

SOUTHERN SEA VENTURES TURQUOISE COAST KAYAK

EIGHT DAY TRIP WITH SEVEN DAYS KAYAK EXPEDITION

Turkey is a country where east meets west. Northwest Turkey (north of the Bosphorus at Istanbul) is geographically part of Europe, while the major area of Turkey is part of Asia. Turkey has over 7000 kilometres of coastline – perfect for paddling!

Our trip along a section of the Mediterranean coast offers a smorgasbord of historical and cultural experiences. Designed for people with paddling experience, this is a 120-kilometre self-contained kayak trip from Köycegiz to Göcek. Camping on remote beaches, paddling beneath Lycian tombs carved into sheer rock faces, visiting hot springs and exploring ancient ruins, we experience a wild and natural area of Turkey.

A QUICK ITINERARY

Day 1	Group pick up at Dalaman airport, transfer to hotel in Köycegiz.	
Days 2-7	Self contained sea kayaking trip through Köycegiz Lake, the Dalyan Delta and Mediterranean Turquoise Coast to Göcek Bay.	BLD
Day 8	Finish kayaking in Göcek, trip concludes about 3 pm. Group transfer to Dalaman airport is available.	BL

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

As people arrive directly from overseas and also from various points within Turkey, we have several meeting options on Day 1 of the trip. **Please make sure we know of your preferred arrangement.**

1. Dalaman airport - we will do one airport pick up depending on when most participants arrive.
2. Köycegiz bus station - please advise your arrival details to arrange pick up.
3. Make your own way to the group hotel in Köycegiz. The hotel will be advised closer to the trip departure.

HOW TO GET THERE

The closest airport to Köycegiz is Dalaman airport. Turkish Airlines have daily flights from Istanbul to Dalaman. Flights from Istanbul to Dalaman can be booked via the airlines' website www.turkishairlines.com or through your travel agent.

There are several bus companies in Turkey with extensive networks around the country.

Two of the major bus companies, which have English websites, are Varan (www.varan.com.tr) and Ulusoy (www.ulusoy.com.tr).

PADDLING EXPERIENCE

This trip is designed for people with previous paddling experience. You do not have to be an expert or know how to roll. However, you should have practiced a wet exit and assisted re-entry before the trip. This can easily be practiced in waist deep warm water at home, with a friend's help or under tuition. We are always happy to discuss your experience, and can often suggest how beginner paddlers might gain the necessary experience at home to prepare for the trip. We require all participants to complete and return our kayak experience form shortly after booking. It is important to recognize that the weather will influence greatly what we can and can't do.

We predominantly use single kayaks on this trip, but one or two doubles may be available. The degree of difficulty of the trip will depend on the weather we encounter. The wind normally picks up along the coast in the afternoon and causes small waves. We paddle for up to five to six hours per day. It is important to realise that the group will kayak at the speed of the slowest members. All participants should feel confident in swimming.

The kayaks we use are stable, easy to paddle and control. They are designed as expedition boats. It is important to keep gear to a minimum, because we carry on board all our food and equipment. Our guides are highly experienced sea kayakers. On day 2 of the trip you will be given a thorough briefing on sea kayaking techniques with ample time to practice and familiarise yourself with your kayak. Our first two paddling days are on a large lake and river system, before we head out into the more exposed Mediterranean Sea.

As with most activities, the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy the paddling. It's a good idea to take some regular exercise like paddling, walking, jogging, cycling, aerobics or swimming ahead of the trip.

We generally limit our group to a maximum of 10 clients, plus the guides.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

The following itinerary should be seen as an approximate guide only. Our aim is to have a real Turkish adventure and a great time, rather than being governed by a rigid schedule. Our program may change to take advantage of opportunities as they arise, to suit local conditions and according to the preferences of the group. Please note that weather conditions, breakdowns and other factors can cause alterations and delays to our itinerary.

Day 1 – Transfer to the group hotel in Köycegiz. Trip briefing is held at 6.00pm. We will give out dry-bags that you will pack for the kayaking. Extra luggage will be brought to Göcek at the end of the trip. Dinner is not included tonight.
Bed and breakfast accommodation.

Day 2 – Begin paddling! After a safety briefing, we paddle along the shores of Köycegiz Lake, which is a protected nature reserve. We may take a break on a small island with a ruined church, with time for a swim. We finish the day at a small bay where there are hot sulphur springs and thermal baths. Tonight we camp on a small beach or in the forest nearby.

Day 3 – When we enter the channels of the Dalyan delta, we may visit some special undeveloped mud baths! We then kayak past the town of Dalyan and through a labyrinth of reeds, passing beneath impressive Lycian rock tombs built into a sheer cliff face. After a home-cooked Turkish lunch, and the option to visit the ruined city of Caunos, we carry on to Iztuzu beach, keeping eyes peeled for giant sea turtles. Where fresh water meets the sea, this famous six km long stretch of sand is also known as 'Turtle Beach', and is the nesting ground of endangered *Caretta Caretta* turtles. Camping.

Day 4 – Today is our first day on the open Mediterranean Sea. We turn east to follow the coastline along the length of Iztuzu beach, playing with the waves and visiting a beautiful cave. We have lunch on a small beach with great snorkelling. After lunch we paddle past high cliffs to our campsite at the small bay of Ası Koy.

Day 5 – This is our longest day, so we start early and paddle around Disibilmez Cape and on to the sandy beach at Sarigerme. We pass Baba Island and continue along the long beach between Sarigerme and Dalaman. Tonight we camp in a small bay and may cook on a real fire.

Day 6 – Rest Day! A time for some snorkelling and a hike up to ruins on the Kapidagi Yarimadasi peninsula. We will use today to stretch our legs and rest our arms as the next day is one of our longest paddling days. Camping.

Day 7 – Today we tackle Cape Kurtoglu, with its rugged and spectacular coastline. After rounding the last part of the headland, we pass between the mainland and several islands into the sheltered waters of Göcek Bay. After lunch we can walk up the hill on one of the islands for a great view over the bay and view some Lycian ruins. In the afternoon we paddle around the islands in the bay, exploring caves and ancient baths. Tonight we camp on an island and eat in a small restaurant.

Day 8 – After a wake-up call from mountain goats followed by breakfast, we paddle between small islands in Göcek Bay. By mid afternoon we arrive at the port and marina of Göcek, where we clean up and have showers. A group transfer is available to Dalaman airport later in the afternoon. Alternatively you may choose to overnight in Gocek or make other plans. There are a number of adventure activities that can be organized in the Gocek area.

END OF THE TRIP

The kayaking finishes in Gocek by mid afternoon on day 8. We can offer a group transfer, a one hour trip, to Dalaman airport. We would recommend booking flights with departure times from 5pm onwards. Alternatively, you may choose to overnight in Gocek. Please note accommodation on this night is not included in the trip cost.

CLIMATE

Summers in southwest Turkey are hot and dry, especially in July and August. The months of May, June, September and October are a little cooler – still shorts and T-shirt weather at most times, with the possibility of occasional showers. The weather is generally settled and predictable.

ACCOMMODATION AND CAMPING

Köycegiz: Our group hotel will be simple and clean, providing twin-share bed and breakfast accommodation.

Camping: We highly recommend taking advantage of the stable Mediterranean weather and sleeping out under the stars whenever possible. We supply individual ground sheets and two-person tents and communal camping equipment. You can either bring your own sleeping mat and sleeping bag, or rent them. Rental charge would be 20 euros for a bag and foam mat for the trip, or seven euros for a foam mat alone. **Please note that thermarests are not available for hire. We would highly recommend you bring your own thermarest** as the ground is quite firm. The rental sleeping bags are quite bulky, so if you have a compact bag it's a good idea to bring it.

TRIP ORGANISATION

Our paddling days will start early to make the most of each day. It's a good idea to pack your dry-bag before breakfast, prepare your personal items for the day and roll up your groundsheet or take down your tent so that loading for departure can be organised.

For most of the trip we camp wild on beaches, which means of course that there are no organised facilities. If you opt to sleep without a tent, it is easy to find a perfect sleeping spot overlooking the water. Alternatively the two-person tents with integral nets are easy to erect and take down. On arrival in camp you will be expected to unload your own boats and you and your partner will be responsible for your own tent or sleeping site. The guides will also appreciate your assistance in other camp duties. We find that people joining our trips alone soon make friends.

FOOD

Our guides usually prepare meals in camp, but your help is welcomed. At some campsites we are able to eat local Turkish food at a nearby restaurant.

We are happy to cater for vegetarians and other special dietary requirements. Please let us know at the time of booking.

EXPEDITION STAFF

There will be one to two experienced kayak guides, depending on group numbers. Should you have any inquiries during the trip, feel free to ask your guides.

CONSERVATION

It has always been our motto that "we take only photographs and leave only footprints". We are keenly aware of the ecology of the areas we visit and try to limit our impact on them. We ask that each person takes out everything they bring in including sweet wrappers, batteries, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHY

We are paddling mainly in a salt water environment and the delicate electronics in digital or film cameras can be damaged. You might consider a waterproof camera or a small plastic waterproof case or dry-bag with a supply of silicon packs. Ensure you have sufficient memory storage and batteries for a digital camera as there is no opportunity to purchase batteries or access electricity during our kayak trip. If you are using a film camera it is wise to keep lenses to a minimum. One variable lens will reduce your load and the amount of your equipment that can be damaged! Low speed films are fine on the water but in the alleyways of a town some higher speed films are useful. We recommend all film be purchased and processed in your home country. If you are buying a new camera, consider a waterproof one and get it well before departure so you can practice as it is inconvenient to find fault with the camera during a trip.

MONEY MATTERS

Your tour cost includes:

- Bed and breakfast accommodation in Köycegiz on a twin share basis for the first night.
- Expedition kayaks, paddles, life jackets and safety equipment.
- Groundsheets and two-person tents.
- Watertight dry-bags for your personal gear while kayaking.
- Professional guides.
- All meals except the first dinner in Köycegiz.
- Group airport transfers.

Your tour cost does not include:

- Any flights.
- Sleeping bags and mats for camping (these can be hired at an extra charge).
- Entry fees into historic sites.
- Items of a personal nature such as postage and laundry.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Airport taxes.
- Travel insurance.
- Tips
- Accommodation on day 8.

MONEY TO BRING WITH YOU

There are ATM machines in the main centres, and this is the most efficient way to obtain Turkish lira. Turkish lira is worthless outside Turkey so it's better to exchange small amounts at a time. Credit cards are accepted in larger stores or hotels but don't rely on being able to use one

everywhere. Traveller's cheques and cash can be changed at banks in the larger towns and cities but it can take time. US dollars and euros are far easier to exchange than other currencies but if you are traveling to Europe before or after the trip it is better to have euros.

During the trip you will need money for dinner on the first night at Koycegiz, bottled water, soft drinks and alcohol, entry fees to a few historical sites and any shopping you intend to do. You should bring Turkish currency for these items. As an indication, entry fees into historical sites are generally the equivalent of around AU\$5-\$15 per site.

TIPPING

We recommend you put aside a little money for general tips, i.e. restaurants, porters.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is necessary to take out a personal insurance policy to cover yourself against sickness, accident, loss of baggage, trip cancellation due to inclement weather and other factors and in the unlikely event that you need emergency evacuation by plane or helicopter due to illness or accident. Ensure you have read the policy thoroughly and are familiar with the claim process, in case it becomes necessary to make an emergency claim.

We strongly recommend you take out insurance at the time of booking. Please supply us with the policy details (insurance company name, contact details and policy number) before the trip.

MEDICAL MATTERS

All participants are required to provide us with a medical questionnaire filled out completely and accurately.

Please check with your doctor or medical centre whether you require any vaccinations or boosters. An expedition first aid kit is carried on the trip. We strongly recommend that you bring with you any required medicines and a small First Aid Kit for your own personal use. Due to the remoteness of the trip it is advisable to have a dental checkup before departure.

PASSPORT

Make sure that you have a signed passport and that its validity will extend to six months after the date of your return. If you are not an Australian citizen and are returning to Australia after your trip, make certain that you have the necessary re-entry permit from the Department of Immigration.

VISAS

Australian, UK, USA and Canadian citizens can purchase a tourist visa on arrival in Turkey, at the airport, before clearing immigration. Normally, payment can only be by bank note and charges vary. Please check with your closest Turkish embassy for visa charges. New Zealanders currently do not require a visa. If you are a different nationality, please check with the nearest Turkish embassy for current advice. The tourist visa is valid for three months and photographs are not required.

WATER

Bottled water is readily available in towns and preferable to tap water that, although chlorinated, is not as safe. Water during the kayaking will be filtered and topped up from known sources.

EXCESS LUGGAGE

Any excess luggage that you do not take kayaking, including passports and valuables, can be stored and transferred from the B&B in Köycegiz to where we finish in Gocek on the last day.

SECURITY

Before leaving home, photocopy your passport, airline ticket and make a note of your credit card and ATM card numbers in case you lose or misplace them. Theft is a consideration in Turkey (like at home) so it is always a good idea not to leave things unattended. Do not carry large amounts of

cash with you and always be aware of what you are carrying, especially personal valuables like cameras, jewellery and watches. Do not display valuable items or leave them lying around in such a way that might tempt a thief. It is a good idea to use a money belt or neck wallet.

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

Carefully check through all essential items. You can leave excess luggage at the hotel and it will be transferred to us when we finish. The dress code overall in Istanbul and Turkey is modest, but it is more relaxed on the Mediterranean coast. If visiting mosques women are advised to cover their shoulders, have a headscarf and wear a longer skirt, while men should wear long pants.

Essential Items

The following checklist is a guideline for your trip. Contact us if you have any questions.

- Lightweight waterproof rain jacket.
- Two t-shirts.
- Two pairs of shorts and swimming gear.
- One pair of sand shoes or running shoes.
- Lightweight socks.
- One pair of sport sandals (e.g. Teva or similar) or paddle booties.
- One pair of lightweight, quick drying, full length trousers.
- Lightweight long-sleeved shirt is recommended in camp for protection from insects.
- Lightweight woollen jumper or fleece jacket.
- One long sleeved thermal or polyester top is recommended while paddling for sun protection or warmth in rainy conditions. Lycra rash vest is also suitable.
- Wide-brimmed hat for protection from the sun is essential. Sun visors are inadequate. A hat with a stiff brim that will hold rigidity in a breeze, and a chin strap to keep on in the wind. A scarf made from a light material such as silk, to protect your neck, is useful for sun protection.
- Small towel (a chamois towel is ideal).
- Minimal personal toiletries (biodegradable salt water soap may be desired).
- Good waterproof sun cream and lip balm.
- Insect repellent (recommend RID) as there may be mosquitoes around the lake.
- Sunglasses with a cord or string for attaching them to prevent loss.
- **Lightweight and compact sleeping bag and inner sheet.**
- **Foam mat or thermarest.**
- ****Foam mat & sleeping bag can be hired for 20 euros or seven euros for the mat only. Be sure to let us know if you require a mat or sleeping bag. The sleeping bags for hire are not very compact so it is preferable to bring your own.**
- Small torch and batteries.
- A small daypack, bum bag or dry bag is good for holding things like sunscreen, glasses, etc. both for paddling and day walks.
- A small drybag is also useful for keeping a camera and valuables handy while paddling.
- A wetsuit vest may be useful if you feel the cold.
- 1 or 2, one litre water bottles (the type used by cyclists are good and inexpensive).
- Lightweight cycling gloves can ease blistering if you have not paddled recently.
- Pillow case, this takes up little room and allows for creating a comfortable pillow.

Optional Items

- Power points require a plug with two round pins.
- Cards/games.
- Book or magazine.
- Lightweight clothesline.

- Binoculars (the bird watching on Lake Köycegiz is quite good).
- Snorkelling gear (mask and snorkel only to save space or just swimming goggles).
- Camera – do bring sufficient film, batteries, and storage cards if you are using a digital camera.

PRE AND POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION

Our office can book pre or post trip accommodation. Contact us to arrange a booking.

OTHER PLACES TO SEE IN TURKEY

It's worth considering extending your time in Turkey as there is a huge range of fascinating places to visit. The following is a brief list of suggestions – it is by no means exhaustive.

- Istanbul – palaces, mosques and bazaars.
- Cappadocia – fantastic erosion formations and houses, churches and entire underground cities carved out of tuff – a soft porous volcanic rock; also hot air ballooning.
- Ephesus – well preserved classical Roman city ruins.
- Pamukkale – gleaming white calcified shelves, pools and waterfalls – “cotton castle”.
- Gallipoli – battlefield memories.
- Taurus Mountains – hiking and trekking.
- Kackar Mountains – hiking and trekking.

DELAYS OR PROBLEMS

In case of last minute delays or problems, contact Southern Sea Ventures in Australia.

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