

The Lycian way (Likya Yolu) is nature and culture in one route

This signposted coastal route of 400 km on the Teke peninsula in southern Turkey is of unprecedented beauty. While walking through a magnificent Mediterranean landscape with views of an azure blue sea, you will also meet many silent witnesses of various past cultures. Cultures that realized much earlier than us, hikers, that it is very good to stay here. Or witnesses of peoples and cultures who, often out of greed, hunger for power or jealousy of all that beauty, went on a conquest-oriented rampage here.

Foto en tekst Hans Plas, www.oranginas.nl



Lycian way, view of Mount Olympos

Silent witnesses

Many have left their mark. Still visible, present and tangible. You "just" walk past it. Or about. Or on. Tombs of the original inhabitants, the Lycians, sometimes built high in the mountains so that the soul could go to heaven faster. Forts for the protection of the Fathers of the Cross on their way to their holy land. Legacies of the Greeks and remnants from the period of Roman rule. Have you ever walked hundreds of meters over a 2000-year-old Roman aqueduct? Or your sandwiches – *pide* – eaten high at the top of a Roman amphitheatre overlooking the classical city gate of the Roman city of Patara?

The apostles Paul and Luke who switched ships here, on their way to Crete. They say.

Where, by the way, via the E4 that runs over that island, you pass the place where Paul came ashore again. And what a **place!** Not to mention the Genoese, the Arabs, the Venetians... or the Bishop of Myra. Indeed: he is not from Spain but from Lycia. It's still there. At least a particle. In the middle of the current, ubiquitous and prominent, symbols of Islam.



Lycian way, effigy on a Lycian tomb

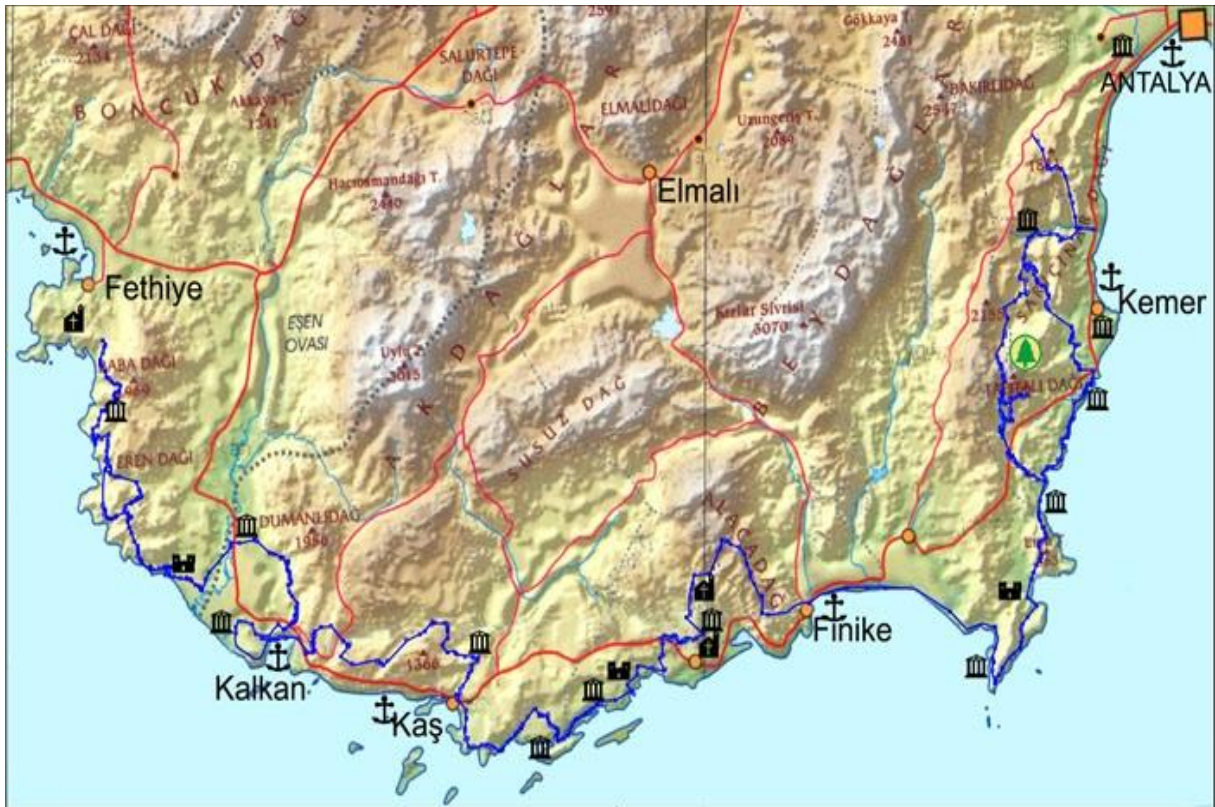
Landscape

And all these cultural highlights in a landscape full of surprises: dense, deep forests, with fast-flowing rivers through beautiful ravines, the mountainous chalky hinterland, the ascent of Mount Olympos (2366 m) – you can also walk around it –, idyllic beaches of which Robinson Crusoe might think: "Why didn't I wash up here". The eternal flames of Chimaera. The waterfalls at Göynük, the castle ruins of Gedelme. The shepherds with their goat herds. Or with their camels. You don't know what you're seeing..... Olive plantations, sunken cities. Turtles on the route. No hiking day without a highlight. And the really, in every way, very hospitable inhabitants of the sparse villages you pass through along the way. The Lycian way is nature and culture in one route.

- total length of the route: 400 km;
- starting point: between Fethiye and Antalya;
- heaviness: medium;
- advice: hire a local, specialized travel agency for all kinds of practical matters such as transport, possible travel, accommodation, etc.;
- Walk the route in sections. You can't and don't want to do so much beauty at once;



On trail



Map in the book of Cate Clow



Hospitality



Patara



View....

