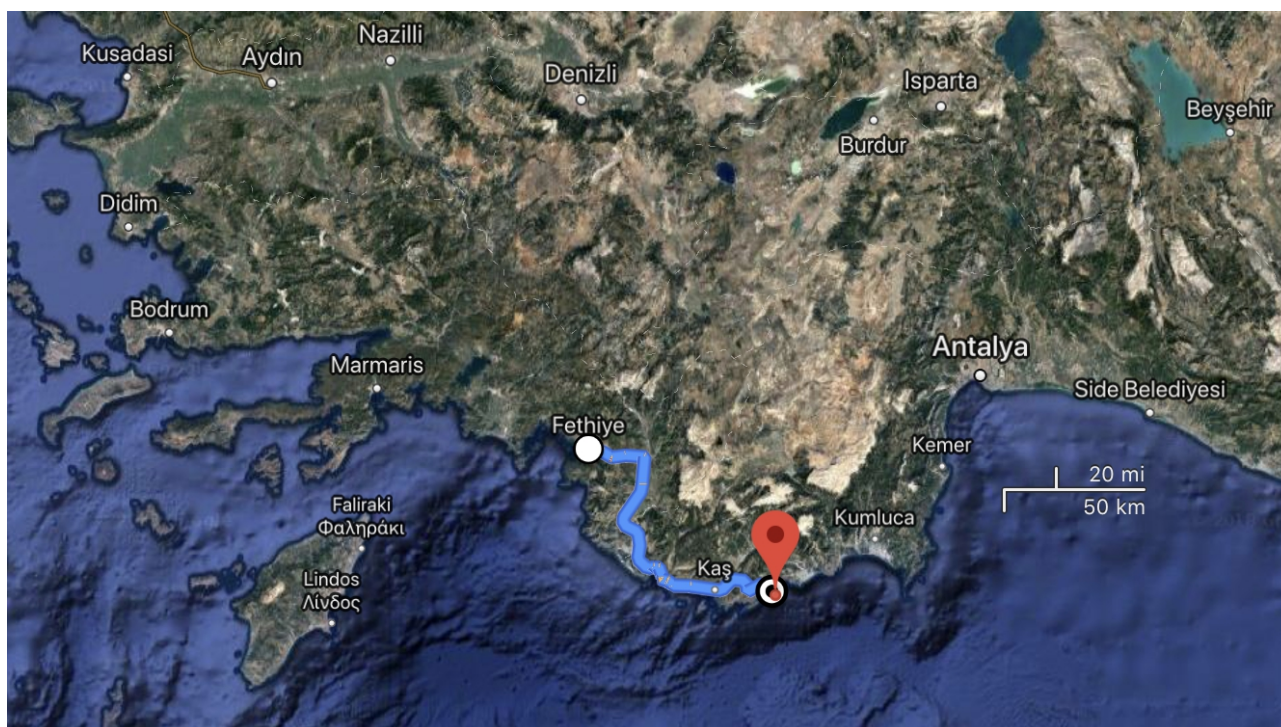


## Ploes Booking 01/09/2018 to 15/09/2018



**Fethiye to Kalekoy**

Once again my partner and fellow member of KSSC Julie Styles and I invited our Adelaide friends Joe and June Griffin to join us on Ploes for our sailing holiday for 2018. We had in previous years enjoyed easy going, line of sight, day sailing in Fethiye Koyu (Bay) and the more protected Gocek Bay for week long holidays. The highlight of the previous outings were the glorious weather, swimming off the back of the boat in azure seas, our lunch breaks of mainly salad, cheese and wine on board, often drifting in open water, sometimes a lively afternoon sail and evening meals in the isolated restaurants on the otherwise unpopulated Gocek peninsula. This year we decided to be more adventurous by going further afield and by spending two weeks on board. It was with some trepidation we did this knowing that Joe and June have limited sailing experience and that there would be four of us potentially stuck on board our 40' maturing Bavaria, in 80 plus degree heat for days at a time and also likely suffering from the effects of the local Efes beer and Angora wines. But we know Joe and June well and always enjoyed their company over the years, as I hope they have done ours. They had also shown themselves to be more than competent crew. So, having heard tales of exotic and historic locations East of Fethiye from fellow KSSC sailors we decided we couldn't resist it's lure and planned our trip accordingly.

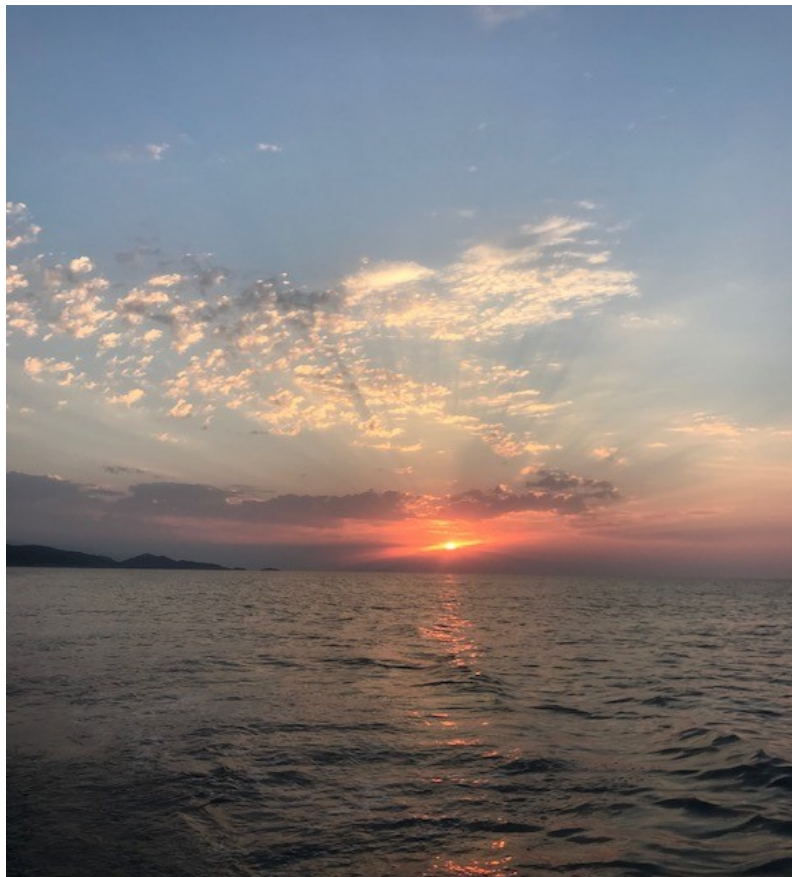
The committee efficiently processed Joe and June's membership application. For a two week booking, full membership is more cost effective than temporary membership. Peter Girven, who does a stalworth job managing Ploes, squeezed us in to the popular two week slot at the beginning of September-thank you Peter. Julie and I booked our flights early in the year which meant we overpaid and had to fly from Gatwick to Antalya instead of Stansted to Dalaman. That wasn't too clever! In hindsight we should have waited to book later in the year. Furthermore having travelled to North Cyprus in April when the exchange rate was at a favourable 5:1, I decided to get all my Turkish Lira for both that trip and our Ploes trip at the same time. Sadly as you are probably aware the Turkish Lira subsequently crashed and I witnessed the value of my cash sitting in my drawer at home, drop by 40% over the summer months to an exchange rate of 8:1. You win some you lose a lot! Anyway back to topic.

Julie and I arrived on Ploes on Saturday Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. We were tired so we dined at the local marina restaurant MOD which is under new management. We got our discount with our marina card. We slept well on board that evening.

On Sunday morning Claire, who is our/your man in Fethiye, who is a very helpful resource and who is also a KSSC honorary member, joined us to ensure all was well with Ploes. Which of course it was. Thank you Claire. Being unfamiliar with the process of securing our transit log she explained how this was done. We decided this year to ensure we dotted the i's and cross the t's in view of our more adventurous travel plans and the reported political changes in Turkey. Later on that Sunday afternoon Joe and June joined us having travelled on Ryan Air from Dublin. Again we dined locally that evening.

On Monday after we'd requested the Fetmar agent, ?Bert, to apply for the transit log on our behalf with the crew list, passport details, the SSR/owners and insurance documents, we set sail early afternoon out of Fethiye marina, into the protected outer harbour and then out to Fethiye Bay. As ever it was in the 80's and we enjoyed a Gucci beam reach in a variable Force 2-4 south westerly breeze as far as Karacaoren. It wasn't our intention to pick up a mooring there. We'd intended on heading 1km further East past the 4-6th century ruin "infested" Gemiler Adasi(island)-allegedly the burial place of Saint Nicholas-to Cold Water Bay. But as it was convenient, we did.

We had originally decided that we would head East as far as Kekovo Roads and to do this we needed to pass the "seven capes". This is a long stretch of lee shore without protection from the elements and where big swells can make for unpleasant sailing especially if an afternoon onshore breeze picks up. It is also an area where the Turkisk Navy undertakes exercises, all of which is why we embarked early morning on the next leg of our trip, leaving the beautiful Olu Deniz beach to our port side.



**Sunrise Heading East from Karacaoren**

It transpired that all we experienced from Karacaoren to Kalkan were warm breezes and gentle swells. The Capes provided a scenic backdrop followed by the long sandy stretch that is Patara beach. Kalkan was a very well protected small fishing village that has become busy a tourist destination. The port is compact and is home to boats that take tourists out on day trips or to one of the local shoreside restaurants for swimming and food. We noted on our arrival, which coincided with the return of the day boats, that traffic was heavy and that the bow thruster didn't seem to work. We did however find a good berth, stern to, on the South Quay with access to water and electricity. There was no need to present any paperwork other than a few lira notes. Claire had already mentioned the Lighthouse restaurant to us so we dined there for the evening. Very romantic!

The following day we explored the village on foot. We didn't expect to find a great deal of interest nor did we. All in all we found it to be hilly, bustling but pleasant and would have stayed another day were we not setting off into the unknown.

At lunchtime we pulled out of our berth and headed to Kas, We were aware that there were rocky islets on this leg to look out for and that we needed to decide on whether to use the new marina or the old port on our arrival in Kas, the new Marina being located in a separate 5Km inlet west of the old port. What actually taxed us more on this leg was dealing with the wind. The previously mentioned onshore breeze-catabatic or is it meltemi or scirocco or etesian-turned into a full blown gale. We managed to reef the sails but still got 9.2 knots out of the not so young Ploes. She was a dream to handle in the high winds and rough seas.

Conditions determined that we headed for the new marina in Kas. This proved to be a vast new complex that was soulless. Fortunately the lively town centre/port area was a 20minute walk away-bizarrely 10km by sea. We spent Wednesday and Thursday night in Kas as the forecast was for further windy conditions and that proved to be the case.

Early on Friday we motored out of Kas, turning east at the headland, passing the old harbour and bay on our port side and the very nearby-only a kilometre away-Greek island of Kastellorizo to starboard. Avoiding rocks and islets we passed south of Ic Adasi(island) and then north east entering Kekovo Roads through the narrow channel south west of Kara Adasi. Kekovo is a long narrow island south of the mainland. There is a corresponding 1km wide channel of water that runs between the two for 10km. On the mainland side of the channel is yet a smaller stretch of more protected water on which the small town of Ocuadiz lies. Ocuadiz evidently has been spoilt by the addition of a commercial port for day boats so we didn't tie up there. Also on the mainland side of the Roads is situated the small hillside village of Kalekoy.



**Castle remains at Kalekoy**



Overlooking the village is the remains of a castle from which there are magnificent views of the waterways and also a Lycian necropolis with a field of sarcophagi including a sarcophagus sunken in the water just a few feet from our restaurant.



**Necropolis at Kalekoy**

Across the water on and off Kekovo Island are the rocky remains of a village most of which has been lost to the sea following an earthquake many years ago. Unlike Dunwich the village was carved from rock so there are visible remains of it on the hillside and which run into and under the water.

There are three restaurants available to tie up alongside to in Kalekoy.



**Dining out next to Ploes in Kalekoy**

We chose the one with the most enthusiastic reception committee and stayed there for two nights. The walk up to the top of the castle through the narrow village footpaths is a must-try to do it before the day boats start to arrive from Ucadiz or in the evening when the traffic stops.

We agreed at this point that we had gone as far East as was wanted on this trip and so on the morning of Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> we set off West again with the hope of reaching Kalkan or perhaps even Cold Water Bay by end of day. This was largely weather dependant. With light winds and calm seas aiding us we decided instead to head all the way back to Fethiye. We arrived in Fethiye after 12 hours or so of motoring at a steady 1800rpm.

The remainder of our week was spent going from the familiar Tomb Bay, to Sarsala, to Wall Bay restaurants in Gocek Bay and in and out of Fethiye marina, enjoying the weather the sea and being on board Ploes.



**Fethiye Bay(Koyu)**

Overall our holiday was a great success.

The weather was warm, hot at times and sunny. There was enough in the way of wind to enjoy some good day sailing and on occasion too much wind.

Ploes behaved herself very well. Claire arranged for the bow thruster fuse to be changed but we didn't really need to use it thereafter.

The exchange rate for those who hadn't stashed a wad of Turkish lira earlier in the year like I had, was fantastic, although prices have risen by I'd say between 10-20% from when we first went to Fethiye 5 years or so ago.

The people as ever are very friendly and the culture is definitely different to Western Europe which we think makes it a more exotic destination.

We didn't nor have we ever encountered any political unrest. Nor have we felt threatened by locals including the police.

For those club members who haven't been sailing in Turkey and who are considering it I have no hesitation in recommending it. It's a wow destination. I hope this piece gives a taste of our experience.

***Fergal O'Driscoll Sept 2018***