

Cruising Turkey – Bodrum to Fethiye.

(Part 1)

Turkey: Pop. 70.4m. Complex history of invasions and empires from the Greeks, Persians, Alex. The Great, Byzantines, Muslim Arabs, the 800 yr. old Ottoman Empire under Suleyman the Magnificent, to the founding of modern Turkey in 1920 under Ataturk. Although he died in 1938, pictures, statues and photos adorn almost every establishment. 2 completely contrasting lifestyles coexist- the modern, liberal and affluent Western lifestyle of Istanbul, the cities and the coast, and the traditional, far stricter one inland. 98% are Muslim but it is a relaxed style. Av. annual salary 3500 euros but great wealth also evident. Youngest pop. in Europe- 22m. are under 15 yrs. old.



Lene & Jan joined us for 3 weeks in July for their third cruise. We chose a little of everything...starting with the luxurious marinas of Turgutreis and Bodrum (Turkey's St. Tropez), travelling down the coast to tiny yacht jetty /restaurants in Mesudiye, to secluded bays at anchor, and Sarsala Bay and Tomb Bay, lovely peaceful spots with restaurants under the trees and stars. At Serce Limani we found the clearest water ever, a restaurant with a goat and fabulous seafood (but paid dearly for it by not asking the price first). At Tomb Bay, both Jan's enjoyed an expert haircut, shave, face massage and ear & nose trim with fire! in the prettiest barber shop on the planet with sea view, and in Marmaris (resort of 200.000 tourists) we enjoyed the bustling waterfront of restaurants, carpet sellers, a modern "spa" hamam (Turkish bath) before finishing up at Fethiye where we tied up at the very lovely Yacht Classic Hotel with its gorgeous pool and waterside restaurant. We also treated the crew to a 10 hr. overnight sail which was starry but rolling all the way with the promised glorious sunrise invisible behind a hill! That's sailing for you! You can plan but you never know what to expect! Here are a few impressions to remind us of a great three weeks!



