

PLOES voyage 30th May to 5th June

Richard Oliver

As this was the first regular week of cruising out of Fethiye (and my first use of Ploes) I thought it would be worthwhile to make a record of our week.

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/place?ftid=0x14c0439b0db6b13b:0x87150704244f70d7&q=fethiye&gl=uk>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fethiye>

The crew for the week was changing in the last few days as an illness struck one of the families involved. The final crew list was Richard Oliver, Kathryn Oliver, Iain Carroll and Zosia Bredow. The changes necessitated last minute printing of the crew list, but you'll not be surprised that no Turkish authorities took any notice of us at all. But I guess we have to be safe rather than sorry.

I arrived at the boat 7pm on Friday, Kathryn and Iain, 2 am Saturday and Zosia 5pm Sat. By then we had made contact with Bill Brown who was a great help. He showed us to the Carrefour for the main shopping and a vegetable stall. During the week, we mainly ate on board. Next time, I'll bring some proper coffee to make use of the Espresso jug on board (also a filter and a thermos flask). Fresh milk (sut) is a premium but the butter milk and yoghurts kept well.

We had small dramas with electricity and water. The mains electricity was solved when we changed to a different outlet on shore. The water problem was that the tap was switched off. Enquiry at the marina office (generally they were very helpful) led to the explanation that as the gulleys steal the water, we have to buy a card. I objected and eventually we were given a card which may need to be used in the outlet pillar, although on this occasion the water was switched on by the marina.

We had a short shakedown cruise on Saturday afternoon, circumnavigating Fethiye Adasi. On arrival back at our berth we were "helped in" by the marinaro. Actually they got in the way – this seems a common problem. Bill has spoken to the office – "they are new".

<http://www.oceancharters.com/Destination/gocek-fethiye.htm>

Sunday – We set off by 1000 and had pleasant sail across the bay to the east – mostly NW2. We anchored in Kizilkuyruk in 8m with a line ashore in the southern side of the southern arm at 1500. This is a beautiful location with good snorkelling, cicadas, butterflies and spectacular grasshoppers. We walked up the path to the Temple of Lydae – an abandoned ruin set in a valley.

On the way out of Fethiye Bays, over on the right towards the Kurtoglu headland, Penny and Alex Walker like it here at this quiet anchorage..

<https://sail-friend.club/listings/kizilkuyruk-cove-anchorage/>

Monday, more light winds as we set off east heading towards Ekincik. We could have done with a spinnaker pole to hold the genoa out to windward so as to be able to steer downwind of 120° off the wind. The cruising chute was not much use as it's quite a bit smaller than the genoa. It could be useful in F4-5 if it was heavier. We had generally light winds all week, particularly between 1200 and 1600 and when further offshore. The following weeks forecast was lighter. The log wasn't working so I cleaned the impeller.

NOTE: Ekinick is about 20 miles to the east past the Dalyan River

I couldn't work out how to release the clutch of the anchor windlass so we ended up lowering the first 10m by hand and then using the windlass to release the next 20-30 m. Bill said he'd look at this.

We anchored for lunch and swimming in the NW corner of Disibilimez Koyu. A very pretty spot, but not one I'd pick for an overnight as the bay is very open. We moved on in the afternoon to Ekincik and moored at the My Marina (30 TL). Water, electricity and OK showers. We found that the domestic batteries never really got recharged from the alternator, so in practice I think most people will need to stop at a place with electricity once or even twice in a week to get a full recharge. We also had used $\frac{3}{4}$ of our water so that need refilling. We learnt to be more restrained from now on. We ate at the spectacular but pricey restaurant. We were troubled by mozzies in the night. We have left some DEET on the boat. Ekincik is the place to get boat trips up the Dalyan river. Given light winds again, we'd take that opportunity.

Tuesday. We motored across the bay and anchored for food shopping in the market in Ekincik. This is a very secure and large swinging anchorage, though it gets crowded in high summer. 1320 and off again motoring and sailing towards Ciftlik. We were delayed by a Coast Guard boat. They warned us to keep clear of the firing range and then even insisted we sail back East until it was all over. We had heard firing in the morning but nothing during this period. Effectively we were forced to retrace our route, which put us back about 3-4 hours sailing time. When we got to Ciftlik, we moored stern to with lazy lines to the Rafet Baba restaurant's jetty. Here the deal is that the mooring with water, showers (sort of electricity – I recharged a phone but didn't feel like connecting up the boat) is free as long as you eat at the restaurant. The food and atmosphere were fine and reasonably priced. The bay had a 1 meter swell despite the light winds. Getting on and off the gangplank was fun. The hotel was also noisy until about 12 pm.

Wednesday. After some reversing and mooring practice we headed off in more light SE winds to Serce. This was my favourite anchorage. We were helped to anchor with line ashore by a local. He wasn't keen for us to use his moorings as we said we didn't plan to eat out.

Later snorkelling showed that the mooring lines were pretty frayed in places. Serce is a large Y shaped anchorage with restaurants at either end. We were in the N arm, which also has a fishing fleet, a market and a local boatyard. I was intrigued by what I took to be grafted olive trees – part of an intensively farmed vista. Boats selling bread and vegies came round in the morning. We watched a cormorant fishing. Considered an overnight sail but winds were still too light.

Thursday – Heading for home – about 50 miles to cover. A reasonable breeze in the morning died away although we could see boats sailing closer inshore. SW2 at most dropped in the mid part of the day and only picked up again around 4. A distinct w current of 0.5 knots or so didn't help our slow progress. Highlight was an encounter with a jumping marlin (or similar) easily 4ft long it jumped clear 3 times 40 or so meters away. It was getting close to 8 pm by the time we rounded the point so we headed for the now familiar Kizilkuyruk and anchored in the southern arm.

Friday – better winds today SW3 at times and more between the islands of Skopea. We had late breakfast in Kagi Creek. This is a very pleasant bustling spot. It would be a safe and convenient overnight spot. We took advantage to the stronger winds to experience practice tacking and gybing and then moved on to Sarsala for further swimming. This last bay was too deep for easy anchoring but we eventually found a spot. We sailed back across the bay to Ece Saray by 7. Again the marinaro got in the way as we first fuelled up and then returned to out mooring.

<http://www.pupa.com.tr/gulets/Routes/Go-Fet-Go.doc>

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/3318262>

We cleaned up the boat and two left on the A2B transfer at 1130 pm and the other two at 1130 am the next day.

These transfers seem very tight – < 2 hours from flight time, and 1 hour travel time but they got us there all right. It's worth recording the phone number, a 20 minutes delay could be stressful.

7 Nights

Motoring hours 13 – 27 litres of fuel.

Log miles 155..

Pretty much everything on the boat we used worked fine. We lost and replaced the bucket. The gas bottle still had plenty in so I left it.

Things to consider installing – spinnaker pole; larger cruising chute, pushpit-mounted mooring line reel, electric kettle.