

EXPLORE!

Family Cruising the Turquoise Coast
8 days

Turkey - Trip code FCE



Family Cruising the Turquoise Coast

Travel with us to the warm waters of southern Turkey. Sailing on a traditional gulet, we explore the legendary shoreline of the ancient kingdom of Lycia, known as the Turquoise Coast for its shimmering crystal clear waters. Along the way we snorkel in secluded coves, discover uninhabited islands and relax on the golden sand of Iztuzu beach. Wander through Roman ruins and gaze at the settlement of Kekova, submerged beneath the Med. Enjoy an easy going week where you can do as much or as little as you want.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Sailing on a traditional style wooden gulet** - Seven nights cruising along the beautiful shoreline of the Turkey's Turquoise Coast
- ★ **Swimming and snorkelling** - In quiet coves, straight from the boat
- ★ **Mud baths and Turtle Beach** - Enjoy a boat trip around Dalyan. Get covered in (therapeutic) mud, see ancient Caunus, then glide through the reed beds to Iztuzu beach
- ★ **Kekova** - Discover this stunning bay with its white washed villages, sunken ruins and medieval castle
- ★ **Ancient ruins, beaches, walks and sea** - kayaking - Relax or explore as much as you like

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Simple

These are often small, family run establishments or campsites which provide a no-frills experience with adequate amenities and service standards. Sleeping arrangements are simple, sometimes with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Relaxed

You can enjoy easy-going activities and experiences on these Relaxed pace tours, with opportunities to absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings, but still come home feeling relaxed and refreshed.

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip Fethiye

Our trip starts at Fethiye Harbour. Here we board our gulet and meet the crew. Fethiye is a market town that can trace its history back to the ancient Lycian town of Telmessos built around the harbour in the 5th or 6th century B.C. Reminders of the town's past include Lycian rock tombs on the hillside and an Hellenistic theatre. We spend our first night in the harbour.



Accommodation: Overnight on Gulet (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Dinner

DAY 2 - Riverboat to Caunus; gulet to Yassica Island

After a short transfer to the sleepy village of Dalyan we board our riverboat. We first head upriver to the therapeutic mudbaths of Ilica and then meander downstream, weaving through reed beds rich in bird life. We pass cliffs carved with dramatic Necropolis tombs before coming to the ruins of the ancient seaport of Caunus. Much of the site is overgrown, but the fine Hellenistic theatre is well preserved and the views from the fortified acropolis are breathtaking. Looking south to the Aegean 5 kms away it is hard to imagine that Caunus was once a thriving port, but fell into decline when the harbour silted up. Continuing by riverboat we reach Iztuzu Beach, a wide spit of white sand lapped on one side by the Aegean and on the other side by the fresh waters of the Koycegiz River. This is one of the few remaining nesting places of *Caretta caretta*, the loggerhead turtle. Development at Iztuzu has been banned and an overnight curfew is placed on the beach, as this is when the female turtles come ashore to lay their eggs. Having paused to swim we transfer back to Gocek and board our gulet. We enjoy lunch aboard whilst sailing south to our first overnight mooring at the tranquil cove at Yassica Island.



Accommodation: Overnight on Gulet (or similar)



Simple Boat

DAY 3 - Sail to Gemiler Island via Tersane and Batik Hammam

After an optional walk on Yassica Island, we make the short crossing to Tersane Island. Formerly the site of a prosperous Greek village, Tersane is now deserted. Among the remains are a watchtower and some tombs, all of which are now ruined but well preserved. From here we continue to Batik Hammam where we will have the opportunity to swim in the beautiful clear waters. We finish our day heading towards our next night stop at Gemiler Island.



Accommodation: Overnight on Gulet (or similar)



Simple Boat

DAY 4 - Cruise to Kalkan; optional visit to Xanthos and Saklikent Gorge

We make an early start to sail to Kalkan, an attractive village built into the steep seacliff. Kalkan is an ideal base from which to visit the ancient city of Xanthos as well as Saklikent Gorge which is a short drive away. Xanthos was the capital of ancient Lycia, captured by Brutus in 43BC, but only after the menfolk had killed all their women and children to save them from falling into Roman hands. Saklikent Gorge, which means Hidden Place, is situated high in the mountains above Fethiye and was created by icy cold water cutting through the mountains over thousands of years. A natural wonder, the resulting canyon is 300 metres deep and 18 km long. The walls are so high they cut out most of the sunlight and the fresh spring waters that flow through are freezing cold! A great refuge on a hot summer day.



Accommodation: Overnight on Gulet (or similar)



Simple Boat

DAY 5 - Sail to Kekova

After sailing to one of the loveliest stretches of coastline from Kalkan eastwards towards the sheltered bay of Kekova, we then drop anchor and once again have the chance to venture onshore to discover the ancient heritage of the Lycian Coast.



Accommodation: Overnight on Gulet (or similar)



Simple Boat

DAY 6 - Optional Sea-Kayaking; sail to Kas

This morning there is the chance to try out sea-kayaking in the calm, protected waters of the bay of Kekova. Here we find the so called Sunken City of Kekova which is partly submerged within the bay with its streets and buildings being visible in the crystal clear waters. Later we paddle to the picturesque whitewashed village of Simena, whose harbour is dotted with ancient sarcophagi (tombs) and whose houses cling to the hillside beneath a medieval castle. Hiking up to the castle, we find an ancient theatre that is carved out from the solid rock - a wonderful place to sit and soak up the beautiful surroundings and wonder about the layers of history that are all about. In the afternoon, we make our final gulet journey, sailing west to the pleasant little harbour town of Kas. This attractive port is one of the most beautiful of the Turkish Riviera, backed by steep cliffs covered with dense green forest. You'll have time to enjoy the atmosphere at one of the many lively cafes near the harbour.



Accommodation: Overnight on Gulet (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7 - Westward sail towards Fethiye

Today we cruise at a leisurely pace, returning westwards towards Fethiye. Stopping en route for swimming opportunities, we eventually moor up around an hour from Fethiye in a quiet bay.



Accommodation: Overnight on Gulet (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 8 - Trip ends Fethiye

This morning we sail back to Fethiye where the trip ends. If your flight is departing later in the day then it will be possible to leave your baggage either on board the boat or at the boat office in Fethiye. Please speak to your Tour Leader or the boat captain to make the necessary arrangements.

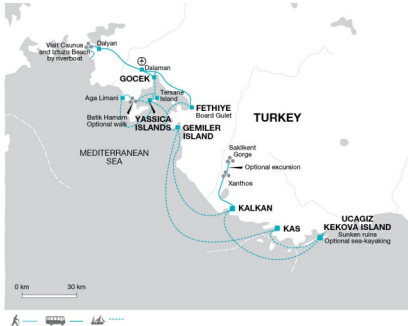


Meals Provided: Breakfast

Family information

Minimum age

11



Why book this trip

A relaxing holiday and at a great price with most elements all included. We sail along the Turkish coast with stops off at historic ruins, have the option to kayak and walk amongst the history of the country. Our vessel is the gulet boat, a traditional Turkish vessel that is now used for cruises along the coastal treats of this great country.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7
Lunch: 6
Dinner: 7



Transport

Bus
Boat



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew
Cook
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



Accommodation

7 nights simple boat

Trip information

Country information

Turkey

Climate

Evenings and early mornings can be cool in the early and late season (before mid May and after early October). During the winter, temperatures usually hover between 0 and 10 degrees, but are usually wet, particularly around the coast. Summers are hot and dry with refreshing sea breezes and clear waters, great for boat trips. It is often cooler on higher ground and in the mountains and can be cold at night, even in the summer. The best time for walking in Turkey is Mid May, June and September, with pleasant temperatures and clear blue skies.

Time difference to GMT

+3

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Islam, Christian

Language

Turkish

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your

Kalkan:

Day 4: Saklikent Gorge - By minibus/taxi from Kalkan £15.00 (depending on numbers).

Kekova:

Day 6: Guided sea-kayaking over sunken city from cruise £35 - £80 (depending on numbers)

Clothing

The long Turkish summer can be hot, though much of the Mediterranean coastline is freshened by sea breezes. A warmer sweater or light fleece and long trousers are advisable for the evenings in early and late season. Dress on the gulet is informal.

Footwear

Footwear is generally not worn on the boat, which is recommended as you get much better grip with bare feet. Bring sandals for general wear and a pair of old or plastic shoes for walking on rocks and wet beach landings. A pair of trainers or a comfortable pair of walking shoes is required for walks and visiting ancient sites.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daysack for a few personal things. Space is limited in the gulet cabins so luggage should be kept to a minimum. A soft holdall is recommended rather than a hard suitcase.

Equipment

Useful equipment includes a water bottle, small torch, high factor suncream, insect repellent, sunglasses, and a snorkel and mask for keen swimmers. Whilst some towels are provided you may want to bring your own beach towel for outdoor use and swimming. Note: Qualified scuba divers wishing to dive should bring their diving certificate and log book.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip.

Accordingly, you should allow approx £15.00 per person for tipping.

Local fees

Tea and coffee will be provided on board the gulet at meal/tea times and water is provided at meal times also. You cannot bring your own drinks on board the gulet, but they can be purchased on the boat at the following approximate rates:

Wine (70cl): £10.00
Water (small): £0.35
Beer (small): £2.00
Soft Drinks: £1.10
Raki: £2.65
Spirits: £2.65

It's not possible to pay by credit/debit card or travellers cheque on board. Cash machines also aren't easily found during this trip. Please also note that if you would like to offer tips for the Explore staff, it is probably best to bring this amount before you travel as cash machines are not easily found on this trip.

Country Information

Turkey

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£7

Dinner price

£13

Beer price

£2.7

Water price

£1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Turkish Lira.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Major foreign currencies such as US Dollars, £Sterling and Euros can easily be changed. We advise against travelling with Travellers Cheques as commission rates are high. Other currencies can be exchanged in larger cities. We advise you to change money in Turkey as rates tend to be better.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

ATMs are widely available throughout Turkey. To avoid large queues at the airport exchanges, you may wish to exchange some lira before arriving.

Credit Card Acceptance

In major restaurants.

Travellers Cheques

Not recommended.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Our traditional gulet is hand built in teak and pine, with a spacious and partly shaded foredeck and comfortable indoor and outdoor lounge areas. Meals are prepared on board by the boat chef and enjoyed in the shaded aft deck.

There are four twin and four double cabins, all with an en suite toilethower. The cabins are cosy and can get warm in summer as there is no air-conditioning, so you may find it preferable to sleep above deck although port holes can usually be opened. There are plugs available in each cabin, so it is possible to charge cameras and phones.

There is some snorkelling equipment available aboard the gullet. If you are a keen snorkeler, you may prefer to bring your own mask and snorkel with you.

The gullet may moor in a quiet bay near the night stop to minimise disturbances in the evening, especially in large urban areas/ports.

Family swimming

There is a chance to swim every day from the gulet

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Turkey: Visas are required by UK citizens. We recommend that you obtain your visa online, prior to arrival at <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/> This will cost US\$20 and you will need a blank page in your passport for the stamp.

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits

Turkey

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.