices much lower than you've no doubt encountered in Kaleiçi. With barely enough room inside to bend your elbows, you might want to grab a seat on the pavement. Located diagonally across the street from Plaza Cinemas.

Güneyliler (Map p384; ☎ 241 1117; Elmali Mahallesi 4 No 12; meals €5) 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 p386; ☎ 241 6553; Kazım Özlal Qvenue Zincirlihan 7; meals €5-10) A massive open-air patio favoured by locals and legendary for its grills and skewered fish, Parlak is something of a meat-eater's Mecca. And while hardly a white-tablecloth locale, the restaurant's mighty grill pit is indeed a thing of true beauty, as are the evenly cooked entrées it's been proudly serving for eons. A good choice if you're looking to relax for a while, and just steps away from Kale Kapısı.

Hasanağa Restaurant (Map p386; ☎ 242 8105; Mescit Sokak 15; meals €5-10) 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 €5.

Restaurant 36 (Map p386; ☎ 244 8661; Hıdırlık Sokak 36; meals around €6) Popular with the backpacker crowd, in part because of its location near to the cheaper pensions, yet also because of its distinctively laid-back vibe. The somewhat international menu offers items like tuna fish salads and omelettes along with the usual mix of mezés, kebabs and grills. Because the indoor dining area appears to also be the living room of the owner's home, front patio nosing is recommended.

Gül Restaurant & Café (Map p386; ☎ 247 5126; Kocatepe Sokak 1; meals €5-10) Especially prized by German tourists and love-struck couples, the backyard garden at this intimate eatery is particularly cosy, and shaded by a crop of Antalya's famous orange trees. Portions are small but affordable. Octopus with baked veggies and cheese is €5; an entrée of mushrooms and veggies is €4.

Sim Restaurant (Map p386; ☎ 248 0107; Kaledibi Sokak 7; meals €5-10) A restored and eclectically decorated wood-and-stone house with seating on the second floor. Sure bets here include the *köfte*, *çorba* or *şiş* kebab. When the weather's balmy, leave the Turkish antiques to their own devices and dine underneath the canopy in the narrow passageway at the front.

Ayar Meyhane Restaurant (Map p386; ☎ 244 5203; Hesaçlı Sokak 51; meals about €10) With a wide selection of mostly seafood and grilled meat entrées, not to mention a very satisfying wine and liquor list, this is an ideal spot for dining out in large groups. Live classic Ottoman music is performed nightly.

7 Mehmet Restaurant (☎ 238 5200; www.7mehmet.com; Atatürk Kültür Parkı 333; meals €11; 🕒 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.

Gızlı Bahçe (Map p386; ☎ 244 8010; Dizdar Hasan Bey Sokak 1; meals €10-15) A sort of luxury compound featuring two separate restaurants – one Turkish and one Italian – as well as a bar, this is undoubtedly one of Kaleiçi's most dramatically located dining and entertainment spots. The restaurant is almost as lovely to gaze at as the view, and the food (traditional grills, mezes and pasta) and service are equally supreme. Smart dress is encouraged, although prices are kept relatively low.

Villa Perla (Map p386; ☎ 248 9793; Hesapçı Sokak 26; meals €10-15) A small garden restaurant attached to the Villa Perla pension, this relaxing spot comes highly recommended by locals. Try the uniquely prepared meze plate (€8) or any of the surprisingly tasty rabbit-based dishes.

Drinking

Kaleiçi is full of overflowing with options for evening or late-night drinking – everything from cafés with harbour views and affordable cocktails to quaintly modest beer gardens. But beware the quarter's over-the-top discotheques, where drinks are outrageously expensive and Russian and Turkish prostitutes are in full effect.

Castle Café-Bar (Map p386; ☎ 242 3188; beer €1.50; 🕒 10am-midnight) Low-key, affordable, and located close to Kaleiçi's backpacker guesthouses, this is a good place to mix with a younger crowd of Turks than those generally found at bars along the cliff's edge.

Kale Bar (Map p386; ☎ 248 6591; beer €3; 🕒 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.

Dem-Lik (Map p386; ☎ 247 1930; Zafer Sokak 16; beer €2, coffee €1.50; 🕒 noon-midnight) Eat and drink with Antalya's hipster contingency here, a pleasant outdoor garden café where rock and blues bands perform on weekends. Conveniently

located on one of Kaleiçi's main drags and somewhat hidden by a high wall, this is also a popular meeting place for local students. Meals are about €4.

Paul's Place (Map p386; ☎ 244 6894; www.stpaulc-turkey.com; Yeni Kapı Sokak 24; latte €2.50, smoothie €3; 🕒 10am-6pm Mon-Fri) Because of its location inside the St Paul Cultural Center – ground zero for Antalya's Christian community – some might find an afternoon here tough to stomach. But religious dogma aside, this is an absolute godsend for the homesick: espresso coffee, real filter coffee and home-baked pastries are on offer, as is a fairly well-stocked lending library. And because Turkish language classes and conversation groups happen weekly, this a good place to mix with Antalya's expat community.

Sokak Café & Bar (Map p386; ☎ 243 8041; Mescit Sokak 17; beer €2.50) Like its next-door neighbour, Hasnaga Restaurant (a low stone wall separates the two), every square inch of this café's back garden is covered in a delightful canopy of light-strung trees. Literally. But since Sokak is still the new kid on the block, crowds are generally light. (Might have something to do with the music being *way* too loud.) Otherwise, an acceptable place to kill an evening over cups of çay or, more realistically, glasses of Efes (local beer).

Entertainment NIGHTCLUBS

Antalya's nightlife seems to revolve largely around its enormous outdoor dance clubs featuring mostly house music and overpriced cocktails. In Kaleiçi there are some bars offering rock music and flavour-of-the-month DJs, as well as restaurants with traditional Turkish and Ottoman musicians.

Club Ally (Map p386; ☎ 244 3000; Selçuk Mahallesi, Musalla Sokak; admission €11) A massive outdoor discotheque complete with seven bars, laser lights, and an eardrum-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 (€8 to €17) with a gorgeous sea view.

Club Arma (Map p386; ☎ 244 9710; www.clubarma.com; Yatlimani 42; admission €6) Formerly known as Club 29, this fantastically garish outdoor disco is built right into the cliffside 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 p386; ☎ 244 2825; Uzun Çarşı Sokak 58) A laid-back audience of mostly young Turks gathers around the candlelit tables here – a multi-tiered, 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 p386; Uzun Çarşı) Something of a nonironic 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 p386; Uzun Çarşı Sokak 36; admission €3) The strobe lights inside this cramped 2nd-floor dance club are enough to give you a brain aneurysm, 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.

CINEMA

Plaza Cinemas (☎ 312 6296; Sinan Quarter, Recep Peker Caddesi 22; admission €5) 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 façade.

THEATRE

Antalya Kültür Merkezi (☎ 238 5444; www.altimpor.takal.org.tr; 100 Yıl 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 p384; ☎ 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 **Atlas Jet** (Map p384; ☎ 330 3900, Cumhuriyet Caddesi), which also has daily nonstop flights to/from İstanbul.

SERVICES FROM ANTALYA'S OTOGAR

Destination	Fare	Duration	Distance	Frequency (per day)
Adana	€17	11hr	555km	several buses
Alanya	€5	2hr	115km	every 20 mins in high season
Ankara	€14	8hr	550km	frequent
Bodrum	€16	11hr	600km	once
Denizli (Pamukkale)	€8	4½hr	300km	several
Eğirdir	€6	2½hr	186km	every hr
Fethiye (coastal)	€8	7½hr	295km	several
Fethiye (inland)	€7	4hr	222km	several
Göreme/Ürgüp	€17	10hr	485km	frequent
İzmir	€13	9hr	550km	several
Kaş	€6	4hr	185km	frequent in high season
Kemer	€2	1½hr	35km	every 10 mins
Konya (via Isparta)	€7	6hr	365km	several
Konya (via Akseki)	€6	5hr	349km	several
Marmaris	€15	7hr	590km	a few
Olympos/Çıralı	€3	1½hr	79km	several minibuses & buses
Side/Manavgat	€3	1½hr	65km	every 20 mins in high season

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 (Inter-city 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 tramway (€0.50) has 10 stops, and provides the simplest way to travel from one end of town to the other. 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 Isıklar Caddesi.

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Havas buses (€5) depart from the Antalya airport every 30 minutes or so. Passengers 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 OTOGAR

The blue-and-white Terminal Otobusu 93 (€0.50) 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 €7 during the day and €10 at night.

AROUND ANTALYA

Antalya is regularly used as a base for excursions to Phaselis, Termessos, Perge, Aspendos and Side. 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. Most operate tours to all major sites. The following rates were from Sabah Pensiyon, which seemed to be the most competitive. A half-day tour to the Düden Selalesi (Düden Falls) and Termessos costs €30 per carload. A full-day tour to Perge and Aspendos with side trips to Side and the Manavgat waterfall costs €39. There are plenty of agencies in Antalya hiring out cars for €20 to €30 per day.

Düden Selalesi (Düden Falls)

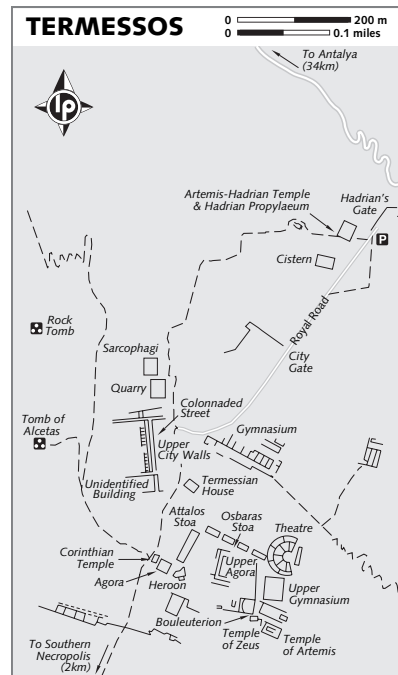
Less than 10km north of the city centre, the **Yukari Düden Selalesi** (Upper Düden Falls) can be reached by dolmuş from the Antalya dolmuş stand. Within view of the falls is a pleasant park and teahouse. This can be a relaxing spot on a hot summer afternoon, but avoid it on summer weekends when the park is crowded.

Asagi Düden Selalesi (Lower Düden Falls) are down where the Düden Creek meets the Mediterranean at Lara Plajı, southeast of Antalya. Excursion boats (p387) 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 €5; ☎ 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 ru-



ined 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.

The **Güllük Dağı National Park** is also quite nice to drive through. While hiking through the steep canyon walls, some of as high as 600m, keep a lookout for mountain goats, fallow deer, golden eagles, and other wild and endangered animals. You'll need to pay a separate park admission fee (€4) at the entrance, which is also where you'll find the Flora & 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 €35. A cheaper option is to catch a Korkuteli-bound bus to the entrance of Güllük Dağı National Park where, in summer, taxis wait to run you up the Termessos road and back for €10.

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. Continue another 9km up the road to the ruins. The road winds up through several gates in the city walls to the lower agora and car park, the largest flat space in this steep valley. From here on you must explore the ruins on foot.

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 €1, ☎ 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

Karain is difficult to reach by public transport. With your own car you can visit Termessos and Karain in the same day; a taxi tour combining the two costs around €40. Descending from Termessos, take the Karain road just outside the national park. After 1.4km the road forks; take either road – they rejoin at 4km. At 8km, turn left (there's a sign) and continue 3km to Karain.

Coming from Antalya by car the highway to Burdur and Isparta, pass the road on the left to Korkuteli, Denizli and Muğla, and take the next road on the left marked for Yeşilbayır, Yenikoy and Karain.

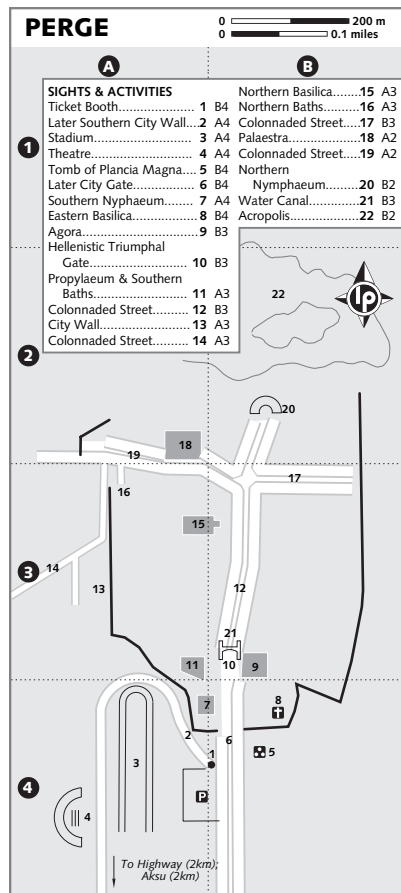
Perge

Now little more than a ruined site that can easily be explored in an hour, **Perge** (admission €6; ☎ 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 curiously 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 day if you're pressed for time. Leave early in the morning.

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 €50.

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

With the possible exception of the serious student of archaeology, visitors largely journey to **Aspendos** (Belkis; admission €6, parking €2; ☎ 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.

The theatre, which had rested in a state of ruin for eons, was brought back to life by

none other than Atatürk himself. After a tour of the region in the early 1930s, he declared it 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 of the opportunity. What with the stadium's unique acoustics and lighting that radically changes the atmosphere of the stadium once night falls, the experience of listening to live music here must be remarkably similar to the experience one might have had 2000 years ago.

When leaving the theatre, follow the path on the left marked for Theatre Hill. If you're willing to hack through overgrown thorn-bushes, you'll be rewarded with a phenomenal view of the theatre, the surrounding farm land and the Taurus Mountains. Follow the 'Aquaduct' fork in the trail for a good look at the remains of the city's **aquaduct** and of the modern village to the left of it. 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 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 p399).

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 junction will take you to the theatre for an outrageous €6, or you can take a taxi tour from Antalya for €45, perhaps stopping in Perge along the way.

Selge (Zerk) & Köprülü Kanyon

Perhaps one of the most exciting surprises offered by a visit to the ruined Roman city of Selge takes place about 12km before the town itself has even been reached. This is where 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.

The ruins of Selge are scattered about the village of Altinkaya, and with the Taurus Mountains acting as a backdrop, the setting is particularly powerful.

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 and the Selgians were never made the subjects of any other nation. Because of the city's mountain-top location, an enclosed wall, and its 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.

ACTIVITIES

Villagers can guide you on **hikes** up from Köprülü Kanyon (Bridge Canyon) along the original Roman road, about two hours up (1½ hours down), for about €11 each way. They 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 €60 per day. Details of a three-day walk through the Köprülü Kanyon on the St Paul's Trail are featured on p81.

Numerous agencies in Antalya offer **rafting trips** in the canyon. The best-value deals are about €20 to €25 per person for a four- to five-hour ride on the river, plus time for swimming.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Köprülü Kanyon Milli Parkı and Selge are included in tours from Antalya, Side and Alanya for about €30 per person. If you'd rather do it independently, the one daily minibus departs from Antalya's otogar in the morning for Altinkaya (two hours, €6), returning to Antalya in the evening.

With 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 Altinkaya, the right for Beşkonak. If you take the Altinkaya road along the river's western bank, you'll pass Medraft Outdoor Camp, Oncu Turizm Air Raft camp, Selge Restaurant & Pension and Kanyon Restaurant & Pension, 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's 6.5km from that village to the canyon and the bridge. The unpaved road on the western bank of the river marked for Altinkaya or Zerk (the Turkish name for Selge) climbs 12km from the bridge to the village through ever more dramatic scenery.