



The Bozburun
& Datça Peninsulas
Kumlubük, Turunç Bay,
Sögüt, Selimye & Akayaka

The craggy mountainous Bozburun Peninsula is the real hidden Turkey. Almost a living museum, it provides an insight into life in rural Turkey much as it was 50 to 100 years ago. Even in the peak of summer, the peninsula remains peaceful and uncrowded.



Exclusive Escapes



The Bozburun Peninsula

The road leads south west from Akyaka on the Bay of Gökova to two peninsulas: the northerly Datça Peninsula (known otherwise as Reşadiye) with its dramatic scenery, and the craggy mountainous untamed tendrils of the Bozburun (or Daraçya) Peninsula.

The Peninsulas are a short drive, but a million miles away, from the unattractive sprawl of Marmaris. Unlike Marmaris, Bozburun and Datça's mountains, woodland and coastal scenery have been heavily protected by conservation laws.

The entire region is a living museum, providing an insight into life in rural Turkey much as it was 50 to 100 years ago. Even in the peak of summer, its beaches and interiors remain devoid of tourist hordes.

Heavily wooded mountains – ideal for trekking – plunge down to a scattering of coastal villages and beaches. Remote ancient sites such as Amos, Loryma and Knidos wait to be explored, all in glorious settings that you may well have completely to yourself.

Village life is geared around agriculture, fishing and the building of the traditional gulet (still handmade in the boatyards of Söğüt, Selimiye and Bozburun).

The villages of both peninsulas are easily explored from your wonderfully remote hideaway. The scenery is beautiful and the walking splendid. In short, this region provides an opportunity to experience a taste of the real, rural Turkey whilst luxuriating in the comfort of our featured properties.

Turuç Bay & Kumlubük

Turuç Bay lies literally at the end of the mountain road. The town is pleasant enough, though it would be fair to say it is a little architecturally-challenged! The beauty comes from the dramatic mountains that surround it on three sides framing the stunning views to sea. Ten-minutes drive along a coastal road lies the double horse shoe bay of Kumlubük with little traffic, and real village atmosphere, it makes for a wonderfully secluded destination.

Beaches

The sand and shingle beach at Turuç Bay is continually the proud holder of the Blue Riband, the annual award for the cleanest sea water and beaches in Turkey. Its shallow rake makes swimming both easy and safe, and the water sports – from windsurfing through to scuba-diving – present the more actively inclined visitor with plenty of options.

From lunchtime to late afternoon, boats arrive at the harbour, bringing visitors from Marmaris. If you prefer your bays especially quiet, our advice is to use the glorious Amos and Kumlubük bays which are visited by fewer boats.

The two sweeping bays of Kumlubük are comprised of shingle and sand, and offer a scattering of restaurants along the waterfront – these cater for passing yachts in the evening and visitors from Marmaris at lunchtimes.

Kumlubük was home to Turkey's wealthiest magnate, Ayhan Şahenk, who purchased most of the land in the two bays of Kumlubük. He has ensured that the beaches are allowed to remain open for all to enjoy, and the wonderful vista across both bays is protected for the future.

Dining & Ambience

The choice of restaurants is varied, offering a good standard of both authentic Turkish cuisine and a wider Mediterranean menu.

This selection is extended by the exclusive waterfront restaurant and beach club in Kumlubük – Dionysos Sea Club.

During the day The Sea Club acts as a private Beach Club for guests of Dionysos and Exclusive Escapes, together with a select few others, at night it is transformed into the region's best quality restaurant. This reputation has been rapidly and deservedly established with the restaurant providing the most romantic of waterside settings for a leisurely evening meal.

A small selection of shops is located in the main street of Turuç Bay – which is pedestrianised each evening – and a good range of waterside restaurants and bars provide a pleasant and relaxed nightlife.

Walking & General

One of the principle attractions of this region is the stunning walking. The coastal track passes the ruins and small picturesque bay of Amos and then onto Turuç Bay – taking about an hour-and-a-half to walk. You may also explore the track up into the mountains from Dionysos, our flagship property in the region.

A special region that combines peace, scenic beauty with interests of a cultural or more active nature.





Söğüt

Villas: Vaha, Saranda, Aşkim,
Sevdam & Ruyam

Located on the Bozburun Peninsula, Söğüt is incredibly rural – a real Turkish village in ‘Hidden Turkey’. It consists of two bays (one of which is a long ribbon of hard-packed sand) a mosque, a mini market, two lokantas (cafés), and three restaurants which serve wonderfully fresh local fare.

Selimye

Payam Evi

This beautiful and peaceful bay, dominated by an old castle, is a short drive from Söğüt. A ribbon of simple houses follows the waterfront which is dotted with sleepy restaurants all of which enjoy the most idyllic of settings. The swimming is wonderful both on this bay and another to be found just over the hill. Rural, peaceful bliss!

Akyaka

Villas Terra Incognita

This village is not really located on the Bozburun and Datça Peninsulas. We include it within this section as it is located close by and retains the same authentic ‘Turkish’ flavour.

The pretty town of Akyaka with its ‘Ula-Mugla’ style of architecture, renowned river restaurants, sandy town beach and the stunning pebble beach at Çınar is only a 12-minute drive from our featured property.

Further afield, Marmaris and the Bozburun and Datça Peninsulas in one direction and the Dalyan Delta in the other are a 45-minute journey, with the towns of Göcek and Fethiye a little further.

These villages of the Bozburun and Datça Peninsulas provide the ideal location for those looking to escape completely from modern-day tourism as we know it. There’s plenty for the active to experience, but it’s also a great place to just relax.

The Datça Peninsula

Bördübet

The Datça – or to give it its Ottoman name, Reşadiye – peninsula is renowned throughout Turkey for its natural beauty and climate. Strabon of Cappadocia (56BC – 21AD), one of the first philosophers to relate climate to health, said, “God sends his subjects to whom he wants to give long and healthy lives to Datça...” We can’t promise you that but we can certainly guarantee an unforgettable experience!

The road from Marmaris follows the spine of the peninsula with dramatic and panoramic views of the Aegean on one side and the Mediterranean on the other. Picturesque coves with crystal clear waters are spread along the route leading to the harbour town of Datça.

Datça has a very Turkish feel with relatively few foreign visitors. A wide choice of restaurants is spread between the two natural harbours and the overall environment allows you to get a real feel for traditional Turkish life.

Pine forests are intermingled with oak, myrtle, gum and carob trees. Almond trees, olive and citrus groves, grapevines and all manner of herbaceous plants are there to be discovered as you explore the mountains, valleys and plains of the peninsula.

The region is particularly historically rich as it was one of the most important commercial and cultural centres throughout the Aegean and eastern

Mediterranean from the times of Ancient Greece through to the Byzantium Period. The ancient site of Knidos was the centre of all this activity.

Cultural Sites in the Region

The cultural sites on the Bozburun Peninsula are of a rustic and rural nature, left free for visitors to explore at your leisure. The following are within a one-hour journey.

AMOS An important town of the Rhodian Peraia with approximately 15,000 inhabitants

LORYMA An ancient Dorian anchorage with a hilltop fortress dating to 400BC.

HALICARNASSUS & PHYSKOS Together with Amos, Loryma & Knidos members of the Rhodes Union 3–4th century BC

KNIDOS The ruins of this Dorian port are located on the very tip of the Datça peninsula.

KAUNOS A fabulous example of a Carian amphitheatre, cliff tombs and many other remains. Kaunos sits in the heart of the natural beauty of the Dalyan Delta.



What to do in the Region

Cultural Sites

– see above

Sporting Activities & Exclusive Experiences

– see online

Car Hire

– see online

Activity Breaks & Add-ons

– see online

Properties in the Region

– see online

Airport Transfer

– 50 minutes -2 hours and 45 minutes
(dependent on property)