

Client:

Pegasus Airlines Yellow News

Source: Date:

Eastern Daily Press

18/08/2018

Keyword:

**Pegasus Airlines** 

Page:

34438

Reach: Size:

1131

Value: 5394.87

# **FLYING** HIGH ON **TURKEY'S** SOUTH COAST

ome say their holiday starts the moment they lock the front door, for others it is when they touch down on the runway of their chosen destination. But for me, after a destination. But for me, after a day's worth of travelling, there is nothing quite like arriving under the cover of darkness to experience the big reveal the following morning. Waking up, throwing open the curtains and taking in your new

taking in your new surroundings, that is when you know you're on holiday. On my first visit to Turkey the views of the country's south coast did not disappoint. Staying at the Mandarin and Mango Boutique Hotel, in Faralya, just 30km from the well-known beach resort of Fethive, we were perfectly Fethiye, we were perfectly placed to experience the area's many delights.

Knowing the area like the back of his hand, the owner of the Mandarin and Mango, Ghislain Charles Sireilles, will happily take guests on guided walks of the surrounding hillsides, including sections of

the Lycian Way. Starting in the Lycian Way. Starting in Fethiye and finishing in Antalya, the Lycian Way is a 300-mile trail along the south coast of Turkey. Heading out for a morning's walk, we covered barely a fraction of the trail, which takes on average three weeks to complete, but none the less even a short walk provides a great taste, with Ghislain pointing out wild oregano, sage, thyme and caper bushes along the way. Our walk took us along

pine-clad hillsides, with each bend revealing a new panoramic view which seemed

panoramic view which seemed to trump the last.

If heading into the hills and experiencing coastal views on foot isn't enough, then those with a head for heights should not miss the opportunity to go not miss the opportunity to go paragliding over Oludeniz beach. Just 15 minutes by road from the Mango and Mandarin Hotel, Oludeniz beach is surrounded by large hotels and exclusive resorts. There are a number of paragliding companies working out of the beach but with an impeccable

safety record and prices safety record and prices including insurance (a tandem flight costs 420 TRY - approx £57), Sky Sports are the company to choose. As someone who has climbed various cliff faces I am usually

fine with heights but it would apprehensive being strapped into a harness and preparing to run off the top of a mountain. Once in the air though, my

worries melted away, only to be briefly replaced by a spell of motion sickness -which thankfully passed-allowing me to appreciate the sheer joy of scoring through the skipe soaring through the skies. Pointing out landmarks, sea turtles and hidden coves. my pilot, Buraq Tuzer said: "I do this five times a day and never get bored". I completely see why. The 25-minute flight was an exceptional way to see the coast from a different angle.

After the adrenaline rush of a paraglide, you could take time to soak up the sun on Oludinez beach or enjoy a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants. With great views, attentive staff and gorgeous food, Buzz Bar is



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my choice.

Or if you're after more adventure, jump on a boat and either sail or motor to all the places your saw from the air.

The water is lovely and if visiting in the summer -when the temperatures are in the mid-30s- you'll be desperate to jump ship and cool off in the sea. But beware. The journey may also involve some rough seas. Sea sickness pills anyone?

Sea sickness pills anyone?
With the promise of sun, sea and sand, Turkey's south coast is a popular tourist destination but if lazing on a beach isn't for you, then the area also offers a vast number of archaeological sites to explore and discover. I loved the eerie abandoned city of Kayakoy, which provided the inspiration for Louis de Berniere's novel 'Birds without wings' and also offers a great number of Golzeme restaurants. And

Golzeme restaurants. And don't miss the tombs of kings carved on the cliff faces

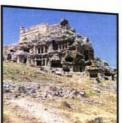
overlooking Fethiye.

But for a true taste of the ancient world, head to Tlos, Patara and Xanthos. Patara and Xanthos.
Although an hour's drive
from the coast, the sites are
unmissable. Along the way
you'll pass Saklikent Gorge
- well worth stopping at, if
only for a quick photo and
lunch in one of the many
riverside restaurants. riverside restaurants.

Whilst ancient sites such as Palmyra are currently off limits to tourists, Tlos serves as a reminder at how valuable such sites are. Even for the novice historian like for the novice historian like me, Tlos in particular was fascinating and if nothing else proves that the Lycians recognised a great view when they saw one. From Tlos continue on the road to Xanthos and Patara, making sure you wander through the ruins to the 16km of golden sand which form part of the ancient city's harbour.

All in all a great holiday. I'm still talking Turkey now.

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 Size:
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#### **HOW TO GET THERE**

We flew with Turkey's low-cost airline, Pegasus Airlines which flies daily from Stansted to Dalaman via Istanbul. It is a day's worth of travelling though so you might want to break up one leg of the journey with a short city break. Other airlines such as Easy Jet, TUI and Thomas Cook fly direct.

#### WHERE TO STAY

Built in 2007, The Mandarin and Mango Boutique Hotel in Faralya offers rooms, each with their own jacuzzi and either a private balcony, garden or terrace. Or opt for a private villa with its own pool. With hospitable staff and the option to stay half board - which includes breakfast, afternoon tea and a five course evening meal, you'll love it. The hotel also offers various week-long courses such as yoga, cookery and walking, details at www.villamandarin.com

#### WHAT NOT TO MISS

For paragliding use skysportsturkey.com

For history visit the abandoned town of Kayakoy, the Lycian ruins of Tlos, Xanthos and Patara.
For the beach visit the Oludinez and Kabak, accessible from the Mandarin and Mango hotel via bus.

#### LATEST LOCAL OFFERS

Telephone Travel Norwich Airport on 01603 428700, email enquiries@ travelnorwich airport.co.uk or visit www.travelnorwich.com

**Bulgaria -** 26 August, 7 nights, 4\* named hotel in Sunny Beach, all inclusive from £479 per person -saving £266 per couple

Majorca - 20 & 21 October, 7 nights, 5\* named platinum hotel in Cala D'Or, half board from £675 per person

Amsterdam- 21 October, 3 nights, 3\* named hotel in Amsterdam, B& B from £289 per person

Costa Del Sol - 22 October, 3 Nights, 3\* named hotel in Nerja, half board from £369 per person

Costa Blanca - 23 October, 3 nights, 3\* named Hotel in Benidorm, half board from £389 pp

**Tenerife** – 1 November, 7 nights, 3\* named hotel in Las Caletillas, all inclusive from £469pp – saving £154 per couple

Rhodes – 1 May, 7 Nights, 4\* named hotel in Faliraki, all inclusive from £425 per person

Crete - 7 May, 7 Nights, 4\* named hotel in Hersonissos, all inclusive from £539pp - saving £104 per

Prices are correct at time of going to print, all subject to availability and based on maximum occupancy. Prices excludes EIO/adult Norwich Airport Development Fee payable at the Airport.