

Olüdeniz

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Olüdeniz bay possessed five churches, Gidrak beach had a fine mosaic church-floor till 10 years ago. From Gemile Bay's Monastery, an open water-channel ran six kilometres down to the sea, to carry water to passing ships. The locals may even elaborate and mistakenly place Cleopatra in a Byzantine Bath! They might have their dates wrong but a beautiful woman is always admired in Turkey.

Early Christianity hugged the coastline of Asia Minor (Turkey), but when raiding Arab pirates plundered their sanctuaries, the Christians moved inland... today you can visit one such settlement 5 km. from Olüdeniz, Kaya village, the Lycian their Christian descendants Greek and Turk lived side own religion, until 1922, the two countries brought local Greeks to



The **Dead Sea or Blue Lagoon (Olüdeniz)** can be reached miles from Fethiye). This sheltered lagoon with incredible hues of from the sea. Next, stretches the beautiful and well equipped wide nestled among the surrounding lush greenery. The place is ideal top of Mt Babadağ which towers above Olüdeniz at a height of

"Karmylasjon", later re-inhabited by as Byzantines, and called "Levisii". Here by side in harmony, each practicing his when the exchange of peoples between Thracian Turks here and transported the Thessalonica.

either by sea or by road (17 km/ 11 blue and green is almost totally cut off sandy beach of Belçeğiz. Nice hotels are for water sports and paragliding off the 1,975 m/ 6,480 ft.

A favourite excursion out of Olüdeniz is a boat trip to the surrounding bays ... Five stones ... Camel Beach ... The cold Springs and St. Nicholas Island, with its Paleo-Christian churches. From the summit of the island there is a marvellous view over the granulating local coastline, which provides fine anchorages for smaller boats. And indeed, in early Christian times, this part of the coast was a trading stop-off for pilgrims, eager to visit St. Nicholas on their way to the Holy land. Remains of small settlements and cisterns cover the surrounding hills.

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.

