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MAGAZINE

ISSUE 6 - SUMMER 2025 - FREE COPY



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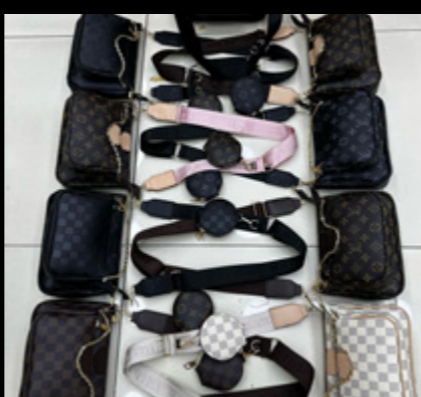


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WELCOME TO ISSUE 6

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Merhaba! I'm Craig, the guy behind Dad Loves Food, and I'm excited to welcome you to our biggest issue yet. This time, we're featuring more local businesses than ever—from clothes and bags to food spots and even dentists. Whatever you're looking for, you'll find it here.

A little tip: travel light on your way over, because Marmaris is packed with bargains. Buy enough clothes and you might even score a free suitcase from Best Bargain Buys when you spend over £300. Most airlines make it easy to add extra luggage online (trust me, I do it all the time—even when border control tries to slow me down).

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN MARMARIS

Jan:	14°
Feb:	15°
Mar:	17°
Apr:	21°
May:	25°
Jun:	29°
Jul:	33°
Aug:	33°
Sep:	30°
Oct:	25°
Nov:	21°
Dec:	16°

Foodies are in for a treat: this issue is loaded with my top picks for places to eat. Try them out and let me know what you think—I always want to hear your feedback.

This season feels a bit quieter, which actually works in our favour. You'll get faster service, find a sunbed without the usual hunt, and enjoy that famous Turkish hospitality. There are some new rules this year: shops now display prices and keep clothes inside, so don't be shy—go in and have a browse. Bars and restaurants are also turning off music at midnight and closing up, so if you want a night out, just start a bit earlier. It's all about making the area even more family-friendly.

For those chill evenings, keep an eye out—I'm working on a new online ordering app just for British tourists. Soon, you'll be able to order food for delivery or collection, all in English.

Most importantly, enjoy everything Marmaris has to offer. Don't get caught up in the negative headlines or clickbait on social media. I love Türkiye, and while prices have gone up (like everywhere), there are still plenty of bargains—I'll be sharing the best finds across all my channels.

Thanks for joining me on this journey. Dive in, explore, and let's make some great memories (and meals) together.

Dad Loves Food x

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Jetting off to Sunny Marmaris? Make your trip stress-free with our ultimate holiday checklist—just tick off as you pack but don't forget to leave space as you'll be coming back with more clothes than you went with!

Before You Go:

- Download your copy of Sunny Marmaris.
- Passport: Valid for the entire stay with one blank page and with at least 5 months remaining once you leave the EU.
- Visa: Not required for British citizens for up to 90 days in Turkey.
- Travel Insurance: Comprehensive coverage for peace of mind. (QR Code Below)
- E-Sims: Get your Dad Loves Food E-Sim to keep you connected. (QR Code Below)
- Currency: British Pounds and change with Chucky for a better exchange rate.
- Flight Tickets: Check in online and print or download your boarding passes.
- Transfer: Book Avisos VIP via WhatsApp +90532 275 75 05.

Packing Essentials:

- Clothing: Light and airy outfits for the day, cozy layers for cool evenings.
- Swimwear: For those inviting Mediterranean waters.
- Sun Protection: High SPF sunscreen, hats, mosquito repellent - plug-ins, spray or wristband and sunglasses.
- Medication: Any personal prescriptions plus travel sickness pills if needed.
- Electronics: Chargers, adapters (Turkey uses Type F sockets), and don't forget your straighteners ladies!

At the Airport:

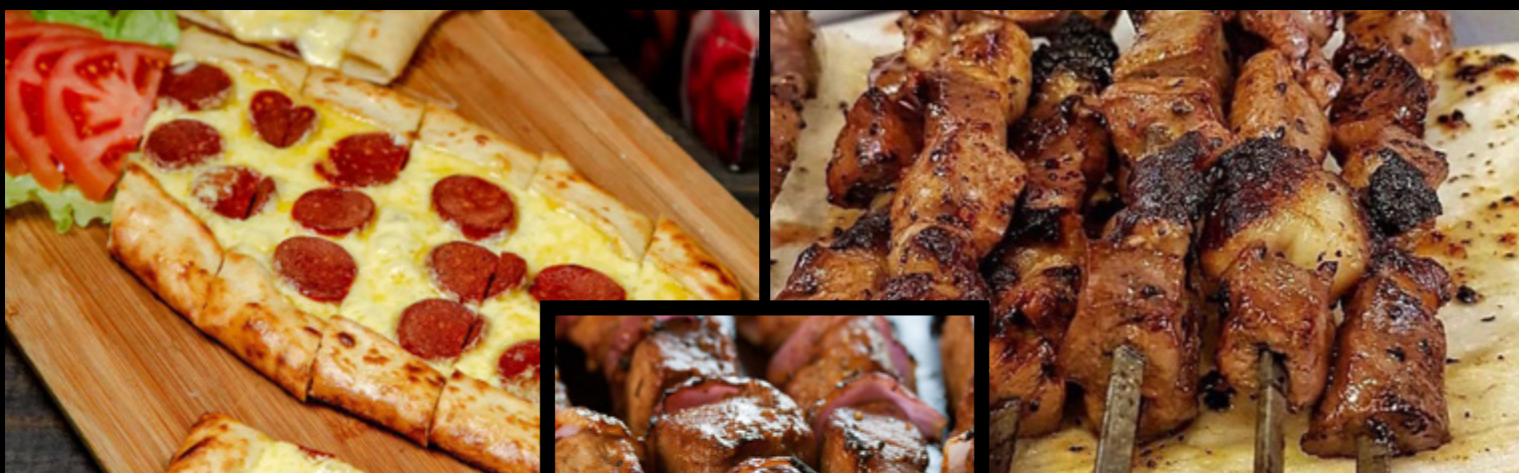
- Liquids in Hand Luggage: Containers up to 100ml in a clear, resealable plastic bag.
- Security Checks: Have electronics easily accessible for screening.
- Duty-Free: Know your allowances to take advantage of airport shopping.

Check these off your list, and you're ready for an unforgettable Marmaris adventure. Safe travels!

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BARGAINS AND BIG SUITCASES

If you know me, you'll know I love a good haggle—why pay full price if you can save a few quid? Marmaris is a shopper's paradise, with more clothes shops than you can shake a kebab at. There's something for every budget, from bargain T-shirts to designer goods, and half the fun is in the banter with the traders.

I've got my favourite trusted shops (and yes, building a bit of rapport over the years helps), but don't just take my word for it—get out there and explore. Every street is packed with options, and you never know where you'll find your next wardrobe favourite.

The golden rule? If the price isn't right, just walk away. Don't let anyone pressure you into buying something you don't want. Hagglng isn't just allowed here—it's expected, and it's all part of the Marmaris shopping experience. But if you prefer a straight-up deal, places like Best Bargain Buys and Zeyn's have everything priced up, so you can shop without the back-and-forth.

At the end of the day, we're all here for a good time—sunshine, cold drinks, and shopping until our suitcases are bursting at the seams. So get stuck in, have a laugh, and see what treasures you can find. Happy shopping!



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KEBABS

Urfa Kebab: Mild, juicy minced lamb or beef, grilled on skewers. Great for those who want flavour without the heat... **Adana Kebab:** Like Urfa, but spicy—more chilli, more fire. For anyone who likes it hot.

Döner: Thin slices of beef or chicken cooked on a vertical spit, shaved into bread, wraps, or served on a plate with rice and salad. The original “kebab” that inspired late-night UK takeaways.

Beyti: Minced meat kebab (usually lamb), wrapped in flatbread, sliced, and served with tomato sauce and yoghurt. Proper comfort food.

İskender: Slices of döner meat over cubes of bread, topped with hot tomato sauce, melted butter, and yoghurt. A real sit-down meal—bring your appetite.



MEZE & BREAD

Meze & Turkish Bread

Meze Turkish tapas—small plates to share. Try hummus, spicy ezme, herby yoghurt (haydari), stuffed vine leaves, grilled aubergine, and more.

Turkish Bread: Expect fresh bread with every meal. Pide (soft, oval bread), simit (sesame rings), or simple white bread—perfect for scooping up meze.

DRINKS

Ayran: Cold, salty yoghurt drink. Locals love it with kebabs or spicy food. Refreshing—give it a go.

Raki: Turkey's famous anise-flavoured spirit. Turns milky white with water. Sipped slowly with meze and fish, especially during long evening meals.

Çay (Turkish Tea): Strong, black, and always hot—served in tulip glasses. Locals drink it all day, usually without milk.

ORDERING LIKE A LOCAL

Ordering: Menus often have pictures, but don't be shy—ask what's good or point at dishes you see on other tables. Turkish people do it too!

Sharing: Order a mix of meze for the table. Sharing is the norm.

Customising: Want your kebab less spicy? Say “Az acılı, lütfen” (less spicy, please). Prefer rice to chips? Just ask.

Asking for the Bill: The bill won't arrive until you ask. Say “Hesap lütfen” (heh-SAP loot-fen) or make a writing gesture in the air.

Who's Serving You?

A lot of the restaurant and bar staff in Marmaris's tourist areas are from the eastern part of Turkey. They bring their own food traditions and hospitality, so don't be surprised if you're recommended something you've never heard of—take their advice and try it!

TOP PICKS FOR TURKISH FOOD

Memed Ocakbasi (Marmaris):

Classic Turkish BBQ, open grill, and a favourite with locals.

MERT Döner (Icmeler):

Top spot for döner—great value, always fresh.

Koncaoglu (Icmeler):

Traditional Turkish meals, big portions, fair prices.

Kayra (Icmeler):

Family-friendly, tasty grills and authentic sides.

EnBaba Döner (opposite Zeyns):

Another döner spot that's hard to beat for taste and price.

Rota Barış Usta (Marmaris):

A must-try doner kebab spot for any doner lover.

And honestly, there are loads more hidden Turkish gems around town. If you discover a new favourite, let me know for the next issue! The Turkish really know how to BBQ—don't miss out.

FINAL TIPS

- Try something new each time, whether it's a different kebab, a new meze, or a local dessert.
- Finish your meal with a glass of çay.
- If you want to say thank you, “Teşekkürler” (teh-shehk-kur-ler) always works.

If you're anything like me, a holiday isn't complete without hunting down the best desserts in town. Whether you're into classic Turkish sweets or just want a mountain of waffles and chocolate, Marmaris and Icmeler are packed with options that won't empty your wallet.

First up, you can't talk about desserts in Turkey without mentioning the classics. Baklava is the big one—layers of flaky pastry, chopped nuts, and sweet syrup. It's everywhere, and you'll never get bored of it. Künefe is another must-try, especially if you like your desserts hot and cheesy (literally—a stretchy, sweet cheese filling, crispy pastry on top, and plenty of syrup). Sütlaç (Turkish rice pudding) is a lighter option, usually served cold and dusted with cinnamon. And don't forget lokma—little fried dough balls, soaked in syrup and perfect for sharing (or not, if you're like me).

If you're in Icmeler, Wapakuu is a top spot for desserts and sweet snacks. They've recently moved and are now right next door to Migros, just a bit further down from Best Bargain Buys. It's still the same great place, just a new address. While you're in Icmeler old town, check out Waffle House. They've got all the toppings you could want—fresh fruit, chocolate, sauces, and more. It's a proper treat after a day at the beach.

Over in Marmaris, Chico Waffle House is a favourite for locals and tourists. They're serving up fresh, tasty waffles and desserts that hit the spot every time. Whether you want something piled high with chocolate or just a simple, classic waffle, they've got you covered.

Last night, I had what might be the best dessert spread yet at Bodrum Pasta Evi. Between four of us, we ordered a table full of desserts and drinks, and the bill only came to around £20. The quality and variety were unreal—cakes, pastries, and all sorts of sweet treats. For a bit of fun, I also picked up a bar of Dubai chocolate for £9. Pricy for chocolate, but worth a try if you want something different. I've got a feeling Bodrum Pasta Evi will be getting a lot more of my business this summer.

Marmaris and Icmeler are brilliant for anyone with a sweet tooth. You can go traditional with Turkish desserts or dive into waffles and cakes at local favourites. Best of all, you get top quality and big portions for your money. If you've got a dessert spot you reckon I should try next, let me know—I'm always on the lookout for the next sugar fix.



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If you're in Marmaris and want to make the most of your evening, the area around the Marina has everything you need for a great night out. The Marina itself is well worth the walk—lined with quality restaurants, it's a spot where you can get a good meal without the usual tourist mark-up. Whether you fancy a proper Turkish kebab, a steak, fresh seafood, or something more international, you'll find plenty of choice. Café Baris is always a solid bet (pints were about £2 all season in 2024), and other favourites like Café Dubai, Big Chef, and Gusta Bar & Grill are right in the mix. The atmosphere is lively, and you can sit outside and watch the boats come and go.

Just before you reach the Marina, you'll see the famous Dancing Fountains—one of Marmaris' best free attractions. Every evening at around 9:00 PM, the fountains put on a show with water, lights, and music, drawing big crowds of both locals and tourists. It's a proper spectacle and a real highlight for families, with kids and adults stopping to watch the display. It's easy to fit into your plans—just turn up, and enjoy.

Right across the road from the Dancing Fountains, you'll spot the last remaining McDonald's in Marmaris. It's handy if you're after a quick bite or need to keep the kids happy, and it's a bit of a landmark now that so many others have closed down across Turkey.

Next to the fountains, you've got the Grand Bazaar—a massive indoor market packed with shops. You can spend ages here browsing everything from clothes and bags to souvenirs, jewellery, and Turkish sweets. It's a great place to pick up gifts or just window shop before heading to dinner or the fountain show.

All in all, this part of Marmaris is perfect if you want a night out that ticks all the boxes—good food, free entertainment, and loads of shopping. Everything's close together, so you can stroll from the Bazaar to the fountains, grab a meal by the Marina, and take in the atmosphere. It's the side of Marmaris that keeps people coming back year after year.




Find Us At Marmaris Marina



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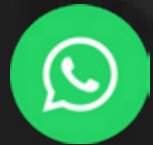
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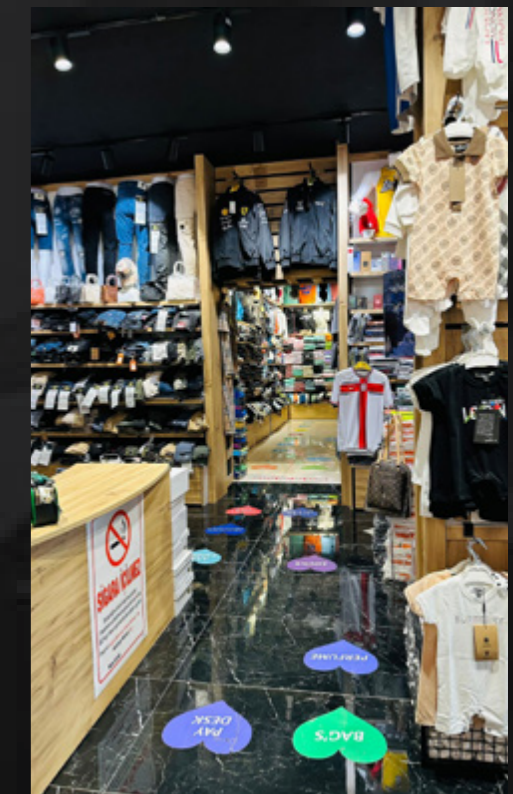
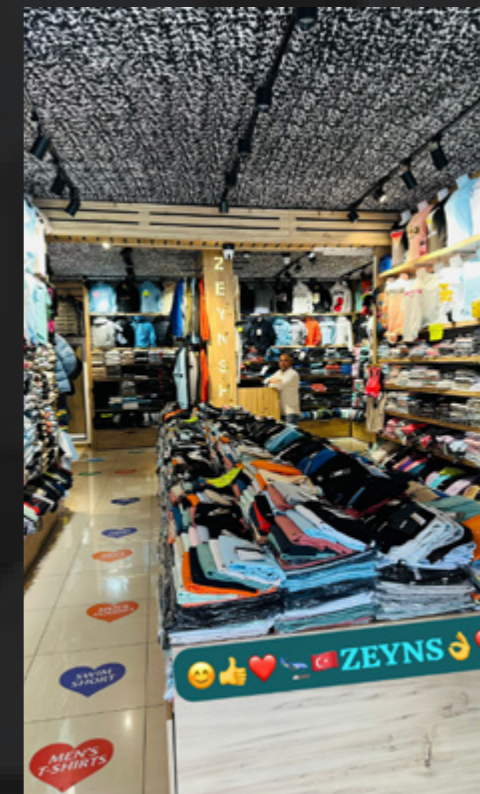
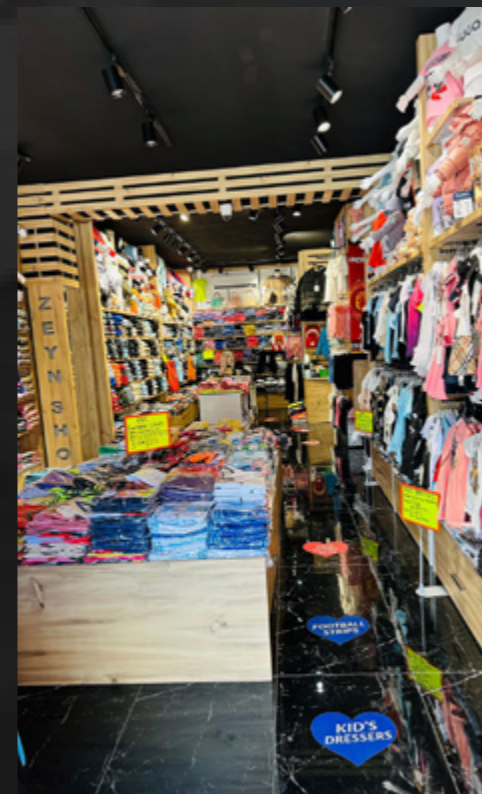
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Late on June 3rd, Icmeler experienced something few of us will ever forget—a powerful earthquake that shook the town awake. I was at Avlu 1 Apart when it hit. At first, we weren't sure what was happening, but the shaking, banging door, and rattling windows made it clear fast. It was my first earthquake, and honestly, it was frightening. Instinct kicked in—I grabbed Rochelle and Teddy and held on, hoping it would pass quickly.

It lasted less than a minute but felt like forever. We waited it out, unsure of what to do. Thankfully, there was no damage—just relief and a flood of messages as everyone checked in. The next morning, the town was buzzing. Locals and tourists alike said they'd never felt anything like it before.

I want to reassure visitors: Icmeler and the surrounding area are generally very safe. I've been visiting for over five years and never experienced anything like this. Earthquakes here are rare.

Official reports confirmed it was a 5.8 magnitude quake at 2:17 am, felt across Marmaris, Icmeler, and even parts of Greece. While our area was unharmed, sadly, a 14-year-old girl in Fethiye passed away after suffering a panic attack. Our thoughts are with her family.

Turkey lies on active fault lines, but the southwest coast—especially Marmaris and Icmeler—sees far fewer strong quakes compared to other regions. Most are mild and unnoticed.

If You Ever Experience an Earthquake:

- Stay indoors if you're inside—drop, cover, and hold on.
- Avoid windows and heavy objects.
- Don't rush outside during shaking—it's when most injuries happen.
- If outside, move to an open space away from buildings and power lines.
- Check for injuries and hazards once the shaking stops and be prepared for aftershocks.

We're incredibly grateful there was no damage here—just a lot of nerves and a moment that reminded us how precious and resilient our beautiful corner of Turkey really is.



It's not huge, but it's worth a look if you want a quick history hit.

Meet Mama Castle

Just down a side street from the main castle (easy to find—walk up the side of Cafe Baris from the marina), you'll find Mama Castle and her daughter. They greet everyone with a smile, and their shop is packed with cheap souvenirs—magnets, keyrings, honey, you name it. Ted loves visiting her, and we always end up leaving with a bag of gifts to bring home. It's a proper Marmaris tradition.

Old Town & Bar Street: More Than Just History

The Old Town is full of narrow streets, local shops, and proper Turkish food spots. Don't skip Bar Street if you want a lively night out—bars stay open late, and there's always something going on.

Quick Info

- *Where:* 30. Sokak No: 54, Tepe Mahallesi, Marmaris, 48700, Türkiye
- *Entry Fee (2024):* 30 Turkish lira (free with Müzekart+)

Final Word

Walk up from the marina, check out the castle, pop in to see Mama, and grab a bite in the Old Town. Stand on those walls and picture the sailors and traders who've been here before you. It's classic Marmaris—no fuss, just good memories.

If you're in Marmaris, the Old Town isn't just a pretty backdrop—it's the real heart of the place. And no trip is complete without a visit to the famous Mama Castle. Every time I'm here, I make a point of stopping by, and I'm glad to see more travelers catching on.

Marmaris Castle: Straightforward History

The story starts way back—think 3000 BC, when this area was known as Physkos. Over the centuries, everyone from Persians to Romans passed through. The castle you see today is thanks to Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent, who rebuilt it in the 16th century to keep pirates and invaders at bay.

What to Expect at the Castle

- **Stone Walls:** Built to last, these walls have seen it all.
- **Bastions & Towers:** Great for views and photos—these were the main defense points.
- **Courtyards:** Walk where soldiers once did. It's not fancy, but it's real history.

Inside, there's a small museum with artifacts and stories about Marmaris and the castle.



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TED'S FAVOURITE SPOTS

If you follow us online, you'll know my son Ted—better known as Ted Travels on Facebook, with 15,000 followers and counting. For us, picking a place to eat isn't just about the food. It has to have something to keep Ted entertained, and over time he's found his favourite spots around Marmaris and İcmeler.



Top of Ted's list is **Sweet Corner**. He loves bouncing on the trampoline castle area, then sitting back to watch the lads dancing in the bar (and of course, trying to join in himself). He's even got his own Sweetcorner t-shirt so he can pretend he works there—he takes it seriously!

Just a couple of doors away, there's **Piccadilly**, with a great kids' play area out back. You'll find a PlayStation, ball pit, punch machine, and Ted's favourite—the claw machine, where he's always hoping to win a teddy.

We're big fans of the atmosphere at **Piccadillys**. It's lively, friendly, and always has something going on to keep both kids and adults happy. Perfect for watching sports too with the biggest screen in Marmaris.

If you're in İcmeler, check out **Bamboo** on the canal. They've got a good-sized play area right to the side, and you can keep an eye on the kids from inside thanks to the TVs showing the play area—makes it easy to relax and enjoy your meal while knowing the kids are safe.

It's hard to walk past **Trotters Bar** (the Only Fools and Horses themed spot in Marmaris) without Ted spotting the crocodile bouncy castle out front. He could bounce for hours, and it's always a winner for burning off energy. These seem busy every time we pass.

If you want the biggest and best play area, **Club Havana Restaurant** at Club Atrium Hotel is the one. Anyone can go, the entertainment is fantastic, and the play area is huge—the best we've seen for keeping kids busy. It's a real standout for families.

Marmaris and İcmeler have loads of places that make eating out easy for families. Ted and the other kids are always spoiled for choice, and it means us adults can relax with a drink while the kids play safely.



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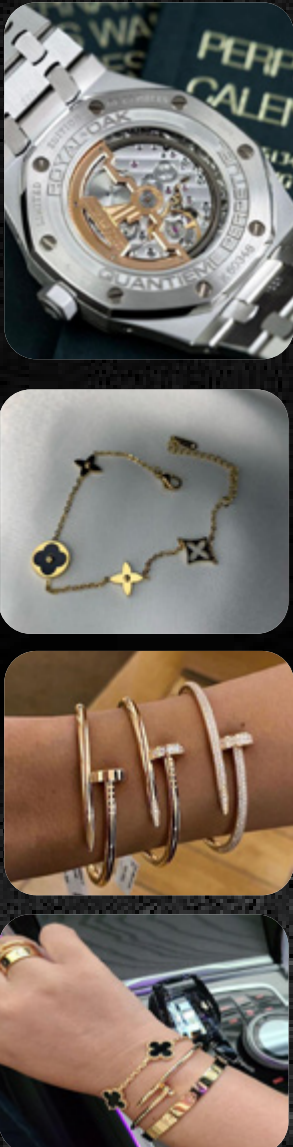
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Every summer, thousands of Marmaris visitors get stung by unexpected roaming charges simply for using their phones abroad. But with so many ways to get online, there's no reason to come home to a nasty bill.

eSIMs: Fast, Digital, and Ready When You Land

eSIMs are making it easier than ever to get connected. Buy online before you fly, scan a QR code, and you're set up in minutes—no need to swap out your physical SIM card. For most travellers, it's as easy as turning off roaming on the plane and activating the eSIM as soon as you arrive. It's a hassle-free solution for anyone who wants instant data and no paperwork.

WiFi Boxes: Reliable Internet for Groups and Families

If you prefer a simple, all-in-one option, WiFi boxes are still a top choice. In Marmaris, you can collect a box from Chucky or have it delivered to your hotel. **Contact Chucky: +90 539 313 53 75.** Staying in Icmeler? Pick one up from Tony Macaroni. **Contact Tony Macaroni: +90 553 311 83 40.** If you can't find Tony, you can also talk to his brother known as Uncle Ozzy Osborne! WiFi boxes let you connect multiple devices—great for families or groups. There's

no need to mess with your phone's settings, just switch it on and you're good to go.

Free WiFi: The Cheapest Option—But Is It Reliable?

If you really want to save, you can skip both eSIMs and WiFi boxes and just use free WiFi. It's available almost everywhere—hotels, restaurants, bars, and even some beaches. But be warned: connection quality can be hit or miss, especially during busy times or in crowded areas. Speeds might not be great for streaming or video calls, and public networks aren't always secure.

Don't Forget: Turn Off Roaming

No matter which option you choose, the most important step is to turn off roaming before you land in Turkey. Every year, tourists forget and end up with bills running into the hundreds—just for checking a few messages.

The Bottom Line

eSIMs are perfect for solo travellers who want a quick, digital fix. WiFi boxes are ideal for groups and those who want reliable internet without fuss. And if you're really watching the pennies, you can stick with free WiFi—just don't expect it to always work perfectly. Whatever you do, plan ahead and avoid the roaming trap so you can enjoy Marmaris without any nasty surprises.

STAY CONNECTED IN TÜRKIYE



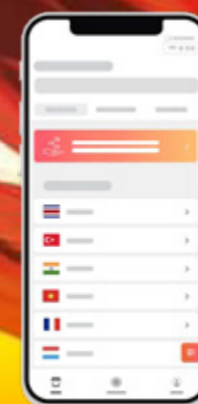
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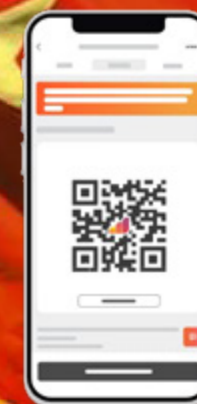
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OPPOSITE BEST BARGAIN BUYS, ICMELER/MARMARIS

If you're in Icmeler and want a great meal, Dolphin Square is the place you need to check out. This lively part of town is packed with some of the best restaurants around, making it a go-to spot whether you're after a quick bite, a relaxed dinner, or something special to round off your day. The atmosphere is always buzzing, and it's a favourite with both locals and visitors.

Golden Moon Steakhouse is a standout here, especially if you're into steaks cooked just right and served in a chilled setting. Then there's IDA, which offers a touch of class with well-presented dishes and service that's always on point. If you're looking for somewhere cosy, Lighthouse Restaurant is a solid choice with a big menu that covers pretty much everything, making it great for groups or anyone who likes plenty of options. Bonjour Restaurant is another local favourite, known for its international menu and friendly staff who always make you feel welcome.



Just a short walk away from the main square, you'll come across even more great places to eat. Love Boat, Richard's Place, YOLO, and Waterfall Restaurant all offer their own unique menus and dining experiences, so there's no shortage of variety if you want to try something different. If you're up for exploring a little further, Bamboo Restaurant by the canal, Home Bistro, and Romance Place are also worth a visit and have built up solid reputations for good food and service.

Recently, the area right around the dolphins has seen even more options pop up. MINT has been revamped as a stylish Italian restaurant, bringing a fresh taste to the square. Just across the road, there's a classic British Pub that serves food, drinks, and cocktails—perfect if you're missing a bit of home or just want a proper pint with your meal.

It's not just the food that makes Dolphin Square a great spot. The fountains and lively atmosphere make it a brilliant place for photos, and with Best Bargain Buys just around the corner, you can fit in a bit of shopping before or after your meal. The beach is less than ten minutes away on foot, so it's easy to combine a meal with a stroll along the shoreline.

One thing to remember if you're travelling here by electric scooter—don't drive in the blue lanes. Stick to the regular paths to keep things safe and avoid any hassle.

Whether you're visiting Icmeler for the first time or you're coming back for more, Dolphin Square is well worth a visit. With loads of choice, top-quality food, and a lively setting, it's the spot to enjoy a meal and soak up everything this part of town has to offer. Enjoy!



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Marmaris/Muğla, Türkiye



Soaking up the Turkish sunshine is great, but sometimes you just want the comfort of a proper breakfast or a good Sunday roast. Luckily, Marmaris and Icmeler have you covered—whether you're after a full English, a classic parmo, or a roast that feels like home.

The Full English Breakfast

If you're on the hunt for a cheap and cheerful breakfast, you can't go wrong with Robin Hood or The Lounge in Icmeler old town—both are great value, serve up a solid fry-up, and won't break the bank. I've really enjoyed my mornings there, and they're perfect for kicking off a day of exploring.

There are plenty of other gems too: **Speedy's**, **Diana Sisters**, and **Majestic** are all solid options for a full English. If you want something a bit more substantial, **Piccadilly's** breakfast is massive, and **Sweet Corner** just down the road is another favourite. Despite Turkey being a Muslim country, you can still get proper pork sausages with your breakfast here—a rare treat abroad! Some places even do a full Scottish breakfast with black pudding and square sausage. Top it off with a pint, and you're sorted.

The Sunday Roast

There's nothing like a Sunday dinner to make you feel at home, and Marmaris and Icmeler really deliver. **The White Lion** in Marmaris is a classic—Haci's roast dinners with roasties, veg, creamy mash, and thick Bisto gravy are hard to beat. **Piccadilly** also serves up a cracking lamb dinner with mint sauce that's well worth a try.

Sweet Corner deserves a special mention too—the Sunday dinner I had there was spot on, especially the yellow mashed potatoes. It's the kind of meal that sticks with you.

Over in Icmeler, **The View Bar** is a must-visit. Just off the beach, it's perfect for a roast with all the trimmings and some live music on the side. Jan's homemade Yorkshire puds, rich gravy, and all the extras—mint sauce, Colman's mustard, stuffing—make Sunday dinner here a real event. Paul and Jan are brilliant hosts who always make you feel like part of the family.

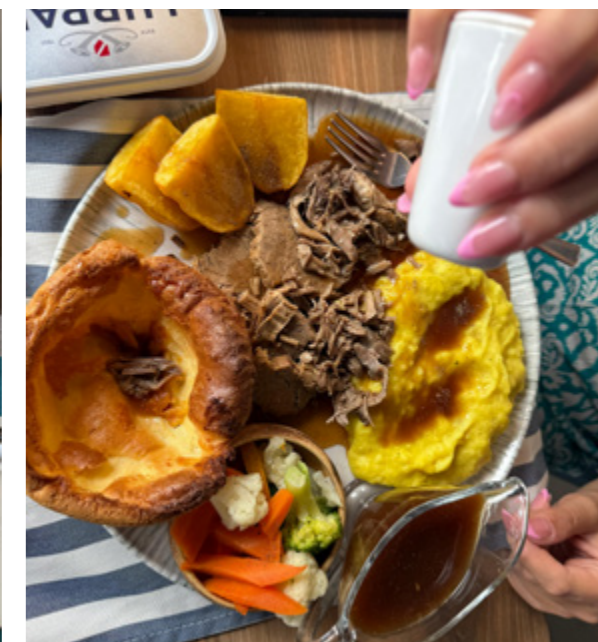
And if you fancy something a bit different, **Happy Face** near the sports bars is the spot to grab a proper parmo—always a winner if you're craving a bit of Teesside comfort food!

Don't Miss a Turkish Breakfast

Of course, you can't visit without trying a traditional Turkish breakfast. Many beachfront restaurants serve up a spread of fresh bread, cheeses, olives, and honey—simple, fresh, and a real treat for the senses.

So whether you're after a full English with all the trimmings, a Sunday roast that feels like home, or just a great value breakfast to start your day, Marmaris and Icmeler have plenty to offer.

And don't forget to mix in some Turkish favourites while you're here—you really do get the best of both worlds!




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By The Canal

STEAKS IN TURKEY

If you're into steak, Turkey is a bit of a hidden gem. The locals know how to BBQ, and most places cook their meat over proper charcoal, giving everything that flame-grilled, smoky flavour you just can't beat.

Ledbury's Steak House: The Real Deal

Ledbury's Steak House is well-known in the area and for good reason. I've eaten here plenty of times, and it's always a top experience. The mushroom sauce is spot-on, and you can really taste the quality in the meat. They never use frozen beef—instead, they drive over three hours to pick up fresh cuts straight from the farm.



If you want my recommendation, go for the Chateaubriand. It's a thick, centre-cut fillet of beef—basically the best part of the tenderloin. At Ledbury's, they cook the Chateaubriand live at your table, right in front of you, and finish it off in a generous amount of melted butter. The result is steak that's incredibly soft, packed with flavour, and perfect for sharing.

Ledbury's is number one on TripAdvisor and always busy, so book ahead if you want to get a table. The staff are friendly, the vibe is relaxed, and you're guaranteed a proper steak dinner.

Just give them a call to reserve your spot—you won't regret it.

While **Ledbury's Steak House** is a standout, I've had plenty of great steaks across Marmaris and Icmeler. Most recently, **Black Bull** in Icmeler served up a proper steak—well-cooked, good quality, and worth a visit if you're in the area. **Dolphin Square** in Icmeler is also packed with restaurants that know what they're doing when it comes to steak, so you're never short of options. **IDA, Lighthouse, Golden Moon Champagne Steakhouse** to name a few.

Don't forget the **Marina** in Marmaris either. There are loads of restaurants along the waterfront where you can get a solid steak or tuck into fresh seafood dishes. Whether you want a classic steak, something with a Turkish twist, or the catch of the day, there's plenty of choice and the quality is consistently good.

Basically, if you're a steak lover or just after a decent meal, Marmaris and Icmeler have you covered—Ledbury's is just the start.



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MARMARIS AND İCMELER AS SEEN ON DAD LOVES FOOD FB PAGE

If you're in Marmaris and want a spot that covers shopping, eating, and entertainment without draining your wallet, Blue Port Mall is a solid choice right in the centre of town on the beachfront. It's a favourite with both locals and visitors thanks to the variety and the prices, especially up on the top floor.

I've eaten at Blue Port Mall plenty of times and always recommend it to anyone after a good meal at a decent price. The top floor food court is where you'll find the best value—there's BBQ Mangal for proper Turkish flame-grilled flavour, plus pizza, pide, a Chinese buffet, and more. You'll notice it's always buzzing with locals, and that's down to generous portions and prices you can't argue with.

On the ground floor, it's a bit of a shame now that KFC has closed—what used to be a busy fast food outlet now sits empty at the bottom of the mall. The good news is Burger King is still going strong. So whether you're after a local meal or a familiar fast food fix, you've got options.

Blue Port Mall isn't just about the food. There's a good mix of shops—clothing, sports, electronics, and local brands—so you can tick off your shopping list in one place. It's also air-conditioned, which is a lifesaver in the summer heat. For entertainment, there's a cinema with the latest films and an amusement arcade that's always a hit with the kids—Ted's a big fan of the games here, and it's a handy way to keep little ones busy while you relax.

All in all, Blue Port Mall makes a family day out easy. You can shop, eat, let the kids play, and even catch a film, all under one roof and without spending a fortune. Next time you're in Marmaris, swing by Blue Port Mall—eat like a local, enjoy the cool air, and make the most of everything on offer.



Getting around Marmaris and Icmeler is a breeze thanks to the dolmuş minibuses. These shared buses run all day along set routes, and using them couldn't be simpler. If you see one coming, just stick your arm out—no need to be at an official stop. The driver will pull over, you hop on, and you're on your way. Even my dad (Graham Vegas) managed to get on by himself and got off at Best Bargain Buys in Icmeler. Earlier this year, I took one and got off at Gazelle Port—really is that easy.

Fares are affordable and paid in Turkish lira. Last time I rode, it was about 40 TL, but prices can change, so it's good to have small notes or coins on you. Don't count on being able to pay by card. When you want to get off, just let the driver know—either by pressing the stop button or saying "inecek var" (which means you want to get off). They'll stop at the next safe spot.

The dolmuş routes are colour-coded:

- **Green Line:** Runs through the centre of Marmaris—handy for shops and main attractions.
- **Blue Line:** Heads towards the beaches and along the coast.
- **Red Line:** Takes you out to the quieter, more local areas on the outskirts.
- **Orange Line:** Connects Marmaris and Icmeler—ideal for popping between the two towns.



If you're heading to Dalaman Airport, there's a specific dolmuş for that, but it runs less often—check the timetable at the main bus station, or if you want it easy, book a private transfer with AVISOS VIP.

Honestly, the dolmuş is the best way to travel like a local—cheap, quick, and no fuss. Just flag one down, pay your fare, and enjoy the ride around Marmaris and Icmeler.



Watch a video of my Dad take the Dolmuş from Marmaris to Icmeler!



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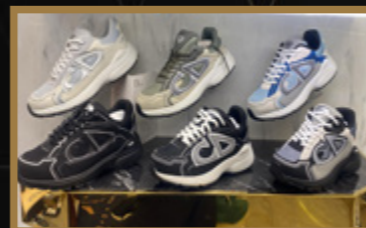
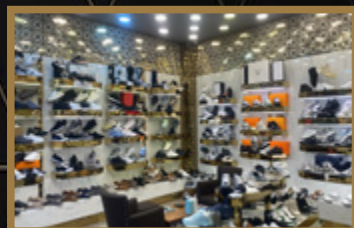
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Just before our flight home from Marmaris, I got a random message: "Dude, sounds like some Brit ratted u to UK customs on drug/medicine smuggling, be careful." You couldn't make it up! Apparently, someone saw my pharmacy haul online and decided to play detective. Honestly, the trolls are relentless, but I told Rochelle, "If we get pulled, at least it'll make a great video."

Sure enough, our bags came out last at baggage claim—looked like a total set-up. Border control swooped in, ran everything through the x-ray, and opened up the big cases, clearly hoping for a suitcase full of dodgy meds. I'd kept my pharmacy receipt and explained it was all for personal use—one of each item, nothing to sell. Meanwhile, Teddy was busy charming the border control lady, showing off the little presents he'd bought for Nana and Grandad. The team were actually sound—just acting on some dodgy info. You could practically see the disappointment on their faces when there wasn't a full case of medicines to confiscate. All that effort, and we just had vitamins, painkillers, and a few anti-wrinkle bits!

The officers explained the rules (and gave us the usual warning about fake designer clothes, pharmacy products, and limits on alcohol and cigarettes). We all had a laugh, grabbed a Greggs, and Buttylad picked us up.

You might get stopped, and you could have things taken if you go overboard. But if you're just buying for yourself, keep your receipts, know the rules, and you'll be fine. And if you're as charming as Teddy, you'll breeze right through.



If you're looking to explore the coast around Marmaris, the taxi boat is one of the best ways to get around. Boats run every 30 minutes or so, making it simple to hop between Marmaris, Icmeler, and Turunc without any hassle. Just head to the main dock in Marmaris, follow the clear signs for the taxi boat area, and you're good to go.

Prices are straightforward—about £5 one way from Marmaris to Icmeler, and around £7.50 to Turunc. You pay at the dock, no need to book ahead.

Once you're on board, just sit back and enjoy the scenic ride. The journey along the coastline comes with great views and a fresh breeze, making it much more enjoyable than sitting in traffic or on a bus. It's a relaxed way to travel, and you get a proper look at the coast along the way.

When you arrive in Icmeler or Turunc, the boat docks right at the main harbour, so you're only a short walk from the centre of town. In Turunc, there's plenty to keep you busy—lots of shops for souvenirs and local crafts, plus a good mix of restaurants and bars where you can grab a meal, a snack, or a cold drink by the sea. It's a great spot to spend a few hours shopping, eating, and soaking up the relaxed atmosphere before catching the boat back.

The taxi boat makes getting between Marmaris, Icmeler, and Turunc easy, affordable, and a lot more fun than driving. It's perfect for a day out, with fresh air, coastal views, and plenty to see and do at every stop.



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**SUNDAY DINNERS
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If you think you've got what it takes to join the ranks of the British Eating League—or just want a legendary story for your holiday—Marmaris and Icmeler are serving up some serious food challenges that'll put your appetite to the test.

Sweetcorner's Towering Burger Challenge
 Over at Sweetcorner restaurant, there's a burger challenge that's yet to be conquered. For £25, you're faced with a towering stack of six juicy patties (we're not sure if they're 4oz or 6oz each, but trust me, it's a mountain), all layered up with salad and packed into a bun, then served with a huge pile of chips on the side. No one has managed to finish it yet—so if you fancy your chances, this could be your moment to make Sweetcorner history! It's a true test for any British Eating League hopeful and definitely not for the faint-hearted.

The Giant Burger at Tipsi Burger House
 If you're wandering through old town Icmeler, make sure to check out Tipsi Burger House, home to another monster challenge. Here, it's not about stacking patties—it's about tackling one gigantic burger. Their signature challenge is a single, massive burger that's become a local legend. We're talking a bun that barely fits on the plate and a patty that's almost the size of a dinner plate itself. You'll need both hands (and probably a game plan) to even attempt it. This one's perfect for anyone who loves a burger with a side of bragging rights.

Got a Challenge to Share?
 Food challenges are popping up all over Marmaris and Icmeler, and I'm always on the lookout for new ones to add to the British Eating League line-up. If you spot a challenge—big breakfast, spicy wings, mega kebabs, anything—let me know! I'll check it out, share it with the community, and maybe even give it a go myself.

So if you're hungry for more than just a holiday, step up to the plate at Sweet Corner or Tipsi Burger House, and see if you've got what it takes to be Marmaris' next food challenge champ. And remember, if you find another epic eating contest, get in touch—I'm always keen to hear about the next big bite!



Marmaris and **Tony Macaroni** in Icmeler are always busy for a reason. For a top-notch Hamam experience, I also recommend Ali at the **Romance Hotel**—he's well known for making guests feel at home and totally relaxed.

No Marmaris holiday is truly complete until you've experienced a traditional Turkish Bath (Hamam). It's the ultimate way to detox, refresh, and kick off your break feeling brand new. But Marmaris goes beyond the classics—here, you'll also find modern spas and wellness centres that offer a full menu of ways to relax and recharge.

A Turkish Bath is more than just a wash—it's a ritual. You'll start with a gentle steam session to open your pores, followed by a vigorous scrub-down with a kese mitt. This exfoliation leaves your skin ultra-smooth and ready for that golden holiday tan (locals swear it helps your tan last longer!). The signature foam massage is the cherry on top, with billows of bubbles and expert hands working away any travel tension.

If you want the best value, check out local excursion companies in Marmaris for package deals that include a Turkish Bath—often, the more treatments you book, the more you can haggle and save. Popular and trusted names like **Chucky** in

Wellness in Marmaris doesn't stop at the Hamam. The town is packed with spas offering everything from aromatherapy and deep-tissue massages to thermal pools and detoxifying mud baths. Whether you're looking to escape the hustle, soothe sore muscles, or just treat yourself, there's a sanctuary here for everyone.

And of course, if you're after a bit of pampering, Marmaris and Icmeler are dotted with salons. For hair and nail treatments, **Curly at Club Candan** in Marmaris comes highly recommended for friendly, professional service. Personally, I'll be popping into Chico in Icmeler for a fresh cut as soon as I arrive—always a great experience and a good way to feel holiday-ready.

My advice? Start your trip with a Turkish Bath to get rid of the travel grime and refresh your skin. Then, book yourself a relaxing massage midway through your stay for the full unwind. Trust me—your body and mind will thank you.

So, next time you're in Marmaris, don't just see the sights—take a little time for yourself. You'll head home feeling recharged, glowing, and probably planning your next visit already.






FREE PICK-UP SERVICE!

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If you're planning a trip to Marmaris or Icmeler, a little smart planning goes a long way. Here's how to stretch your pound and avoid common tourist traps.

Getting There for Less

- **Flight Hunt:** Always start your search at Skyscanner.net. This site compares flights across all airlines and booking sites, so you can spot the cheapest options fast. Use the "whole month" or "cheapest month" search to find the lowest fares. Once you see a deal, check the airline's own website too—sometimes it's even cheaper direct.

- **Jet2 Bargains:** Jet2 has been running some crazy deals lately, with flights from the UK to Dalaman for as little as £30. Plus, every Jet2 ticket includes a 10kg hand luggage allowance, which saves you even more.

- **Set Price Alerts:** Skyscanner's "Drops" feature will alert you when flight prices fall. Set up alerts for your dates and be ready to book when you see a bargain.

- **Travel Light:** If you can, stick to hand luggage to dodge extra fees. If you need a checked bag, factor that into your budget up front.

- **Package Holidays:** Sometimes a package deal is the cheapest and easiest way, especially with ATOL protection. Agencies like "Now Let's Travel" in Stockton can help you find a solid deal.

- **Go Off-Peak:** Travelling outside school holidays and peak summer can save you a bundle. Late spring and early autumn are cheaper and still have great weather.

Where to Stay (and How to Save)

- **Book Direct:** Some of the best deals come from contacting Turkish-owned hotels or apartments directly, especially in Icmeler. They often offer lower rates than you'll find online, especially for longer stays.

- **Comparison Shop:** Still check Booking.com, TUI, and Jet2 for hotel-only deals—sometimes there are bargains, even on luxury stays.

- **Self-Catering:** Apartments with kitchens save you money on food, especially for families or longer trips.

Money & Currency Tips

- **Currency:** Bring GBP and exchange a little to Turkish Lira when you're in Turkey for a better exchange rate. Cards are widely accepted and ATMs are everywhere but it charges a lot to withdraw cash. Monzo, Starling, and Revolut are great for low fees.

- **Scottish Notes:** If you're from Scotland, change your money to English notes before you travel. Scottish banknotes aren't widely accepted in Turkey, and if you do find somewhere to exchange them, you'll get a worse rate.

- **Haggle:** Don't be shy to negotiate prices in markets or even with hotels for longer stays.

- **Excursions:** Book tours and trips with local agencies, not your hotel rep—they're cheaper and often include food.

On the Ground

- **Eat Like a Local:** Restaurants away from the main tourist strip are cheaper and often better. Look for daily specials and set menus.

- **Transport:** Use dolmus minibuses—they're cheap, regular, and way less expensive than taxis.

- **Supermarkets:** Stock up at Migros or Carrefour for snacks and drinks instead of buying at beach stalls or hotels.

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Make your Marmaris & Icmeler adventure unforgettable—plan smart, hunt down the best deals, dodge the tourist traps, and let every pound you save turn into more memories, more meals, and more fun. Your wallet (and your taste buds) will thank you!

FREE PICK UP SERVICE

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Icmeler, Kayabal Cd. No:48, 48700
Marmaris/Muğla, Türkiye

LEARN TURKISH WITH US

If you're planning a trip to Marmaris, it's always a good idea to learn some basic Turkish words and phrases to help you get around.

Greetings & Essentials

Merhaba (Meh-rhah-bah) – Hello

Selam (Seh-lahm) – Hi

Güle güle (Gue-le gue-le) – Goodbye

Teşekkürler (Teh-shehk-kewr-lehr) – Thank you

Sağ ol (Sah-ohl) – Thanks

Lütfen (Loot-fen) – Please

Evet / Hayır (Eh-vet / Hah-yuhr) – Yes / No

Pardon (Par-don) – Sorry

If you're feeling brave, say "Sağ ol" casually to a waiter—they'll probably smile at your effort.

Getting Around

Nerede? (Neh-reh-deh?) – Where is...?

Plaj nerede? (Plahj neh-reh-deh?) – Wheres the beach?

Kaç para? (Kahch pah-rah?) – How much?

Tamam (Tah-mahm) – Okay

"Tamam" is your magic word in Turkey—it means "okay" and can get you out of almost any situation.

Ordering Food & Drink

Bir çay, lütfen (Beer chai, loot-fen) – One tea, please

Hesap, lütfen (Heh-sahp loot-fen) – The bill, please

Çok güzel! (Chok goo-zel) – Very delicious!

Afiyet olsun (Ah-fee-yet ol-sun) – Bon appétit!

Şerefe! (Sheh-reh-feh) – Cheers!

When raising your glass, confidently say "Şerefe!" and enjoy the smiles all around. It's the perfect icebreaker!

Turkish Local Slang

Abi (Ah-bee) – Bro / Dude (used casually for men)

Abla (Ah-blah) – Sis (used casually for women)

Çok havalı (Chok hah-vah-luh) – So cool

Buyrun (Boo-yroon) – What can I do for you?

Yok artık! (Yohk ar-tuhk) – No way! (disbelief)

Hadil! (Hah-dee) – Come on! / Let's go!

Drop a casual "Abi" or "Abla" when chatting with locals, and you'll instantly feel like part of the crew.

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If you've noticed more wild boars around Marmaris lately, you're not alone. These animals have always lived in the hills, but their numbers and sightings have shot up in recent years—and there's a clear reason why.

The Real Reason: Forest Fires in Icmeler & Marmaris

A few years back, massive forest fires hit Icmeler and the Marmaris region. In 2021 alone, over 55,000 hectares of forest were burned in Muğla province (which includes Marmaris)—that's more than twice the area lost in all of Turkey the previous year. Across the country, more than 233,000 hectares of forest have been lost to fires since 2021. These fires destroyed not just trees, but also the natural habitat and food sources for local wildlife.



With so much of their home gone, wild boars (and many other animals) were forced out of the forests and closer to towns and tourist areas in search of food and safety. The loss of habitat means more boars are now seen wandering near hotels, beaches, and even busy streets—especially in the evenings.

Are They Dangerous?

Wild boars are not pets. They're big, strong, and unpredictable. Most of the time, they'll avoid people, but if they feel threatened or are protecting their young, they can charge. Injuries happen every year, usually when someone gets too close for a photo or tries to feed them.

Safety Rules & Tips

- **Don't Feed Them:** It's illegal to feed wild boars in Turkey. Feeding them encourages them to come back and can make them aggressive.
- **Keep Your Distance:** No matter how cute the piglets look, don't approach or corner them for a selfie or video.
- **Dispose of Rubbish Properly:** Food scraps attract boars. Always use bins and don't leave food lying around.
- **Stay Calm:** If you see a boar, don't run or shout. Back away slowly and give them space.
- **No Sudden Moves:** If a boar is interested in your bag or food, drop it and move away calmly.

For Social Media Fans

Wild boars might make for viral TikTok or Instagram content, but safety comes first. Use your phone zoom, never try to touch or chase a wild animal, and remember: no video is worth a hospital visit.

Final Word

The wild boars you're seeing in Marmaris are here because of the devastating forest fires that destroyed their habitat. Respect their space, don't feed them, and help keep both yourself and the local wildlife safe.

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On my last trip to Marmaris, I did what every Brit does—stocked up at the local pharmacy. Let's just say, the haul came to over £400 (don't judge, it's all for "personal use"!). Cue the classic moment at border control: "Sir, are you smuggling drugs?" Nope, just one of everything for the family medicine cabinet!

Here's the thing: you can buy a lot in Türkiye, and most of it is way cheaper than the UK. My go-to is Eczane Aladag, perfectly located between Gazelle Port and Ink City Tattoo Studio. The staff are super friendly, speak English, and know exactly what Brits abroad are after. They'll fill you in on the latest TikTok trends too—think hair growth oils, anti-wrinkle creams, and, yes lads, even Viagra and other essentials (wink wink).

Top TikTok Finds in Turkish Pharmacies:

- Hair growth oils (Bioxsine, Evocapil)
- Turkish retinol and snail creams
- Arnica gel for aches and bruises
- Over-the-counter Viagra and men's supplements
- Multivitamins, Vitamin C fizz, and magnesium
- Nasal sprays (Otrivine), lansoprazole, and painkillers
- Acne creams like Acnelyse and scar gels

Honestly, the range is huge—vitamins, painkillers, nasal sprays, lansoprazole, skincare goodies, you name it. Most items are a bargain compared to back home. So if you forget anything, don't panic! Just pop into a local pharmacy ("eczane")—they're everywhere in Marmaris and Icmeler. The staff will sort you out, no stress. Go check them out, see what you fancy, and maybe you'll have your own border control story to tell next time!



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LOST YOUR PASSPORT IN TURKEY?

Losing your passport abroad can feel like a nightmare, but don't panic—getting a replacement is much easier than you might think, especially in Marmaris. I've been through it myself, and the process is straightforward if you follow these steps.

First, take a deep breath. Retrace your steps and check your bags, hotel room, and anywhere you might have left it. Sometimes passports turn up in the least expected places. My passport eventually was found by a facebook follower stuck in the bark of a palm tree!

Head to the nearest police station and report your passport lost. The police will give you a report—hang on to this, as you'll need it for your emergency travel document (ETD) application and any insurance claims.

Before you can get a replacement, you must officially report your passport as lost.

- Go to the UK government website and complete the online form.
- This is a mandatory step and will cancel your old passport to prevent misuse.

Once you've reported the loss, you can apply for an ETD online. As of June 2025, the fee is still £100.

You'll need:

- A digital passport-style photo (plain white background, no filters)
- Proof of your travel plans (flight tickets, hotel bookings, etc.)
- The police report
- Details of your situation

After submitting your application, you'll need to book an appointment at the nearest British Consulate—usually Fethiye for Marmaris visitors.

- Appointments are booked online through the UK government site.
- Bring all your documents, including any other ID you have (like a UK driving licence).

On the day, arrive on time and expect security checks. Consulate staff are helpful and will walk you through the final steps.

- In my case, the whole process was quick and painless.
- Staff will let you know when your ETD is ready—typically within a few days.



WATCH THE VIDEO WHEN I LOST MY PASSPORT



REPORT YOUR PASSPORT AS LOST OR STOLEN

Once notified, go back to the consulate to collect your ETD. Double-check all the details before you leave.

- Inform your airline and travel insurer about your new travel document.
- Treat your ETD with care—it's only valid for your planned journey and may have restrictions (for example, limited to certain countries or routes).
- When you're back in the UK, apply for a new full passport as soon as possible.



- **New UK Rules:** As of June 2025, the process and fees remain the same, but always check the official government site - www.gov.uk for last-minute changes or updates.
- **Digital Photos:** You can now take your own passport photo with your phone, as long as it meets the guidelines (plain background, clear face).
- **Online Tracking:** After applying, you can track your ETD application status online.
- **British Consulate Locations:** Fethiye is the closest for Marmaris, but you can check www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-istanbul for other locations in Turkey.
- **Lost Passport Abroad Helpline:** If you're stuck, you can call the 24/7 helpline at +44 20 7008 5000 for advice.

Losing your passport is never fun, but if it happens, you're not alone and help is close by. From my own experience in Marmaris, the process was smooth and much less hassle than expected. Just follow the steps above, and you'll be sorted in no time.

Safe travels!

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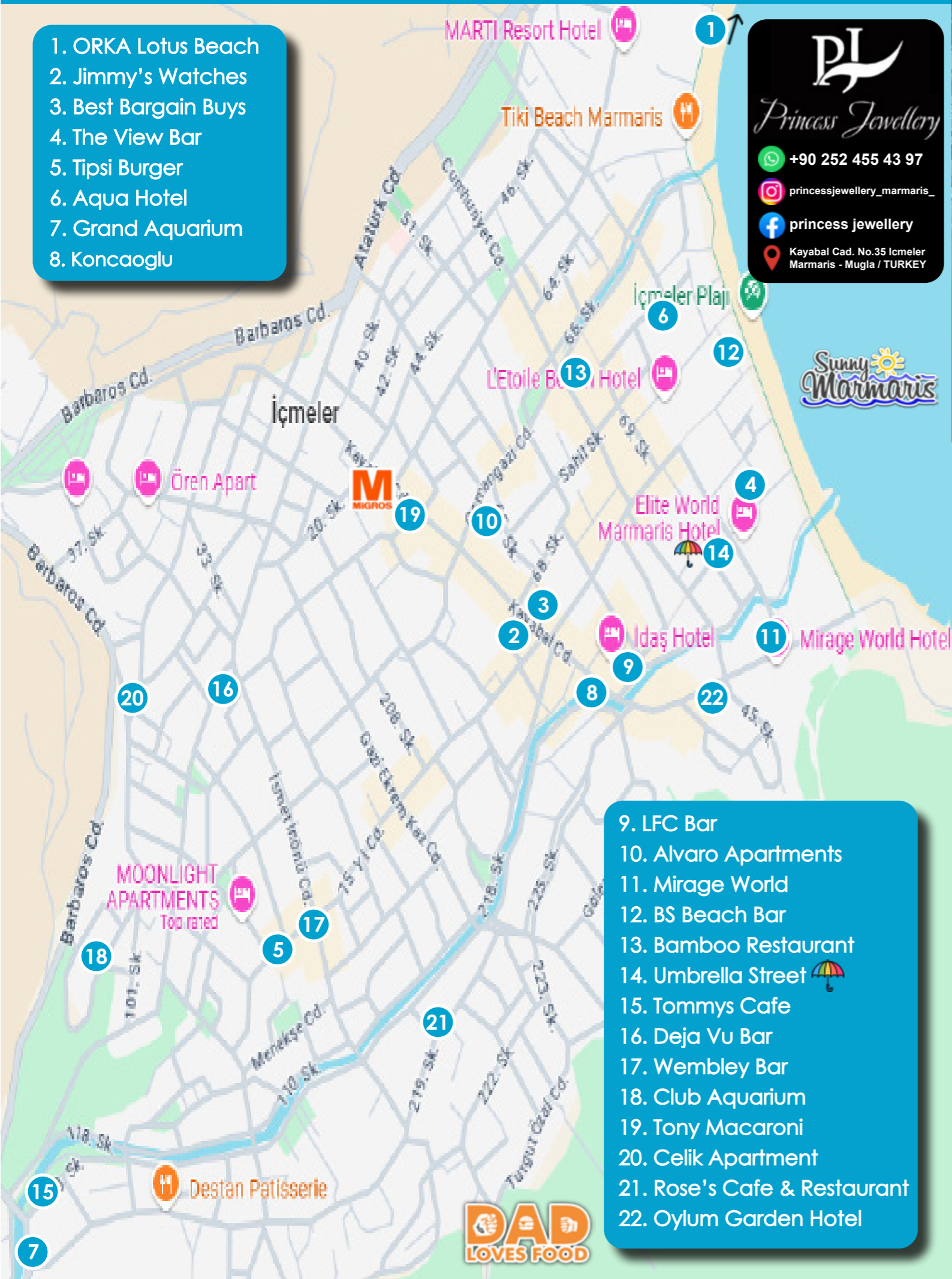
1. Blueport Mall
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3. Blue Bay Platinum
4. Roxys Show Bar
5. Bar Street
6. White Pearl Bay
7. Grand Bazaar
8. Mr Chef
9. Zeyn Clothes Shop
10. Aqua Dream Water Park
11. Star Apart Hotel
12. Dancing Fountains
13. Sevgiyolu Restaurant
14. Avisos Hotel
15. Gazelle Port

16. Mabida Watch
17. Mama Castle
18. Target Poligon
19. Caspers Beach Bar
20. Sarahs Restaurant
21. Diana & Sisters Bar
22. Rickys Chippy
23. Rota Barş Usta
24. Tiger Tiger Club
25. Memed Ocakbaşı
26. Mad Boys
27. Marmaris Amphitheatre
28. Shadows Dance Bar
29. Club Alize
30. Party Boats / Boat Trips



MAP OF ICMELER

1. ORKA Lotus Beach
2. Jimmy's Watches
3. Best Bargain Buys
4. The View Bar
5. Tipisi Burger
6. Aqua Hotel
7. Grand Aquarium
8. Koncaoglu



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10. Alvaro Apartments
11. Mirage World
12. BS Beach Bar
13. Bamboo Restaurant
14. Umbrella Street ☂
15. Tommys Cafe
16. Deja Vu Bar
17. Wembley Bar
18. Club Aquarium
19. Tony Macaroni
20. Celik Apartment
21. Rose's Cafe & Restaurant
22. Oylum Garden Hotel

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Dubai might just be the wildest, sunniest, tastiest place I've ever visited—and that's saying something. Over 10 unforgettable nights, we packed in beach days, rooftop pool chills, five-star hotel stays, and more food than I care to admit (no regrets).

From jet skis in front of the Burj Al Arab to camel rides at the Wildlife Zoo, it was non-stop action—with the odd nap thrown in to beat that desert heat. We quickly learned to stick to apps like Careem to get around—street taxis can sting your wallet hard. Our secret to surviving the heat (besides a bit of moaning like true Brits abroad)? Water, naps, and shaded rooftops.

Now let's talk food—because wow. Dubai's food scene is off-the-charts. We went from cheesy corn dogs on the beach to Raising Cane's famous mega sauce cup (worth the hype), and the smoked meat heaven that is The Pit BBQ House—think brisket, ribs, and burnt ends so good they made us all go quiet. We hit Global Village twice, eating our way across continents with dishes like cola ribs, Thai noodles, deep-dish pizza, lobster and even caviar. £1 drinks and a chilled vibe made it feel like a dream foodie festival.

One of the biggest "bucket list" ticks? Nusr-Et, aka Salt Bae's place. The tomahawk steak was carved at the table, sides were flawless, and the Burj Khalifa twinkling in the background just topped it all off. Cost? Just under £300—but honestly, for the experience, worth every penny.

Our hotels gave us proper luxury without breaking the bank. Dukes at the Palm surprised us with double upgrades and a massive suite—spotless, spacious, and ideal for a bit of peace before dinner. Breakfast was next-level too: everything from sushi to cold coffees and plenty to set you up for a long day. For the price, it felt like serious value. It was great for our first nights stay and we then stayed in Dusit D2 Kenz for the rest of the trip.

We also had plenty of classic Dubai fun—shopping at Kamara Market for a taste of Turkey and wandering through the malls for a bit of retail therapy. Hagglng's only really possible at the small, independent shops near the apartments on the way back from the main tourist spots—but if you're polite and play the game, you can still snag a decent deal. I got a tracksuit and hat for Ted down to £30 from £60 with a bit of light back-and-forth (and a shopkeeper chasing me down the street with a samosa in hand—only in Dubai!).

And Top Golf was a surprise hit—just smashing balls for fun, no pressure, loads of laughs, and a chocolate shake for Ted. Even if you've never touched a golf club, it's well worth it for the fun factor.

To wrap it all up: Dubai is a crazy, colourful mix of luxury, adventure, and family-friendly fun. It's not cheap, but if you go all in—and pace yourself—it's an experience like no other.

And finally, a quick shoutout to Dubai Airport. It's spotless, smooth, and stacked with top-shelf spirits if you fancy a browse before flying home. Since I've upgraded to Revolut Ultra, I also got complimentary access to the airport lounge—an absolute win when you travel often. Free drinks, comfy seats, and a chilled space



DAD LOVES FOOD



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If you're after a cheap getaway that doesn't feel like you're cutting corners, Lanzarote is it. Prices haven't budged in years, so your money goes further than you'd expect. Puerto Del Carmen has it all—quiet corners in the old town, beautiful beachfronts, and weather that's hot all year round with a decent breeze to keep things comfortable.

We booked an apartment through Murphy's Irish Pub, which quickly became my regular spot for the week. Most days started or ended there, and the Sun Lounge next door served up the cheapest pint in town—a perfectly cold Tropical lager for just €1. Honestly, you're spoilt for choice when it comes to eating and drinking. There are so many cheap places along the main strip that you couldn't try them all in a week.

One of the highlights was my ten-bar crawl—a proper Dad Loves Food adventure. I kicked things off at The Drunken Monkey with a cheeky Strongbow, then grabbed a full English for €2.95 at Fantastico Restaurant. Sun Lounge Lanzarote was next for that €1 pint, followed by Murphy's Irish Pub, which is always lively with loads of TVs and top beach views. Across from the beach, The Sea View offered a cheap lunch with drinks and kids' meals for less than £19. Trattoria was a quick stop for a Magners cider and a good value steak, then Cherry Moon for a massive beer at €1.50. At 67 Bar and Grill, the beer garden was as good as ever (cash only!), and The White Lion had a great atmosphere with big beer gardens and cocktails. I finished at Spoons Bar on the beachfront with a cola and a Teesside-style chicken parmo—decent garlic mayo and cracking sea views.

A couple of food stops really stood out. My favourite meal was a lasagne for €9.50 with a drink at Sorrento di Italia—proper comfort food. For something different, WOK Asian Garden buffet at €18.95 was a winner, especially with fresh steak and lamb chops cooked to order. I think I left Lanzarote a stone heavier!

If you're travelling with family, there's plenty to do away from the bars. Lidl sorted us for snacks and breakfasts, but you can get a full English on the beachfront for less than €4. The shopping centre has mini golf, a Jurassic-themed restaurant that Ted loved, and a 6D cinema. There's also an outdoor cinema that looked brilliant for a chilled evening.

Getting around Lanzarote is easy and cheap. Hop on the local bus to Costa Teguisse or Playa Blanca, or catch a ferry from Playa Blanca over to Corralejo in Fuerteventura for a change of scenery. Turkish-style clothes and bags are pricier here than in Turkey, so save your shopping for Marmaris, but when it comes to food and drink, Lanzarote is hard to beat for value.

Flights are a bargain if you use Skyscanner.net, and apartments are easy to book online. Puerto Del Carmen is unreal for choice—so many bars, loads of food, and you don't have to reek the bank. If you've got a favourite bar or must-try dish along the strip, let me know for next time. I'll be back later this year—anything to escape the grim UK winters.

Cheers to everyone who followed along—what a crawl, what a place.



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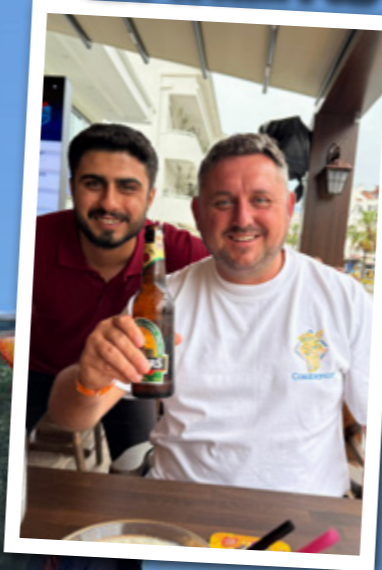
MEDIUM LEVEL

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HARD LEVEL

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8	3		4	5	9	
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2	9		5	7	1	4
	6		8	2		
2	9		7	4		
5	7	9		6	1	

The Welsh Pub



Across

- 2) Neighboring resort town to Marmaris
- 3) Friendly Turkish word that means "hello"
- 4) Turquoise coast gem
- 8) Must-do coastal adventure from Marmaris — usually includes swim stops
- 10) Sweet, flaky pastry with nuts and syrup
- 11) A sizzling Turkish street food staple
- 12) Turkish currency you'll need for that seaside coffee

Down

- 1) Idyllic cove where Craig & Rochelle tied the knot
- 5) Shared Turkish minibus — cheap, cheerful, and always an experience
- 6) Gateway airport for many Marmaris vacations
- 7) Where the yachts glisten and nightlife begins in Marmaris
- 9) What locals proudly call their country

E-SIMS

When I travel to Turkey, I always use an E-SIM to stay connected hassle-free. No need to swap physical SIM cards—my connection is always on my phone, and I've found that E-SIMs offer better coverage and reliability. Now, we've teamed up to bring E-SIMs to all our followers! Simply scan the QR code to check out the best offers. Personally, I would go for the 20GB Plan for £17.50 and then sit back and enjoy your holiday!

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MEET THE FAMILY



It's not just me—Dad Loves Food—on this adventure. The whole family is part of the story, and I couldn't be prouder of every single one of them. From food to travel and everything in between, we're all sharing our journeys, and I love that so many of you are following along with us!

First, a heartfelt update about my dad, Graham. After a nasty fall and a fractured spine, he's currently in a care home working hard on his recovery. He's now walking a good few steps with a zimmer frame, and we're planning changes at his home to help him get around when he's ready to return. We're all hopeful that, with his determination, he'll be back on his feet fully in a few months. Thank you so much for all your support and kind messages—it means the world to us.



Graham is still vlogging and keeping his Facebook page, **Graham Vegas**, buzzing with updates. He's nearly at 30,000 followers now, and his straight-talking, no-nonsense style keeps everyone coming back for more. Whether it's food pics, supermarket bargains, or the latest UK food finds, Graham always has something to share. If you haven't checked out his latest videos and updates, you're missing out!

The kids are making their mark, too. Isla and Oscar recently had an amazing time in Rhodes, sharing their foodie adventures on their page, **Kids Love Food** (now at 14,000 followers!). Isla is just about to head off to London with her school year, and she's gearing up for a big milestone—starting secondary school in September. Oscar will be starting Year 6, and both are loving sharing their travels and food finds with you all.

Teddy is our little explorer. He's now home educated, so he can join us on all our travels without worrying about school fines—something that just makes sense given how much he learns on the road. He's absolutely loving his holidays with us, especially our trips to Dubai and the Emirates, where he even had a few "jobs" to do (and took them very seriously!). His page, **Ted Travels**, is now at 15,000 followers, and it's brilliant to see so many of you enjoying his adventures.

Every adventure is a new memory for us, from Isla and Oscar's foodie finds to Teddy's travel spirit and Graham's legendary bargain hunts. We're so grateful for all your support and love seeing you follow our journey.

So whether it's Graham's deals, the kids' foodie and travel adventures, or our upcoming family trips, there's always something new to see. Make sure you're following our pages and joining in—your support means everything to us.

Here's to family, food, and travel—our favourite things in the world, and we're so glad you're with us for the ride!



KIDS
LOVE FOOD



TED
TRAVELS



USEFUL CONTACTS & INFO

Please check your travel insurance to ensure it covers excursions and water sports before booking with a trusted operator. Don't forget to update your travel insurance to include any recent illnesses or hospital visits for complete peace of mind during your trip. Stay safe and enjoy your time in Marmaris!

At Sunny Marmaris, your safety is always our top priority. Marmaris and Icmeler remain some of the safest and most welcoming destinations in Turkey, known for their low crime rates and friendly communities. We understand that recent headlines—especially following the USA and Israel events—have raised questions about travel in the region. To reassure you: Marmaris is hundreds of miles from the Iranian border, far removed from any unrest, and life here continues as normal. Turkey's tourism hotspots, including Marmaris, are as safe and vibrant as ever.

Essential Travel Tips & Numbers Passports & Travel Documents

- **Passport Validity:** Make sure your passport is valid for at least 5 months from your entry date into Turkey.
- **Lost Passport?** Report it to the police for a confirmation report, then contact the British Embassy in Ankara for a replacement. (See our Lost Passport Guide on page 41)

Other Useful Tips

- **Travel Insurance:** Double-check that your insurance covers excursions, water sports, and any medical needs—including recent health changes.
- **Currency:** Turkish Lira is the local currency. Use official exchange offices or travel cards for the best rates and security.
- **Local Etiquette:** Respect traditions, especially in more conservative areas, and dress modestly at religious sites.

Street Smarts

- The lively bazaars and street vendors are a highlight—haggling is expected, so be friendly but firm. Don't feel pressured into buying, and take your time to compare quality and prices.
- Be cautious of strangers offering unsolicited help, especially at ATMs or in busy markets.
- Book excursions through reputable agencies to avoid scams or disappointment.

- **General Emergencies (112):** Covers medical assistance, accidents, and fires. Simply explain your situation to the operator for help.
- **Police (155):** For reporting criminal activity or suspicious behavior. The local police are friendly and ready to assist.
- **Medical Emergencies (184):** Turkish Red Crescent ambulance service. This free service will take you to the nearest hospital.
- **British Embassy (+90 312 455 3344):** Located in Ankara, the embassy offers consular support and guidance when needed.

A Final Word on Safety

Despite global news, Marmaris and Icmeler are peaceful, thriving, and ready to welcome you. The distance from any unrest is significant, and local authorities are committed to keeping the area secure for visitors and locals alike.

Keep these tips and numbers handy, and you'll be set for a safe, memorable holiday in Marmaris and Icmeler. Enjoy every moment—your adventure awaits!

It is illegal not to carry some form of photo ID in Turkey. You should carry your passport, photocopy of passport or residents permit at all times.

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