

TOURISM IN FETHIYE

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ÖZET

Fethiye yöresi, Türkiye’de kıyı turizminin en fazla geliştiği İzmir-Antalya arasındaki kıyı şeridi üzerinde bulunmaktadır. Bu yörenin turizm açısından en önemli çekiciliği, yılın ortalama 7 ayında (mayıs-kasım devresi) denize girmeyi ve güneşlenmeyi mümkün kılan, uzun bir yaz kuraklığı görülen, güneşlenme süresi ortalama 9-11 saat, bağıl nem oranı % 50-60 arasında değişen Akdeniz iklimidir. Ayrıca Fethiye kıyıları, Ölüdeniz, Belceğiz, Kıdrak, Çalış, Günlük, Katrancı, İnce ve Göcek gibi çok sayıda plajıyla da kıyı turizmine en uygun koşullara sahiptir. Rialı ve anslı kıyıların en tipik örneklerinin görüldüğü Fethiye Körfezi’nin batı kıyıları (Hamam Koyu, Çamlı Koy, Manastır Koyu, Sarsala Koyu, Boynuz Koyu), yat turizminin aradığı ideal ortamı sunmaktadır. Kıyıya kadar inen orman örtüsüyle de bütünleşen, yapılaşmanın yoğunlaşmadığı bu kıyılarda birbirine yakın yarım daire şekilli koylar yatların demirlemesi için uygundur.

Fethiye yöresi, Saklıkent, Yakapark ve Kelebek Vadisi gibi ender doğa güzellikleri; tarihi kaya mezarları ve lahit mezarlar, Xanthos, Letoon, St. Nicolas Adası, Kayaköy, Tlos, Pınara, Cadianda ve Sidyma gibi ören yerleriyle doğa turizmi ve kültür turizmi açısından da büyük bir potansiyele sahip bulunmaktadır.

Zengin doğal ve kültürel turistik çekicikleri yanında, fazla bozulmamış doğası ve Dalaman Havaalanı’na yakın konumu, Fethiye çevresini turizm açısından çekici kılmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Fethiye, kıyı ve yat turizmi, eko-turizm, doğa turizmi, kültürel turizm, sağlık turizmi.

ABSTRACT

Fethiye is in a distinct place among other resorts and sites on the south-west of Mediterranean coast between İzmir and Antalya where the tourism is well-developed in Turkey. The most attractive feature of this region in tourism is being able to have sunbathing and swimming for about seven months of a year from May to November because the climate of region is the Mediterranean climate. The relative humidity of the region changes between the percent of 50 %, and 60 % and the period of having the sunlight is approximately 9 or 11 hours in the summer days. In addition, not only Fethiye but also its neighbouring seaside towns have the most valuable tourism opportunities and the best environmental circumstances. Some of those well-known towns or sites are Ölüdeniz, Belceğiz, Kıdrak, Çalış, Günnük, Katrancı, İnce and Göcek. The typical samples of Ria and Anse type of coasts are seen on the coast of Fethiye Gulf and those are very much ideal for the yacht tourism; Hamam Bay, Çamlı Bay, Manastır Bay, Sarsala Bay and Boynuz Bay are some of them. The forests or the woods around reach down until the beaches of those small gulfs and the construction has not been allowed onto the hills. Those small gulfs are in the appearance of crescent naturally and follow one another on the coast, where the yachts can anchor freely.

On the other hand, Saklıkent, Yakapark and Kelebek Vadisi (Butterflies Valley) are worth seeing in the region of Fethiye with their natural beauties. In addition, Xanthos and Letoon

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are well-known historical places with the pre-historical rock tombs in. Also St. Nicolas Island, Kayaköy, Tlos, Pınara, Cadianda and Sidyma are ancient sites which are famous for their natural and cultural richness.

Being not far from Dalaman Airport makes the region of Fethiye more attractive in terms of tourism beyond its natural and historical aspects.

Key Words: Fethiye, coast and yacht tourism, eco-tourism, tourism of the nature, tourism of the culture.

Introduction

The field of the research is the West Mediterranean Sea Coast in the South-west of Turkey (Figure 1). The coast of this area is a part of the coast line from İzmir to Alanya where the seaside tourism and the yacht tourism have both well developed in Turkey. Fethiye is the only urbanised town among other ones in Fethiye Gulf. Its population according to the 2000 census is 49.192 people. Fethiye is 136 kms far to Marmaris, 137 kms to Muğla, 241 kms to Bodrum, 210 kms to Antalya and 376 kms to İzmir.

According to some studies on tourism it is claimed that the tourists prefer visiting the places where the geographical structure is hilly and the natural view is attractive, but get bored travelling in the smooth and plane areas. It is said that the more the height is, the better and more attractive view is¹. Especially the Month Akdağ which is 3000 metres high and the Month Babadağ which is 1975 metres high and it is different because it immediately gets higher from the sea level and so it is very popular and well-known among the sportsmen who are fond of wing-gliding. The Boncuk Mountains in the north (2265 metres) gets lower and lower until Fethiye in the south and turns into the small hills around the suburbs of the town. Then those hills become the small capes of Fethiye Gulf. Each of the small capes has its own beach in the appearance of crescent which is untouched naturally.

The land in view of the forest is highly attractive independently². The plant cover in the mountains and the hills around Fethiye is both scrub and cluster pine (*Pinus bruttia*). Those bushes and pine trees are the typical plants of the Mediterranean climate and all in green whole year. Only the peaks of the Boncuk and Akdağ mountains are without those plants mentioned above. Because the occurrence and the view of cluster pines reach down to the small beaches of Fethiye Gulf, it seems it is a good harmony of the blue and the green in a natural illustration. Therefore it is found very much attractive by the yacht tourism. Those small beaches are also preferred and accepted by the tourists

¹ Nazmiye Özgüç, **Turizm Coğrafyası** (Özellikler-Bölgeler). Çantay Kitabevi, İstanbul, 1998, p. 71-72.

² Nazmiye Özgüç, 1998, i.b.i.t, p. 72.

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who travel by land to get the opportunities of sunbathing either on the beaches or getting rest under the trees in the shade as watching the beauty of the sea.

The rivers or the streams around Fethiye are supported by the spring waters around. Especially the springs on Kargı, Mezgit, Eşen streams on the ones in Örenbaşı and Saklıkent areas are all well-known by the domestic and foreign tourists. The water of those springs are clear, cold and drinkable in summer.

Apart from Seki plateau and the mountainous area around, the gulf of Fethiye has typical Mediterranean climate. The characteristics of the weather in this climate as it is known are having a long, dry, hot summer and short, rainy, and cool winter.

The season in which the average temperature is over 20 °C should be accepted as the hot, the ones the average temperature of them is between 10 °C and 20 °C should be accepted as the warm; the others where the average temperatures are between 0 °C and 10 °C should be accepted as the cool seasons³. According to this description above, the summer and the Autumn Seasons in Fethiye are hot; the spring and the winter seasons are warm. In the region the temperature is nearly 8 °C or 10 °C. The maximum temperature value is frequently over 40 °C in the summer while it varies between 22 °C or 24 °C in winter. Also the average temperature gets over 22 °C in 8 months from April to November. In the summer months, for instance in July the average temperature is over 34,5 °C as it is higher than 34,6 °C in August, which means the climate is very hot and dry in Fethiye in summer.

In the region of Fethiye, the period of having the sunlight is 3022 hours in a year. Although the day times are short in Winter (9 hours and 26 minutes in December), having the sunlight period is approximately 5 hours if the weather is cloudy, while it is about 13 hours average because the weather is clear in summer and the daytime is long as it is 14 hours in June.

³ Süha Göney, **Büyük Menderes Bölgesi**. İstanbul Üniversitesi Yayın No: 1895, Coğrafya Enstitüsü Yayın No: 79, İstanbul, 1975, p. 32.

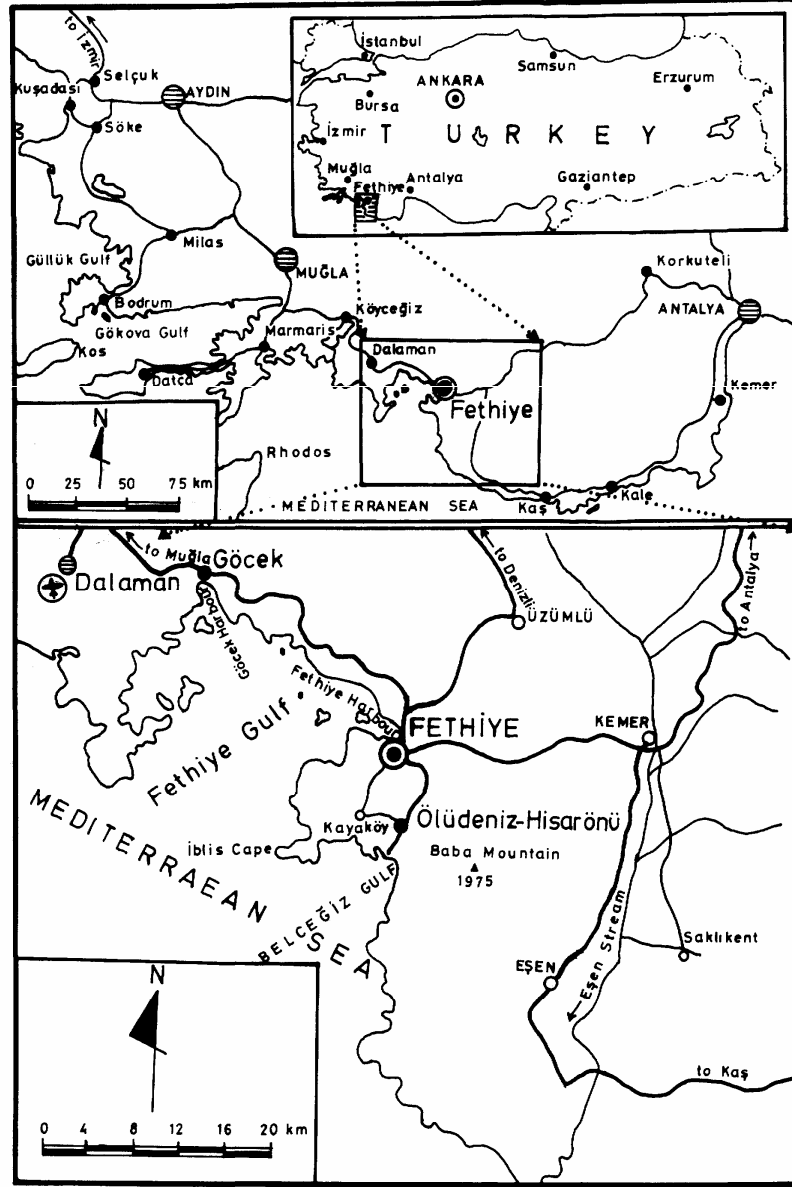


Figure 1. Location Map.

In addition to the average weather temperatures, it is important to have an idea about the temperatures of the sea-water in season especially for having an idea about the period of swimming time that is really long and varies from month to month. The average sea-water temperature on the coast line is 21,7 °C

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in the year; as it is 24,9 °C in June, 27,1 °C in July and is 27,1 °C August. This means that the temperature of the sea-water in Fethiye in Summer is lower than the temperature of the weather while it is higher than the weather temperature in the other seasons. For instance the lowest, minimum sea-water temperature in February is 16 °C. This is over 21 °C from May to November. If it is accepted that the best temperature of the sea-water for swimming is between 22 °C and 25 °C while the weather temperature is between 20 °C and 28 °C, the best tourism and swimming season in Fethiye Gulf runs from May 1st till October the 7th, which is totally 160 days of time.

However, if the best sea-water temperature is accepted between 18 °C and 28 °C, the period of swimming time becomes more as it is 245 days, starting on April the 15 and lasting on December the 15th. Since the weather is so hot in June and July the tourism sector is influenced negatively as the conditions of sunbathing and swimming are quite pleasant in September and in October. This period is called as “sarı yaz” among the local citizens, of which the English translation is “The yellow summer”, and it is more acceptable by the both foreign and local tourists for swimming and sunbathing. The climate is the same not only in Fethiye but also on the whole south-west Sea Coast during this period (between September and October).

The health specialists suggest that the increase in humidity both in the hot and cold weather may get the people feel uneasy. The more the percentage of the humidity in the atmosphere increases the less the human beings get sweaty and this make them feel uncomfortable⁴. During the whole summer, the relative humidity percentage is 50-55 % in Fethiye. The internationally acceptable rate for health is 30-70 %⁵. Therefore it is clear that the humidity is also suitable for a good tourism while as the weather condition is quite good and the temperature of the sea is high.

The average annual rainfall in Fethiye region is 945,8 mm. 578,6 mm of this amount rains in winter. Only 9,6 mm of the total amount may rain in spring or in summer. This is a typical characteristics of the Mediterranean Climate. According to this, about 5 or 6 months are dry and hot without any rain in summer and in autumn. This period may start with the beginning of May and last by the end of October. If it rains during this dry period, it may be a kind of short shower, and evaporates as soon as it drops. According to the meteorological data, the average rainy days in the 6 months' time, from May to October, is only 18. As a result, it can be said that the rain does not have any negative impacts on tourism in the region.

⁴ Nazmiye Özgüç, 1998, i.b.i.t, p. 47.

⁵ Asaf Koçman, **Ege Ovalarının İklimi**. Ege Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Yayın No: 73, İzmir, 1993, p. 132.

If the speed of wind is around six metres in a second, the climate of that region is accepted as positive by the health specialists⁶. As it is known that the wind helps the evaporation together with the sunlight and it makes the weather condition cooler. If there is no wind, but there is much sunlight, the climate becomes unbearable on the sea coast. On the contrary, if there is wind on the sea, it becomes wavy and so the sea-water on the coast becomes fresher as it becomes cooler. In the region of Fethiye, the average speed of the wind in July is 3,3 metre/second as it is 2,4 metre/second in September. During the high season the wind blows from the west or the south-west and varies between the 2,4 m/s and 3,3 m/s, which is less than internationally-accepted rates, and it does not make the people feel irritable. Therefore the wind in the region does not make any negative affect to the tourism of Fethiye like the other mentioned positive conditions above. During the summer, the temperature gap between the day and night is on quite an acceptable level of degree. And so, there is a kind of breeze between the land and the sea which is very much favourable by the people living there. It starts slowly after the sun rising, becomes a bit stronger in the afternoon, gets slower in the dusk and stops at night. It is a typical breeze of Fethiye region because the hills and mountains yet-higher just after the beach. This special breeze not only makes the region cooler under the bright sky and sun light, but gives opportunity to make the water-sports like wind surfing and yacht sailing.

If the geomorphologic and climate conditions are suitable in a place, the tourism can be active there. But the tourists who want to be in peace and silence in their holidays might prefer the quiet and uncrowned sites as the investors would also chose the same kind of untouched areas⁷. The coast of Fethiye is very suitable for the both circumstances mentioned above. Before the tourism started in Fethiye, the villages around were all settled down on the hilly areas over the beaches and the bays, but they all had their own piers at the sea-side or on the bays. Those beaches and bays were very quiet as they are mostly the same now. Therefore it is very much preferable for the yacht tourism. Some of the bays have been allowed for the construction of the tourist hotels or motels by the Ministry of Tourism. Since it hasn't been allowed on a governmental tourism policy, most of the bays are still left untouched for the yacht tourism.

⁶ Asaf Koçman, 1993, i.b.i.t, p. 133.

⁷ Suna Doğaner, *Türkiye Kıyı Kullanımında Turizm Olgusu*. Türk Coğrafya Dergisi, Sayı: 33, İstanbul, 1998, p. 29.

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As it was believed that the sunlight did not harm, but beneficial for health, the European people prefer to spend their holidays in the Mediterranean countries, where the tourism season is about 6 or 7 months in a year⁸.

The tourism in Fethiye started in 1960's. In time, the construction of the roads linking the cities and towns to Fethiye gave the opportunity of better transportation to the region. On the other hand, the citizens were willing to be in tourism industry as well. Therefore the Ministry of Tourism decelerated that the region of Fethiye was the first degree of tourism in the 1970's. This official arrangement made the tourist establishments more attractive. As a result of rapid bloom in tourism industry, the region needed an airport for it was far away from the airports around and the construction of Dalaman Airport was finished in 1982. Direct fights to the region were organised and the tourism of Fethiye began to develop more and more. The government had thought that this rapid development might harm the natural beauty of the region. And so the whole south-west coast was taken under control by the Ministry of Environmental and Tourism in 1988. According to the National Forest Law, only the investors who want to build tourist hotels or motels can be allowed to hire the land of government for the periods of 49 or 99 years when they establish the institutions with at least 100 beds-capacity including with 25 yachts anchoring capacity harbour and other necessary facilities (7th February, 1988 dated RG/19718 numbered official statement). Recently many tourist hotels, motels and holiday ins have been constructed in the forest and the woods of the region after that governmental arrangement was done.

Opportunities of The Coast and The Yacht Tourism

The coast of Fethiye is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea. The total length of the coast is 102 kilometres. Because it is so much serrated, there are many gulfs, bays, peninsulas and natural beaches on the coast.

The region is on the crossing centre of the Aegean mountains which are straight to the sea and the Mediterranean Mountains which run parallel to the sea. As a result of crossing these mountains, the landscape has become rough. From the inner gulf of Fethiye to Yediburunlar, the mountains are parallel to the sea and so the landscape is very steep. The coast of this region does not have suitable beaches or bays for tourism except the Bay of Ölüdeniz. In the west of the Inner Gulf, the mountains go down to the sea straightly and ends into the sea as sometimes touring into some small islands or peninsulas. There are natural small beaches among the broken shapes of those mountains before they reach to the sea. Some of those bays are Katrancık, Günnük (Küçükkargı) and İnlice including Göcek Gulf.

⁸ Suna Doğaner, 1998, i.b.i.t, p. 28.

The tourism of yacht and the beach, which also use the same recreational characteristics of the sea, progresses and improves on the geomorphologically different sea-shores. When the sea-shore is not suitable for the tourism mentioned in context as its shape gets suddenly high and lies down widely on its base, the quiet and silent parts of the capes, peninsulas and islands of which the gulfs are naturally prevented from the dominant wind, are preferred by the recreational activities of the yacht tourism. On the other hand, because the high and precipice (abyss) sea-shores are not linked to the highways and have not been allowed for the settlement yet, the ideal and preferable circumstances for the yacht tourism occur spontaneously⁹.

The Gulf of Fethiye is rich with its ria type of sea-shores and those ones are accepted best for the yacht tourism. The forest reaches to the end of those hills over the high sea-shore and building construction is not allowed to be done on those areas. In addition to those suitable environmental circumstances, the gulf is full of untouched small, quiet island (Figure 2). Therefore, it is preferred by the yacht tourism. Especially the coast of Göcek is one of the best places for yacht anchoring that you will never give up (ref. Photograph 1). In addition the yacht harbour is equipped with the latest systems and has been newly-constructed. It is qualified enough to meet the needs of yacht tourism.

Most of the bays in the Fethiye Gulf have their own beaches. Apart from those, Kumluova-Karadere, Belceğiz and Ölüdeniz that are in the south of Fethiye have also their own beaches. All of those beaches are not only famous and interesting with their swimming and sunbathing opportunities but also with their sand-bathing facilities. The biggest advantage of Fethiye beaches is they can be used both as picnic places and they are rich with different type of trees and plants. Infrastructure and the public utilities and the assisting services of the most beaches have already been completed and are offered to the service of tourism. It is possible to camp at the most of the beaches for they are incredibly worth offering relaxation and watching the sea because the trees of the forest come down the beach, and the view of them gathers with the view of the sea. Therefore it can't be borne to camp at those beaches either daily or for a long time.

The beaches in Fethiye in an order from the south-east to the north-west are such as; Kumluova-Karadere, Kıdrak, Belceğiz, Ölüdeniz, Çalış, Katrancı, Günnük, İnlıce and Göcek.

⁹ Suna Doğaner, 1998, i.b.i.t, p. 28.



Photograph 1. A view among the Göcek Bays.

Kumluova-Karadere Beach: It is 75 kms away in the south-east of Fethiye. It is also a 15 kms long, 1-3 kms wide picnic and camping area nearby Yediburun where the Eşen Stream reaches to the sea. It is the west part of the longest beach of Turkey which is called “Patara”. The sea is shallow, the sand is fine and clean. The area has been planted by the local Forest Institution for preventing Kumluova and Karadere villages from the sandy wind which mostly blows from the sea to the land. This preventive work is not only useful for the mentioned villages but also good for keeping the sandy area behind the beach in neat. While the area was barren before, it is green with trees that are called “acacia” which grows only in the sandy land. Beyond those features mentioned above the sea is shallow, it is warm and clean as well. The ancient site called Letoon and the beach mentioned are intermingled with each other. The ancient relics which were excavated from the site have been introduced in publications and exhibited at the local museums have made the area more popular for the local and foreign tourists.

Kıdrak Beach and Camping in Woods: Kıdrak, Belceğiz and Ölüdeniz beaches are 12-16 kms away from Fethiye in the south and they are in the north-west of the Babadağ Mountain. Kıdrak is the smallest of those three beaches and is 500-600 metres long. Just behind the beach, the pine tree forest starts and so it is just right for the caravan tourism and camping. On the other hand, The Babadağ Mountain that is just over the beach with its 1975 meters height is known as one of the best places for the wind-gliding.

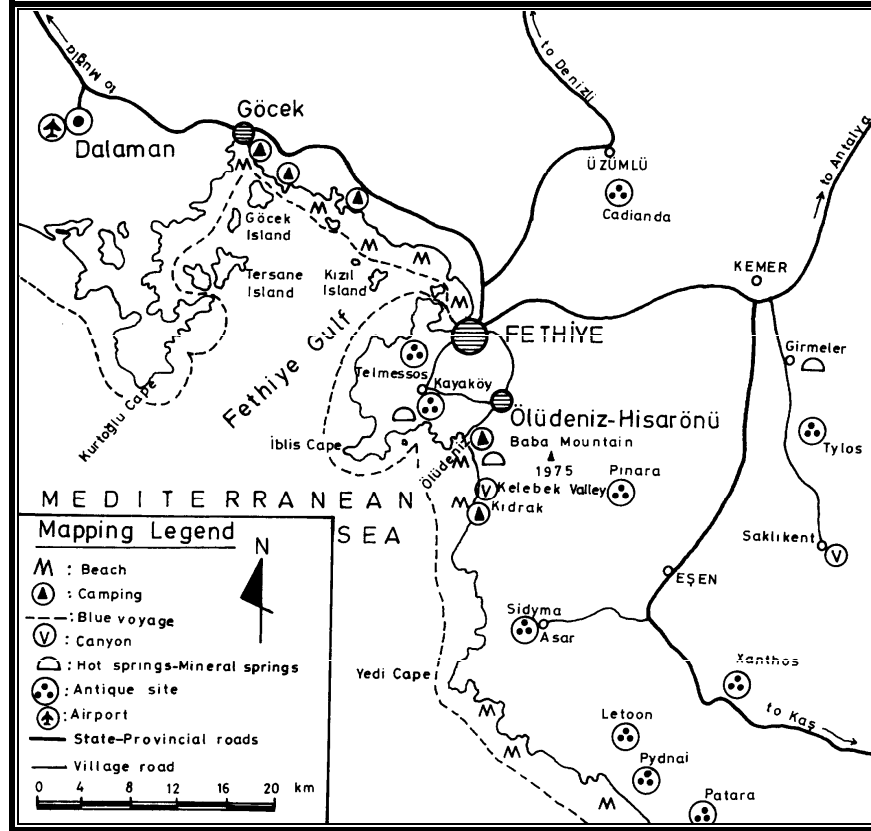


Figure 2. The Tourism Map of Fethiye

Kıdrak is an “A” class forest camping area¹⁰. It can be hired by the long term and daily bases by the campers. It was arranged in 1980 and is sited on the area of 20 hectare. It has the capacity of 100 tents and caravans. There are buffets, drinkable water taps, cabins, toilets and the electricity facilities. The average number of the visitors to this area in a year 10.000 and the vehicles coming area 3.500. The average camping tents are 650 a year and the ninety percent of the visitors are domestic (90 %) while the ten percent is the foreigners (10 %). But the ninety seven percent (97 %) of the tents camping are foreigners as the only three per cent (3 %) are the Turkish citizens. The means that the foreign tourists are camping for a few day, as contrary the locals are the daily tourists.

Belceğiz (Belcekız) Beach: It is longer and wider than Kıdrak Beach. But it does not have a naturally prevented area from the sun-shine for it is a bit

¹⁰ “A” Class Camping Area: The places which have qualified facilities for the daily and long-time visitors and the places where are camped a lot and visited more.

far from the forest contrary to Kıdrak Beach. Therefore it is full of beach umbrellas. The sand on the beach is very clean and fine and so it is qualified and preferred for the sunbathing. It is free for both the local and foreign tourists. It is a part of Ölüdeniz Beach in the east and because it is uncharged to enter, opposite to Ölüdeniz Beach, is visited by 600-800 tourists a day. It is not full as much as Ölüdeniz when it is compared but it is also a hundred percent full (100 %) during the high season especially because of being free for the public. Belceğiz has been naturally separated from Kıdrak Beach by a small cape.

Ölüdeniz Beach: The English translation of “Ölüdeniz” means “The death sea” for its water is calm and it looks like a shallow lake. It is naturally formed and prevented by a littoral cordon from the open sea. Its water is not wavy-but quite in whole, shallow at the beach and deep enough in the open sea as much as the yachts and small boats can sail (ref. Photograph 2).

Ölüdeniz which was opened to the international tourism officially in 1978 is a “B” class forest camping area¹¹. It is visited by about 5000 people daily and it is settled on an area of 10 hectare. There are three toilets and cabins, two buffets, electricity and water line facilities including the sewerage. The number of total visitors a year is 320.000 people. The number of vehicles which visited this area is 27.000 a year. Seventy percent of the visitors are foreigners while the rest of them are domestics. The worst of all is the higher demand of its capacity which increased to 10.000 people a day during the national days and the religious holidays although the highest capacity of it is 5000 people a day. From the beginning of May till the end of October the density of visiting tourists is very high.

Çalış Beach: It is a beach 4 kms away from Fethiye in the west of Fethiye valley. Çalış Beach is one of the most preferred place by the local tourists as a camping, sunbathing and swimming area. It is across the Şövalye Island where the Fethiye Bay is separated from the Fethiye Main Gulf. It is about 15 kms long and is connected with Kocaçalış and Karaot beaches where the Kargı Stream flows into the sea. Because it is half-open to the Main Gulf, the water is not as calm as the one at the others like Ölüdeniz, Belceğiz or Kıdrak; it is mostly rough and the waves take the sand of the beach into the sea continuously. So the beach of the bay at Çalış is a kind of artificial beach formed by local authorities. This process makes its sand fresh and clean.

¹¹ **“B” Class Camping Area:** A place where the facilities are a bit less than “A” class camping sites because the construction of buffets and cabins are not allowed to be established on the beach for a kind of preventing.

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Every point of the beach is available for swimming although the colour of the beach sea water turns into a bit grey because the sea is mostly rough in the afternoon. The beach is full of all kinds of the facilities like hostels, boarding houses, motels, hotels, buffets, cafeterias, best quality of restaurants serving, take-away and fast food etc. It is free to enter and can be used for both daily swimming and camping in addition to camping for a long time. Especially in July and in August it is very crowded with the local and foreign tourists and the view of the sea during the sun set is watched mostly by the tourists as sitting on the beach. So the beach is very crowded in the evenings as well. The advantage of this beach is that it is very close to Fethiye (4 km away) and having an easy access in 24 hours.



Photograph 2: A general view of Ölüdeniz.

Katrançı Beach and Camping Area in the Bay: It is covered by the pine trees until the beach and 18 kms far away from the town centre (Fethiye). The beach is not a long like the others in the gulf. It is about 240-250 metres long in the shape of a crescent. It is available for sunbathing before or after swimming because the sand of the beach is very fine and clean.

This is one of the oldest beaches of the area, and it opened in 1965 and classified “A” beach. It has 20 hectares of area. The daily capacity of the camping area is enough for 1000 visitors with their 237 tents or caravans. About 25.000 people visit the beach in a year and totally 750 tents are camped. Most of the campers at Katrançı are the staff of the Ministry of Forests who are uncharged for their staying and so it is mostly full during the season. Only the twenty percent of the visitors are foreigners.

Günnük Beach and Camping Area in the Bay: It is in the west of Katrancı Bay which is 21 kms far away from the town centre (Fethiye). The shape of the beach looks like the one at Katrancı Bay. But the most important characteristics of this bay is being full of sığla (günnük) trees (Liquidambar Orientalis Mill). Those trees can only be grown in Fethiye Gulf in Günnük Camping area and on the shore around Köyceğiz Lake in the world. Being in a camping tent for a holiday in a woods of those 25-30 metres high trees or living in a caravan there relax the person incredibly. When you are in your tent or caravan, you feel most relaxed in the shade of those trees you have never felt before. If you get bored withing staying in the shade, you can swim just in front of your tents or caravans at the beach because the beach and the woods embrace each other.

Günnük camping area is 12,5 hectares and it is classified as an “A” class camping. The capacity is about 250 tents with 1000 people a day on average. It was established in 1970 and is 1,5 kms far to Fethiye-Muğla motorway. The average number of visitors to this beach and camping area is 35.000 people a year. Totally 7500 vehicles to enter and 950 tents and caravans are camped a year. The most crowded season of it is between June the fifteenth and August the fifteenth. It is a place mostly-preferred by the domestic tourists. It has been used for the longer period than mentioned above recently.

İnlice Beach and Camping Area in the Bay: It is 29 kms far from Fethiye and located at the place where the İnlice River reaches to the sea and it has a beach of 700-800 metres long. It is 1 km inside the Muğla-Fethiye motorway. The sand of this beach is different from the others in Fethiye Gulf. It is not accepted as the quality one with its grey colour stony and muddy structure. It looks like the sand of Göcek Bay whose beach is not preferred either. Pine trees reach to the sea over the hills at this bay like the others in the area as well. Just after the sand of the beach there are big eucalyptus trees including the Liquidambar Orientalis Mill. These trees start from the beach and end on the village of İnlice as it is a small forest.

This is a place which is officially given to the staff of Dalaman Paper Mill as a camping site. This Mill is a Governmental Institution and so the 471 wooden bungalows of the beach were constructed by the factory administration for the holiday benefits of the staff. The camping area and camping facilities can only be used by those staff, while the beach is also open to the public.

There may be a danger at this beach for the strangers who do not know the conditions beneath the sea. It means that there is a whirl-pool area in the sea. Therefore there is a warning sign plate at the beach for informing the people who cannot swim well. Although it is warned so, there may be some tragic disasters.

Göcek Gulf and the Beach: Göcek is a small municipality town at the Göcek Gulf and it is 36 kms far from Fethiye. It is famous with its yacht harbour, but not with its the beach because it is not suitable for swimming and sunbathing. However, the south of the beach is opened for the use of the public as the north is covered by the Club Marina. Göcek Gulf is separated from the Gulf of Fethiye with an island which is called “Göcek Adası-Göcek Island”. It is possible to find all kinds of tourist institutions and facilities at the area so the most of the Blue Voyage Sailors, sailing from in Bodrum and ending in Antalya, anchor at Göcek Yacht Harbour. Short period yacht trips around the bays in Göcek Gulf are very preferable for both the local and foreign tourists, too.

The Islands: The islands in Fethiye Gulf including Şövalye Island mentioned before are all called as “On İki Adalar”. That means “Twelve Islands” in English. These are in the west and in the north west of the Gulf.

Şövalye Island and Kızılada Island are known as important for tourism. Şövalye Island separates the west part of the inner gulf from the main gulf. There are holiday homes and tourist facilities like restaurants and buffets on the island. It is crowded with the tourists in summer. It is full of natural olive trees and corab trees, unfortunately there is not running water at homes because the island does not have its natural water sources and so the water is supplied from Fethiye in big barrels or containers by boats. The eastern and northern parts of the island have its own beaches with shallow water. There are the ruins of ancient city beneath the sea between Şövalye Island and Fethiye. It is the ruins of historical Telmessos site. It is said that the area of this ancient city and the present island were a whole cape extending into the sea. It was covered by the sea in around 1000 BC. It is about 2 miles far from Fethiye.

There are some tourism opportunities on the other island which is called “Kızılada” as well but it is not as famous as Şövalye Island. The rest of ten others are not allowed for the settlement because they are under control of the government. So they are quiet and the sea-shores are rocky. There aren't any beaches on the shores of them. However, the one of them which is called “Gemiler Adası” in Turkish and as St. Nicolas Island in English is famous with its church and old ruins of the houses. Therefore it is visited by some of yacht sailors although they do not have yacht harbours. It is travelled to this island by small boats anchoring on the open sea. Some of the other islands around are called as Katrancı, Delikli, Kızlanada, Hacıhalil, Yassıca, Tersane and Karacaören.

The Sources of Thermal Tourism

Thermal tourism is known as a part of tourism which is considered health-giving for human beings. This tourism sector has developed after the tours organized to these places where the thermal water springs are and after construction of boarding houses, motels or hotels in those places. People think that drinking the water of those springs or swimming in the pools of them are a kind of natural treatment¹². Fethiye is a town which is located on a place where the thermal sources are rich. However, since there aren't enough and good quality of touristic facilities at the thermal sources around, Fethiye cannot get the benefits of those type of tourism in the sector. The well known thermal spring around are Gebeler, Kalemya and Belceğiz.

Gebeler Thermal Springs: It is 30 kms in the east of Fethiye. It is 5 kms far to Kemer municipality. The springs water of this thermal source comes through the basalt rocks of three different inns beneath the surface. The water is magmatic, salty and bitter and contains carbonate. The first spring is in an inn where is reached by a 50 steps of stone stairs, 15 metres down the ground. The second spring is in another inn, which is about 5 metres down the land and can be reached by the 20 steps of stone stairs. About 30 metres away from the second spring, the third one is located. The depth of this small inn is 2,5 metres. These thermal sources have the most sulphurous water among the others in Turkey. The water of all those three springs is 37 °C, containing sulphur. The third spring mentioned above has the water rich in chlorine and sulphate. Thermal water of all those three springs are known as good for curing the skin diseases, rheumatism and sciatica. The first and the second springs were combined and have been formed under one structure while the third one has already been closed down, for its water was not enough to be served. Since they are not proper thermal institutions yet, they are only used from the beginning of July till the end of September. People use their own facilities while they are camping there.

In the south-east of these springs there is a narrow inn 30-40 metres long under a big rock 90 metres high. The place in front of this huge rock is mostly closed to the sunshine during the day time and so it is cool in the shade and is preferred to be camped by the visitors who come to the springs.

Kalemya Thermal Springs: It is 6 sea-miles away from Fethiye. The spring comes out from two different sources on the beach. Those main source of those springs comes from Turunçtepe hills over the beach. The sea suddenly becomes deeper at the beach where those springs are. This means, that there is a fractured line beneath the sea. One of the springs comes out of the beach sand

¹² Suna Doğaner, 1993-1996, i.b.i.t, p. 28.

while the other comes through the granite rocks. The springs' rate of flow is 1,5 or 2 litres in a second. The source on the beach disappears in winter for the sea water covers the beach. The temperature of the water at the both springs is about 19,5 degree Celsius, and it contains sodium, calcium and magnesium. The water of them is also rich with sulphate and hydro-carbonate so it is accepted to cure the illnesses of intestine, stomach and gall bladder. Drinking this water makes purgative affect on people.

The one which is at the beach has 55,5 milligram pure carbondioksit in its water while the other one has only 40 milligram. Radioactivity in each is measured as 6,3 and 5,4 eman. This spring is visited by 3500 people a year and the area can be used as a picnic area as well.

The springs in Belceğiz and the others around: There are many spring water in Belceğiz Gulf which have also purgative affect like Kalemya spring mentioned above. Two of them are at the beach of Ovacık and Hisarönü villages. Those ones are not the natural springs but the artificial wells. In the south-east of Belceğiz springs there is another one which is 2 kms far and is known as Kıdrak spring and the other one at Ölüdeniz Bay which is 500 metres far to the main sources.

Belceğiz spring is 14 metres inside the sea water. It contains clorür sulphate and hydro-carbonate, sodium, magnesium and calcium. There is less salt in the water of this spring than the other two. Therefore the visitors prefer this one to the others. The water of this spring is in a reaction of alkali and the measurement of the radon element in it is 6,3 eman. The quantity of pure carbondioksit in its water is 33 milligram.

Eco-tourism Possibilities

This form of tourism, where preferable, is properly-planned, controlled by local authorities, environmentally-friendly, gradually developed and careful about the protection of the local architectural texture, by not disturbing the harmony of archaeological remains and structures with their own environment. Eco-tourism is respectful to the existing the structures like villages, forms and highland houses maintaining local economic activities (agriculture, handicraft and etc.), and it helps them develop¹³.

With natural beauties, Fethiye and its environs present many possibilities for eco-tourism. Within the scope of eco-tourism “watching wildlife” is an interesting recreative activity. Tours are organised to observe and study the living creatures on land and in sea individually and in groups. Of

¹³ Suna Doğaner, *Köyceğiz-Dalyan Çevresinde Eko Turizm*. Turizm Kalkınma Bankası, Turizm Yılığ 1994, Ankara, 1994, p. 97.

these activities, bird-watching is an important tourist attraction in Turkey as in the world¹⁴.

A large variety of animals are living in Fethiye, which is heavily forested and mountainous. Some of the winged animals in this area are; quails, partridges, cormorants, herons, swallows, woodpeckers, starlings, blackbirds, swamp and mountain sparrows, seagulls, eagles, falcons, hawks and butterflies. Moreover, wild ducks and geese are encountered in streams and swamps. This area is also rich in wingless animals. Wolves, jackals, wild pigs, goats, fallow deer, foxes, rabbits, squirrels and hedgehogs are among the mostly-encountered animals. It is possible to observe the local wildlife in and around Fethiye.

Kelebek Canyon, stretching inside the Kötürümsü Cove and 350 metres high above sea level is in the distance of 3-4 nautical miles and surrounded by mountains. This canyon has become one of the tourist attractions recently. It took its name from the butterfly “Jersey Tiger” seen during the summer months from July to September. The source of the water fall running all year around comes from a small spring. Transport to Kelebek Canyon is provided by yachts running every half an hour from Ölüdeniz.

Another interesting aspect of eco-tourism in Fethiye is the Kumluca-Karadere beach, which is a part of Patara. This area is the breeding ground of “Caretta Carettes” which have been living in the world for 95 million years, and whose habitat is confined only to tropical seas (ocean) with seven species¹⁵. As the season of laying eggs for caretta caretta coincides with the high season (May to August), it is not possible to allow some tourist complexes to be constructed on this beach. If the caretta that are very sensitive to outside effects cannot find suitable environment for their eggs, they lay them in the sea. Since the young caretta carettes which come out at night in order to protect themselves from the heat of the sun and enemies head for the sea as the surface of the sea is more brilliant than land. On other hand, the lights of the houses near to the sea reduces their chance of survival by leading the young to take a wrong way¹⁶. For this reason this area was declared “special environmental protection area” The beach is not allowed to be used from 8 pm in the evening to 8 pm in the morning.

¹⁴ Suna Doğaner, *Köyceğiz Dalyan Çevresinde Coğrafi Özelliklerin Turizm Açısından Değerlendirilmesi*. İstanbul Üniversitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi, Coğrafya Bölümü, Coğrafya Dergisi, Sayı: 4, İstanbul, 1993-1996, p. 36.

¹⁵ Remzi Geldiay, *Ege ve Doğu Akdeniz Kaplumbağaları*. Bilim, Birlik-Başarı Dergisi, Yıl: 7, Sayı: 27, İstanbul, 1980, p. 3.

¹⁶ Suna Doğaner, 1993-1996, i.b.i.t, p. 37.

Another form of the relation between existing wildlife and tourism is hunting tourism which contradicts eco-tourism in some ways¹⁷. With the existing regulations hunting some wild animals is strictly controlled and some endangered species are put under protection in Fethiye as in all Turkey.

Vegetation is one of the tourist attractions for eco-tourism. Trees with their shadowing functions in high season help the temperature fall by producing water on their leaves. In addition, they produce oxygen and clean air by filtering smoke, dust and poisonous gases. For this reason, some recreative activities such as camping, picnic, scenery-watching and trekking are preferred in the natural surrounding of the forests.

The vegetation of Fethiye and its environs where the Mediterranean climate dominates, consists of ever-green maquis and pine forests (*Pinus brutia*), which are typically Mediterranean, providing ever green cover for tourism. The maquis starting from the shore stretch up to 700 metres high and form the dominant vegetation of the area. Forests are well-grown in the areas after 700 metres and along the coast where there is more rainfall. One of the most significant features of vegetation in Fethiye is that thick and dense forests lie down to the sea and embrace it. Pine trees meet with the sea forming a harmony of colours “blue” and “green”, which is more attractive to yacht tourism.

Oleanders (*Nerium oleander*) have their own place in the vegetation of Fethiye as well. These shrubs commonly seen along the both banks of the streams with pink flowers have been grown as garden plants in some places. On the other hand, another kind of tree with the highest value in Günnük cove and its surrounding, extending to the north-west of Fethiye Bay is storax tree (*Liquidambar Orientalis* Mill) whose expanding period was in geological periods, but became a relict kind (species) in the Third Age. This tree has only five types in China, Taiwan, North America and in Turkey¹⁸.

This Liquidambar tree called “günlük or günnük” by the local people looks like chinar (*Platanus orientalis*) but it differs with its small, light green leaves. This tree whose wood is an important raw-material for furniture industry being an economic asset with its resin. *Liquidambar orientalis* which forms a small wood presents a visual attraction around Günnüklü cove and its resin emits pleasant and distinct odor around.

Saklıkent is another attractive canyon which is 45 km from Fethiye and located between Fethiye and Antalya. This canyon is 18 km long with a cold and rapidly flowing water spring inside. The height of the canyon reaches to

¹⁷ Suna Doğaner, 1994, i.b.i.t, p. 101.

¹⁸ Suna Doğaner, 1994, i.b.i.t, p. 102.

600 metres in some places. The most appealing features of this canyon are its steep rocks, very green chinar trees, and abundantly flowing water spring. To the mountaineers it presents a unique area and it also welcomes trekkers with many caves, while providing very clear and cold water and a clean beach for the sunbathers. Meanwhile, it is possible to see some traces of history in the caves dating back to Byzantine times. These charming features of Saklıkent have attracted many tourists to this area. There are also trout farms on the both sides of the stream. Saklıkent is reached by minibuses running between Saklıkent and Fethiye and through daily trips organised by travel agencies. Although there are a lot of catering and relaxing facilities, there are no facilities for accommodation.

Village houses in high plateaus or hotels, motels, boarding houses with less bed capacity can also be included in eco-tourism due to their authentic features¹⁹. The fact that most of Fethiye vicinity has high plateaus and high mountains has increased the importance of nomadism. The most important high plateau in this district is Seki High Plateau located on Fethiye-Antalya motorway. This high plateau which has a favourable transportation facilities has enabled people to build summer houses. Therefore, this high plateau has turned into a recreational area. But it hasn't been opened to international tourism yet.

Resources of Cultural Tourism

The ruins of archaeological sites, buildings of historical periods have become subject of cultural tourism. People have been showing great interest in seeing open air museums²⁰.

Fethiye is on the border of Lykia and Caria which were important civilisations in Anatolia in Ancient Times. Along these coast the era of colonisation which started with Dors and Ions' migration had been followed by domination of the Persians²¹. The inhabitants who had preserved their culture until Alexanderian Period were harmed excessively after the domination of Alexander the Great. These coasts were in their primes in the First Age, but they had lost importance towards the end of the First Age. In the first century A.D, they had become parts of Rome. When the Byzantine Empire replaced Roman Empire, Fethiye district was a part of Anatolian Province. The Lykian land entered Turkish dominance in the second half of the 13th century. In Fethiye and its surroundings, these are the main Turkish monuments that have come up to the present time: The Bath of Fethiye; the tomb of Ahmet Gazi,

¹⁹ Suna Dođaner, 1993-1996, i.b.i.t, p. 41.

²⁰ Suna Dođaner, 1993-1996, i.b.i.t, p. 41.

²¹ Oktay Akřit, **Likya Tarihi**. İstanbul Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakóltesi Yayını, İstanbul, 1967, p. 92.

which is in Bademli district Fethiye; in Günnükbaşı the tomb that is believed to belong to the wife of Menteşe Bey; in the village of Çenger the tomb of Osman Bey and in Çalış cape the tomb of Çalış Baba.

Fethiye is rich in architecture with its long past. After strong earthquakes most of the historical monuments were destroyed, some of which remained under the sea. Some ruins which exist today have great significance in tourism. Here are most important ones:

Telmessos: It is the former name of today's Fethiye. It means "light" and it is one of the significant cities in Lykia region in the history. The city is in the south of Fethiye Gulf, on the north hillsides. There are only very few remaining ruins because of the earthquakes. Most of the ruins are under the sea between the city centre and Şövalye (Knight) Island. Among the ruins in the ancient city are the tombs and sarcophagus (welled tombs in the ground). Main tombs are in the east, on the stones which are situated in the north and west side of the hills behind the city. The most important of these tombs is Amyntas tomb, and it is outstanding when you enter the Gulf of Fethiye with its magnificent view. It looks like a temple when you look at it from a long distance (Photograph 3).

The castle is the place where the city was first founded and the walls of the castle date back to the Medieval Era. The castle was rebuilt and used as a base by Rhodes Knights in the 15th century. But since this castle was badly destroyed, you can hardly find any ruins today.

Cadianda (Tekirlik): It is in the north of Fethiye and 27 kms from Fethiye. The road leading to this ruin is an asphalt road to Üzümlü town and then it turns into a path. This 7 km-long path can be travelled in 1,5-2 hours.

The oldest ruin belonging to Cadianda dates back to the 5th century BC. In the entrance of the city there are a lot of tombs remaining from the 4th century BC or from older periods. Since this ruin has been badly destroyed, it is impossible to identify it today. Among the identified ruins are stadium, theatre, acrapole, bath, corridor, agora, temples, game and entertainment bungenes and cistern tanks.



Photograph 3. Is a view from stone tombs of Telmessos Ancient City.

The city of Cadianda, which is 600 metres above sea level and 300 metres high from Üzümlü town, is situated in such a position that it overlooks Üzümlü, Fethiye and Eşen plateaus around. And this shows that such reasons like security and communication played a big part in the location of the city. Since the city is situated on a very large area, you have to wander around for 1,5 or 2 hours in order to see all the ruins. With the help of restoration works and necessary arrangements carried out by Fethiye Museum Directory in 1992 summer, the antique city was commissioned for tourism.

Tlos: It is 12 kms to Kemer and 37 kms to Fethiye. It is in a very convenient place for transport. The city is situated on a small hill 300 metres above Eşen plateau and in a dominating position over the valley.

The city, referred to as “Tlawa” in Lykia scripts, was discovered by Sir Charles and his fellows in 1838. An axe which was found in Tlos indicates that both the city and Lykian civilisation existed in that period. Tlos which existed until Byzantine Period is one of the rare historic settlements which could remain until the 19th century. The city walls and the huge construction remains at the top of the acropole belong to the Ottoman Period. These remains are from the castle of Kanlı Ali Ağa, who dominated the region at the time. All the constructions of the city are out of the city wall which belongs to Lykian Period. Among the fundamental remains are theatre, stadium, bazilika, bath, paleosto, gymnasium, church, agora, kula, the monument of Izgara (this monument is now in Fethiye Museum) and Lykian rock graves. Tlos is mainly a well preserved ruin.

Pinara: Pinara ruin, which is in the south of Fethiye and near to the motorway between Fethiye and Kaş, is 45 kms to Fethiye. This historical site, which is 1,5 km away from Minare village, is reached through a path. Pinara, which is an ancient Likyan city, means “mountain” in Lykian. The big, round rock attracts you while climbing up the slope towards the west after Minare village. This rock is supposed to give its name to the city of Pinara. This rock is actually like a hill with a height of 500 metres and straight slopes. The most interesting part of the rock is hundreds of eagle nests made into stone in the shape of rectangle. To reach the caves which combine two horizontal lines is very difficult, almost impossible. The only way to reach is to climb with ropes. These might have been made with the help of ropes. The city of Pinara had been built to the eastern side of this hill. In a short period of time a second part of the city had been needed and built on a lower hill. The city which hasn't got defence walls has settled on a large area. The first acropol was used for this purpose when needed.

Between two acropol there are lots of unidentified graves. The one in the southern edge is one of the biggest in the Likyan area. On the western part of the hill, towards the northern end, there is a small theatre and on the eastern part a rock-curved house. On the northern slope is the agora, on the western part of a hill which is 200 metres east, is another theatre which is in a very good condition.

Sdyma: Is reached through a part of 12 km with a right turning after the town of Eşen in the west of Fethiye-Kaş highway. Its on the western slope of Mount Eren at the height of 500 metres above sea level where Hisar district of Dodurga village is now. As it has been badly damaged, there are very few ruins existing today. With a scenery of sea in the western part, the city has a wide sight.

Letoon: It is reached after a 5 km trip, turning right before Eşen stream, after the town of Eşen. Only a theatre and the ruins of a temple were known to be here until 1962. After this date a lot of ruins have been discovered during the excavations made by French archaeologists. The main ruins discovered here are theatre, temples of Apollon-Artemis-Leto, pool, fountain and church.

A lot of frogs can be seen around the ruins of the foundation and the pool which have been understood to have been built during Hadrian Period. There are also tree adjoining temples which were dedicated to Apollo, his twin Artemis and their mother Leto. On the hill in the east is a Doric temple from second half of the 2nd century BC. In the north of the site is a large and intact theatre. “Kumluova Domates Festivali” (Tomatoes Feast of Kumluova) is held at this theatre.

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The city whose earliest findings date back as far as 8th century BC existed until 7th century AD and was abandoned at this period. Some of the artefacts are on display in Fethiye Archaeological Museum.

Karymlessos (Kayaköy): It is an old ruin where attractive houses are located as if they were chipped into the rocks on the slopes opposite to a plain which situated in 7 km south of Fethiye Castle. With its more than 3000 houses which were damaged partly by nature itself and by people with two big churches, streets, shops and different architecture, it has got a remarkable beauty. It was known as “Lovissi” in ancient times. Karymelessos was one of the biggest residential areas in the 19th century with its Turkish and Greek population. The town which was evacuated during the exchange between the Turks in Thrace and the Greeks in Anatolia in 1924 turned into a “ghost town soon” after the new residents deserted their houses.

Today, Karymlessos is a tourist attraction which is often visited by especially Greek tourists. Karymlessos is located near the ancient town with its houses in the gardens. The Mediterranean breezes in this valley make the district more attractive in terms of recreational aspects. One can reach this town via asphalt road past Hisarönü located on the 10th kilometre of Fethiye-Ölüdeniz.

Apart from these ancient cities involved in tourism sector, many ruins are found around Fethiye. These are as follows: Deadela (İnlice village), Araska (Ören village), Pydnea (Karadere village), Balbura (Plateau Karaçulha village), Telendrus (Nif-Arpacık) and Oenondo (İncealiler village).

Fethiye Museum: Fethiye Museum, which was opened in 1966, includes the artefacts from Lykia, Rome, Byzantine and Ottoman periods. That is to say statues, miniatures, bowls and inscriptions are exhibited. A statue of a girl holding a pigeon in her lap and a wooden carved door taken from a church in Kayaköy are the two important masterpieces.

Local handicrafts form a very important source of culture tourism. Around Fethiye, local and foreign tourists are interested in handicrafts like carpets, rugs, turbans, girths and pitchers. Carpet industry is done in Kaya village. These carpets, known as “Kaya carpets” are admired by the tourists for their original patterns and colours. The basic colour of Kaya carpets is red, the thread is wool and dyed by the maker. Turban is a handicraft, mostly belonging to Üzümlü town. Üzümlü turbans are weaved as plain and designed by cotton thread or pure silk. Kilim is weaved in Seydiler, Altındere, Karaçulha and Eldirek villages. Kilims, weaved in different designs, and the saddlebags done with the designs of these kilims are demanded handicrafts. Kolon is a long, thin girdle, weaved or knitted from wool or bristle and dyed in different colours. It

is liked both as an ornament and accessory used as a belt. In Esenköy; pitcher, flowerpot, earthenware jar, earthenware cooking pot, saucepan and different kinds of accessories are done by women.

Transportation

People use motorway, airline and maritime line for the transportation of Fethiye surroundings. The region is connected with the main motorway network in 5 ways. The routes of these motorways are Fethiye-Kaş-Antalya motorway (from coast to Antalya), Fethiye-Korkuteli-Antalya motorway (from high-plateau to Antalya), Fethiye-Gölkhisar-Denizli motorway, Fethiye-Çameli-Denizli motorway and Fethiye-Muğla-Aydın-İzmir motorway.

Highway transportation is influenced by geographical surface features. Kargı and Fethiye plains around the Fethiye Bay together with Eşen plain connected to these plains with a mountain pass facilitate the highway transportation. The highways passing through those low plains later becomes curved because of the surface features. Especially the fact that the highway between Fethiye and Dalaman passing over Göcek pass is very curved and causes difficulties in transportation. This highway connects Fethiye to Dalaman Airport, Marmaris, Muğla, İzmir and Bodrum. It is the highway which has the most traffic jam in the region. For this reason to have a better traffic on the part of Göcek slope of the mentioned road, a tunnel is thought to be opened soon. Since the connection of Fethiye with inner parts is through high mountains, these roads get icy in the winter. The road which connects the town to Antalya over Teke plateau passes through 1300 metres altitude on Karabel Pass between the 27th and 50th kilometres.

The tourist resorts places in the research area are connected to Fethiye (or the main roads) by asphalt roads. In this region transportation is done by minibuses or taxis. In tourism season it is possible to go anywhere at any time of the day by the minibuses or taxis. Transportation to ruin sites is usually provided by track roads.

In Fethiye, there is an inter-city bus station belonging to the municipality. Nearly 140-150 vehicles enter and exit the station a day. By these vehicles transportation is provided both to tourist resorts like Marmaris, Bodrum, Kaş, Antalya and to important cities of Turkey. The research area makes use of sea transportation. Since it is on the route of the Blue Tours organised between Bodrum, Marmaris and Antalya, the native and foreign tourists participating in yacht tourism accommodate in the marinas of Fethiye Bay and travels around the natural and historical sites of the region. In 2000, 4142 foreign tourists coming by yachts passed through Fethiye Customs House. Turkish maritime liner boats which are on Mediterranean tours, visit Fethiye on

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their Mediterranean tours during the summer months. Daily tours, common around Fethiye, make it possible to see the bays and the islands in the region.

When you want to travel by air, Dalaman Airport, which is 55 km away from Fethiye, can be used. As Dalaman Airport is located near Fethiye, Köyceğiz, Marmaris, a lot of tourists are inbound to the area by charter and scheduled flights. The number of tourists arriving at this airport was 30.140 in 1985, 281.550 in 1990, 815.135 in the year 2000²². In addition to this, the airport serves to Dalyan, Köyceğiz and Marmaris as well.

Accommodation and Other Services

Accommodation facilities are highly important in the development of tourism. Despite the natural and social attractiveness in a place or being within the easy reach, it is not possible for that place to be important in tourism without having accommodation facilities²³.

According to the data of 2000, there are totally 423 accommodation facilities around Fethiye. 371 of these are government- licenced and 42 of these are tourism-licenced (Table 1). All these hotels, motels and holiday villages are generally open during the year. 95 % of the boarding houses are run seasonally.

About 95 % of the accommodations in the region are on the coastal line which is 1 km away from the sea. The other residences which are not on this line are in Ovacık and Hisarönü. Especially, the coastal line beginning from the “2. Karagöz District”, of Fethiye city to “Koca Çalış Beach” is full of accommodations such as hotels, motels, boarding houses, bars and discos. The holiday resorts are scattered around. The holiday resorts built on the coastal line have got so much bed-capacity. Among these resorts there are Letonia (on Paçarız Cape with 1602 beds), Robinson (on Kıdrak Cape with 1254 beds), Aldiana (on Boncuklu Cape with 730 beds), Ölüdeniz (on Ölüdedinz Cahe with 260 beds), and Tuana (on Koca Çalış Beach with 270 beds) on the other hand the number of beds in the holidays resorts in Ovacık_Hisarönü are 50-70 % less.

²² Taken from the records of Muğla Directorate of Tourism.

²³ Erol Tümertekin, **Ekonomik Coğrafya**. İstanbul Üniversitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi Yayın No: 2926, İstanbul, 1994, p. 662.

Table 1. Accommodations and the number of beds in Fethiye (the year 2000)

Kinds of Foundations	Government-Licensed Accommodations		Tourism-Licensed Accommodations		Total	
	Number of Accommodations	Number of Beds	Number of Accommodations	Number of Beds	Number of Accommodations	Number of Beds
First Class Holiday Villages	2	3.310	3	3.188	5	6.498
Second Class Holiday Villages	-	-	2	1.028	2	1.028
4-star Hotels	-	-	2	464	2	464
3-star Hotels	15	1.875	6	941	21	2.726
2-star Hotels	95	8.535	16	1.417	111	9.952
1-star Hotels	11	428	5	273	16	701
Boarding houses	245	4.466	8	227	268	4.693
2. Class Motel	3	196	-	-	3	196
TOTAL	371	18.810	42	7.538	423	26.348

In the surveys carried out in these regions, it has been revealed that breakfast is included in the per night price in almost 90 % of them. This rate is 55-60 % for dinner and 25-30 % for lunch. For this reason the importance of the restaurants and cafes there has decreased. The region where tourism is the most active is the 500-metre wide coastal line. If we regard this activity as 100 % on the coast, it falls to 40 %, 500 metres away from the coast and to 10 % 1 km away.

This situation shows that coastal restaurants and cafes have more importance from the point of tourism. There are about 20 1st class restaurants around Fethiye.

Although summer houses seem to be related with tourism, their direct relation is rather weak. For this reason, we must regard them as different from the residences. This kind of places have just been begun to be built around Fethiye. Mavikent located in Koca Çalış (33 buildings and 66 flats), Zümrütkent (16 buildings and 32 flats) and Denizkent (46 buildings and 92 flats) which are holiday sites can be accepted as the main holiday resorts.

Tourism In Fethiye

Marinas and yacht quays are located on Fethiye coasts and Göcek Bay. Also, some hotels and holiday sites have such kind of facilities.

Fethiye Yacht Marina which was opened in 1982 has the capacity of hosting 50 yachts. It is located in the west of wharf that is in the cove between Oyuktepe and Mendos Mountains. While the rate of fullness is 95 % in July-September period, this goes down to 3 % in October-May period. The rate of local and foreign yachts visiting this marina are almost equal to each other.

Most of the foreign yachts belong to German, English, and Scandinavian tourists. A marina with capacity of 125 yachts is under construction as the present marina cannot meet the needs. Besides, the cord of shore is used as a quay, too. This has the capacity of 220-230 yachts. In this way, with the new marina being built, the new marina finished, total capacity will go over 400 yachts.

Club Marina which is in a cove on the north-west of Göcek Bay has 4 quays for 160 yachts. One part of the marina is in the west shore of Göcek town which has a quay for yachts. This marina which was opened in 1990 has the rate of 100 % fullness in every month of the year. The reason why the Göcek marina is one of the most visited places, due to its closeness to Dalaman Airport (19 km) and Fethiye Bay. Apart from the main marina, there are 3 more yacht quay docks in Göcek. These docks have total 110 yacht capacity.

Apart from these marinas and quays in Fethiye, there are 5 more yacht quays. These yacht quays and marinas which have 120 yacht capacity are Yes Yachting, Likya Otel marina, Letonia Holiday Resort's Marina, Marina Yachting and Pupa Yachting.

Thus, the marinas in Fethiye and nearby have the capacity for 180 yachts. Since the harbours are not sufficient enough for yacht tourism new marinas should be built as soon as possible.

In Fethiye, there is a tourist - licenced camping (Deniz Camp). This camping in Blue Lagoon (Ölüdeniz) is located in an area of 0,39 hectare. In the region, there are 16 government-licenced campings. The total bed capacity of these camping sites is 529; seven in Belceğiz (341 beds), eleven in Blue Lagoon (Ölüdeniz) with 188 beds.

Tourism Movements

Its very difficult to determine the exact number of tourists visiting Fethiye. According to the authorities, every year about 900.000 tourists local and foreign visit this area (400.000 local tourists, 500.000 foreign tourists). Of these tourists; 35 % are German, 25 % are English, 10 % are Scandinavian, 8 %

are Austrian, 6 % are French, 16 % are from other countries (especially from the Netherlands). Sometimes, the number of German and English tourists increases to 70-75 %. According to the surveys, some tourist areas only serve German or English tourists. It has been found out that the number of Australian and Scandinavian tourists visiting Fethiye has increased especially in the last few years.

50 % of tourists travel to Fethiye by highway; 25 % by plane and 25 % by ship.

As for the percentage of the tourists in seasons; 61 % visit in summer, 26 % in autumn, 3 % in winter and 15 % in spring.

This percentage shows that the tourism in Fethiye mostly depends on beach and yacht tourism. Because of Easter in March there are a lot of tourist movements. 8 % of the tourists visiting Fethiye a year come in March.

Duration of tourist stays in Fethiye varies greatly. Since travel agencies usually make one week or two weeks package holidays most of the tourists stay four to seven days or eight to fifteen days. Tourists who stay three-to fifteen days constitute 80 % of all, and 50 % of this is made up by the tourists who spend three to seven days, 65 % is made up by 1 to two days and 5 % is made up by the tourists who stay more than 15 days.

Conclusion

Most important tourist attractions of Fethiye region are dry and sunny summers of Mediterranean climate, clear and clean seas, natural coves and beaches. For this reason, as it is true for the whole Mediterranean coast, tourism in Fethiye, to a great extent, originates from the desire to reach sea, sun and sandy beaches. The presence of the bays and coves which haven't been allowed for any construction, and which are naturally protected against dominant winds blowing across the capes, peninsulas, islands and high coastal areas has contributed to the development of yacht tourism in the area. Geomorphologic, hydrografic, flora and fauna features of Fethiye region have a great potential in terms of nature, thermal, high plateau tourism. Besides these natural attractions, this region has a rich historical past. That's why it is a bridge connecting present to the past with a good historical background. Although Fethiye is full of recreational facilities and rich past, it hasn't received its deserved share from tourism industry due to shortage of transportation, uncompleted infrastructure and insufficient promotion abroad.

As Fethiye has become one of the last recent tourist resorts of the south-west Anatolian Coast, its natural texture has not been damaged a lot. Presenting regions tourist assets in the areas without any environmental

problems by protecting the nature itself is of great importance for the future of tourism activities and for the spread of these activities to whole year by varying them.

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