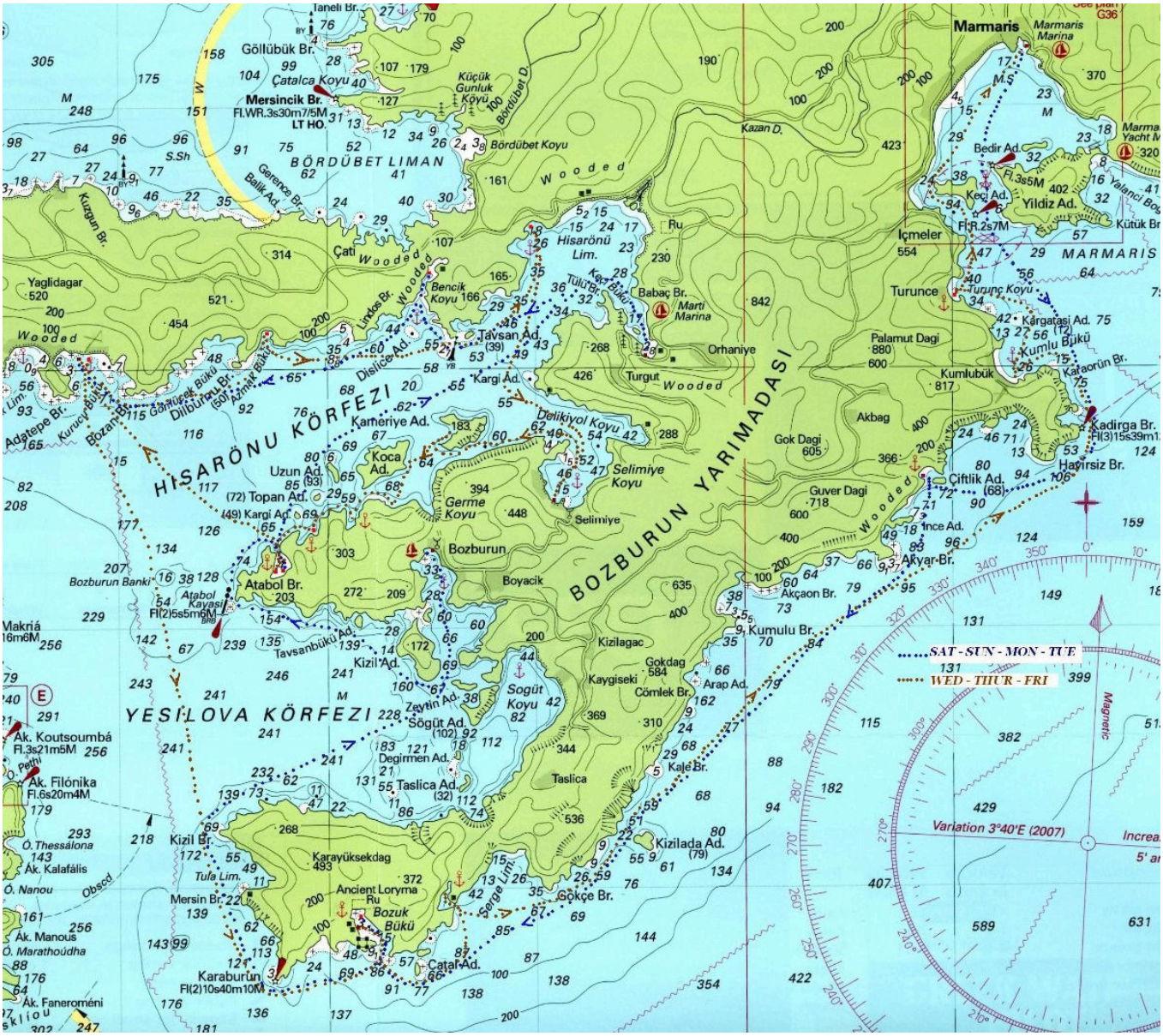
TURKEY Carian Coast Cruise, June 7 - 13, 2008

Start and return: Marmaris

Itinerary : Blue dots - Marmaris to Kurucu bay, Saturday to Tuesday (days 1 - 4)

Brown dots - Wednesday to Friday (days 5 - 7)



Friday 6 June

Arrive Dalaman airport 21:45, obtaining a visa (GBP10/Euro 15) and passport control take time. Arrival duty free shop is disappointing, but the taxi proves reliable.

Leave airport 22:40 and arrive, after some Balkan style driving, at Netsel marina, the base of our charter boat, by midnight.

Despite the late hour the staff at Sunshine cruising is awaiting us and provides a warm welcome; we are even offered a light meal at the restaurant near the pontoons.

Kimberley, a Rodman 41, is presented polished and gleaming as new.

Our charter officially starts Saturday but due to the boat not being used the previous week we are allowed to spend Friday night on board.

Roaring discos are noticed in the distance in Marmaris town. We hear that tourism generally is not that good in Marmaris in these days, was better once. Maybe Marmaris has grown too big (yes, I must agree!), but yachting tourism was not affected.

After checking our luggage into the boat we retire at about 2am.



In Marmaris' Netsel Marina


Touristic Marmaris' Town Quay and citadel

Saturday 7 June

Breakfast and checking out the boat; lengthy boat briefing by Ahmet, the helpful Sunshine boss (very well meant but not always easy to follow), then food shopping. A guided test/demo drive starts at about 2pm; obviously, this is a test of our skipper's skills, too. Fair enough!

Finally, by 3pm we head out of Marmaris; going slowly across the bay we open the throttles once outside, about 22kn is comfortable towards Kadira Burnu where we meet wind and swell from SW. The meltemi is blowing at 4-5bf; concerned about the fly-bridge canopy's stability we throttle back to 9kn; decide to go to Ciftlik cove for the first night instead of Bozuk Büku further down the coast.

We find most of the restaurant jetties empty, and the staff waving to invite to berth; we decide for the simple looking Mehmet restaurant pier berthing stern to with a mooring. Jane's a bit hasty when mooring, leading to a small bruise on her arm but nothing serious. Friendly people around; there are 4 other yachts, two of them older type boats owned by Germans. The rocky cove looks more pleasing than we had expected; there is only one, not too huge, hotel to be seen in the distance; the large restaurant (Club Fanya?) in the S corner does not have business.We have heard that people experienced problems here in heavy weather, but in our case it looks perfectly safe.

Meal at Mehmet's (at TRL 76 for two) included starters, meat mains, bottle of very drinkable wine and coffee, and free mooring.



Mehmet's jetty in Ciftik cove, in the evening

Sunday 8 June

First stop is Bozuk bay, ancient Loryma, an interesting large bay; we anchored near NW corner with good holding. Using the dinghy to explore the bay and get nearer to the fortress, the outboard stopped working. We row back (exposing ourselves a bit more to the sun than we had expected).

We decide to go to Bozburun harbour for the night to meet Fatih, the helpful and capable service guy from Sunshine to look after the engine. The yacht quay on the West side is full with some gulets and yachts but the quay in front of the restaurants and bars is almost empty; we go stern to with an anchor. Bozburun is a pleasant fishing harbour; there is a harbour fee of TRL 40 for our boat, but it is possible to anchor outside for free. Right across from our berth is Safak's Place, where we have a nice dinner. Thankfully the restaurants close at around 11pm restoring peace for a good night's sleep.



Kimberley in Bozburun harbour



Anchorage outside harbour



Barber shop at Bozburun

Monday 9 June

After using the toilet in the morning I discover an embarrassing flow of some waste water from the boat. I can only conclude that the holding tank must be full, despite the gauge reading empty; we later verify the defect gauge which obviously had led to the boat being handed over to us with a nearly full waste tank.

From Bozburun we head South past Kizil Ada and West and around the Atabol headland to Dirsek cove for a swim and lunch stop. The anchorage in the Eastern part appears to have dodgy holding ground. There is a restaurant with jetty in the South West corner. We try out the dinghy but unfortunately the engine stops again and I cannot get it to work, so it's rowing time.

In the afternoon the Meltemi gets up as usual and blows across the bay from the West, but going East towards Keci Bükü and Orhanyie makes for an easy ride. Martti Marina looks big and busy, we give it a miss and go further to the S of Keci Bükü, past the sand bar. Mooring alongside the jetty of the small Ersoy restaurant in SE corner of the bay, a pretty setting and looks over the bay.


There are even ducks, like in Blighty

In the evening helpful Fathi from Sunshine visits again, checks the outboard – and finds the fuel shut-off partially closed (it's an inconspicuous plastic lever on the side, only marked “open”). So, it was a handling mistake, this call-out could have been saved.

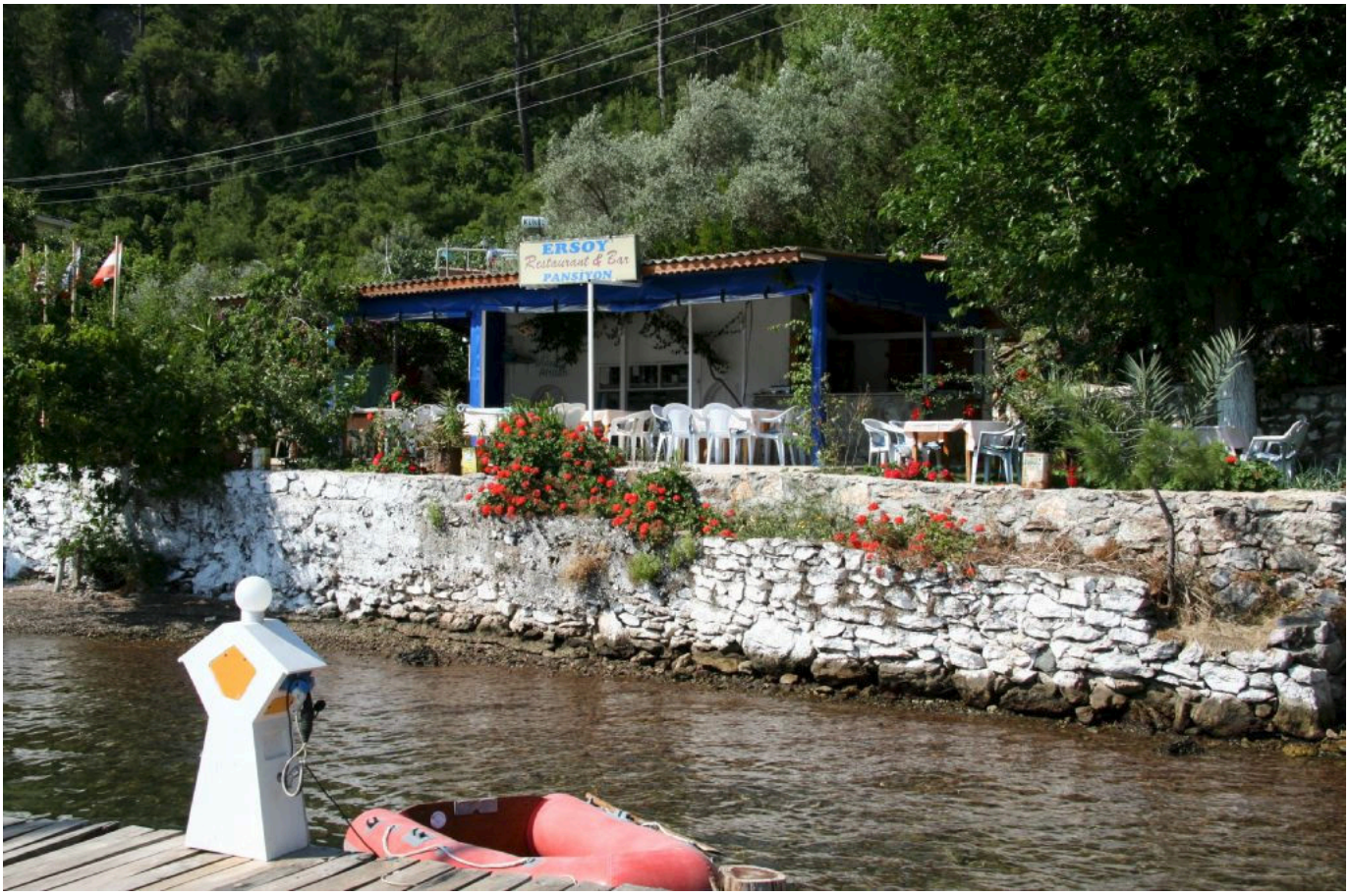
We have a good dinner of traditional cooking at Ersoy's, excellent value at TRL 66 for a large meal and free mooring. Several locals dine here as it is approachable by car. Jane is worried about mosquitoes.

Generally there does not seem to be much business yet, nearly half of the mooring spaces still available.

I can just about pick up a weak signal from the free Wireless Internet of Martti marina across the water.



Ersoy restaurant jetty in Keci Bükü, Orhanyie. Martti Marina across the bay.





Anchorage S of fort in Keci Bükü - Orhanyie



Bencik cove looking S

Tuesday 10 June

On our way out of Orhaniye bay and West we visit Bencik cove, a very pretty wooded cove which is well known locally. It is a long inlet but quite narrow in places so we anchor with a stern line to shore. A local guy who trades from his small boat comes along and offers help getting the line ashore, which is gladly accepted as there are only two of us onboard.

There are some rocky ledges in parts of the cove, so care has to be taken not to get too close to shore.





Anchored in Bencik cove

After a good swim and lunch we leave for Kuruca Bükü (Kochini bay) where we have agreed to meet our friends and join them in their house in Datca Aktur, the holiday village next to the bay.

We anchor in front of the beach at 10meters. At that time there are no buoys, but we spot some rope ends in the water coming from the ground which are probably used for buoys during the holiday period. Careful navigation is advised.

We enjoy Turkish hospitality at our friends' house, where Sevket's mother has prepared a delicious meal.

We spend the night at anchor in Kuruca bay.



Entering Kuruca bay looking NW towards beach. Beach cafe in the centre

Wednesday 11 June

We are taking Catherine and Sveket on board for a couple of days, and leave for an exploration of bays.

We start with Azmak Bükü just to the East of Dilburnu , a shallow swimming bay with palm trees, which apparently cannot be reached by road. It offers reasonable holding ground.

Next we visit Kuyulu Bükü further to the East into Hisarönü Limani, and anchor in the most Northerly of the two anchor coves, near its South end. The water is muddy, and on the first attempt the anchor only picks up weeds and mud, but a bit further North it's then ok.

Interesting slopes with red soil and pine trees.



Armak Bükü



Kuyulu Bükü looking SW

For the evening we head South, across and into the bay towards Selimiye, where we choose the well known Sardunya restaurant for dinner and overnight. This has been described as a large fish restaurant with high standards, and we are not disappointed. The pontoons are sophisticated, too, they provide not only water and electricity but deckchairs, steps into the water and showers.





Evening in Selimiye bay. I am surprised at the short twilight period at this southerly latitude.

Thursday 12 June

We start the day exploring the surrounding coves and islets in completely calm seas, as always in the morning.

We pass through the channel between the mainland and Kameriye Ada, looking at the remainders of an old monastery on its South side.We find it difficult to anchor off this island, though gulets appear to manage. We continue West leaving Koca Ada to starboard. The scenery is very pretty but the bays around this island are often unsuitable for anchoring, quite deep or too small, maybe local knowledge would help.

We set anchor in a small bay opposite Kargi Ada for a short stop and swim, and then go on to Dirsek where we anchor towards the South West end for lunch.



Kameriye channel looking W, Monastery ruins on Kameriye Ada (below)





Small bay opposite Kargi Ada



Anchored in Dirsek cove looking S towards the restaurant

Then it's time to take our friends back home to Kurucu Bükü, where we arrive around 3pm.

The next day will be the last of our cruise, so we want to stay overnight closer to Marmaris. We cross the Hisarönü Köfezi (Hisaronic gulf) to SE. The island of Simi to starboard offers protection from the meltemi; we use the power of the boat for a fast yet comfortable ride past Kizil Burnu and round the headland at Karaburun with its lighthouse.





Rounding Karaburun headland

This night we stay at Bozuk Bükü, there are three restaurants and we choose the simple looking Sailors House. The people are very friendly, but the food is average and the price for dinner for two of TRL100 is on the high side compared to others we had been before. Maybe the reason is lack of road access to this cove, or maybe it's just very popular with yachting folks and gulets? No electricity or water available, anyway this is no issue to us.



Bozuk cove (ancient Loryma) with fortifications



Bozuk cove looking N



Restaurant Sailors House' jetty in Bozuk cove

Friday 13 June

In the morning we explore the bay on land, but find walking difficult due to rocky grounds and no paths.



Rocks at the entrance of Bozuk cove looking N

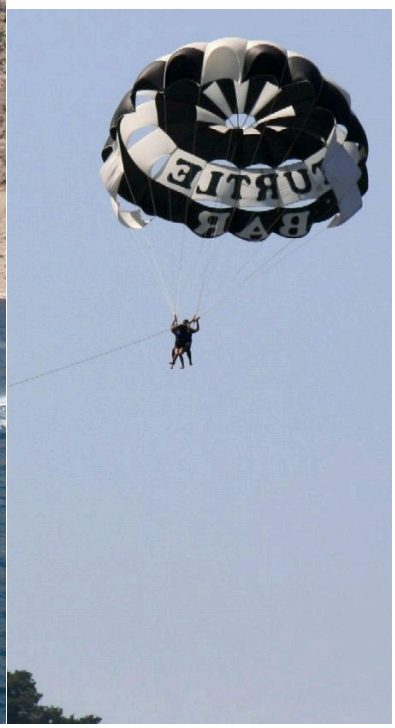


only few gulets actually use their sails

On the way back to Marmaris we have a brief look into the rocky cove Serce Koyu which appears to be a protected anchorage with mooring buoys to restaurants in the Northern part.

Going further NE, past the Kadirga Burnu headland and closer to Marmaris, we try to anchor in Kumlu Bükü, a large bay, partially built up. Gulets have taken the spaces in the SE corner in front of wooded slopes using shorelines; further South and Centre there does not appear to be good holding ground, but there is a hotel with a jetty. The anchor picks up rubbish. We don't find the place inviting and move up North to Turunc Bükü, a built up bay, with a large hotel and beach occupying the South corner which once would have been an anchorage. In the West is a busy quay for trip boats, we anchor in some distance in front of it and, over lunch, watch the hustle and bustle of coming and going trip boats and water activities.





Anchored at Turunc bay. Closer to Marmaris the usual tourist water sports entertainments are available

After lunch we leave for Marmaris. Crossing the wide bay, the sight of bleak concrete hotels all along the Western shores up to Marmaris town is not attractive; the Eastern and Southern sides of the bay have luckily been spared from such development. Marmaris town quay is overflowing with gulets; we arrive at the Marina fuel pontoon at 4pm.

Refuelling and handing back the boat go smoothly; by 7 pm we get into the taxi to catch a late evening flight to London.

REVIEW

Crew: Jane and Wilhelm. On Wednesday and Thursday joined by Catherine and Sevket.

Boat: Rodman 41 flybridge motor yacht (LOA about 13.5m/44ft, 2x 430hp Diesel engines), chartered from Sunshine Cruising at Marmaris.

It was our first cruise on the Turkish coast; the purpose was to explore this part of the Mediterranean and to meet friends who own a holiday home in the region.

Yachting in Turkey seems mainly based on sailing yachts and the ubiquitous (skippered) gulets.

Gulets do not seem to use the smaller restaurants for overnight stays so there does not appear to be too much conflict or fighting for spaces. However, several anchorages are occupied by gulets, and there must be more in high season.

Our boat was mostly the only motor-yacht among sailing yachts on jetties; Diesel fuel prices in Turkey are high, at Marmaris we paid TRL 3.36 (£1.41) per litre. Anyhow, climate, wind conditions and coast line are very suitable for motor cruising.

We were lucky and had warm sunny weather with blue skies all week. Day time high temperatures around 30 deg C, rising towards the end of the week; night low temperatures around 20 deg C. The only few drops of rain we saw were inland when going back to Dalaman airport.

Always be aware and protect yourself against the strength of the sun.

WIND : The meltemi got up regularly around lunch time, reaching its maximum at 4 or 5pm in the afternoon and dying down in the evening around 8pm allowing for calm nights. In the middle of the week it was stronger, about 5 bf, less towards the end. In our cruising area it raises a Westerly swell following the coast lines, which can cause an uncomfortable ride and spray if going against it in the later afternoons.

We found the local people, in particular the restaurant people who double as marinaios during the day, very helpful. The food was usually good and reasonably priced, with fresh salads, vegetables and fruit. It is generally more based on meat than on fish, we noted that some fish is farmed in the area which makes for poor quality. The white wines we tried were simple but dry, and better than we had expected from descriptions. I was concerned about the quality of the tap water, so we only used bottled or chlorinated water. We did not experience any digestion issues; maybe my concerns were unnecessary.

Distances (in nm):

7 June Demo run in Marmaris bay; Marmaris- Ciftlik: 15.8

8 June Ciftlik - Bozburun: 31.8

9 June Bozburun - Dirsek - Orhaniye: 20.5

10 June Orhaniye- Bencik - Kurucu: 16.5

11 June Kurucu - (various bays) - Selimye: 19.5

12 June Selimiye - (various bays) - Kurucu: 17.2 Kurucu- Bozuk: 17.0

13 June Bozuk - Turunc: 25.8 Turunc - Marmaris 6.2

Total mileage covered in this week 170 nm

End of log Turkey cruise 2008