



The ancient Lycian city of Myra, gets its name from the myth plant, as in "Frankincense and myrrh" in historical texts. The city can also be reached via the coastal road from Antalya to Fethiye with spectacular views. The visitor is welcomed with the magnificent view of the Lycian Rock Cut Tombs, located within citrus orchards and next to the great theatre from the Roman Period.

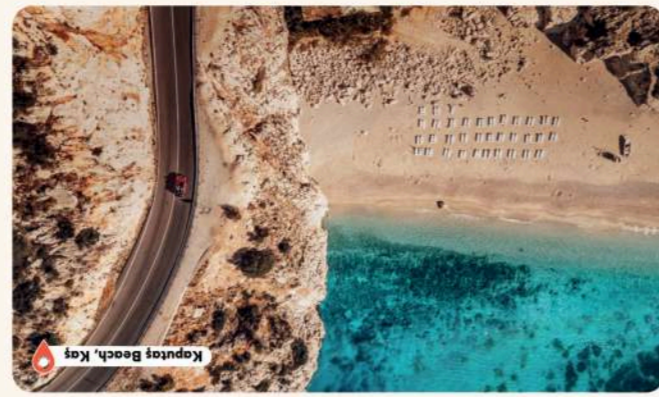
Myra - Did you know?

Until today, Patara and Lycian League, with their close relation to nature, the cultural and economic wealth of its people, and their democratic structure and ideals, continue to be an inspiration and motivation to peoples and states in how to shape a better future.

In his book "The Spirit of Laws", the famous thinker Baron de Montesquieu cited the form of governance of the Lycian League as "the most perfect example of a republic". The majestic Council Chamber (Bouleuterion) in the capital city Patara enabled this first known "most perfect" form of governing in history.

Patara - Did you know?

The church of St. Nicholas was built upon his last resting place. Visiting the church, you can admire colourful frescoes and explore the extent and natural wonders of the landscape of ancient Myra, the mysterious limestone rock tombs and the many corridors, one of which leads to the sarcophagus of St. Nicholas. The 11th century church now also houses the Santa Claus Museum (Noel Baba Müzesi).



The enclosed bay behind it has long served as an anchorage for yachts and ships, as the sea there is calm and sheltered. You can visit the beautiful remnants of the five churches on the island or join one of the daily boat tours and stop for a spot of lunch and a swim, or marvel at the countless boats moored in the bay for a quiet night on the turquoise waters.



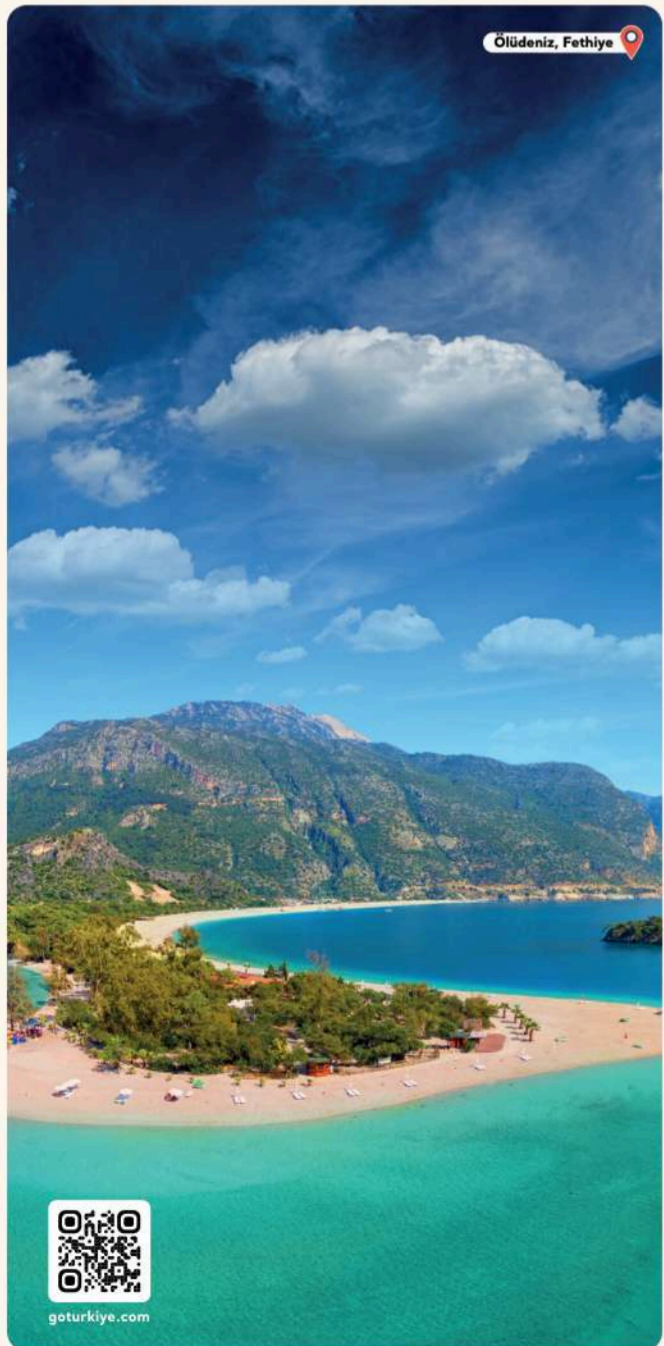
The exceptional Patara will attract your attention. Among the most visited structures are the theatre, the restored boule (town hall), the lighthouse, the triumphal arch, the main street lined with numerous chapels. Staying within the vicinity, we come to the original resting place of old St. Nicholas before his remains were moved to the Church of St. Nicholas in Demre. From Fethiye, a pleasant hiking trail leads to Gemile Bay, from where you can either take a small boat or swim the short distance to St. Nicholas Island and most beautiful created one of the longest the Mediterranean Sea. Patara Beach, known as Turkish Riviera, is also a nesting site for loggerhead turtles (Caretta caretta).



Starting at his birthplace is the ancient city of Patara in Turkey, where the journey begins, adjacent is the village of Gemlik where he spent his youth and where the memory of the saint is celebrated. After his education, St. Nicholas became the bishop of ancient Myra, today's city of Demre. Here there is a church built in memory of you can walk in the footsteps of St. Nicholas, visiting all the places in a few days and enjoying the beauty of nature and historical heritage they offer.

Imagine uncovering the roots of a globally recognized symbol, or the place where a legend was born. St. Nicholas' journey takes us from his birthplace of Patara to the neighbouring village of Gemlik, St. Nicholas Island, also known as Gemiler Island; between Ölüdeniz and Fethiye, and Demre, also known as Myra in ancient times. When we think of St. Nicholas from history and pop culture, we often recognise him under the moniker of Santa Claus. Often depicted as an old man in red and white clothing, driving a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer and bringing gifts to children. But this legend had more humble beginnings. St. Nicholas was born in the 6th century.

ST. NICHOLAS THE ROUTE OF MIRACLES



Ölüdeniz, Fethiye

WORTH A DETOUR

Visit the Fethiye's Kayaköy Village

The images of hundreds of roofless buildings within the natural landscape create wistful sceneries in Kayaköy. Without any doubt, you will be moved by their solemnity and quietness among the pastoral view.

Paragliding over Ölüdeniz

Landing on the white sand of Ölüdeniz is spectacular and the topography guarantees a calm, slow, and easy final descent as the winds here are light and the beachfront is long.

However, this doesn't mean it's without excitement! Babadağ is almost 2,000 meters high, so you'll have to make sure you're dressed warmly since there's ice year-round at the top. It takes about 30 minutes to paraglide all the way down to the bottom, and in that time, whether with a pilot or on your own, you can make 360° degree turns, wingovers, and find the best lift in a thermal so as to extend your descent.

Dive into history

The southern district of Kaş in the province of Antalya is one of Türkiye's most cherished diving spots. Kaş offers a range of diving options from Kaş to Kalkan further to the east, and as far as Patara. Crystal clear waters allow for near-perfect visibility. Fish, marine life, seaweed, seagrass, coral and sea sponges all live among the ruins of ancient cities and await enthusiastic divers. Kaş is hailed as one of the world's Top 10 diving sites, and it offers the bonus of an Ottoman shipwreck, and the mystery of the Sakarya and Duchess of York's vessels.

Take a boat tour to explore the sunken city of Kekova

Kekova is a long, thin island stretching across the villages of Uçağız (Theimiussa) and Kale (Simena). The northern shores of Kekova Island (Kekova Adası) overlooking Simena are full of traces of the civilization that was partially submerged in the earthquakes in ancient times, such as stone stairs, house ruins, pier ruins, sunken Lycian sarcophagi and half above the water, half of which extend to the depths of 4-5 meters in the sea. You can take a boat tour from Çayağzı (Andriake) or rejuvenate in the warm springs of Çayağzı, which are said to contain healing minerals.

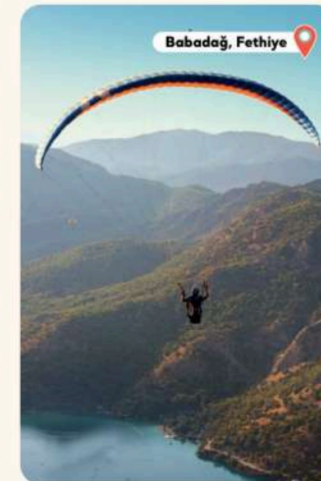
Don't miss the chance to enjoy the beaches of turquoise coast, taste local delicacies, and visit the ancient sites in vicinity.



Kayaköy, Fethiye



Myra Ancient City, Antalya



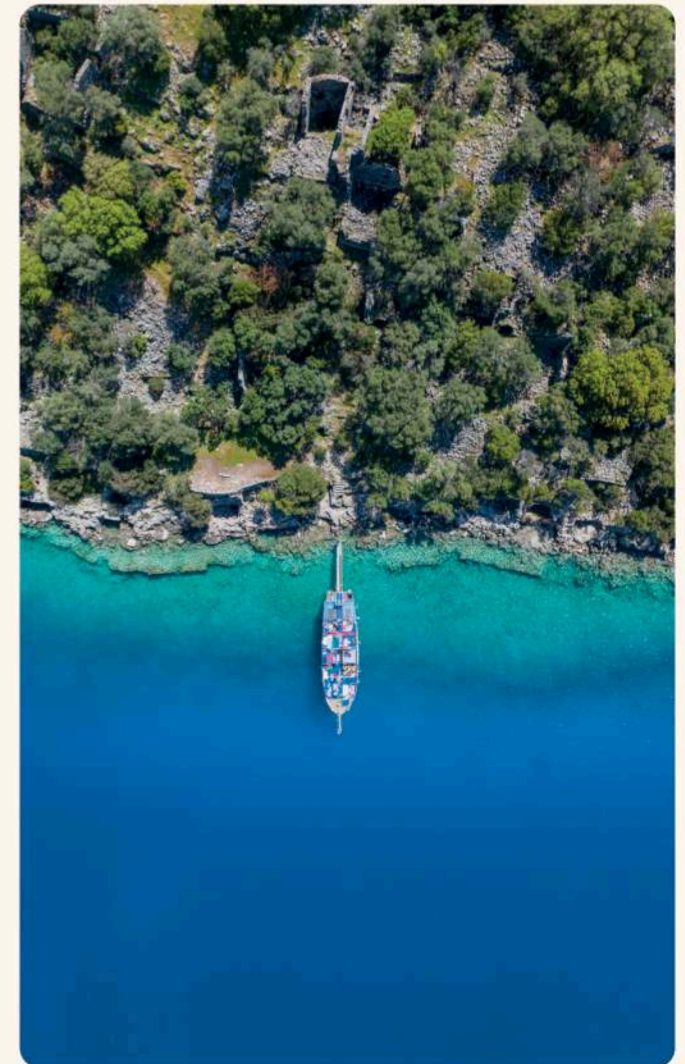
Babadağ, Fethiye



Kekova, Antalya



ST. NICHOLAS THE ROUTE OF MIRACLES



MUĞLA

ANTALYA

Fethiye

Xanthos

Phaselis

Finike

Demre

Kaş

Myra



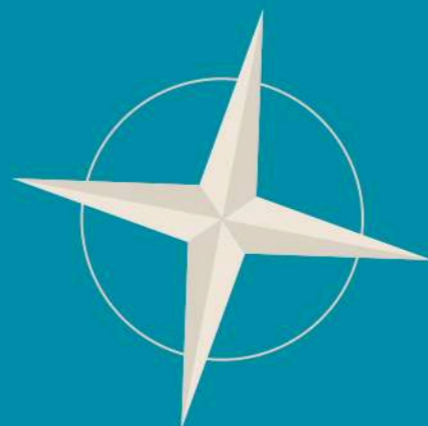
ST. NICHOLAS THE ROUTE OF MIRACLES

- 1. PATARA
- 2. ST. NICHOLAS ISLAND
- 3. MYRA
- 4. DEMRE



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