

## Delikkemer - Patara

### Characteristics of the walk.

A taxi collects you at hotel at 09:00 for the ride to the beginning of the walk (10 minutes). You join the Lycian Way near the ridge of a valley, topped off by the Roman engineering marvel of Delikkemer, a reverse siphon system, part of the aqueduct that brought water to Patara, the metropolis of Lycia. The walk follows the aqueduct system as it contours around the hillside before it gets lost in the forest.

Picking up the forest road later, you start to get views of the fertile Xanthos valley and also the dunes and remains of Patara, before picking up the aqueduct again as you descend to the magnificent site of Patara itself.

On arrival at the site we recommend that you take the time to make a good visit of the remains before heading towards the beach, where there is beer available for sunset!

From the beach there are buses leaving normally on the hour, and a taxi would cost less than 10€ back to the hotel.

There is nowhere reliable to buy food and only one spring on route, so make sure you have supplies before you begin – we recommend ordering a Gözleme (stuffed Filo pastry freshly prepared) from one of the ladies who make them in town. You can order the night before. However if you fancy some hot food you can walk straight to the beach and have some of the fast food there, before visiting the ancient city on your return in early evening (recommended if the weather is very warm).

<b>Distance:</b>	8 km + 2 km sightseeing
<b>Duration:</b>	3.5 hrs
<b>Ascent:</b>	250m
<b>Descent:</b>	360m
<b>Highest Point:</b>	210m
<b>Way-markings:</b>	Red /White Markings. Red crosses mark wrong way.
<b>Food &amp; drink:</b>	In Patara village and on Patara Beach. Water spring 1,7km from start.
<b>Start:</b>	On road below Delikkemer aqueduct.
<b>End:</b>	Patara Ancient City
<b>Grade</b>	Easy - Moderate
<b>Surfaced:</b>	3,00%
<b>Unsurfaced:</b>	97,00%

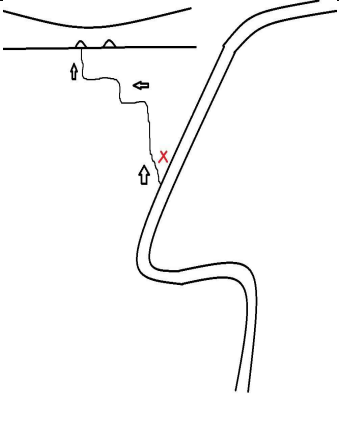
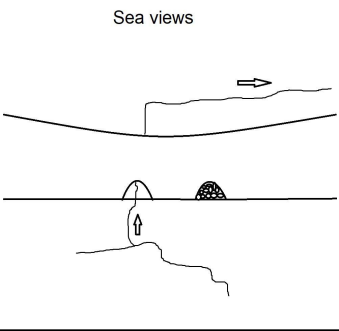
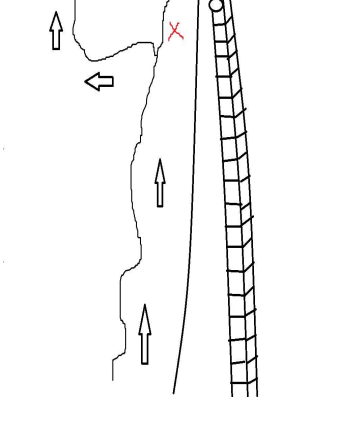
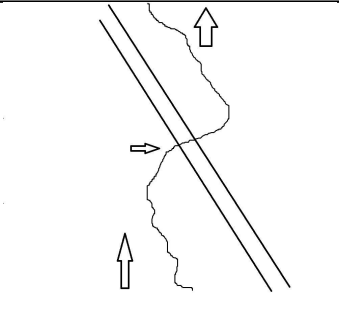
### Elevation chart

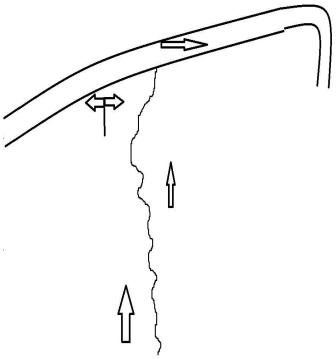
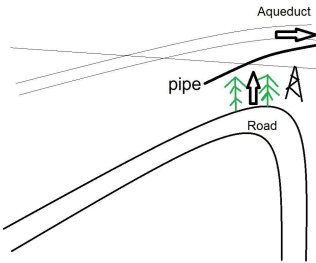
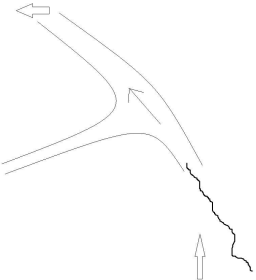
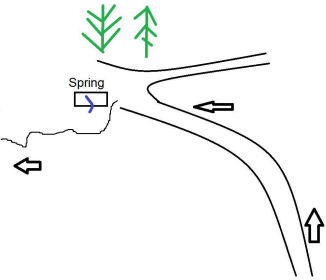

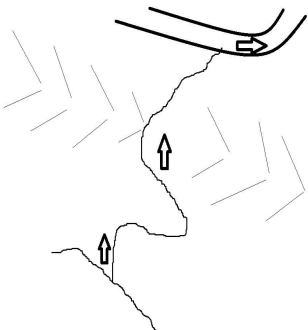


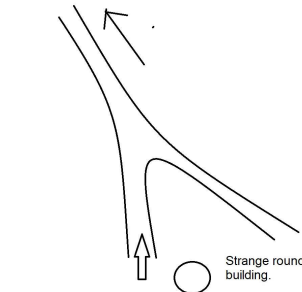
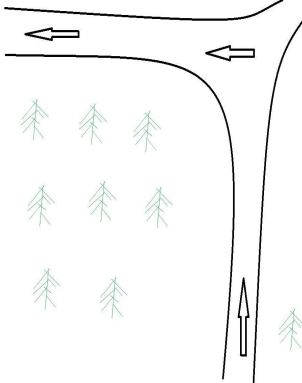
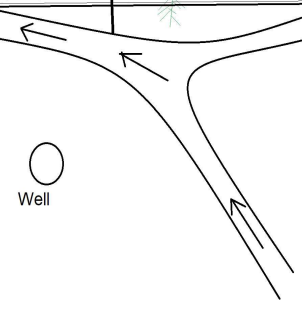
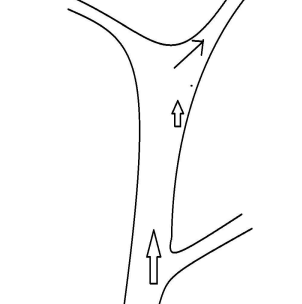
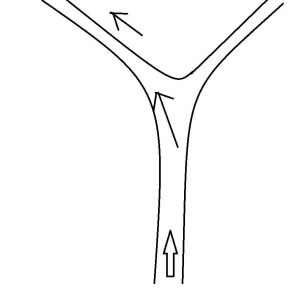
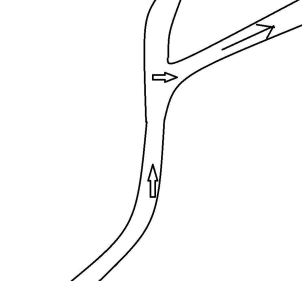
## The Patara Aqueduct

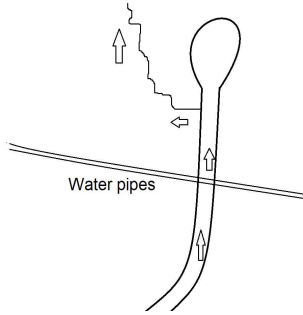
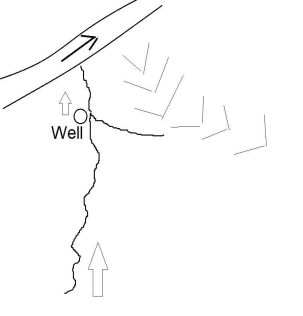
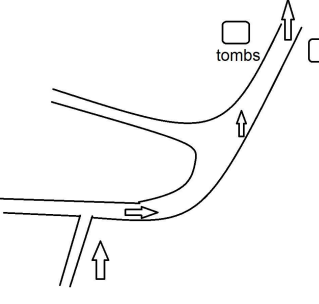
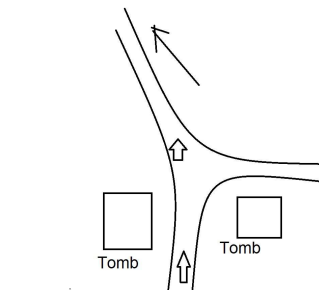
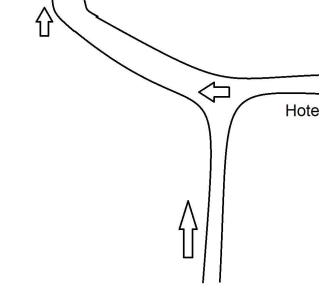
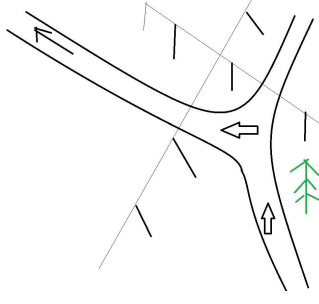
If you have a good look at the stonework that makes up this magnificent half-kilometer long, 12m-high aqueduct, you will notice that water was carried in a 30cm pipe across this section, rather than in an open channel. This means it was under pressure; every giant stone pipe-block you can see (90cm x 90cm) slotted perfectly into its neighbour (there were some 1,000 on the operational structure). However, every tenth block – the ones with the holes in the top for a hoisting hook – could be removed for maintenance purposes; the holes (plugged during use) served also to release air pockets, and for cleaning access too.

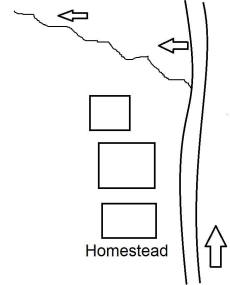
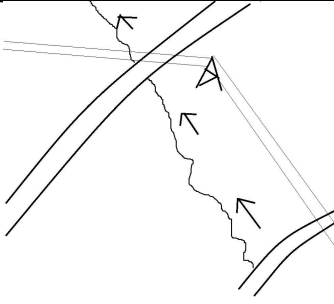
The entire project must have been hugely expensive, but for the Romans it was money well spent. Patara was an important trading port within the Roman Empire because the Xanthos Valley (some of which you overlook on the next section of the walk) was extremely fertile and was then the breadbasket of the entire region ... and still is. Massive grain warehouses at Patara were kept stocked with grain, ready to ship to Rome.

WAYPOINT	KILOMETRES TOTAL	METRES BETWEEN WAYPOINTS	ITINERARY	NOTES	
1	0,00	0		The driver should let you off at the side of the road at a red X. To start the walk, leave the road by walking uphill, in an easterly direction, following the narrow path past the red X.	U n s u r f a c e d
2	0,13	130	Sea views 	Pass through the gateway in the ancient wall to the other side with the sea view. Find the LW paint marks. Turn RIGHT uphill keeping ancient wall on your right.	U n s u r f a c e d
3	0,21	90		Briefly walk past the red X to look at the end of the pipe. After admiring the fine Roman workmanship, turn back to the red X and turn RIGHT (towards the sea) and follow paint marks around to the right.	U n s u r f a c e d
4	0,31	100		Follow the paint marks RIGHT then LEFT, start to follow the line of the aqueduct uphill, keeping the wall on your left, sometimes walking on the aqueduct itself.	U n s u r f a c e d

5	0,57	260		Go onto asphalt road at LW signpost. Turn RIGHT, downhill on road.	A s p h a l t
6	0,78	210		At bend in road at the pylon, turn LEFT, uphill between 2 Cyprus trees, carefully crossing the water pipe onto the line of the ancient aqueduct again. Turn RIGHT and walk following the aqueduct channel for the next 750 meters, imperceptibly descending all the time.	U n s u r f a c e d
7	1,52	750		Eventually the footpath widens to a tractor track. Ignore junction on left and follow main track as it starts to descend, then veering round to the left.	U n s u r f a c e d
8	1,66	140		Arrive at spring with Eucalyptus and Mulberry tree. The path continues behind (above) the spring.	U n s u r f a c e d
9	1,91	250		Path turns LEFT steeply uphill at junction in path.	U n s u r f a c e d
10	1,97	60		Take RIGHT turn off path, go downhill as path twists into valley. Cross dry stream bed in olive grove and pick up narrow dirt road. Turn RIGHT, then follow road downhill.	U n s u r f a c e d

11	2,25	280		<p>Keep on road, descending into more open areas, passing a strange old building on the left. Keep LEFT as a road comes in from the right.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
12	2,91	660		<p>At junction of road in olive grove, turn RIGHT, downhill.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
13	3,78	870		<p>Road descends to a junction with large Eucalyptus and telephone wires. There is a well-head on left (Good spot for a sit down). When you continue, keep on road LEFT, going uphill.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
14	4,27	490		<p>As road veers left approaching the crest of a hill, turn RIGHT keeping low wall on your left, gently uphill for a few meters.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
15	4,33	60		<p>As road descends keep LEFT downhill.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
16	6,15	1820		<p>After staying on forest road for a long distance with views of the Xanthos valley and Patara beach, the road divides. Keep RIGHT, downhill.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d

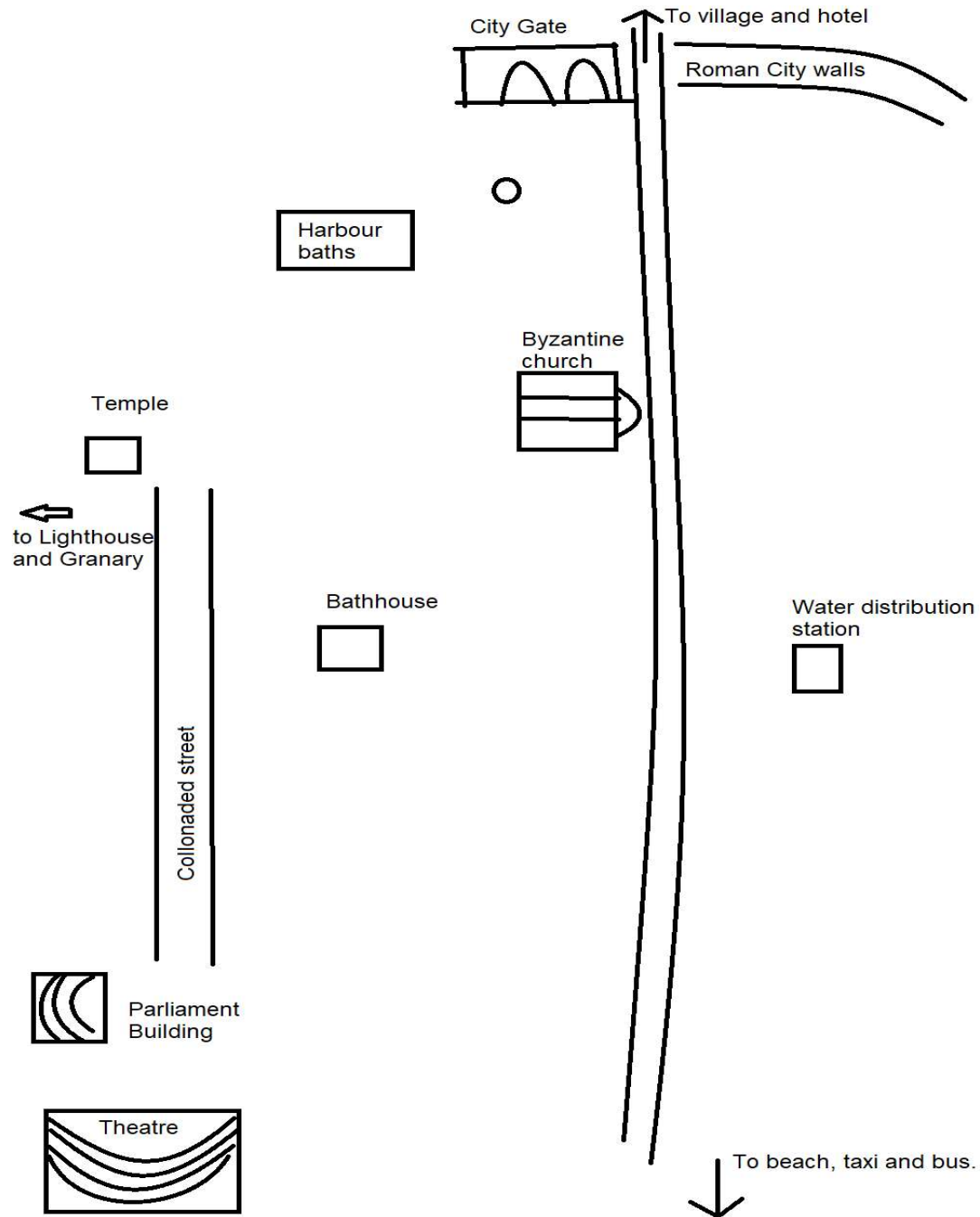
17	6,54	390		<p>100 meters after passing water pipes, the road ends. Turn LEFT just before the road ends, picking up the rough footpath and aqueduct channel again.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
18	7,13	590		<p>After steeply descending on the aqueduct you will find a deep well on the left at the bottom of a small cliff. Here continue to the LEFT, gently climbing into an olive grove with a dirt road (Good picnic spot). Turn RIGHT on road.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
19	7,35	220		<p>At junction with LW signpost turn RIGHT, (Patara 1km) and after 50 meters further, keep straight continuing between 2 monumental tombs from the Roman period.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
20	7,48	130		<p>Just after the monumental tombs keep LEFT at junction.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
21	7,54	60		<p>At junction with hotel on right, keep LEFT downhill.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
22	7,68	140		<p>After large pine tree where telephone wire crosses road, turn LEFT at junction walking in direction of the sea.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d

23	7,88	200		<p>Just after 3 buildings on left, turn LEFT onto footpath forking off the road. Descend on footpath.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
24	7,95	75		<p>After 75 meters on the footpath you come to a road with a pylon. Go straight across road, continue to descend on footpath.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d
25	8,15	200		<p>Descend to sarcophagus strewn field. Walk towards Ceremonial Roman arch.</p>	U n s u r f a c e d

From here you have the choice of to visit the remains first, or visit the beach for swimming and refreshments. At the end of the day you can choose to walk back to the hotel, by following the cobbled road for 1100 meters north of the ancient gate.

Free showers and changing rooms are available at the beach, behind the beach cafe. There is a charge for sunbeds if you want to use them. Buses leave every hour from the car park for a few lira, or taxis cost about 5€.

If you have the energy, an alternative walk back is possible if you go to first the lighthouse and then the granary on the far side of the swamp. You can find a way back to the village from here, following footpaths and dirt roads back to the village, by keeping the swamp on your right. The wetland area is a good place for birding. With Storks, Great Egrets, Marsh Harriers, Kingfishers, and even the very rare Smyrna Kingfisher can be spotted here.



## Patara

Patara was the capital of Lycia during the Roman imperial period, after Xanthos was destroyed by Brutus in the 1<sup>st</sup> C BC. The importance was the Harbour, which with the massive increase of trade during the Roman Empire brought great wealth to the town, as Patara became the centre of trade and governance for the whole of Lycia province. This is reflected in the size and grandeur of the remains to be found here, many still waiting under the sand.

The first major monument you will see is the triumphal arch dedicated to the emperor Vespasian (69-79AD) who presumably visited Patara during his reign. The Archway was connected to the city walls which you can just make out as they follow the road up the hill, all the way to the ruined fortress on the hill to the east. This gives some impression of the size of the city at its apogee. Turn to the west to descend to the 'Harbour baths', a large building with huge arched entrance way and bay windows rather similar to the Bathhouse at Tlos. Note the excavated crossroads. The reedy area nearby was the inner harbour in old times, and the harbour bath would be the first port of call for most of the arrivals in the town, who after weeks at sea would be smelling a bit ripe! Also it was a way of the town authorities to inspect the newcomers for any signs of infectious disease.

Walk back to the road and turn right, walk for about 200 meters to find the Church on the right, a of typical Byzantine design, with entrance hall (narthex), Central vault (nave), 2 aisles on either side and a semi circular Apse, facing east, where the alter was hidden behind the Templon, a highly decorated barrier, creating a sanctuary which only priests were allowed to enter.

The church was built using many re-used stones from other, earlier buildings; note the inscribed plinth making up part of the flooring, and the remains of a red granite column. (Which you can see the rest of later in the day)

St. Nicholas was born here in the 4<sup>th</sup> C AD, the only son of wealthy Christian parents, his parents died when he was still young and he has brought up by his uncle (Also called Nicholas) the Bishop of Patara, with a good inheritance. Nicholas was a very pious young man and entered the priesthood early.

According to the legend, Nicholas was in Myra (now Demre, 40km from Kaş) where he was working as a priest.

The Bishop of Myra had recently died, and the Archbishop was having difficulty finding a successor. God came to the archbishop in a dream, and told him to go spend the night in the church, and the first person who comes to pray in the morning would be the new bishop. Of course Nicholas came first and became the bishop of Myra.

Nicholas was known for his charity and frequently gave secret donations to the poor, without revealing his identity. The most famous myth concerns three sisters who were too poor to find dowries therefore were unlikely to be able to find husbands. The eldest daughter was preparing to sell herself into slavery or prostitution in order to find money for the younger girls. Nicholas threw gold coins down their chimney so that the girl would find the money in the morning, some of it landing in the girl's socks which had been hung at the chimney to dry. From this the story of Santa and gifts and chimneys was born.

Nicholas was also capable of performing miracles: During a famine at Myra one of the emperor's grain ships was traveling from Egypt to Constantinople. The ship stopped for water at Myra, Nicholas led a group of the town elders to plead for the captain to give some grain to the town and stop starvation. Of course the captain was not happy about this, as to steal the emperor's grain would mean death when he arrived at the capital, however Nicholas's pleading won through and half the grain on the ship was handed over. This grain lasted 2 years and there was even enough to sow the next year. Miraculously, when the grain arrived at Constantinople there was no grain missing.

St Nicholas was not just a mythological miracle worker, but a true historical character, and important theologian, who took part in the grand council of the church at Nicea, when the basic creed of the Christian church still in force today, was decided upon.

When he died, his remains were interred in Myra (Demre) in a church built in his honour.

The remains were taken to Bari in Italy, in the year 1087, after the Selçuk Turks defeated the Byzantine army and flooded into Asia Minor. The bones are still in Bari and venerated in a special church. The Turkish Government has now officially requested the return of the bones to Myra.

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of: Sailors, Prostitutes, Russia, archers, thieves, children, students.

He is also the patron saint of Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Barranquilla, Bari, Beit Jala, Fribourg, Huguenots, Kozani, Liverpool, Siggiewi, and Lorraine. He was also a patron of the Varangian Guard of the Byzantine emperors, who protected his relics in Bari.

Continue along the road till you come to a small junction. Turn Left up the hill for 50 meters and look at the remains under the now roof. This is an example of a water control and distribution system, where the water from the aqueduct was delivered to different parts of the city, and the pressure was controlled. Note the large collection chamber and the smaller pipes leading from it. If you look round the back you can make out the route of the aqueduct into the chamber.

Return to the road and continue straight across the road, passing a gate. On your right we see a massive collection of stones, possibly from the temple of Apollo that was in Patara.

Apollo was believed to have been born near here at a place called Letoon.

According to the myth, Leto the queen of the Nereids (water nymphs) was seduced by Zeus and fell pregnant with the twin gods Apollo and Artemis.

When Zeus's wife Hera found out she chased Leto from Olympos, and Leto Gave birth in Lycia (or on the Greek island, Delos)



Apollo was the great god of prophecy, and the oracles worked at Apollo's greatest temples in Delos, Didima and at Patara, interpreting various natural signs, animal entrails or sacred springs, to give a cryptic message to the supplicants who traveled great distances and spent good amounts of money to get a good prediction.

Though the temple has not been positively identified, it was probably in this area.

Observe the 2<sup>nd</sup> large bathhouse on your right, known as the baths of Vespasian (Perhaps he was so impressed by the archway built in his honour, he gave money for the bathhouse to be built?) Although impressive in size, it is not worth visiting, but note the soot is still visible in the chimney of the furnace that heated the complex.

Look for the line of columns, and head towards it.

This was the main arcade of the town lined with showy columns and shops. The columns are all monolithic, made from one piece of stone, and there are various different types of stone that you can find, blue granite, red granite, porphyry and pudding stone as well as the local limestone and pale marble. These columns were purely decorative and reflect the wealth of the city. Look out for the inscribed plinths that would have carried statues of emperors and local dignitaries. If you look carefully at the Greek inscriptions for long enough, you can see the names of emperors, M. Aurelius, Titus, Vespasian and Claudius, as well as the words Architect, Gymnasium.

From here it is possible to visit the 'Temple of unknown Deity' which you can see 200 meters distant if you follow the line of the colonnaded street. On the far side of this building there is an intricately carved doorway.

Turning back in the direction of the theatre, we first pass the very newly restored Bouleitourion, the parliament chamber.

The Lycians were the first to develop a federative assembly in their republic, where each of the 30 or so Lycian cities sent representatives to the parliament in Patara. The number of representatives varied on the size of the city, with the smaller ones grouped together to have one representative. The biggest cities were Xanthos, Patara, Tlos, Myra, Olympos, Arycanda, Limyra who had 3 representatives each, the smaller 2 or 1. The representative elected the 'Lyciarch' who was the president for a year.

Being the first example of representative federal democracy, the Building has recently seen lots of interest, especially from USA, who see many parallels with their own democracy. The building has recently been restored, with funding from the Turkish Parliament.

Continue to the theater itself, and note the massive dedicatory inscription on the left (east) side of the stage building. Dedicated to Emperor Antonius Pius 138-161 AD, the theatre was originally constructed in Hellenistic times (330-80 BC) in the horse-shoe shape, during the roman period the theatre was enlarged, the stage building was built and a wall was built at the edge of the orchestra to protect the spectators from the animal and Gladiator displays which become popular during roman times.

From here follow the path to the east of the theatre and head to the Beach. On the beach there is a snack-bar, changing rooms and toilets.