




The Turquoise Coast: Southern Türkiye & Rhodes 2026

22 SEP – 9 OCT 2026

Code: 22646

Tour Leaders **Dr Christopher A. Tuttle**

Fitness Level 

Level 3 - Challenging

Among our most physically demanding

Journey to the island of Rhodes & cruise by private gulet along the Turquoise Coast of Türkiye. Explore crusader castles & the rich legacy of the Lycians along a coast framed by craggy mountains.

Overview

This tour is led by archaeologist [Dr Christopher Tuttle](#), who commands a seemingly boundless knowledge of a range of civilisations.

- Featuring 6 days cruising along Türkiye's Turquoise Coast on privately chartered traditional wooden gulets: [Ada Deniz](#) and [Larin Su](#).
- Discover rich archaeological remains of the Lycian Kingdom at Xanthos, Gemiler Island, Patara, Olympus and Myra as well as viewing other submerged sites while cruising on a gulet.
- Visit the Archaeological Museum in Antalya containing many regional treasures.
- Enjoy fantastic views from Termessos, an ancient Pisidian stronghold located high in the Taurus Mountains. Referred to as 'Eagle's Nest' by Alexander the Great, this is one of Turkey's best-preserved ancient cities.
- Explore the well-preserved city ruins of Sagalassos set high amid a remote stretch of the Taurus mountains, including the 9000-seat Roman theatre and an outstanding Antonine Nymphaeum.
- Experience a wide range of spectacular scenery such as azure coasts hemmed in by craggy mountain ranges.
- Visit two of the great Pamphylian cities: Perge and Aspendos which features one of the best preserved ancient theatres in the world.
- Within Bodrum's magnificent waterfront castle built by the Knights Hospitaller visit the excellent Museum of Underwater Archaeology displaying the remains of five ancient shipwrecks and other underwater finds.
- Explore the ancient Carian site of Halicarnassus (Bodrum), home to one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus.
- Spend a day visiting Kos, home of Hippocrates, the father of medicine, and the important Sanctuary of Asclepius.
- Enjoy 4 days on Rhodes, the largest of the Dodecanese island, and a 'crucible' of Eastern Mediterranean history. Visit Lindos' beautifully preserved Acropolis enclosed by battlements constructed by the Knights of St John, and Rhodes' fortified medieval Knights Hospitaller town.

[This tour is limited to 18 participants](#)

Overnight Antalya (4 nights) • Kumluca (1 night) • Aboard our *gulet* (6 nights) • Bodrum (2 nights) • Rhodes (4 nights)

Historical Overview

This journey focuses on the delights of the island of Rhodes and the Mediterranean coast of Southern Türkiye associated with the Lycians. These ancient people took part in the Trojan Wars, were heavily influenced by Greek colonists, fought for their autonomy against the Persians, were incorporated into the successor states of Alexander the Great, and were finally organised into the Lycian League by the Romans. In the geographical region that bears their name we explore the rich legacies of numerous civilisations that interacted with the Lycians along a coast framed by craggy mountain backdrops. For millennia this coast has witnessed the rise and fall of Empires both large and small – of the Carians, Lycians, Persians, Athenians, Ptolemaic Egypt, Seleucid Syria, Rhodians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans – and nearly every river valley and sheltered upland bears traces of some political entity that fought or traded with the Lycians. While the ruined Lycian cities dotted along this beautiful coast have similar monuments, such as Greek theatres and stadiums, Roman baths, Byzantine churches, and Seljuk or Ottoman mosques, each is also unique, due to its particular location and history.

It is the sea, in particular, however, a dazzling, clear, intense blue sea, which lures many travellers from all over the world to the Mediterranean coast of Southern Türkiye. Travelling by sea is still the best means to see this region and fully appreciate its unique history. A special highlight of this tour is a six day 'Blue Cruise'* sailing along the coast on a privately chartered gulet – a traditional two-masted wooden sailing vessel typical of the south-west coast of Turkey. From the comfort of this well-appointed craft, you will be struck by the sea's breathtaking colours, which change from a rich cobalt blue at greater depths to a lighter luminosity in the shallows. This luminous glow mimics the semiprecious gem that gives this part of Türkiye its name: 'the Turquoise Coast'. Rocky coastal promontories rise to spectacular mountain ranges that separate each fertile valley and plain from its neighbour; indeed some sections of the coast are only accessible by sea. Today its picturesque coves are either sparsely inhabited or home to laid-back resorts.

In antiquity few parts of the Mediterranean were as well travelled as the seas along the Turquoise Coast. Our 'Blue Cruise' follows the sea routes of myriad ancient merchants who plied their trade along these shores, and travellers who, like us, came to see the architectural legacy this wealthy civilisation produced; two of Pliny's Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Colossus of Rhodes and the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus (modern-day Bodrum), reflected the wealth and importance of the region. Although neither of these monuments is extant, a rich treasure trove of archaeological remains is to be found in the maritime cities that once flourished here but which were ultimately deserted as they became isolated from the sea by accumulating silt.

* Blue Cruise a.k.a. Blue Voyage ('*Mavi Yolculuk*' in Turkish) is a term used for recreational boating tours along the Turquoise Coast on Türkiye's southwest coast. The term was first introduced into Turkish literature in the 1950s by a handful of Turkish writers, such as Cevat Sakir Kabaagaçlı, alias 'The Fisherman of Halicarnassus', Sabahattin Eyuboglu and Azra Erhat, the translator of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* into Turkish. The term was derived from the title of a book by Azra Erhat written in 1957 and is now used by Turkey's tourism industry.

Zoom Lecture: "The Turquoise Coast: Along the Lycian Way Part I: The Lycians", by Dr Christopher A. Tuttle

https://youtu.be/EgBx8KCyO_Q

Zoom Lecture: "The Turquoise Coast: Along the Lycian Way Part II: Stroll through Lycia, Pamphylia, Pisidia, and Caria", by Dr Christopher A. Tuttle

<https://youtu.be/eD-nkpcXmpQ>

Leaders



Dr Christopher A. Tuttle

Archaeologist on the Hellenistic and Roman periods of the Middle East and North Africa. Former Associate Director at ACOR in Jordan and former Executive Director of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Current cultural heritage consultant for projects in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Chile, and Mongolia. Chris holds a BA in Classical and Medieval Studies and an archaeology PhD from Brown University. He previously led this tour in 2011.

Christopher A. Tuttle is an archaeologist whose research focuses on the Hellenistic and Roman periods in the Middle East. His specialisation is the ancient kingdom of the Nabataeans and their capital city of Petra, where his fieldwork has been centred for nearly 20 years. He holds a BA in Classical and Medieval Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a PhD from the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University. Chris lived and worked full time in the Middle East for nearly 15 years, first in Jerusalem and then in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Initially interested in ancient mystery cults from the Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman periods and heretical movements in Medieval Europe, Christopher shifted his area of research to the Middle East to explore the period of transition between the end of the independent Hellenistic kingdoms and the rise of Roman hegemony in Syria and the Levantine region.

His doctoral work focused on the Nabataeans at Petra, who were the last independent kingdom in the area to be absorbed by the Romans. Christopher has travelled extensively in the Middle East to explore important archaeological sites from all periods of the region's long history and has worked on a number of excavations and surveys, including in Israel/Palestine, Qumran, Ramat Hanadiv, Khirbet Jiljil, Jerusalem, Tzuba, Sepphoris, Mizpe Ramon, Mampsis, and Sobeita.

In Jordan, he worked briefly with the French at Khirbet es-Samra before focusing on Petra and its hinterlands; his excavation, survey, and conservation projects there include work on some of the major monuments, including the 'Great Temple', Petra Church, 'Upper Market', 'Garden and Pool Complex', the 'Monumental Platform', and the 'Temple of the Winged Lions', where he envisioned and launched the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management Initiative (TWLCRM), an award-winning and innovative grassroots project that pioneered a new model for the involvement and training of local people in the preservation and management of cultural heritage resources that affect their lives. He also co-directed the Brown University Petra Archaeological Project, which conducted the most extensive landscape survey to date in the northern Petra hinterlands, including the area of Beida (also known as 'Little Petra'), with its important remains from earliest prehistory through to the modern day. He has also assisted and advised on many other archaeological and cultural resource management projects throughout the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan, as well as in Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, as well as in Egypt and other North African countries.

He is currently the field director for the groundwork team surveying around Hegra (Mada'in Saleh), an archaeological site located in the Al Madinah Region of Saudi Arabia, whose remains mainly date from the Nabataean kingdom.

He was the Associate Director of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan from 2006–2014, during which time he directed field projects in Petra and assisted numerous other archaeological missions in the region. During his time based in Amman, he frequently guided archaeology tours of sites in Jordan including ASA's tour to Jordan in 2009 and 2010. He then served for three years as the Executive Director of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) based in Washington, D.C.

Archaeologists have hinted that there was a possible link between the Lycians, who inhabited the southwestern parts of Anatolia by the early first millennium and spoke an Indo-European language, and the Nabataeans, who had settled in the northern part of Arabia around the fifth-fourth centuries BC. Chris, who previously led this tour in 2011, will discuss how archaeological discoveries in Nabataean places such as Petra and Hegra suggest a possible Lycian influence especially in terms of the content of the tomb inscriptions and the design of the tombs. He will also present talks/discussions that elucidate the interesting, important, and sometimes unique roles the peoples of this region played in different periods of human history due to their locations along the north edge of the 'Middle Sea', which was the greatest socioeconomic thoroughfare connecting Europe, Africa, and Asia in the ancient world.

Combine this tour with

Slovenia: Villages, Castles, Vineyards, Scenic Valleys and the Julian Alps 2026

3 SEP – 20 SEP 2026

Sicily and the Aeolian Islands 2026

9 OCT – 23 OCT 2026



Itinerary

Participants should note that the daily activities described in this itinerary may be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate changes in opening hours, road and sea conditions, flight schedules etc. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. Meals included in the tour price are indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B= breakfast, L= light lunch (either a light 2-course meal or picnic lunch) and D=evening meal.

Antalya, Turkey – 4 nights

Day 1: Tuesday 22 September, Arrive Antalya

- Tour commences at 10.00am in the foyer of the Puding Hotel
- Welcome Meeting
- Guided Walk in old harbour sector (Kaleiçi), Antalya
- Antalya Archaeological Museum
- Introductory Lecture

Meeting Point: The tour commences at 10.00am in the foyer of the [Puding Hotel](#) which is located in the heart of the historic Kaleiçi district. Please meet your tour leader, Christopher Tuttle and fellow travellers for a short welcome meeting.

Our tour begins in the beautiful harbour city of Antalya, 'capital' of the Turquoise Coast and our base for four nights. Antalya was founded by kings of Pergamum during the 2nd century BCE, as the southern port of the Attalid kingdom.

Following a short welcome meeting, we explore its old harbour, a picturesque old quarter called *Kaleiçi*, which has narrow, winding streets and quaint, old, wooden houses. It is located next to the city old walls and is now a terminus for pleasure craft and fishing boats. We will encounter on our walk, starting at the fine Classical triumphal arch at the entrance to the old sector, an attractive blend of traditional Greek and

Ottoman architecture.

This afternoon we visit the Antalya Archaeological Museum with its fine collection of ancient sculptures and artefacts representing the high points of the Pamphylian and South Anatolian coastal cultures.

Following an introductory lecture at the hotel, we enjoy a welcome meal at a local restaurant. **Overnight Antalya (D)**

Day 2: Wednesday 23 September, Antalya – Termessos – Antalya

- Pisidian city of Termessos

Today we travel north-west from Antalya to the spectacular ruins of Termessos. We reach Termessos, which is situated 1650 metres above the coastal plain, by driving up into the mountains and then ascending a track on foot through forest terrain. Mentioned by Homer in *The Iliad*, Termessos lay just inside ancient Pisidia, whose inhabitants were named *Solyimians* after nearby Mt Solymos, and were renowned across the Greek world as a tough, war-like people. They refused to surrender to Alexander the Great in 334 BCE, knowing themselves to be well protected by their remote and inaccessible stronghold. Alexander did not take the city but retaliated by burning its olive groves. High points in the visit are the ruined theatre teetering on the edge of a chasm, the great cisterns, and remains of a temple and villas. **(Overnight Antalya) BL**

Day 3: Thursday 24 September, Antalya – Sagalassos – Antalya

- Ancient city of Sagalassos
- Time at leisure

Today we drive 100km north of Antalya to the slopes of the Western Taurus mountain range to visit Sagalassos. Mentions in Hittite documents attest to the site's existence in the 14th century BCE, but its rise to prominence occurred during the Phrygian and Lydian Kingdoms in the region (ca. 1200-550 BCE). It was captured by Alexander the Great in 333 BCE during his Persian campaign and survived as a major urban centre during the various reigns of his successors. The city achieved the status of the 'first city of Pisidia' in the Roman Imperial province of Galatia and was a favourite location for the Emperor Hadrian. Various disasters affected the city after the 5th century CE, including a devastating earthquake that led to the abandonment of the city in the 7th century CE. Its remote location and heavy erosion protected the site from major looting, resulting in some stellar preservation of the remains. Thanks to major excavation efforts since the 1990s, many of the site's features are now accessible, including its colonnaded street, huge Roman Bath, luxury houses, theatre, temples, churches, and the Antonine Nymphaeum, which is a well-preserved and functioning Roman fountain in city's agora.

On our return to Antalya the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. You may wish to return to Kaleiçi district where some of the best shopping may be found. Meander down through its side streets and you will find old Turkish *kilims*, original gold jewellery, leather products, natural cotton clothing, handmade wood items as well as other traditional Turkish handicrafts. Antalya's three other shopping avenues are Atatürk, Cumhuriyet and Isiklar. Alternatively, you may wish to simply enjoy the facilities of your hotel which includes an outdoor pool. **(Overnight Antalya) BL**

Day 4: Friday 25 September, Antalya – Perge – Aspendos – Antalya

- Ancient Anatolian city of Perge

- Ancient Theatre of Aspendos

Today we visit two Graeco-Roman sites of Perge and Aspendos, both outstanding exemplars of the richness and diversity of Eastern Mediterranean culture in antiquity.

Perge, an ancient settlement mentioned in Hittite inscriptions, was colonised by Greek settlers after the Trojan Wars. It became an archetypal Greek *polis* and then, after the invasion of Alexander the Great, was ruled successively by the Ptolemies of Egypt and the Graeco-Syrian Seleucids. As Seleucid power in the Eastern Mediterranean faltered, piracy increasingly disrupted maritime trade in the area and Perge, along with other Greek cities, was incorporated into the Roman Empire and transformed into a Roman *civis*. Perge was highly receptive to St Paul's teachings and became a base for Christian proselytising in the region. Seat of an important Byzantine bishopric, Perge sent representatives to the Council of Nicaea (325 CE). In the 7th century it went into decline as Arab raids began to disrupt commercial contacts between the Levant and Anatolia.

In the afternoon we return to Antalya via Aspendos, which had a similar history to Perge. After the Trojan Wars, Greek colonists built upon an earlier settlement that was then successively integrated into the Greek, Roman and Byzantine Eastern Mediterranean empires. Like Perge, Aspendos reached its apogee during the Roman period when it was embellished and enriched with the accoutrements of Roman civilisation. These included a finely decorated theatre, one of the best preserved in the world. (Overnight Antalya) B

Kumluca, Turkey – 1 night

Day 5: Saturday 26 September, Antalya – Phaselis – Olympos – Kumluca

- Ancient Graeco-Roman city of Phaselis
- Ancient Lycian city of Olympos

This morning we depart Antalya and travel south along the coast to Phaselis. The ancient harbour town of Phaselis, originally colonised by Greeks from Rhodes, once had three natural harbours and was located close to a richly forested region that provided valuable timber for the construction of ships. The city voluntarily opened its doors to Alexander the Great when he and his armies moved across Anatolia, admitting him as a guest. Alexander accepted many envoys from the coastal cities of Pamphylia here before he conquered each of them in turn on his way to Gordion, the political centre of Anatolia. Like Olympos, pirates constantly threatened Phaselis during the 1st century BCE. The pirate Zekenites controlled it for a time before the Romans defeated him and absorbed the city into their client Lycian confederacy.

Following a light lunch at a local restaurant we continue to the archaeological site of Olympos. Its ruins include a small theatre, hot springs, an *agora* and some tombs dating from the Hellenistic period, as well as the monumental gate of a Roman temple (late 2nd century AD) and remains of a Byzantine fortress. Established in the 3rd century BCE, Olympos was described by Strabo in 100 BCE as one of six cities in the Lycian Federation. The fortunes of the city diminished during the 1st century BCE when it came under the control of pirates, but were revived after the arrival of the Romans in the 2nd century CE. Renewed attack by pirates in the 3rd century initiated a permanent decline. A brief revival occurred in the 11th and 12th centuries when the Venetians, Genoese and Rhodians used the city as a trading base and built fortresses along the adjacent coast. In the 15th century, however, after the Ottoman navy established its mastery over the Eastern Mediterranean, Olympos was abandoned.

We then proceed to our boutique hotel located on the Teke Peninsula, overlooking the town of Kumluca and the Mediterranean coast. In 2019 archaeologists found a new Bronze Age shipwreck located 50 metres

from the coastline which dates to the 15th-16th centuries BCE. There will be time at leisure for you to relax in the surrounding gardens before dining together at the hotel's restaurant. (Overnight Kumluca) BLD

Cruise from Cayagzi Bay to Göcek on board our gulet – 6 nights

Day 6: Sunday 27 September, Kumluca – Arykanda – Limyra – Cayagzi Bay

- Ancient Lycian city of Arykanda
- Ancient Lycian city of Limyra

This morning we travel to remote Arykanda, one of the most dramatically situated ruins in Southern Türkiye. The ruins, located about 25km inland from the coast east of ancient Myra, sit on the steep side of a fairly narrow valley surrounded by mountain forests. The city, which once guarded the access routes from the Lycian shore to the uplands of Central Anatolia, was part of the Lycian League from its inception in the 2nd century BCE. Like the rest of Lycia it was annexed by Rome in 43 CE and survived as a Byzantine settlement until the 9th century when it was abandoned.

Built over five terraces, the city's most spectacular feature is its monumental two-storey Roman bath complex, standing next to the gymnasium on the lowest terrace. Arykanda also has a well-preserved theatre built during the 1st century BCE. Its *cavea* has 20 rows of seats accessed by 6 aisles; holes at the end of each row anchored poles that supported protective awnings. Above the theatre is a small stadium from the Hellenistic period. There are also two *necropoleis*: the eastern *necropolis* has barrel-vaulted monumental tombs, temple-tombs and *sarcophagi*, and the western *necropolis* has rock-cut tombs and barrel-vaulted tombs.

Ancient Limyra, located 6 km inland from the sea on the Limyrus river, is one of the oldest settled areas in the region of Lycia, believed to date back into the 2nd millennium BCE. The site became the capital of the Lycian League in the 4th century BCE, but soon fell under the control of the expanding Persian Empire, until their rule was finally ended by Alexander the Great's push eastward during his Persian campaign. During the subsequent Hellenistic and Roman periods, Limyra flourished as one of the major trading centres of the eastern Mediterranean. While the site contains some of the same types of monuments as other regional sites, it is especially known for its necropolises, which include the stunning mausoleum of Pericles (founder of the Lycian League) and the cenotaph of Gaius Caesar (grandson and original heir of Caesar Augustus) who died here on his return to Rome in 4 CE.

From Limyra we travel to Cayagzi pier, near the ancient town of Andriake, where we will board zodiacs and transfer to our gulet. (Overnight Cayagzi Bay) BLD

Day 7: Monday 28 September, Cayagzi Bay – Myra – Andriake – Kekova

- Myra: Rock-cut tombs & Roman theatre
- Lycian Civilizations Museum and ancient ruins of Andriake Harbour
- Commence cruise to the island of Kekova

This morning we transfer by zodiac to Cayagzi Pier and journey 7kms by coach to Myra (modern Demre). Myra was one of the most prominent members of the Lycian Federation and remained important throughout the Middle Ages because of its association with St Nicholas. Myra boasts an excellent collection of rock cut tombs and an imposing Roman theatre built in the 2nd century CE.

Next, we journey 4kms southwest to the ruins of Andriake which served as the harbour-settlement for Myra.

The stone trail through the archaeological site, which take us past several churches, an agora, Roman baths, a synagogue and a shipyard with shop areas, leads to the Lycian Civilizations Museum.

This museum is housed in the large Roman granary (*horrea*) built by Hadrian to serve the Roman Army. The inscription in capital letters extending along the façade sets the date of construction as 129-130 CE. The granary which measures about 65m long x 32m wide is composed of nine successive rooms that could hold about 6000 cubic metres of grain. The site of the granary was well chosen because the harbour, an estuary of the small Andriakos River, was protected against storms by a large promontory, and a large chain protected the port against pirates. In antiquity it was a major transshipment port for grain from Alexandria serving Egyptian vessels en route to Rome.

We return to our gulet for lunch and then commence our cruise to the little hamlet of Kekova, arguably the most picturesque place in Türkiye. (Overnight Gulet) BLD

Day 8: Tuesday 29 September, Kekova – Simena Castle – Kas

- Crusader Castle of ancient Simena & Kaleköy village
- Lycian Sunken city, Kekova
- Cruise to Kas with time at leisure & optional visit to the ancient theatre

Access to much of Kekova is possible only by sea. 'Kekova' is Turkish for 'plain of thyme'. The region encompasses the island of Kekova, famous for its submerged harbour, and, on the mainland, the villages of Kaleköy and Üçağiz as well as the three ancient towns of *Simena*, *Teimiussa* and *Tersane*.

After breakfast onboard our gulet, we disembark and transfer by zodiac to the charming fishing village of Kaleköy ('castle village') where we follow a short, but steep trail up to the well-preserved Crusader Castle of ancient Simena. The Knights of Rhodes built this citadel upon the ancient foundations of a Lycian settlement. Inside the castle walls has been preserved Lycia's smallest amphitheatre. The main highlight, however, is the spectacular views looking out to sea.

Nearby we also view a fascinating Lycian *necropolis* with *sarcophagi* spread out along the coastline overlooking the sea. Not much is known about the history of this small community, however tombs with Lycian inscriptions point to settlement by the 4th century BCE. The community seems to have been politically dominated by Myra and Cyanaea.

Facing the mainland on the island of Kekova is an ancient Lycian Sunken City. Half of its houses became submerged during terrible earthquakes in the 2nd century CE; staircases descend into the water and the foundations of buildings and the ancient harbour are clearly visible below the surface. An increase in maritime trade between the cities of Lycia and other parts of the Greek world during the Hellenistic period also saw a marked increase in piracy, which necessitated the fortification of islands like Kekova. Later it became an outpost of the Knights of Rhodes. We cruise past the Sunken city before continuing our voyage to Kas.

Mid-afternoon we make a shore excursion to the seaside town of Kas. Founded by the Lycians, *Habesos* as it was then called, also became an important member of the Lycian League; it had one of Lycia's richest *necropoleis*. The ancient Greeks called it *Antiphellos*, which means 'the harbour in front of the city of *Phellos*'. During the Roman period, *Antiphellos* was famous for exporting sponges and timber. After 395 CE when Theodosius bequeathed the eastern and western halves of the Empire to his sons Arcadius and Honorius, the town became part of the (Eastern) Byzantine Empire before being annexed by the Seljuks and later the Ottomans. As the majority of the inhabitants were of Greek origin, like Kalkan and other towns in

the region, its size diminished significantly following the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey in 1923. It became a sleepy backwater until the 1990s. Since then, tourism has boomed in Kas and it has become a favourite stopover for people taking the Blue Cruise. It remains, however, a place where fine monuments of great historical interest are set against the beauty of forest and sea. There will be time at leisure to explore the town and visit its ancient theatre. (Overnight Gulet) BLD

Day 9: Wednesday 30 September, Kas – Patara – Xanthos – Yesilköy Cove

- Cruise along the coast to Kalkan
- Patara: Principal port of ancient Lycia
- Xanthos: Capital of Ancient Lycia

This morning we cruise west along the coast to Kalkan where we anchor in Yesilköy Cove. Following an early lunch, we go ashore and drive to two spectacular and important Lycian sites, Patara and Xanthos

We begin with a visit to Patara, where in the early 2nd century BCE representatives of the 23 city-states of the Lycian League met. It's now silent *bouleuterion* (council chamber) once witnessed the proceedings of the world's first recorded representative democracy. After its capture by Alexander the Great the city became an important naval base. Patara's lost Temple of Apollo (the god was believed to spend his summers in Delphi and his winters in Patara) rivalled those in Delphi and Delos. In Roman times, the city was a major Lycian port, where St Paul changed ships on his third missionary journey. St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, was born here. Parts of Patara are covered by dunes but the Roman triple triumphal arch is in excellent condition. We shall also visit the theatre, *necropolis*, *basilica*, baths, tombs, and Patara's Corinthian temple.

Xanthos was the capital of ancient Lycia. The many inscriptions found at this site were crucial for understanding the history of the Lycian people and their Indo-European language. The earliest historical references to the Lycians, who were Anatolians, date back to the Late Bronze Age (ca 1500-1200 BCE) when they were referred to in numerous Egyptian, Hittite and Ugaritic texts as 'Luwian and Lukka'. Until recently few roads accessed the mountainous site of their kingdom, located between modern-day Fethiye and Antalya, and the only alternative to an approach by sea entailed an arduous horseback journey.

Despite the steep, broken topography that isolated Lycian communities from each other and the fact that Lycia itself was fragmented politically into independent city-states, these people developed the first known democratic union in history, the Lycian League. This collaboration gave the League a strong regional cultural identity and ensured a political stability that allowed them to remain largely self-governing until the Byzantine period (ca 395-1176 CE), despite occupation by powers like the Persians (545-333 BCE) and the Romans (42 BCE- c. 400 CE).

Their history, nevertheless, had its bloody episodes, such as the first Persian siege of Xanthos (540 BCE). The Xanthosians chose mass suicide rather than surrender. The men of Xanthos gathered their wives, children and possessions in their *acropolis* and set fire to all and then charged out to meet the Persian army and certain death. Xanthos was later repopulated by about 80 families who had been outside the city at the time of the mass suicide, as well as by other Lycian immigrants.

Xanthos was re-discovered in the 19th century by Charles Fellows, who took its Nereid Monument to England. The most important remaining monuments are the Harpy Tomb, the Pillar Tomb and the Xanthian Obelisk, which has the longest inscription in the Lycian language. We shall also visit the theatre, a newly excavated Roman road and the Lycian and Roman *acropolis*. Many of its monuments blend Lycian traditions with Hellenic influence. This is seen especially in Xanthos' funerary art. (Overnight Gulet) BD

Day 10: Thursday 1 October, Yeşilköy Cove – Gemiler Island

- Morning cruise from Yeşilköy Cove to Gemiler Island
- Afternoon at leisure for swimming or canoeing
- Optional hike to Monastery of St Nicholas and sunset views of Gemiler Bay

Today we cruise approximately 45 nautical miles west from Yesilköy Cove to Gemilar Island (Island of St Nicholas). St Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra, a few miles from Gemiler Island in modern day Demre. Archaeologists believe that after his death on the 6th of December 343 CE he was buried on Gemiler Island. The Island became an attraction for pilgrims who would stop off on their way to Jerusalem to visit the shrine and pay homage at the *basilica* that housed the saint's remains. Around 650 CE the remains were removed to the safety of Myra after the island was repeatedly attacked by Arab pirates forcing the inhabitants to abandon the settlement in favour of nearby Kayaköy. From Myra the bones of St Nicholas were stolen by Italian merchants in 1087 and taken to the two Italian cities of Bari and Venice. The merchants from Bari raided the tomb first and in their haste took only the large bone fragments. The Venetian merchants came later and took the remaining smaller bone fragments. A scientific study in 1992 confirmed that both collections are from the same skeleton.

Following an afternoon at leisure there will be an optional hike to the top of the island for fantastic views of the sunset and to explore the remains of the Monastery of St Nicholas. On the island there are the remains of four churches, related religious buildings, Byzantine dwellings, a harbour, cistern, stone tombs, a graveyard and a ceremonial passageway. The church that housed the Saint's remains is referred to as the third church and is on the highest part of the Island at the top of the ceremonial passage. (Overnight Gulet) BLD

Day 11: Friday 2 October, Gemiler Island – Göcek

- Kayaköy (Levissi) deserted village
- Time at leisure/swimming
- Cruise to the Gulf of Göcek

Returning to the mainland, we transfer by coach to the abandoned Greek village of Kayaköy. Settled in the 18th century by Greek Orthodox Christians from the nearby Dodecanese islands, the town, then known as Levissi, had a population of over 6000 inhabitants before 1923. In that year Greece expelled approximately 600,000 Turks from Thrace and Turkey expelled about 750,000 Greeks from Anatolia and Levissi became a ghost town. Its story is told in Louis de Bernières' epic novel *Birds Without Wings*. There are now plans to restore its 2,000 or so buildings.

We return to our gulet for lunch and time to relax or enjoy a swim. In the late afternoon we continue our cruise north to the Gulf of Göcek. (Overnight Gulet) BLD

Bodrum, Turkey – 2 nights

Day 12: Saturday 3 October, Göcek – Daylan – Kaunos – Bodrum

- Lycian Rock tombs
- Village of Kaunos

This morning we disembark our gulet and depart the Gulf of Göcek for the village of Dalyan. Dalyan's sandy Iztuzu Beach is famed as one of the few remaining Mediterranean breeding grounds of the endangered

species of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta Caretta*).

In Dalyan we will climb aboard a small boat, vaguely reminiscent of that in *The African Queen* (some scenes of the movie were filmed in Dalyan), and meander through the marshy river delta to see the impressive Lycian temple tombs hewn into the rock faces that dominate the town. At the end of our ride is Kaunos, an important Carian fishing centre in ancient times. Although the city was initially settled during the 9th century BCE, the buildings standing today are Graeco-Roman. There is also a Byzantine church.

After an early lunch in Daylan we journey 195kms north to the Turkish harbour city of Bodrum, arguably Turkey's most sophisticated seaside resort. Bodrum is situated between two beautiful bays located at the juncture of either the southernmost point of the Aegean, or the eastern end of the Mediterranean, depending on your viewpoint.

Once known as Halicarnassus, Bodrum has a history dating back to the 13th century BCE. Although a Dorian foundation in the early days of Greek colonisation, Halicarnassus became one of the largest and strongest cities of the Carian people, one of the dozen indigenous peoples of western Anatolia. From the beginning of the 4th century BCE Halicarnassus was ruled by a Carian royal family who, in keeping with ancient matriarchal customs in Anatolia, had a tradition of female heredity. A king's son therefore could only become eligible for the throne by marrying his sister, as was the case with Caria's most celebrated king, Mausolus, who married his sister Artemisia. Halicarnassus reached the peak of its prosperity under Mausolus around 353BCE. Under Persian rule since the 6th century BCE, in Mausolus' time Halicarnassus was the capital of the *Satrap* of Caria and was famous for its trade, sailing and boatbuilding. Mausolus managed to acquire a large measure of political independence for his city, promoting Hellenistic culture and traditions there. On Mausolus' death Artemisia commissioned his magnificent Mausoleum that was to become one of Pliny's Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. (Overnight Bodrum) BD

Day 13: Sunday 4 October, Bodrum

- Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology, Bodrum Castle
- Mausoleum of Halicarnassus
- Afternoon at leisure

Dominating Bodrum's harbour is the Castle of St. Peter, begun in 1402 by the Knights Hospitaller as a hospital for pilgrims to Jerusalem. Today the castle houses the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, which this morning we visit. Bodrum is the centre of Turkish marine archaeology and the Museum has a wide range of fascinating underwater finds displayed throughout the Castle in many atmospheric halls and galleries. Displays include finds from a wreck dating from 1350 BCE that was carrying, possibly on royal consignment, copper and tin ingots, *amphorae* packed with *terebinth* resin used in making perfume, as well as fragments of scrap gold and silver jewellery that were intended for reuse. From another wreck, an early medieval merchant ship discovered in the 1970s and known as the 'Glass Wreck', comes a display of intact glass cups and bottles. The greater part of this vessel's cargo appears, however, to have been over a million shards of broken glass, which were also being transported for recycling.

Our next visit is to the site of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. Once this edifice stood over 50 metres high, but today only the foundations remain. The Knights Hospitaller used the Mausoleum as a quarry to build their castle. When the site was excavated in the middle of the 19th century moreover, the surviving frescos and statuary discovered by C. T. Newton were sent to the British Museum. In the 1950s, the Turkish writer Cevat Sakir Kabaagaçlı – known as 'The Fisherman of Halicarnassus' wrote to Queen Elizabeth requesting that the Mausoleum's artifacts be returned to Bodrum. He argued that such exquisite works of art were not given their true place under the foggy, grey sky of London. The response he allegedly received stated:

'Thank you for reminding us of the matter, we have painted the ceiling where the Mausoleum is located in blue.'

The afternoon is at leisure for you to explore Bodrum's marina, bazaar and white-plastered backstreets. (Overnight Bodrum) BD

Rhodes, Greece - 4 nights

Day 14: Monday 5 October, Bodrum – Kos – Rhodes

- Ferry: Bodrum to Kos
- Sanctuary of Asclepius and Casa Romana, Kos
- The Tree of Hippocrates (ferry schedules permitting), Kos
- Ferry: Kos to Rhodes

Early this morning we depart Bodrum and take the ferry to Kos, one of Greece's Dodecanese islands, known for its abundant sandy beaches, Greek and Roman antiquities, and the 15th-century castle.

At the top of a verdant hill, three kilometres to the south-east of Kos Town lies the sanctuary of Asclepius, an ancient medical centre. It dates from the first half of the 3rd century BCE and was built to honour the god of health and medicine, Asclepius, after the death of the famous ancient Greek physician, Hippocrates (460– 380 BCE). The site is laid out in three terraces. On the lowest terrace there is a stoa and a complex of Roman baths dating from the 3rd century CE. On the second terrace you will see the remains of a large altar which was built around the middle of the 4th century BCE and is one of the earliest structures in the *Asklepieion*. To the west of the altar there is a Temple of Asclepius dating from the 3rd century BCE and to the east of the altar there is a Roman temple in the Corinthian order from the 2nd century CE. On the third and final terrace there lie the remains of the Doric Temple of Asclepius from the 2nd century BCE. Following our visit to this site we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

The Casa Romana was built during the late 2nd century and early 3rd century CE on the ruins of an earlier Hellenistic house. Following extensive renovations, the house now provides a wonderful insight into how a wealthy Koan official and his family lived. It includes 36 rooms and 3 atria which are decorated with exquisite mosaics floors, most of which date back to the 3rd century AD.

One of the most striking testaments of the city's history is the Castle of Nerantzia, erected by the Knights of Rhodes in 14th and 15th centuries and dominating the city's ancient and modern port. Opposite the entrance to the castle stands a magnificent plane tree. Tradition claims that Hippocrates, the father of medicine, who practised in Kos in the 5th century BCE, used to sit in its shade. The current tree is only about 500 years old, but may possibly be a descendant of the original tree which allegedly stood there 2400 years ago in Hippocrates' time.

Following our tour of Kos we return to the port and board our late afternoon ferry to Rhodes. (Overnight Rhodes) BL

Day 15: Tuesday 6 October, Rhodes

- Orientation walk: Harbour of Mandraki
- Palace of the Grand Masters
- Archaeological Museum, Hospital of the Order of the Knights of St John

Rhodes, known as the 'island of roses', can be considered a 'crucible' of Eastern Mediterranean history. The third largest of the Greek islands, Rhodes is graced with two concentrations of monuments: the city of Rhodes and the citadel of Lindos. According to ancient tradition, Early Iron Age Doric colonists settled Rhodes, dividing the island into three states. These shared the port-city and harbour of Rhodes, later famous for the *colossus* that supposedly straddled its entrance. When the other Hellenic republics were absorbed into the empire of Alexander the Great, and then into Hellenistic successor states of the Seleucids and Ptolemies, Rhodes retained its independent status. It grew rich as a major participant in maritime trade linking the Aegean, Egypt and Syria. Seleucid hostility to the concept of the autonomous city-state, however, made Rhodes uneasy and in the 1st century BCE the island appealed to Rome for protection. During the Roman period the development of more southerly maritime trade routes from Italy to the Levant decreased Rhodes' importance and the island had become somewhat of a backwater when St Paul visited it.

Rhodes remained outside the main currents of Mediterranean life until the Crusades, when it became one link in a chain of fortresses and ports that connected the Crusader kingdoms of the Levant with the western Mediterranean. In the 14th century the Knights Hospitaller, expelled from the Holy Land by the Egyptian Mamluks, sought refuge in Rhodes. Rhodes became the Order's stronghold and the Knights built a number of beautiful palaces there for their different *Langues* ('tongues': the national groups into which the Order was divided). Then, in 1503, the Ottoman sultan Suleyman the Magnificent forced the Knights to leave after a six-month siege.

This morning we transfer by coach to Rhodes' Venetian harbour, Mandraki, where we will examine the medieval harbour and fortifications, and discuss the controversy over the original location and size of the famous Colossus of Rhodes, the 3rd century BCE statue of Helios, the Sun God.

From there we continue with a walking tour of the old city which was originally laid out in the 5th century BCE by the architect Hippodamus of Miletus. His fame rests on his reputed invention of the urban grid plan, seen at Miletus, Priene and other West Anatolian cities. Modern Rhodes has some buildings greatly influenced by the Italian fascist architecture of the late 1930s but is dominated by the old fortified medieval town. Of particular interest is the so-called 'Street of the Knights', where the Gothic palaces of the *Langues* form marvellous late medieval streetscapes. Each palace has an impressive arched doorway surmounted by the emblem of its particular *Langue*.

The tour highlight is the impressive medieval Palace of the Grand Masters. The building was begun in 1440 by Grand Master de Lastic with money bequeathed by his predecessor, Fluvian, and completed in 1489 by Grand Master d'Aubusson.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we continue our tour of the old town with a visit to Rhodes' Archaeological Museum, housed in the Hospital of the Knights, which was built in 1440 and completed by the Grand Master d'Aubusson (1476– 1503). The museum displays pottery, jewellery and figurines from the Iron Age tombs of the island's three cities, a good collection of Classical, Hellenistic and Roman sculpture, and a series of Hellenistic to Early Christian mosaics. Particularly impressive are the funerary slabs from the period of the Knights with relief representations of the dead or of their coats of arms. (Overnight Rhodes) B

Day 16: Wednesday 7 October, Rhodes – Lindos – Kamiros – Rhodes

- Medieval village of Lindos and ancient Acropolis
- Ancient Kamiros

We depart early this morning to visit the medieval village of Lindos and the ancient acropolis above it. We

shall climb to the *acropolis* via the monumental staircase and *propylaea* (entrance building) dating to the Hellenistic period, passing an unusual carved rock relief showing an ancient Rhodian ship. Within the acropolis, which was fortified during the Middle Ages with impressive walls, is the fine Doric temple to Athena, where the offerings table and base of the cult statue can still be seen. The temple also affords stunning panoramas of the island, including a view of Agios Pavlos, the place where St Paul is said to have landed.

Following some time at leisure for lunch we turn inland and cross the island to the ancient city of Kamiros, located on the north coast, approximately 50 kilometres south-west of Rhodes Town. Kamiros, along with Lindos and Ialissos, was, according to Homer, one of the three City-States founded by the Dorians who settled on Rhodes. The western and central parts of the island belonged to Kamiros; it was more conservative than the other two City-States of the island. Its agricultural production, made possible by its fertile, loamy soils, formed the basis of its prosperity. The oldest evidence of settlement in the wider area of Kamiros known to this day, namely Kamirida, date back to the Mycenaean times and come from the cemetery of chamber-like tombs in the village of Kalavarda, a few kilometres north-east of Kamiros. Twice destroyed by earthquakes (in 226 and 142 BCE), the main remains at Kamiros date to the Hellenistic period, although some Classical elements are also visible. The Hellenistic city was built on three levels with various buildings and monuments including an *agora*, a Doric fountain house, a reservoir and a *stoa*. The *acropolis* commands fabulous views across the sea to the coast of Turkey. Below it are the reasonably well-preserved remains of a town with all its ancient conveniences.

In the late afternoon we return to Rhodes Town where the evening is at leisure. (Overnight Rhodes) B

Day 17: Thursday 8 October, Rhodes – Ialysos – Rhodes

- Monte Smith (Temple of Apollo, Old Stadium)
- Monastery of Philerimos, Ialysos
- Time at leisure in Rhodes Town
- Farewell Dinner at Paneri Restaurant

We begin this morning by exploring St. Stephen's Hill, known locally as Monte Smith, site of the *acropolis* of ancient Rhodes. It has a 3rd century BCE Hellenistic stadium that hosted the athletic events of the Alioi Games held in honour of the sun-god Helios. At its summit you will encounter the Temple of Apollo, patron deity of the city. The bizarre name of Monte Smith derives from the name of a British Admiral, Sir Sydney Smith, who used the location in 1802 as a lookout from which to observe the manoeuvres of Napoleon's Egyptian fleet.

Nearby we also visit Philerimos (Filerimos), a hilltop monastery built by the Byzantines in the 5th century CE on the ruins of ancient Ialysos.

We return to Rhodes Town for an afternoon at leisure before re-meeting in the evening to share a farewell meal together at the celebrated Paneri Restaurant. (Overnight Rhodes) BD

Day 18: Friday 9 October, Depart Rhodes

- Tour concludes in the morning
- At leisure/Check out

Our tour ends in Rhodes after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to Rhodes Airport. B

Accommodation

All hotels are rated 4-5-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. All rooms have shower or bath and w.c. Several hotels have swimming pools. Double rooms (for single use) may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the applicable supplement. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

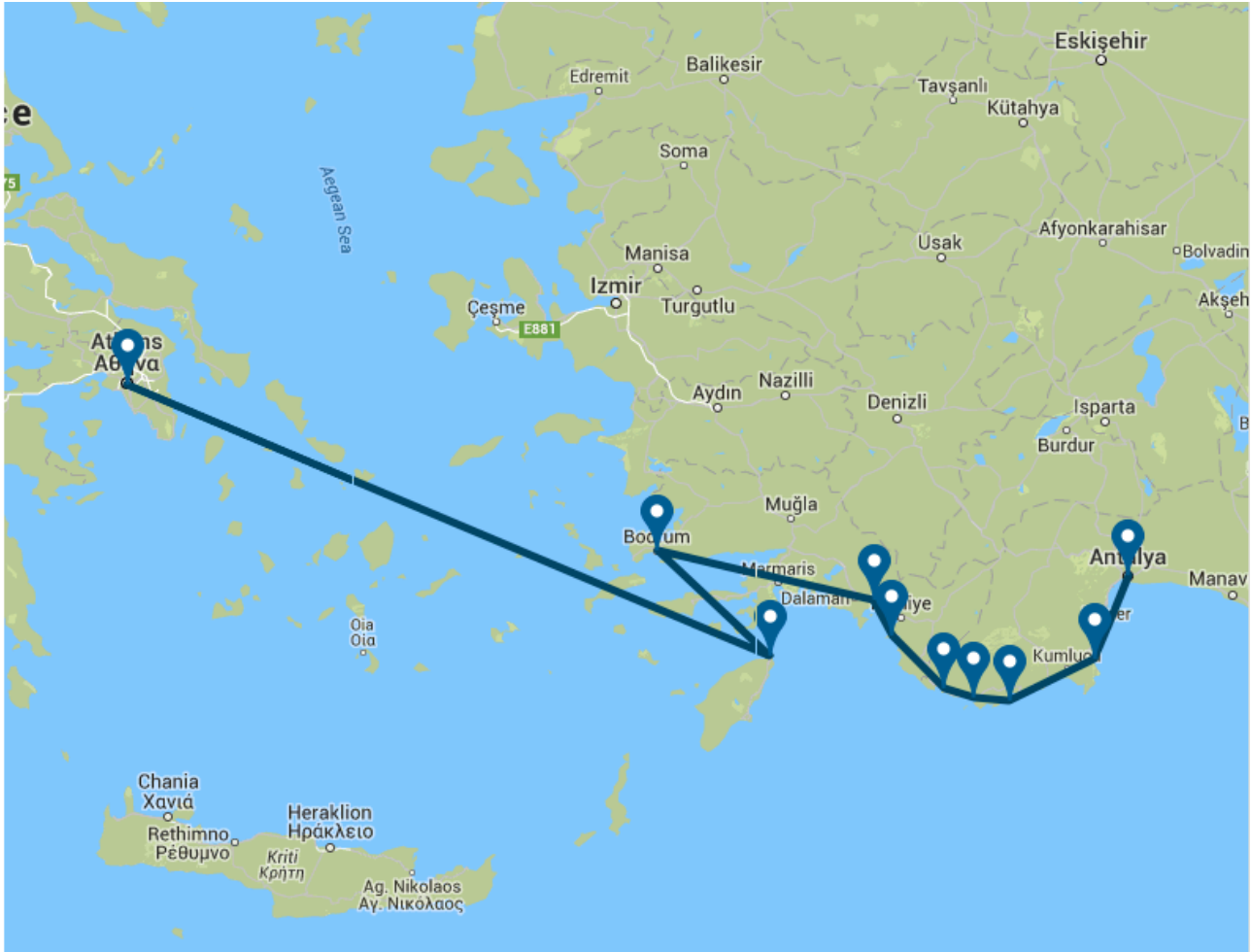
- Antalya (4 nights): 4-star [Puding Hotel](#) – located in the heart of the old city area Kaleici, offering rooms spread across 6 historical mansions. pudinghotel.com
- Kumluca (1 night): 3-star [Esperanza Boutique Hotel of Lykia](#) – located 900m from the Mediterranean, surrounded by orchards and gardens, offering rooms with either sea or forest views.
- Gulet (6 nights): sailing from Cayagzi to Göcek aboard [Ada Deniz](#) and [Larin Su](#). The *gulets* have 8 cabins each, all with en suite bathrooms. There is a fully equipped galley, bar, TV & music system, a salon with dining and sitting areas. For details on the gulets click on links above.
- Bodrum (2 nights): 5-star [The Marmara Bodrum](#) – set on a hilltop, this luxury design boutique hotel offers spectacular views of Bodrum Bay and Kos Island.
- Rhodes (4 nights): 4-star [Best Western Plus Hotel Plaza](#) – located 400m from the famous medieval walled town of Rhodes and Mandraki Marina.

Hotels are subject to change. In this instance a hotel of similar standard will be provided.

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double room for single occupancy throughout the tour. This includes a cabin for sole use for the 6 nights aboard the gulet. The number of rooms available for single use is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$16,790.00 Land Content Only - Early-Bird Special: book before 30 September 2025

AUD \$17,190.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$3990.00 Single Supplement including cabin for sole use on the gulet

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4 and 5-star hotels; 6 nights on board a privately chartered gulet.
- Meals as indicated in the tour itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=evening meal.
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person where available (note: this is not available at some hotels, and at all ferry terminals)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Local guide in Southern Türkiye, Kos and Rhodes
- Entrance fees
- Bottled water during all day excursions
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the gulet crew, coach driver, guides and restaurants for included meals.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Antalya, Rhodes-Australia
- Evening meals & lunches not indicated in the tour itinerary
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)



Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level 

Level 3 - Challenging

Among our most physically demanding

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to seven hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace; some days for at least 5-7km.
- keep up with the group at all times.
- negotiate challenging historic and archaeological sites which are large and unsheltered. The terrain involves rocky and uneven paths, several with steep inclines including:
 - Arykanda and Sagalassos: both archaeological sites are built over a series of terraces on the slopes of the Taurus Mountains.
 - Pisidian stronghold of Termessos. This is the most challenging site and involves a 3km walk up a forested slope following a rocky, and at times steep, path. The route passes several rock-cut tombs and ultimately leads to the spectacular ancient Greek theatre. (Alternative: enjoy a day at leisure in Antalya).
 - Gemiler Island viewpoint; access is via a rocky steep path. (Alternative: relax on your *gulet*!)
 - Acropolis of Lindos and Crusader Castle of Simena: both sites involve a 30min walk uphill through the village along a narrow, and at times, steep path.
- climb several flights of stairs without duress eg. Grandmasters Palace in Rhodes & Acropolis of Lindos.
- withstand varying climatic conditions such as humidity and heat.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels and all ferry transfers.
- contend with considerable sea travel. This tour includes:
 - six nights on board a *gulet* sailing along the Turkish Mediterranean coast
 - transfers from the *gulet* to shore by zodiacs (good balance is required).

- a ferry crossing from Bodrum via Kos to Rhodes
- a boat excursion at Dalyan to see the rock-cut Lycian tombs.

Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. **Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.**

Managing your luggage during ferry transfers

You must be able to wheel your own luggage from the coach through the ferry terminal and then onto the ferry where storage racks are available on the ground level. The turn-around time for ferries is extremely efficient and therefore you need to be able to board the ferry with your luggage without delays.

Weather

Weather in southwest Türkiye and Rhodes in September that is usually warm to mild. Average temperatures in September:

- Antalya: 29°C - 23°C
- Bodrum: 31°C - 21°C
- Rhodes: 27°C - 21°C

Visa Information

- Australian Passport Holders will be required to obtain an e-visa if you're staying for less than 90 days in a 180-day period. Use the official Turkish government site to apply for an e-visa online: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>
- Your passport should be valid for 6 months from the date of your return travel.

Essential Items to Pack

- This tour will be traveling to some of the most liberal parts of Türkiye in very warm weather. It's perfectly OK to wear shorts, sleeveless t-shirts, or anything else that you would normally wear in a Mediterranean/European country with a similar climate. The tour does not visit any mosques or Islamic shrines (except for people stopping over in Istanbul) so there is no need to dress conservatively.
- The program includes visits to archaeological sites which are unsheltered and include rough paths and/or rocky terrain. Even on hot days, sites can be windy, and clouds can suddenly arrive.
 - Comfortable, solid shoes are essential.
 - Consider bringing a walking stick.

- Long pants are recommended for a number of the walks.
- Always bring with you a spare sweater.
- Hat, sunscreen, sunglasses
- Swimwear: there will be opportunities to swim during your journey on the *gulet*. Note: the *gulets* provide towels for swimming.
- Small backpack: for carrying bottled water during excursions.
- If you are planning to visit Istanbul we recommend women pack a scarf which may be required when entering mosques.
- Face Mask: which may be required if you develop a respiratory illness.

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.



Reservation Application

TOUR NAME The Turquoise Coast: Southern Turkey & Rhodes
TOUR DATES 22 September - 9 October 2026

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other _____
FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____
MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____
POSTAL ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____
TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____
EMAIL address _____
Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ GENDER Male Female

Passport Number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____ / ____ Nationality _____
 Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed I'm renewing my passport ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Covid Certificate A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

Travel Plans

I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date ____ / ____ / ____
 I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy
I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish poultry red meat dairy products

eggs pork nuts

Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at www.asatours.com.au
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel: 1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?
- If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen?

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?
- If yes, please specify

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?

Are you insulin dependent?

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness?
- Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
 - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
 - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
 - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
 - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 120 days before departure: your initial deposit of \$1000.00 is non-refundable.

120-46 days prior 30% of total amount due

45-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 120 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 120 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

I accept the conditions on this booking form I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1

Name of Traveller 2

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$

 (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel Tour Deposit
- Balance of Payment Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- Travel Insurance Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation)

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code ANZBAU3M
BSB 013-423
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No.

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date

 Security Code (CVC)

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

Cardholders Name

Cardholders Billing Address

Postcode

State

 Country

Phone

Email

Cardholders Signature
