

ALANYA MARINA



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N 36° 33.2' E 031° 57.1'

Approach

The marina breakwater will be seen to the west of the long beach extending west from Kaleardi Br, the high promontory on which Alanya Castle sits. The marina entrance is 2.3nm NW of the point, below some bluffs that extend down to the shore. The water shallows at some distance from the shore, and it is best to approach from the SSE to keep clear of confused water close to the breakwater, turning towards the west as you get inside the line of the breakwater. The southernmost breakwater has a red port hand light flashing 5sec while the inner breakwater has a green starboard light flashing 5secs. The inner mole is well inside the harbour, so the starboard light may appear from seaward to lie to the left of the port light. Call the marina on its working channel, channel 73 VHF.

Charge Rates

A rate calculator can be found on the marina's web site, and a 10% discount is available to CA members. Rates ashore are as for in the water, but lifting charges need to be considered. It is intended to charge (moderately) for water and electricity, although no charges are being made at the moment.

Locality

Alanya Marina lies approximately 4.5 kilometres west of Alanya town centre, 64 nautical miles ESE of Antalya, and 78 nm ENE across Antalya Bay from Taslik Burnu. The distance from Antalya airport, which lies just to the north east of Antalya, is approximately 80 miles (130 km), a journey made tedious by many traffic lights. A local taxi arranged through the marina office charges 110TL, airport taxis charge 80 euros or 170TL. There is a regular bus service, costing 14TL per person, but a taxi is necessary from the main road into the airport for around 10TL.

Alanya town is a moderately large (120,000 pop.) cosmopolitan town, with a range of services (and an extensive sanayi area) available. Although much of its income is now derived from tourism, it was originally an agriculturally based town, so does not die in winter. The port area with the old buildings including the extensive 6km long castle fortifications and Red Tower provide interest. It enjoys a warmer and dryer climate than the coast further west, and its position in Antalya bay ensures that most of the stronger winds pass by.

There is scope for cruising east and west along the coast, particularly in settled weather, and it is a good starting point for a cruise to Cyprus or other middle eastern destinations.

Staff

The marina has in place a team of friendly and welcoming staff. The General Manager is Oktay Yurtsever, and Hasan Kacmaz is advising and promoting the marina in the role of co-ordinator.

Security

Access to the site from the road is via a gatehouse that is continuously manned. A high retaining wall runs between the marina and the main Antalya road, and the yard is fenced off from the access road. Staff are present around the yard and pontoons, as well as on the gate. There is a separately controlled and fenced retail area at the marina entrance.

Shelter

Although the marina would appear to be well sheltered, with adequate breakwaters, there is a serious issue with swell. Even moderate southerly and south westerly winds create seas that send a swell into the entrance of the marina, and this then sets up a surge affecting the pontoons and the moored yachts. It is thought that this swell is caused by seas reflected off a rocky bluff opposite the marina entrance. The surge has resulted in minor damage and can make boarding hazardous. Life afloat can become uncomfortable with only moderate south/southwesterly swell outside.

Studies are in hand by experts from the government and Middle East Technical University engineers to identify a means of mitigating the swell, but no committed plan is yet in place. It is hoped that these works will be agreed and undertaken by the government shortly.

Construction progress

The major works for the marina, the breakwaters themselves, were carried out in 2006, under government auspices. A consortium of local investors is developing the marina facilities, commenced in 2008 and now due to be completed for the 2010 sailing season.

Present status

The marina hosted the Vasco de Gama and EMYR rallies in 2009, and has attracted a number of boats for the winter season 2009/10. There are approximately 100 boats (of the planned capacity of 200) on the hard, and 34 yachts (mostly sailing boats) afloat, of which around 24 are liveaboard. The marina offices, washrooms, laundry room, and storage facilities are complete. The first 3 of 9 planned 'hotel' rooms are in commission

A yacht clubhouse and its associated restaurant building are being internally fitted out and are planned to be in operation by May 2010. There is ongoing work on the electrical supply, and one pontoon remains to be equipped. The site is being planted and landscaped.

Alanya council are also engaged in building retaining walls and other landscaping works on the adjacent beach.

Services

The marina office will arrange (free of charge) for the completion of formalities.

The marina has a 100-ton travel lift, able to accommodate boats up to 7.8m in beam. Oktay Yurtsever has a marine engineering background built up in marinas over many years and is assisted by a qualified Technical Manager. Oktay and his team can assist in arranging for any services that might be required, including electrical work, gelcoat and paint systems. A diesel engine specialist is available locally, but while there is a limited market for recreational yachting in the area, many skills need to be outsourced when required. A range of workshop

buildings are available, including a machine shop with turning, milling and welding capability.

A Marmaris (300km) sailmaker is servicing sails from some of the yachts, and there is also a sail repair shop in Antalya'

Regular dolmus services to town stop outside the marina, and only cost 1TL each way. The marina provides transport twice a week to market, and monthly to the sanayi and Metro cash and carry. There is a Migros supermarket 30 minutes walk away.

Retail services

A small 'marina market' shop is open, with as yet limited stocks, so that it is still necessary to go to town for most supplies. (Nearest supermarket is Migros, approx 2km along the beach by bus, on foot or cycle). Many other supermarkets, Metro cash and carry, hardware stores etc. are available in Alanya.

The chandlery is operated by a group (www.collu.com.tr) with shops in Finike, Kemer and Antalya as well as Alanya. Stocks held at Alanya are restricted, and many yachts source goods from Marmaris, Gocek or Istanbul.

There are approximately 20 retail units as yet unlet.

Diesel fuel available by arrangement from mini tanker.

Note: 'Camping gas' and other foreign bottles cannot legitimately be refilled in Turkey: given some time the marina office can arrange for refills. Local bottles are to be preferred.

Recreational facilities

The cafe originally operated by the marina has now been let to a third party: it will offer snacks and drinks in an informal setting, and will also be open to the public. The building has been used by sailors as a meeting point and for their diverse activities, most of which may be transferred to the yacht club when it opens.

Other recreational facilities include two clay tennis courts, popular with the liveaboards, a petanque pitch, and an off-site barbeque area. A fitness centre is fitted with equipment and ready to open soon, run by a professional trainer. An outdoor swimming pool has been built adjacent to the yacht club, but has not yet been in operation (winter time). Good wifi is available free of charge and TV at the berth. Pleasant walking through the banana and orange groves opposite.

Conclusion

Alanya's principal attraction is its location close to, but not in Alanya town, the range of recreational facilities on offer, together with its climate. As yet it lacks the mature support infrastructure for yachting offering the choice that may be obtained in centres such as Marmaris, Gocek, and Bodrum. However, the marina staff are helpful and can arrange for most services. Boats may be securely laid up on the hard.

The major issue for someone intending to keep the boat in the water is the risk of swell under some conditions: careful attention to moorings is required.

John Walker

S/y Fuga, Alanya Marina

Restructured and revised 15th March 2010