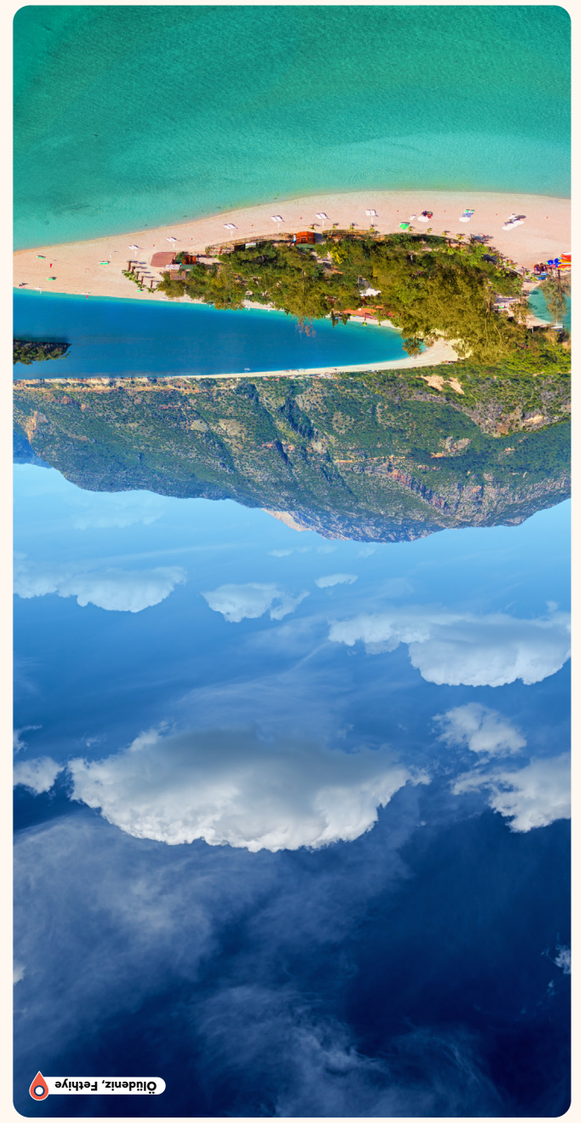

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WORTH A DETOUR

Visit the Fethiye's Kayaköy Village

The images of hundreds of roofless buildings within the nutural 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 distrıct of **Kaş** in the province of **Antalya** is one of **Turkiye**'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 **Üçağız (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 **Çavuşğzı** (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.

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ST. NICHOLAS

THE ROUTE OF MIRACLES

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 **Gelemiş**, **St. Nicholas Island**, also known as **Gemiler Island**; between **Ölüdeniz** and **Fethiye**, and **Demre**, also known as **Myra** in ancient times.

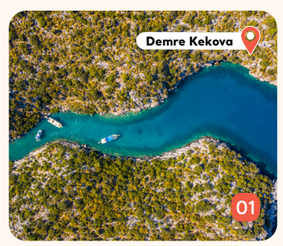
When we think of St. Nicholas from history and pop culture, we often recognise him under the moniker of Santa Claus. Often depicted as an old man in red and white clothing, driving a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer and bringing gifts to children. But this legend had more humble beginnings. St. Nicholas was born in the 6th century.

Starting at his birthplace is the ancient city of **Patara** in **Türkiye**, where the journey begins, adjacent is the village of **Gelemiş** 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 St. Nicholas, where his tomb is also located. On this route 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.

The exceptionally well-preserved ruins of **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 columns, a temple, and numerous chapels.

A large part of the ancient city has been buried under the sand dunes carried by the **Mediterranean Sea**. The shifting sand has created one of the longest and most beautiful beaches on the entire **Turkish Riviera**, known as **Patara Beach.** It is also a nesting site for loggerhead turtles (Caretta caretta).

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**.



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.

Continuing east again to **Antalya**, passing through **Kaş**, we eventually come to where St. Nicholas served as the bishop, the city of **Demre**, for which he is synonymous with the city. Also known as **Myra** in ancient times, you can learn more about the life of St. Nicholas by visiting his house, which has been converted into a museum today.

The church of St. Nicholas was built upon his last resting place. Visiting the church, you can admire colourful frescoes and mosaics, and the main chapel dominated by masterful stone work, including the stone altar and the four columns around it, and there are 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).**

Further away and further inland from the town square and the statue of St. Nicholas, you can explore the extent and natural wonders of the landscape of ancient Myra, the mysterious limestone rock tombs and the rock-hewn mountain wall that is the necropolis of ancient **Myra**. After a long day, the nearby Hellenistic theatre is an ideal place to rest. A well-preserved and magnificent sight, where locals quietly watch the sunset or the sunrise.

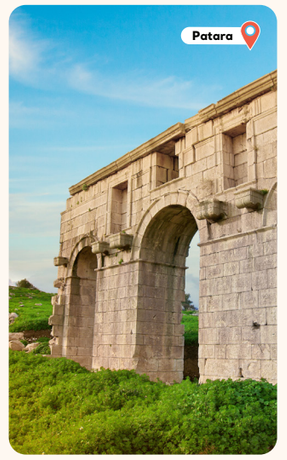
Patara - Did you know?

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.

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.

Myra - Did you know?

The ancient Lycian city of Myra, gets its name from the myrrh 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.



ANTALYA

Fethiye

Xanthos

Phaselis

Finike

Demre

Kaş

Myra

02

01

03

04

Türkiye
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ST. NICHOLAS

THE ROUTE OF MIRACLES

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

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