

THE INSIDER GUIDE

The Turkish Riviera



The spectacular Turquoise Coast.

BY ANDREW FORBES

Also known as the Turquoise Coast, this enchanting stretch of shoreline from Antalya in the south, up to Çeşme in the north-west is the Mediterranean of blue voyage cruises; unspoilt nature; remarkable ancient ruins; picturesque villages; sparkling resorts; and excellent restaurants.

STAY:

Bodrium Hotel & You Spa - Bodrum

The Bodrum peninsula is now home to some of the Mediterranean's most exclusive resorts, from the Mandarin Oriental, to the Amanruya. Yet if you don't have a budget for ultra-luxury and instead you're looking for an authentic Turkish holiday hotel then Bodrium Hotel is definitely one to consider. Found in a peaceful location, about 15 minutes' walk from Bodrum's stylish yacht club, the hotel is built around an impressive pool, making it ideal for families. The You Spa is one of the best wellness spas in Bodrum and has a traditional hammam.

Bodrium.com.tr/en

D-Resort - Göcek

Found close to Göcek's yacht marina, D-Resort is a luxury family resort and spa with a boutique ambience.

DResortGocek.com/en

Casa Hermanas - Bodrum

Overlooking Torba bay, this cool beach club resort, with 36 guest suites, has a Latin flavour, with a Med-Mex cuisine. The restaurant and beach club are open for day-visitors too.

CasaHermanas.com

EAT:

Kebap Guru - Bodrum

Chef Halil Usta is bit of a celebrity chef in Bodrum; his kebabs are recognised as among the best, prepared freshly over a charcoal grill. His new restaurant offers tasty meze, salads and fish, but the clients come for classic 'şiş' (shish) kebab skewers; 'Adana' kebabs (beef and lamb with



Lunch onboard, ScicSailing.

herbs and spices kneaded onto flat metal skewers); 'Çöp Şiş' (small, tasty meat off-cuts threaded onto fine skewers) and Köfte meatballs

Dayi Balık Market - Bodrum

Excellent choice for fresh, local fish.

[Facebook.com/DayiBalikMarket/](https://www.facebook.com/DayiBalikMarket/)

Güverte Restaurant - Göcek

Waterside restaurants along the Turkish Riviera are typically stylish and charming - and Güverte on the bay in Göcek is no exception. Local dishes are served in an intimate setting of candlelit tables on a delightful wooden pier that extends out to a terrace over the water.

[Facebook.com/GuverteGocek/](https://www.facebook.com/GuverteGocek/)

Üzüm Kızı Meyhane - Kaş

Vine-shaded roof terrace restaurant with views out across the harbour and bay. Wide selection of well-priced homemade meze and fresh fish.

UzumKiziMeyhane.com

Muskat Meze Bar - Kaş

Terrace restaurant on the main square in Kaş - homemade dishes with style.

[Search for Facebook page.](#)

Marina Yacht Club - Bodrum

For cocktails, live music, dining and dancing, then this is the place in Bodrum. MarinaYachtClub.com

DO:

ScicSailing Cruises - Bodrum, Göcek & Marmaris

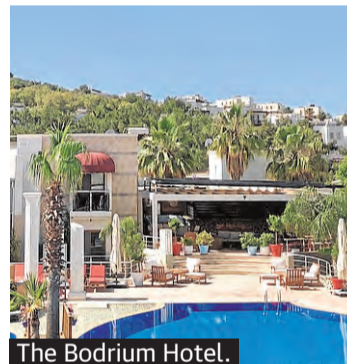
Chic Mediterranean sailing cruises, aboard elegant and spacious twin-mast schooners. Weekly sailings, with diverse itineraries along the Turquoise Coast and part of the Dodecanese archipelago. All private cabins with ensuite shower-rooms. Wind-surf board, kayaks and snorkelling equipment onboard. Optional excursions to explore the fascinating Greco-Roman, Byzantine or Ot-



Kas.



Ephesus.



The Bodrium Hotel.

toman sites; hike in the nature; or to experience authentic local cuisine and village life. Join a scheduled departure or charter an entire yacht for friends or family. Ideal for solo travellers. For a week's sailing cruise aboard a skippered and fully crewed yacht including breakfast, lunch, snacks, 5 dinners, and all drinks including alcohol is from €951.00 to €1,071.00 per person.

ScicSailing.eu

Ephesus

One of the best-preserved cities of the ancient world, Ephesus offers a truly captivating experience for visitors. This legendary city, once home to Cleopatra and Mark Anthony, was built by the Greeks

and went on to be one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire. Day excursions available from ScicSailing cruise.

GoTurkeyTourism.com

St Nicholas Church - Demre

This remarkable Byzantine Church dates to 520 AD and houses the tomb of St Nicholas of Myra. Born in Patara (where, by the way, you'll find one of the best beaches on the Turquoise Coast), St Nicholas devoted his life to helping the disadvantaged. Legends of his generosity are said to have been the inspiration for Santa Claus - and he is still remembered in many countries on the gift-giving day of St Nicholas, December 6th.

StNicholascenter.org

Siir ev Kekova - Poet's House - Kekova

The Poet's House, in the village of Kapaklı Köyü Yolu, hosts visitors for homemade meals prepared to traditional recipes using local produce. Book a tour with ScicSailing or contact SevenCapes tours, run by Dean Livesley and his Turkish wife, Ayse Livesley.

SevenCapes.com

Hector Paragliding - Fethiye

Take flight from the 1,969m high Babadağ mountain with an Internationally Certified Tandem Pilot and experience the coast from a unique perspective.

HectorParagliding.com

BUY:

Best buys include: Turkish Delight (look out for delicatessen-type boutiques where you can taste and choose, rather than the pre-packaged); exotic spices and dried Mediterranean herbs; copper coffee pots; handmade ceramics.

TRAVEL:

Dalaman Airport and Milas-Bodrum Airport are well-served by low-cost airlines and national flag carriers.

Dalaman.dhmi.gov.tr

MilasBodrum.dhmi.gov.tr

Visitors to Turkey must apply in advance online for an eVisa - the process is quick and easy and costs 20 USD.

eVisa.gov.tr/en/

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