

FETHIYE

Fethiye, known as Telmessos in the antique period, is the most important city of LYCIA -one of the oldest Anatolian Civilisations- at the western borderline with CARIA. Despite lack of information regarding its establishment, it is stated in the history of the city reaches far back to 5th century BC. A Lycian legend explains the source of the name Telmessos as follows: "God Apollon falls in love with the youngest daughter of the King of Finike (Phoenike), Agenor. He disguises himself as a small dog and thus gains love for the shy, withdrawn daughter. After he reappears as a handsome man, they name their son 'Telmessos' (the land of lights). The city, with its name believed to have come from that of Telmessos, -son of God Apollon-, forms the first state of the Persians after being invaded by the Persian King Harpagos in 547 BC. Along with all other Lycian and Carian cities. Telmessos then, joins the Attic-Delos Union established in mid. 5th century BC. and, although it later leaves the union as an independent city, continues its relations till 4th century BC. A rumor that the city, invaded by the Alexander the Great on his Asian cruise of invasion in the winter of 334-333 BC. has yielded to him with his own will. Another legend says that Alexander the Great on a mission to invade Anatolia, enters Telmessos harbor with his fleet.

Their commander Nekros asks permission of Antipatrides, ruler of the city, for his musicians and slaves to enter the city. On getting the permission, the warriors with guns hidden in the flute boxes capture the acropolis during the feasts held at night." The city has been handed over to the son of Lysimachos in 240 BC. by Ptolemy III. By the treaty signed in 189 BC. After the Magnasia war, the Romans have left the

city to Eumenos, the King of Bergama (Pergamon) Kingdom collapses, Telmessos, in 133 BC., joins the Lycian Federation and is one of the six most important cities in the group. In the 8th century its name as Anastasios II. The city, taken over in 1284 by Menteseogullari, receives the name MEGRI, meaning far city, after its inclusion in Ottoman land in 1424. In 1934, the city has been renamed as FETHIYE to the honor of Fethi Bey, a martyr Pilot. Amynthas Rock Tomb, one of the most splendid examples of the Lycian civilization, lies noble with its long years, coupled with the grandeur of the mountain whose slope it rests upon, and seems like a volunteering guide to your journey through history. This tomb is in the form of a temple built in Ion style, and has a landing with adjacent pillars at the two sides, with four steps leading to it. In the middle of the leftmost pillar, "Amynthas: son of Hermapias" is engraved in 4th century BC. letters. At the top, there is a headpiece with three actoters, one in ruins, and at the bottom there is a dentil fresco.

Three stone benches go along the three walls of the flat-topped tomb chamber, with a door leading into it that has iron nail-like joints carved out of stone at its four corners. Although two of the numerous other tombs at the left of the hill look like the Amynthas tomb, they are much smaller. Within the town and in

the vicinity a lot more tombs may be found, some sarcophagus tombs and some cutout pieces of rock. One of the best examples of these sarcophagi, is located to the east of the



government building. Both sides of its arched, Gothic style lid are decorated with war scenes and the two-story front face has carvings that look like wooden, square joists. At the high acropolis hill behind the city a mediaeval castle, believed to be the remains of Saint John's knights, catches the eye. There is not much in the castle except some writings carved on the walls and a cistern of unknown origin. Another old building in Fethiye that has remained up to this day is an ancient mosque that Cezayirli Hasan Pasha has ordered to be constructed in 1791. An ancient peculiarity of the city is that it has been famous for its soothsayers. It is known that soothsayers of this city that has been devoted to God Apollon have had great impact on the course of history.

Fethiye is a departure point for various boat tours like for example to:

- The **Twelve Islands**: Şövalye Adası, Kızıl Ada, Deliktaş Adası, Tavşan Adası, Katrancık Adası, Göcek Adası, Yassica Adaları, Hacı Halil Adası, Şeytanlı Ada, Tersane Adası, Domuz Adası
- the village of **Kargı**, famous for its trees
- **Katrancı cove**
- The **Butterfly Valley** is an interesting canyon with steep cliffs where, among others, a species of butterflies called 'Jersey Tiger' is seen here from July to September
- The Dead Sea or Blue Lagoon (**Olüdeniz**) can be reached either by sea or by road (17 km/ 11 miles from Fethiye). This sheltered lagoon with incredible hues of blue and green, is almost totally cut off from the sea. Next, stretches the beautiful and well equipped wide sandy beach of Belceğiz. The place is ideal for water sports and paragliding off the top of Mt Babadağ which towers above Olüdeniz at a height of 1,975 m/ 6,480 ft
- **Kaya Köy**, is a ghost village located about 18 km/ 11 miles in the south of Fethiye near Hisarönü. The village (ancient Karmyllassos) was deserted in 1925 by its Greek inhabitants after the great exchange of population following the establishment of the Turkish Republic. The Turkish people who came from Greece didn't get used to the houses, and they built new houses in the lowland, so that the village was abandoned by both Greeks and Turks in a few years time. The church of the village, which is thought to have been built in the 17th century, was restored in 1888. The frescoes were covered by the Turkish people who used the building as a mosque during some time.



- Those getting to Olüdeniz by sea should drop anchor at **Gemiler Island** also known as **St Nicholas Island**, from one of the churches named after the saint who came or lived here for some time. The place is, like Karacaören Island, full of Roman and Byzantine remains. Owing to the fact that an earthquake caused the island to sink a little into the water in the year 240 AD, some of the remains, like those of a quay and warehouse, are partially submerged. Until the 12th century, the island was an important port of call especially for the



pilgrims sailing to the Holy Lands in Palestine. The remains of various churches, tombs, small houses, mosaic floors and a long tunnel can be seen on the island. From the top one will enjoy the spectacular views on the surroundings.

BODRUM									
44	DATCA								
90	46	MARMARİS							
118	90	50	FETHİYE						
128	112	66	45	KALKAN					
146	130	84	56	18	KAS				
164	148	102	74	38	18	KEKOVA			
179	161	115	88	53	35	20	FİNİKE		
210	194	148	119	91	73	58	44	KEMER	
230	214	165	139	111	83	70	57	20	ANTALYA

