



GOCEK | TURKEY



Travel
with Tashels

A FEW THINGS TO KNOW (IN MY HUMBLE OPINION)



How to get there?

The easiest way to get there is to fly into Dalaman (a 45 minute flight from Istanbul). You will need to catch a taxi from Dalaman to Gocek, around 30-40 mins depending on traffic (and driver).



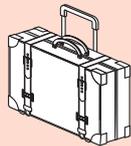
How does the currency fare to Rands?

The local currency is Turkish Lira - and life in Gocek is pretty affordable. You can have a Flat White for TRY 32.00 (ZAR 34.00). 1 TRY = 0.94 ZAR (26.04.22)



When is the best time of year to go?

The summer months are typically May-Sept. However, I love the off-season times - April and October. The prices are lower, it's not as hot and there are not as many people. April and October can be quite windy and have a slight chill.



Any extras you should pack?

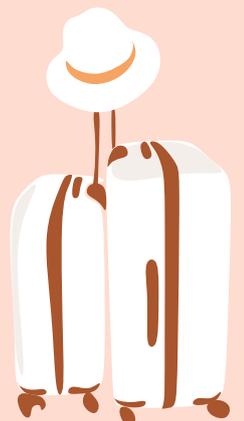
There is some wonderful snorkelling around the islands - so pack a mask and snorkel. Also, if you love hiking like me, a good pair of grippy hiking shoes would be a good idea! It can be very rocky.



Food you must try?

I love the mezze (ALL OF IT), the sea bream, the hummus, I tried and loved the sugar free Turkish delight.

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WHERE I STAYED....



GOCEK VILLAGE

I really enjoyed staying in the centre of the village to get the feel of the place. However, i have also stayed a little out of the village and enjoyed that too. I think it depends on the type of holiday you are after. The centre can get noisy and busy..



ACOMMODATION

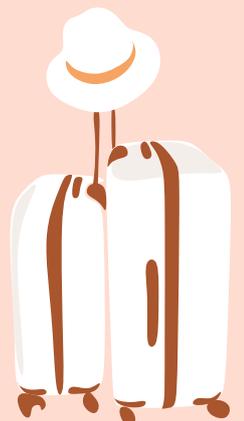
EPOCASA:

I absolutely loved staying in this stylish and central apartment. The apartments are done in a minimalist scandi style. I love the fact that they have a fully equipped kitchen. The light pours into the rooms, the ceilings are high, they are super clean, the showers have really goos pressure and the beds are super comfy. You are in the centre of the town, so you can hear the rumble of the night life, but I didn't find it disturbing. With a small balcony overlooking the village, you feel fully immersed in it. I loved staying here. The owner, Oktay, is always around for a tea and a chat. He has a really beautiful cafe underneath, where he serves delicious homemade cakes, teas and coffee. It iw a very lovely meeting point for interesting and engaged people.

RIXOS:

If you want something quite fancy, I really loved the room I stayed in at Rixos, the resort is safe, kid friendly, family friendly, romantic and luxurious. There are many private restaurants around. There are tennis courts, a private beach club and some really nice swimming pools. The room was super comfortable, quiet and clean. The staff were incredibly helpful and as far as resort accomodation goes, it was a wonderful experience.

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WHERE I ATE....



COFFEE SHOPS

MOC COFFEE

I love my time spending drinking the most delicious locally roasted coffee here at Moc, they have such a wonderful outside seating area, surrounded by grass and overlooking the bustle of the coastline. They do delicious Cold Brew too.

EPOCA.FE

Epocafe is beneath Epocasa and linked to the carpet shop. Oktay, the owner, has paid a lot of attention to curating the best beans, and designing a space where you feel like you want to take your shoes off and kick back for the afternoon. The greenery spills out of the light wooden space while the delicious aromas of coffee tempt you to sit for one more. And another cake. The staff are amazing and friendly.

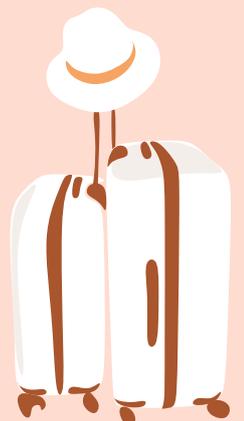


TURKISH DELIGHT

SERVET

It is so beautiful to enter a space that smells like the sweet flavours of Turkish Delight, it is even better with there are delicious teas and Lokum tastings. My Turkish Delight knowledge was super limited before coming to Turkey and I thought the only type was that sugar-dusted Rose Water one our grannies had at Christmas in South Africa. How wrong I was, sweet. In fact there are so many different flavors and ways, they are all insanely sweet! But Servet has mastered the art and the store is so beautifully designed, with delicious dried fruits, confectionary, teas, and homemade cosmetics lining the walls. Esme is lovely to talk to and the experience is well worth the visit.

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WHERE I ATE....



RESTAURANTS

OZCAN

It has the most impressive array of mezze options and is one of the only places that has brown rolls to go with all the dips. And seriously, the mezze is so good you need to be careful that you don't fill up too much that you miss out on their specialty - FISH. Funny story, I filled up every time I ate there and I ate there a lot! So I never had their fish, but everyone told me it's the best.

Q-LOUNGE

This has my NUMBER one restaurant rating in GOCEK - because the views are to die for. It is nestled in the trees on top of a cliff, overlooking all the islands and the coast of Gocek. Going there for a sunset dinner is totally dreamy. And while the views are exceptional, the food lives up to the atmosphere. Asian fusion with delicious cocktails, I would say this is a must-do at least once. It is one of the more pricey ones in Gocek, but in my opinion, worth the dosh.

D-BREEZE

While Q-Lounge wins my fancy pants award in Gocek, D-breeze wins my favorite restaurant award for more regular eating. It is relaxed, right on the water, the service is SO good, the wine is varied and delicious and the food is so good. I love the setting so much, all sides of the restaurant are open to the elements and if you are one of the lucky ones, you can even get seated on the pier jutting out into the water. Take the waiters' advice and let them bring you whatever is the most fresh. Lean in, enjoy!

FLORA

A quaint and beautifully decorated humble restaurant close to Skopea Marina that does local cuisine really well and with such a great, smiley, and homely atmosphere. The prices are so good and they had a really lovely local live musician when we were there (April 2022).

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WHERE I ATE....



RESTAURANTS

CAESAR-ET LOUNGE

If you would like something a little less busy and off the main drag, Caesar is so good. Typically a meat restaurant - they have a range of really good red meat and hamburger options that the rest of my party really enjoyed. However, I had the Haloumi salad and Sea bream a number of times and LOVE the choice. Really beautiful interior design with an open roof top for when the weather is good.

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BLUES

A really lovely well suited restaurant in the middle of the buzz of the promenade walk in the main area of Gocek. Shaded by the many trees around it, it's a wonderful space to enjoy a long lazy lunch or cozy dinner. They have an extensive menu - with some very lovely fish and salad options. I also really enjoyed their chocolate souffle. The prices are so reasonable and although the staff don't speak the best English, they are friendly.

WEST CAFE

A very popular Sunday afternoon restaurant, where all the families go, situated right next to Blues and also under the trees. I would spend my time rotating between the two restaurants. Both have similar menus but each offer something slightly different. West even have sushi that some of our crew loved. But, I loved their Haloumi Bowl and their falafel was so good! My favorite in the area.

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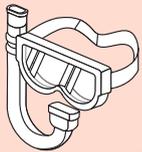


WHAT DID I GET UP TO?



BLUE POINT BEACH

An incredible beach that is part of the D-Resort. But, secret, if you go super early, before they start setting up, you can have the most beautiful sunrise views over all the islands surrounding you. It is exquisite. But, during summer season, there is a cost to be there.



BOAT TRIP

I really think you should spend the money on a boat trip around the islands. We hired a boat for the day and had so much fun jumping from island to island, snorkeling along the way. We took our own food and drinks, but there are various packages, depending on what you want and can afford. There are endless options!



HIKING

We did a couple of hikes around the area, but I think if we had had someone who knew the mountains better we would have had far more incredible experiences. So, I would do some research when you are there and see if you can explore the mountains around the area. They are so beautiful (I know this from a motor bike trip I did).



HAMMAM

You have to try a turkish Hammam while here. I went to D-Spa and had the hammam and deep tissue massage with Cadec. She is amazing. DO IT.

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