

# Walk the West Lycian Way Trail

**Trip style:** Guided trails

**Destination:** 📍 Turkey

**Trip code:** LYC09-LDW13

**Grades:** 1, 4



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Trek some of the most spectacular sections of Turkey's Lycian Way - a long-distance route that runs for over 335 miles between Antalya and Fethiye. It's a region where the Taurus Mountains sweep down into glittering seas, and sky-high, rocky goat tracks contrast against glorious sunsets over the much-loved Turquoise Coast. Follow in the footsteps of history's greats, including the Lycian League and Alexander the Great, as you pass through ruins of former Lycian cities. Add in landscapes of pine forests, sandy coves, and butterfly-filled valleys and you have one showstopping adventure.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring the past as you walk sections of the Lycian Way
- Discovering the ancient cities of Fethiye, Xanthos, and Patara
- Strolling the charming streets around the old fishing town of Kas
- Admiring Butterfly Valley, Mount Chimaera, and the Blue Lagoon
- Taking in the Turquoise Coast with stops on its sandy beaches
- Marvelling at underwater ruins on a boat trip around Kekova

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full programme of guided walks led by local HF Holidays Leaders
- Comfortable accommodation
- Full-board
- Air-conditioned transport – we use the same tour vehicle throughout
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- Boat tour in Kekova lagoon and BBQ lunch on the boat
- Return flights from the UK including hold baggage and airport transfers

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1:** Arrival Day

Fly into Dalaman airport where your guide will meet you to transfer you to Fethiye.

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### **Day 2:** Fethiye – Kayakoy – Oludeniz

Distance: 12km Ascent: 200m What was once the ancient city of Telmessos, Fethiye delights with its array of monuments and relics. You'll head to the old town to see the necropolis, ancient amphitheatre, and the eye-popping rock-carved Tomb of Amyntas, which dates back to 350BC. Then we'll visit the ghost town of Kayakoy, a testament of the area's Greek heritage. Once home to 10,000 people, its inhabitants were sent to Greece in population exchanges. Nowadays, you can walk amongst 800 abandoned, but well-preserved, houses. Nearby is Oludeniz, also known as the Blue Lagoon, an idyllic resort where pine-clad hills back on to the calmest, sapphire-blue waters (its name means Dead Sea as the waters remain calm even during storms). We'll then return to Fethiye for the night.

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### **Day 3:** Ovacik to Faralya via Kozagac and Butterfly Valley

Distance: 15km Ascent: 400m Today's route showcases the Turquoise Coast in all its colour as we wind our way along a panoramic path with the Baba Dagi mountain on one side and the sea on the other. Pass through lush pine forests and remote villages before descending to Faralya, perched above the Butterfly Valley. If we're lucky, we'll witness hundreds of butterflies fluttering amongst the steep limestone cliffs.

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### **Day 4:** Faralya - Gey

Distance: 19km Ascent: 600m Following the Lycian Way, we'll climb through pine forest to reach a point where you'll gaze out over villages as well as the sea and islands in the distance. We'll reach the town of Kabak then continue following the ancient path to Alinca, where we'll stop for lunch with the villagers. The path eventually leads us to Gey for the night.

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### **Day 5:** Gey – Sidyma – Patara

Distance: 9km Ascent: 450m From olive groves to orchards, today's walk has a picturesque start. There's plenty to see, too, including the ruins of the ancient city of Sydima and Xanthos, the first capital of Lycia. Between visits, we'll eat with a family in their home, then learn about the bravery of Lycian warriors in Patara, capital of the Lycian League during the Roman period.

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### **Day 6:** Patara – Delikkemer – Kas

Distance: 11km Ascent: 200m Step out of the hotel and straight onto the route that takes us along Patara's ancient aqueducts to Delikkemer and back. Get an insight into the Lycian League as we explore the ruins before kicking back on the beach for a bit. Then we'll drive to Kas for evening where you're free to dip in and out of the lively cafés, fish restaurants, and bars.

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**Day 7:** Kapakli – Uçagiz – Kekova Island – Simena – Çirali

Distance: 9km Ascent: 100m After a quick journey to Uçagiz, we'll hop on a boat to visit the submerged city of Simena. And once we've docked on the island of Kekova, we'll begin our walk to Kapakli, taking in the necropolis along the way. We'll also be sharing the route with the many goats and sheep that roam freely here.

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**Day 8:** Çirali – Ulupinar – Çirali

Distance: 12km Ascent: 350m We'll admire the coastline as we walk to Yanartas where we'll begin climbing to a place that you have to see to believe - Mount Chimaera. The eternally burning fires are believed to be caused by methane emissions and make for a mind-boggling sight. We'll continue to a fish farm next to Ulupinar stream for some lunch, then the afternoon's yours to sink your toes in the sands of Cirali beach or sink your teeth into more history at Olympos, one of the largest cities of the Lycian League.

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**Day 9:** Tekirova – Phaselis – Alacasu Cove – Antalya

Distance: 7.5km Ascent: 150m For our last walk along the ancient Lycian coast, we'll make our way to Phaselis, a remarkable historical site with equally remarkable viewpoints. Explore the three ancient harbours, Roman baths, theatres, and canals. A trail also leads us to a hidden cove where we can stop and take it all in. In the afternoon, we'll journey to the historic centre of Antalya, Kaleici. Here we'll have the chance to relax at a typical hammam before our farewell dinner at a restaurant.

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**Day 10:** Departure Day

Time to say farewell to your fellow guests before a group transfer to Antalya airport for your journey home.

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## **Woynpoint Hotel, Fethiye**

This 3-star hotel is just a skip away from the harbour and Fethiye's old town. Modern, clean rooms provide a comfortable place to rest your head for the night and a hearty continental breakfast to set you up for the next day. There's free Wi-Fi, air conditioning, TV, and a kettle in the rooms, too.

## **Gunes Hotel, Ovacik**

The outdoor pool is the hotel's main draw, where you'll be pleased there's somewhere to take a dip after a long day walking in the sun. Plus, you're roll-out-of-bed close to Calis beach. It's a small, friendly 3-star hotel, and as it's family-run you can enjoy some traditional Turkish hospitality.

## **Kekova Hotel, Kas**

With a rooftop restaurant overlooking the bay, the 2-star Kekova Hotel puts you in a prime spot to explore Kas. The rooms are basic in style, but come with air conditioning, TV, and private bathroom. Some rooms also have sea views.

## **Cesur Pansiyon, Cirali**

The lush gardens surrounding Cesur Pansiyon are a welcome sight after a day's exploring. It's also within touching distance of Cirali beach. The rooms at this 3-star, family-run hotel are basic, but clean, comfortable, and air conditioned.

## **Atelya Art Hotel, Antalya (2\*)**

The 2-star Atelya Art Hotel preserves many of the architectural touches of an 18th century house in old town Antalya. Antique pieces adorn the sun terrace, while the courtyard garden boasts an outdoor pool and restaurant to relax in.

## **Faralya Misafir Evi**

Soak up the mountain views from Faralya Misafir Evi, a 3-star guest house near the village of Faralya. Add gardens filled with citrus trees, a restaurant terrace shaded by vines, and bougainvillea-clad patios, and you've got an idyllic spot to spend the night.

## **Montenegro Motel**

You'll stay in one of Montenegro Motel's pine bungalows, each nestled around the outdoor pool and gardens. There are mountain views all round, and a glorious spot to watch the sunset from the terrace restaurant. Each bungalow comes with air-conditioning and a patio.

## **Gey Village Trekkers' Pansiyon**

Catering to walkers of the Lycian Way, the rooms at this pension are basic but have everything you need for a restful night, including a hearty Turkish breakfast the next morning.

## **Flower Hotel, Patara**

You're in for a warm welcome at this family-run pansiyon in Patara. Rooms are simple, but bright and clean with air conditioning and an en-suite bathroom. Some have balconies, too. You can also relax by the pool and enjoy homemade Turkish food, made with home-grown ingredients.