

# Cruise the Med

## 8 days | Starts/Ends: Marmaris



*SAILING HOLIDAY: Up anchor at Marmaris on Turkey's spectacular Mediterranean coast for a memorable 7 night gulet cruise, dropping anchor at small islands, inlets and bays for sunning, swimming and relaxation.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Marmaris - A lively holiday resort
- Tersane Island and Manastir Bay - Aka Cleopatra Bay
- Fethiye - The ancient city of Telmessos
- The Yassica Islands - Bedri Rahmi Bay and Domuz Island at Aga Limani Bay
- Picturesque bays and islets
- Boat trip along the Dalyan River to Turtle Beach (optional excursion)

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 7 dinners
- 7 nights aboard an air-conditioned gulet in a shared cabin with ensuite bathroom with shower (equivalent to a 3 star standard of accommodation)
- Services of gulet crew

- Applicable port taxes

#### What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Airport arrival and departure transfers
- Drinks. With the exception of tea and coffee offered at breakfast
- Optional excursions and tipping. We recommend you allow a tip for your gulet crew of USD\$5 - \$10 per traveller per day. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Marmaris

Welcome to Marmaris! Boarding of your gulet begins at 3:30 pm from the port and the night is spent in Marmaris harbour. **Overnight - Gulet (Marmaris)** (D)

#### Day 2 : Turtle Beach



This morning we attend a short welcome meeting. Afterwards we set sail towards the Ekincik Gulf where you can join an optional boat trip along the Dalyan river to Turtle Beach, passing Lycian rock tombs on the way to the sulphurous mud baths and hot springs. **Overnight - Gulet (Gulf of Ekincik)** (B, L, D)

#### Day 3 : Tersane Island & Sunken Bath Bay



Because of the wavy seas of Disibilmez and Kurtoglu capes that we have to cross, we will cruise earlier than the other days and reach the world-famous Gocek Gulf. We anchor at Tersane Island for breakfast and a swimming break. This naturally protected harbour was used as the shipyard in Byzantine and Ottoman times. Continue cruising to Manastir (Monastery) Bay. This place is also known as Cleopatra Bay or Sunken Bath

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Bay due to the beautiful underwater ruins of an old bath. **Overnight - Gulet (Kizil Island)** (B, L, D)

## Days 4-5 : Fethiye



Arrive at Fethiye Harbour early in the morning of day 4. Fethiye, which was known as Telmessos in the ancient times, was the most important city situated on Lycia's western border with Caria. It is believed that the city's name comes from Apollo's son Telmessos. As the name suggests, the city was the city of light and was famous for its prophets. We also offer the option of a jeep safari tour in Fethiye. For those who prefer not to join the Safari, the boat will cruise to Samanlik Bay for lunch and swimming. Afterwards, at around 16:00 the boat will anchor at Ece Saray Marina for dinner and an overnight stay.

After breakfast on day 5, depart from Fethiye Harbour for Gocek Island. While moving through uniquely beautiful islands, we finally anchor at Yassica Islands. Lunch will be taken in this beautiful chain of little islands. Snorkeling in the crystal clear water is recommended. **Overnight - Gulet (Ece Saray Marina (1) Gocek (1))** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

## Day 6 : Bedri Rahmi Bay

After breakfast, sail to the spectacularly stunning Bedri Rahmi Bay, named after a famous Turkish artist and then to Sarsala Bay. Cruise to Aga Limani before lunch. **Overnight - Gulet (Aga Limani Bay)** (B, L, D)

## Day 7 : Back to Marmaris



After breakfast, depending on the weather, depart early for Cape Kadirga with swim stops along the way. Kadirga Bay is a quiet picturesque location where we'll spend ample time swimming. This little bay is a paradise for snorkeling fans. Tea is served at 5 pm somewhere in the vicinity of Cennet Island. Afterwards we sail to Marmaris port. Guests wishing to see more of Marmaris are recommended to head to the city centre and experience the lively night life.

**Overnight - Gulet (Marmaris Harbour)** (B, L, D)

## Day 8 : Marmaris

After breakfast today, bid farewell to new friends and crew and disembark the boat. (B)

## BEFORE YOU GO

### Our partners

**This tour is operated in conjunction with our trusted partner and you will join travellers who booked through different operators, not solely On The Go.**

### Arrival information

This tour begins and ends in Marmaris, Marmaris is a popular Aegean Sea destination and can be easily arrived at by road, ferry or air. The nearest airport offering international flights is Dalaman airport located approximately 49 km from central Marmaris. Shuttle and taxi services run regularly between Dalaman Airport and Marmaris.

On day 1 you will need to make your own way to Marmaris Harbour. Embarkation commences from 3:30pm. Unfortunately, as the Port Authority locates the ships in a different berth each day, we cannot provide a dock number. Therefore on the day you will need to call Mr Idris Ucar +90 533 730 25 68, who will provide instructions on how to locate your gulet in the harbour. If you are unable to contact him we also have 24 hour emergency contact numbers that you can phone, which you will find on your tour voucher.

Transfers to Marmaris Harbour from Dalaman Airport or your accommodation in Marmaris (if applicable) are not included but can be booked upon request, please contact us for rates. The benefit of booking a transfer to the harbour is that you will be escorted to your gulet and therefore you will not need to call and locate the gulet yourself.

### Sailing arrangements

Our Cruise the Med sailing program is independent in style. ie sightseeing information is not offered by the captain or crew and there is not a tour leader on board. We suggest you bring along a good guide book for referencing places that you visit en route. Activities and excursions can be undertaken locally at your leisure and at your own personal cost. Some travellers may only be staying on board until Fethiye, others may be returning to Marmaris with you.

The gulets are not operated by On The Go Tours and there will be passengers on board who have booked through other travel companies. Your fellow travellers may come from all walks of life, be of different ages and nationalities, but you will all have one thing in common - an interest in wanting to explore the Med.

### Gulets

Turkish gulets are traditionally two or three masted wooden sailing vessels

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from the south western coast of Turkey, which were used for trading. Nowadays gulets have been adapted for recreational use, many of them aren't properly rigged for sailing and an onboard motor is used.

A typical gulet will take anything up to a year to build. The gulets are 15 – 30 meters in length and usually accommodate between 8 – 20 people. Gulets have a dining area and a spacious deck for relaxing and admiring the beautiful views. A dinghy with outboard motor, a ship-to-shore radio and mobile telephone are all on board, as well as life jackets for every person.

As life on board is spent mainly on the deck above, your cabin will simply be a place to lay your head, so although it contains a double bed and en suite facilities, it will be compact. You will need to use a large holdall or rucksack rather than a suitcase due to limited space in the cabins.

You will need to pack a towel x 2 (beach/shower) because they are not provided.

Please be aware that bringing your own drinks onto the gulet is not permitted but you can either opt to have all drinks included for a supplement, or buy drinks on board.

PLEASE NOTE: The information provided on the scheduled sailing route and stops at points of interest are offered as guidance only. It is at the captain's discretion to change the route, stops at points of interest or overnight stays due to the weather, sea conditions or to ensure the boat stays on schedule.

### Turkey Country Guide

#### Visas and passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure

that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Turkey.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to [www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Visas](http://www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Visas)

#### Turkey health requirements and water

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Turkey from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all the appropriate vaccinations. The tap water in Turkey is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

#### Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit [www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
- Take out some Turkish Lira from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival
- Buy a phrasebook and practice locally
- Keep a supply of small Turkish Lira notes for local transactions

#### It's not like home

Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth often involves encountering lifestyles and conditions that are very

different from what you are used to back home. As such it is important to come prepared for unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect everything to go exactly as planned, as things can and do change in foreign countries. The people, customs, creed and languages are different from one region to the next.

Please visit [www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info](http://www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info) for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

#### Shopping

Turkey is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects. Known locally as Kapali Carsi – the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul's Old City is a massive conglomeration of shops (some 4000) divided into areas specialising in gold, carpets, leather, souvenirs and clothing. Turkish handicrafts include a rich variety of textiles and embroideries, articles of copper, onyx and tile, mother-of-pearl, inlaid articles, leather and suede products. Jewellery, carpets and kilims represent top buys at the bazaar. Opening hours: Mon to Sat 0900 – 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

#### Carpets Buying

Turkey is justly famous for its carpets and kilims (a napless woven rug) and you'll be spoilt for choice. To ensure you get a good buy, spend time visiting several shops to compare price, pattern-type and quality. A good quality, long-lasting carpet should be 100% wool. Check the quality of the weave for possible holes. A wool carpet will have fine, frizzy fibres if you turn the carpet on its back. Cheaper carpets are made of cotton and most often the fringe will be too. If you want a wool carpet and the fringe is of cotton, it's likely the carpet won't be a woollen

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one! The lies can be bigger than the fall of Ottoman Empire. Don't make the mistake of buying a cotton carpet at the price of a wool one! Many carpets are made to look like antiques at prices to match.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

### What to expect and Ramadan

Ramazan dates: 22 Mar - 20 Apr 2023 & 10 Mar - 08 Apr 2024 (approx). The month of Ramazan (Ramadan), the ninth of the Islamic calendar, is a great time to travel in the region as you get a real insight into the Muslim faith. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends. As tourists you will be generally unaffected although some places may close early, but your tour leader will do their best to plan around this. Most hotels bars and tourist restaurants will remain open.

In the evening you will experience a celebratory atmosphere at iftar, when people break their fast. To witness Ramazan is a real highlight making your tour in the region that bit more interesting. Each year it begins roughly ten days earlier than the year before, according to the Gregorian calendar.

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### Turkey site opening times

Popular sightseeing spot in Istanbul are closed on specific days. Please plan your visit accordingly.

- Topkapi Palace - Closed Tuesdays
- Grand Bazaar - Closed Sundays
- Blue Mosque - Closed during all prayer times and Friday's until 3pm
- The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows:

### Blue Mosque renovations

The Blue Mosque (also known as Sultanahmet Camii in Turkish) is currently undergoing renovations and for the foreseeable future there will be scaffolding erected inside and other construction works will be taking place. Whilst we will visit the inside of the Blue Mosque when included on a tour, please be aware that some parts of the Mosque may be off limits to tourists.

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