



Antalya & the Turquoise Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ İzela Restaurant (p339)
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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Hotel Unique (p335)
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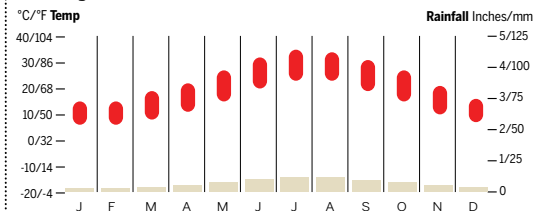
Why Go?

The ancient Lycians were on to something when they based their empire on the stunning Teke Peninsula, the chunk of Mediterranean paradise between Antalya and Fethiye. This is Turkey at its most staggeringly beautiful: sandy sweeps of shore hug a coastline lapped by jade waters and backed by forest-blanketed slopes. The Turquoise Coast is prime sun-and-sea territory, but step off the beach and you'll find ancient cities such as Xanthos, Tlos and Arykanda perched precariously atop hills, and ornate tombs carved into cliffs at Pınara and Myra. Hike between ruins on a section of the 500km-long Lycian Way and you'll be richly rewarded with scenery worth the sweat.

If you just want the beach, though, you're in the right place. For starters there's Patara's knock-'em-dead stretch of sand, the beach linking Olympos and Çıralı, and photogenic Kaputaş. Of course there are ancient sites just around the corner from all three.

When to Go

Antalya



Mar–Apr Prime walking time. Stride across rugged hills alive with spring flowers.

May Sneak in before peak season and set sail on the Med. September's also good.

Jun–Aug Summer silly season: Antalya, Kaş, Fethiye and Dalyan are bustling and festive.

Antalya & the Turquoise Coast Highlights

1 Kekova Island (p361)

Kayaking or cruising over the city of Simena, submerged by 2nd-century earthquakes.

2 Kayaköy (p339)

Discovering the eerie and

surreal Greek ghost town

abandoned a century ago.

3 Patara (p346)

Brushing up on classical history among the ruins before an afternoon on the 18km-long beach.

4 Lycian Way (p334)

Hiking some of the famous trail, from holiday havens such as Kaş to blissful villages like Kaleköy.

5 Kaleiçi (p366)

Wandering the labyrinthine streets of

Antalya's historic district, before hopping on a tour boat at the Roman harbour.

6 Blue Voyages (p337)

Setting sail from Fethiye, Göcek or Demre to experience

this lush slice of the Med on a *gulet* (Turkish yacht).

7 Chimaera (p364)

Hiking up Mt Olympus at night, after a day of Olympus' beach and ruins, to see the eternal flame.

