





The Yacht vs. Resort

**SHOWDOWN IN THE
TURKISH RIVIERA**



Nemesis



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Southwest Turkey is heralded as the Turkish Riviera and is home to a wealth of culinary and cultural discoveries. However, how do you discover these highlights? By yacht or by resort? House of Coco travel and food culture writer, Eulanda Shead Osagiede, compares two unique experiences designed to cater to sea and land lovers holidaying along Turkey's renowned coastline.

Jewel-toned waters, saliva-inducing mezzes and hospitable locals are only a few of the highlights that await travellers visiting the Southwest coast of Turkey. Choosing where and how to spend your holiday can be the most challenging of decisions.

In a region with a long history of maritime culture, luxury resort and yacht stays are catered for through a wide range of accommodation and experience-based options. Figuring out the main defining factors between a resort or yacht stay can be akin to sliding down a rabbit hole of information.

RESORT LIFE AT CLUB MARVY

The Southern coast of Turkey is ripe with resorts catering to any budget. Fly into any city located along the Turkish Riviera and you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing a resort. Club Marvy, located in Turkey's third largest city, Izmir, is firmly nestled in the 5-star luxury market.

Despite being a 256-room resort, Club Marvy's boho-chic look and intimately designed spaces give the property a boutique luxury feel. Designed by famed architect Fahrettin Aykut, each space utilises his innovative organic architecture style, where structures seamlessly flow into their surroundings and flora.

Club Marvy is not your typical all-inclusive resort when it comes to dining options. At their flagship main restaurant, head chef Şemsa Denizsel sources the restaurant's ingredients from their own local, organic farm. Ten (or more) beautifully arranged buffet areas featuring various aspects of Turkish and international cuisine decorate the expansive dining space. Denizsel believes in showcasing only the finest local Aegean cuisine with a rustic aesthetic. This focus is beautifully displayed in dishes like stuffed mussels — a local favourite.

Offering a diverse array of activities, many guests choose to stay onsite to enjoy the plethora of activities designed for travellers desiring to make the most out of their resort stay. However, one would be remiss not to explore the wealth of discoveries outside of the resort.

Pick up a rental car at Izmir Airport upon arrival and venture offsite to explore fishing villages, Greek ruins and shopping at Turkish bazaars. A feast for the eyes, driving in this region is an incredibly scenic experience — making for a great road trip.



SAILING THE AEGEAN

For travellers who prefer to see the coast from a distance, exploring the region by sea is a comparative option. Private yachts allow ingress to ports that regular cruise ships are unable to access. They also afford access to areas (island and coastal alike) that few on-land explorers can access.

Our sailing route onboard the 16-person SCIC Sailing gulet yacht took us to the colourful ports of Ölüdeniz, Kaş, Gemiler Island, Gombe plateau, Fethiye, Demre and Kalkan. Every one or two stops along our itinerary, there was an organised excursion that ranged from picturesque hiking, 4x4 jeep safari drives, touring historical sites of interest and beautifully curated gastronomic experiences.

While in Kaş, we headed to a beautiful stone home nestled in the captivating village of Kapakli called The Poet's House (Siir ev Kekova). Our host Baris enthusiastically described each colourful dish on the handcrafted cedar table while we eagerly listened with rumbling bellies.

If there is such a thing as the nectar of the gods, I'm sure it would be Turkish olive oil, which our hosts

applied generously at The Poet's House. From luscious tomatoes bathed in herbs, potatoes, peppers and roasted aubergines...every mezze seemed to be awash in this glorious oil.

Yacht guests are also given sufficient time to explore many ports at their own pace. There's ample time for shopping, exploring on foot or simply sitting at a café and people watching to your heart's content.

There is also plenty of physical activity to be found whilst sailing. Onboard the ship, there is deck space to practice yoga and Pilates. There are also several opportunities per day to swim, SUP, snorkel and kayak in whichever bay you're currently anchored in. At various port stops guests can cycle, take long walks or hike if provisions are arranged in advance.

If you prefer, you can occasionally take a dip in the sea, but spend most of your time soaking in the Turkish sun, whilst sipping on a cocktail. SCIC Sailing has no idea how used I could get to this lifestyle. Alas, the grey skies of London would soon replace the glittering jewel tones of sky and sea. ■





■ **Club Marvy:** seven nights in an all-inclusive double sea view room is €1742 for two adults. Clubmarvy.com

■ **SCIC Sailing:** seven day, all-inclusive ScicSailing cruises start at €951pp (based on double or single accommodation) for a place on a fully skippered and crewed yacht. Scicsailing.eu

