



Gökçe Gemile
THE STORY

About Malik Sahin

Born in 1966 to an Ankara family, Malik Sahin is the creator of Gökçe Gemile.

He studied Geological Engineering at Hacettepe University in Ankara before moving to London to study for an MA in Business. With savings from working the summers in Ölü Deniz running boat tours, he was eventually able to return to Turkey and build his first boat – the 16-metre Falcon 1.

This was the first large boat in Ölü Deniz and it could take up to 60 people on local cruises. It proved to be very successful and soon Malik branched out into land tours with his travel agency – Falcon Tourism.

Expanding further, in 1992 he opened a Mexican restaurant in Hisarönü and also met his British wife Nicky, with whom he has two sons. In 2000, Malik started the very first specialist tour operator in Turkey. By matching accommodation with flights, offering clever pricing and making the most of new technology (dynamic packaging), it was soon a great success.

This success led to Malik investing in land and property around Göcek. Following a couple of appearances on 'A Place In the Sun' — a very popular British property TV programme – Malik found that his reputation and success as a developer went from strength to strength.

By 2012, Malik was searching for something new and different. He was now spending a great deal of time sailing around the coast on his yacht and his love of the sea and the coast continued to grow and develop. He was inspired to try and discover a secluded, private place where he could create somewhere completely unique – a testament to his love of the natural world.

After two years of searching he discovered the site of Gökçe Gemile – but that was just the start of this story.



Welcome to Gökçe Gemile

A world-class and exclusive retreat, ideal for those seeking peace and relaxation in a truly beautiful natural setting.

Set high in the pine forest above a deserted bay, the Houses of Gökçe Gemile are unique. Almost entirely hand-built using natural materials, the three houses sit easily within the stunning landscape and join the private hidden beach and secret coves below with an open lift that descends from the mountainside to the sea. Exquisitely crafted from local stone and wood, and designed with passion and an imaginative eye for unusual detail, the houses offer natural style with superlative levels of comfort.

Welcome to your own private utopia.





“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.”

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

Set in the Heart of Nature

The Houses of Gökçe Gemile sit high above a series of southwest-facing bays, set into a rugged landscape of mountains fringed with pine and olive trees, maquis and wild herbs, overlooking the sea and the islet of Balaban. Here, the Aegean meets the Mediterranean and the clear waters are a perfect blue. It took Malik two years of searching to find this perfect spot, but it was time well spent, for in finding it he discovered the perfect destination in which to relax in the very heart of nature.

The three houses of Gökçe Gemile appear settled into the pine-forested landscape as if they've been there forever, and nature herself has built them. They have all been designed, built and furnished using a meticulously chosen blend of natural materials, and each house tells a unique story.

The houses – named ‘Gökçe’, ‘Gemile’ and ‘Elmalı’ – are all totally different in design. Fed by natural springs and each with its own sea minerals swimming pool and Jacuzzi, they have been hand-crafted from local natural resources to ensure not only that every house is unique, but every room, every feature at Gökçe Gemile is unique.

Respect for nature is evident everywhere you look.

Great care has been taken to ensure that everything at Gökçe Gemile works in quiet harmony with nature. Trees and shrubs have been left to grow naturally, with the buildings and pathways designed around them. Even the stone wall that surrounds Gemile House stops for the trunk of a carob tree, then continues beyond it. The striking architecture of Gökçe House came about out of respect for an old carob tree – it was left undisturbed and it now grows in the very heart of the living area, with a huge elevated space designed above it to ensure that it can continue to grow and prosper.

Water at Gökçe Gemile comes from the freshwater and sea mineral springs and wells on the site itself. The freshwater is filtered, pure and delicious. The swimming pools and Jacuzzis feature a mixture of the two waters, resulting in a chemical-free, natural sea minerals water that is pale turquoise in colour and heavenly to swim in.

This spectacular area is protected from development by strict laws. The bay itself is practically inaccessible by land and so a private funicular railway has been created to connect the houses to the main beach area. Designed to be simple and open, as you sit in it and descend the mountainside you are as close to the sky, the air, the mountain and the sea as it's possible to be.

Down at the private beach you'll find wooden platforms cut into the rock, and several hidden sandy coves. The deep, clear waters off Gökçe Gemile are rich in marine life. You can swim undisturbed with the turtles and the fish. You may even see dolphins, seals or the occasional octopus.

The forests here are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna that vary throughout the seasons, and the shepherds' trails that wind their way through the trees provide lots of opportunities for those who enjoy walking.

Opposite Page & This Page

The private beaches and coves at Gökçe Gemile. Top right shows the funicular railway (private lift) that takes you from the mountainside right down to the sea.





Every decision made at Gökçe Gemile has revolved around the desire to work in harmony with the beautiful natural setting, to both respect and enhance it. And that's the secret here – you truly feel you're living with, and in, nature.

Gökçe Gemile has been ingeniously created to preserve a unique relationship with the area's sublime landscape and to provide easy access to several totally private coves. It offers a luxurious hideaway in a pristine natural setting that is among the most idyllic locations in the Mediterranean, if not the world.

“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.”

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

This Page & Opposite Page

The setting at Gökçe Gemile is stunning. In these clear turquoise waters you're likely to see huge Loggerhead sea turtles. Main photograph on the opposite page shows the private beach platform down at the Beach Clubhouse where meals are served.



'The beginning is the most important part of the work.'

PLATO



The Philosophy Behind the Houses

Malik, the owner and designer of Gökçe Gemile, first had the idea for his project in 2004 whilst sailing around the coast of Gemiler. His passion for the sea, nature, and natural materials led him to want to create a place that felt as if nature herself had designed and built it. A peaceful world that sat apart from the hectic whirl of day-to-day modern life. And so he created Gökçe Gemile.

The Creative Process

Malik was clear that he wanted each of the houses to be distinct and have its own architectural design and clear character. He envisaged Elmalı in the rustic inner Anatolian style. Gemile was to be Levissi in design (similar in style to the houses in the nearby village of Kayaköy), with pebble mosaics featuring heavily. Gökçe was to be the most contemporary of the houses – he wanted to blend ancient stone and hand-hewn wood with quite modern clean lines and a handful of modern materials.

Malik took his concepts and ideas to an architect and they worked together over many months to finalise the interior and exterior designs.

Malik then travelled around Turkey extensively, visiting dozens of small Turkish villages, gathering ideas, materials and knowledge of traditional building techniques that he could use at Gökçe Gemile.

He knew that he wanted the houses to be built using natural materials as far as possible: stone, wood and wrought iron. With this as his starting point, he then spent months meticulously researching and studying these materials to work out what combination of these would be most fitting and suitable for each house.

Opposite Page

Gökçe House, the most contemporary of the three houses.

The Craftsmen

Gökçe Gemile could not have been built without three essential craftsmen: the stone mason (Sadık); the carpenter (İlhan); and the blacksmith (Hüseyin). Working closely with Malik, these three master craftsmen and their teams came together to hand-make everything you see at Gökçe Gemile. The result is that each house is a work of art, each room, each wall, each floor, each piece of furniture. Everywhere you look, everywhere you go, you're looking at something unique and hand-crafted using an exceptionally high level of skill and artistry.

“Every book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation out of all forests and mines and stone quarries; and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors.”

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

This Page, Top

Exterior wall made from Elmalı stone.

This Page, Middle

Sinks carved from metamorphic rock.

This Page, Bottom

An interior bathroom wall made from Dalaman River stones, with a recess made from Elmalı stone.



Made From the Earth

At Gökçe Gemile, nothing has happened by chance. Every choice and decision has been considered carefully to get to a certain finished point – whether it be to find the perfect length of oak for a bench, or the right piece of granite for a bathroom sink.

Malik spent many months sourcing his materials, and many more months undertaking painstaking research to rediscover traditional building techniques and design features. For example, the white clay and hay mix used to plaster some of the walls is an old recipe, used to help keep the houses cool in summer and warm in the winter; the iron chains that fall from each top corner of the houses are water conduits and allow rainwater to drip slowly down the chain and then feed into the garden grounds; and the way the wardrobe doors are hung in Elmalı enables the doors to slide rather than hinge. He commissioned local artists to produce bespoke framed artworks that feature the houses and local area, he sourced unique hand-made rugs, he tracked down rare stone and reclaimed old wood. From the furniture to the rugs, from the walls to the paintings, choices and selections have been made to ensure that each interior detail makes reference to the bigger outside environment.

Stone & Rock

With his background in geology, Malik has used his knowledge and love of rock and stone throughout Gökçe Gemile. Natural rock Jacuzzis have been hand-carved from single pieces of granite, and bathroom sinks from pillars of basalt – the extraordinary is everywhere. Black opaque granite, limestone, Elmalı sedimentary, volcanic and metamorphic rocks, granite, gneiss, rare white dolomite, black basalt, white cimp stone, pebbles from the Dalaman River and the coast – all have found their place in Gökçe Gemile.

Metal

Hand-crafted and bespoke wrought-iron items have been designed, created and used throughout the houses – this includes all the door furniture, hinges, brackets, lampshades and the exterior iron rain chains that are used as rain conduits.

Lead and copper have also been used in a handful of instances, for example the cooker hood in Gemile.

Wood

Six types of wood have been used in the building of the houses: chestnut, oak, eboya, cedar, carob and pine.

The chestnut used for some of the long ceiling beams and stair banisters is from the high mountains near the Black Sea where it grows tallest. Before use it had to be submerged in a river for three months to remove the black resin.

With much of the furniture, natural imperfections have been welcomed and celebrated – in some instances the carpenter has filled small splits in the grain with tree resin, and indentations with pebbles, then covered them with a thick layer of resin which is then polished.

Wood is hand-carved rather than machined, preserving the beauty and original texture of the wood as well as revealing the marks and signatures of the craftsmen who worked on it.

“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Opposite Page, Top Row, Left
Cooker hood handmade from tin (this was used a lot in the Ottoman empire) and wrought iron. (Gemile)

Opposite Page, Top Row, Centre
Ceiling light made from chestnut and wrought iron. (Elmalı)

Opposite Page, Top Row, Right
Shower wall made from pebbles from the area around Gökçe Gemile, and sedimentary rock from the Antep area of Turkey, which contains fossils. (Elmalı)



Opposite Page, Middle Row, Left
Medieval torch-style lighting made from wrought iron, and walls traditionally plastered with tuff – a creamy gold-coloured rock from the Cappadocia region. Formed from volcanic ash, tuff can be ground and mixed into a plaster, creating a beautiful coloured and textured surface that helps to insulate the house, while allowing the walls to breathe. (Gemile)

Opposite Page, Middle Row, Centre
Ceiling made from cedar and chestnut. (Elmalı)

Opposite Page, Middle Row, Right
Side table made from an eboya log. (Elmalı)



Opposite Page, Bottom Row, Left
Hand-carved, chestnut front door complete with traditionally-forged wrought iron hinges. (Elmalı)

Opposite Page, Bottom Row, Centre
Rectangular prism sink hand-cut from a single piece of granite and placed on top of large wooden legs, hand-carved from chestnut. (Gemile)

Opposite Page, Bottom Row, Right
Kitchen worktop fashioned from one enormous piece of white cimp stone. (Gökçe)





"Home is where one starts from."

T. S. ELIOT



The Three Houses

Each house is as unique as you are, their individual characters reflected in and informed by the different materials used and the techniques employed to build them.

The Houses of Gökçe Gemile are, in short, all lovingly-crafted works of art, skillfully designed and hand-built with passion, energy and imagination, and with your comfort, peace and privacy always in mind. So, you'll be pleased to find modern touches such as hidden air-conditioning, underfloor heating and state-of-the-art equipment throughout – offering you the best of all possible worlds.



Gökçe House

*3-Bedroom Main House with 3 Bathrooms; Open-Plan Sitting Room, Dining Area & Kitchen; Infinity Pool & Jacuzzi;
1-Bedroom Garden Guest House with Bathroom*

Impressive, imposing and completely unique, Gökçe House must surely be one of the most stylish and imaginatively designed houses in the Mediterranean. An architectural vision of stone, wood, glass and steel, Gökçe's extraordinary design springs from the fact that there is a single carob tree that stands in the middle of it. Malik didn't want to disturb the tree so decided instead to integrate it into the design of the house itself.

Gökçe House stands majestically tall and is so-named because it offers commanding views of the beautiful Gökçe Bay below. Gökçe has several meanings in Turkish – sky blue, celestial, heavenly – all of which are reflected here, with the blues of the sea below and the sky above, and the beauty and tranquillity of the location.

In this house, Malik wanted to create much more of a contemporary feel than the other two houses, yet still retain a deep respect for nature and her past. So, he used ancient materials with modern ones, setting wood and stone side by side with more contemporary materials, such as steels and vast sections of glass, for example. Every feature of Gökçe has been carefully chosen to reflect the skills of the craftsmen, with each element sourced to leave the minimum impact on the environment. The house itself is built from stones from the fields and deserted old houses of Alaçatı, near Izmir. Reclaiming, recycling and repurposing also extends to some of the beautiful wood and timbers used throughout Gökçe.

Whilst the architecture and vaulted interior of the house are extraordinary, the outside area is just as carefully thought through. Concealed behind a grassy slope, the Guest House has been created with a thermal wall to keep it cool in summer and warm in winter. A fantastic pergola sits on the roof of the house, with Ottoman-style chairs, a sofa and a beautiful oak log table. The centrepiece of the garden is the huge sea minerals pool with a pebble-stone-mosaic shelved beach area, which contains a huge Jacuzzi hand-carved from a single granite boulder. Everywhere you look, whether inside or out, Gökçe impresses.

Opposite Page

In the huge open-plan sitting room and dining area, the floor is made from plutonic black granite – this mainly consists of quartz, feldspatoids, amphibole, pyroxene and black mica.

The impressive hand-crafted oak dining table is topped with a thick layer of resin to give it a super smooth top and perfect finish.

Steels and wood are used for the staircase, a good example of how it is possible to successfully combine the contemporary with the traditional.

The century-old carob tree is the central feature of the downstairs living area. Around its trunk, there is a basalt surround, ingeniously created to form a kind of Fibonacci design, spiralling out from the wooden trunk. It is hard to see where the bark ends and the basalt begins because the basalt is so close in colour and texture to the bark of the tree.

This Page, All Three Photographs

A range of different materials has been used in the outside areas. The stepping stones are limestone, and the pebbles used in the patio area and huge sea minerals pool come mostly from the sea at Demre and here at Gökçe Gemile, whilst the Jacuzzi is made from stones from the Köyceğiz River. The impressive benches outside are made from basalt, and the table is one giant piece of granite.





Opposite Page, Main Photograph

The massive vaulted entrance to the house gives room for the carob tree to breathe and grow.

Opposite Page, Top Left

In Master Bedroom North, angel white stone is used for the floating bed frame and the bedside tables, and again highly polished angel white stone has been used for the sink along with absolute black granite on the floor to give a contemporary feel. The blocks of wood used to make the room divider have all been taken from off-cuts from pieces used elsewhere in the Gökçe Gemile project. Here, they are used like wooden bricks to form a wall.

Opposite Page, Middle Left

The ensuite bathroom to Master Bedroom North incorporates angel white marble.

Opposite Page, Bottom Left

Master Bedroom South has a bed frame and wall both made from chestnut, and cedar and chestnut are used together on the ceiling to give a contrast (the cedar wood is paler than the chestnut). Basalt has been used for the sink in the ensuite, with logs used for the leg supports, and granite used on the floor.

This Page, Main Photograph

Oak is used for the large coffee table here, and the novel floor lamps are made from pieces of chestnut, with grooves cut into them to create subtle lighting.

The chimney breast is made using both basalt and wood. Again, the basalt is so similar to the wood of a tree trunk, that the two blend seamlessly – in fact you need to study them closely to tell them apart.

The television stand is made from Aliaga basalt.

Gemile House

3-Bedroom Main House with 3 Bathrooms; Open-Plan Sitting Room, Dining Area & Kitchen; Lake Pool & Granite Boulder Jacuzzi; 1-Bedroom Garden Guest House with Bathroom

Enjoying the most secluded position of the three houses, Gemile House is a very special place indeed. With views of the forests, hillsides and the deep blue waters of Gemile Bay (after which the house is named), it follows the Levissi style of architecture which is Turkish/Greek in character, and in which pebble mosaics feature strongly. This style of building can be seen in the nearby village of Kayaköy (known during the Ottoman Empire as 'Levissi'), where Turkish and Greek people lived together up until the population exchange following the First World War.

In this house, Malik wanted to truly connect the outside with the inside, and nowhere at Gökçe Gemile is this more apparent or more effective than here – the paths that meander through the terraced garden have all been paved with pebble mosaics (the pebbles come from the sea at Demre and also from right here at Gökçe Gemile) in a style that echoes the area's Turkish-Greek heritage. This same style flows right through from the outside area into the sitting room of the house, and even into the dining room where there is an imaginative pebble mosaic 'carpet'.

Gemile is a celebration of traditional building methods and techniques that have been used by Turkey's master craftsmen for centuries. It is an architectural gem with design, style and comfort at its core. With its sea minerals lake-style swimming pool, together with its secluded position, Gemile is ideal for guests seeking complete privacy and luxury in beautiful surroundings.

Opposite Page

Gemile house has been built using river-washed stones harvested over the centuries by smallholders from the Eşen district of Fethiye. To be able to use the area's rich alluvial soil to grow their crops, these farmers had to remove all these stones – deposited by the Eşen River over millennia – by hand. Rather than throw the stones away they used them to build boundary walls and even houses. These have now been further recycled and given new life at Gemile.

This Page, Top

The Jacuzzi outside is formed from one granite boulder from Bergama, and has its original lichen still attached – even this has been left undisturbed to grow and prosper.

This Page, Middle & Bottom

Granite boulders have also been used in the impressive lake-style sea minerals swimming pool, which is lined with Dalaman river stones, and the patio area showcases pebble mosaic detailing.





Opposite Page, Main Photograph, Bottom Left & Bottom Middle

Pebble mosaics feature strongly inside as well as outside at Gemile. They are particularly effective on the floor of the enormous sitting room, where they are used along with huge 1-metre x 2-metre beige Elmalı marble stones which have been interspersed with black pebbles. There is also an imaginative pebble mosaic 'carpet' in the dining area.

The large fireplace downstairs is created using stones hand-picked from the Köyceğiz River, and the tables, benches and bookshelves are all handmade from chestnut and oak.

The floating staircase is made from reclaimed white oak – the ends of the beams used for the steps here are also visible on the other side of the wall (in the downstairs bedroom), but here they have a different purpose – they are shelves.

The main lamp shade in the centre of the downstairs dining area is created from a broken carob tree branch found nearby.

Opposite Page, Bottom Right

In the kitchen, the sink is carved from one huge piece of white Afyon marble. The kitchen cupboards and drawers have been made from oak beams and wrought iron.

This Page, Main Photograph

Master Bedroom East features an impressive Levissi-style 5-metre-high ceiling hand-carved from cedar and chestnut wood, and a kingsize bed frame hand-carved from Black Sea chestnut timber logs. The ensuite bathroom includes a floor made from slabs of dolomite and pebbles from the Dalaman River. The sink has been created from one massive egg-shaped un-mined granite boulder that was found on the mountains of Bergama, and it still has moss and grass attached to it. The top portion of this piece of granite has been hand-carved and used to make a recess in the wall to hold bathroom items.

This Page, Top Left

Master Bedroom West features a kingsize bed frame hand-carved from oak, as well as two oak bedside tables. The beautiful floors here are made from reclaimed oak that is hundreds of years old.

This Page, Bottom Left

Master Bedroom West's ensuite bathroom includes a sink made from Aliaga basalt (volcanic rock), and large slabs of this are also used on the floor, interspersed with white pebbles from Demre.

Elmalı House

3-Bedroom House with 3 Bathrooms; Open-Plan Sitting Room, Dining Area & Kitchen; Lake pool & Jacuzzi

Elmalı was conceived as a traditional Anatolian Ottoman house, but like all the houses at Gökçe Gemile it manages to combine its own distinct style and character with a modern elegance. It's set in private landscaped gardens, with a large sea minerals swimming pool and water features made using natural stone and rocks – so the sound of gently cascading water is never far away.

Elmalı is named after the mountain village where the stone mason, Sadık, comes from, and where much of the stone was sourced to build it – notably, the stone for the walls is from reclaimed farm field walls. Naturally weathered and mellowed over the years, these honey-coloured stones help to give a timeless feel to the house.

Throughout Elmalı, seasoned cedar, chestnut and oak, wrought iron and stone, have been imaginatively used to reflect the natural surroundings and highlight the skills of traditional craftsmanship. As you step through the impressive hand-carved chestnut door (that in itself took three months to create) into the spacious downstairs living area, you'll find a beautiful hand-crafted Ottoman-style staircase that leads up to the first floor. Here, a balcony extends along the front of this floor and out to one side, offering fabulous views over the bay in one direction, and across Gemile Bay towards Kidrak in the other. Outside too, the impressive lake-style pool provides views out across the forest and to the sea.

Everywhere, both throughout the house and outside area, natural materials have been used sensitively, creatively and with real style to create something very special. It's a wonderful example of a modern house built in a traditional Turkish style and with ancient materials, which manages to create its own extraordinary feeling of history and longevity, as if it has stood on this same spot for hundreds of years.



This Page, Top

The kitchen worktop is one giant piece of black granite, with a limestone splashback which includes shells and fossils, and the dining table and benches are hand-carved from chestnut. The staircase uses traditional Ottoman-style ironwork, with mountain-grown chestnut for the steps and hand rails – each formed from a single length of wood.

The stone floor has been created from slabs of gneiss, fitted together like a complex jigsaw puzzle. The name for this rock comes from the German word *gneist*, which in English means 'spark', because this rock actually sparkles.

This Page, Middle

Two huge upstairs balcony terraces lead off from Master Bedroom South. These have been made with wrought iron and chestnut, and are bagdadi in style.

This Page, Bottom

Master Bedroom North features a floor made from reclaimed chestnut wood, and a bed frame made from a single piece of Elmalı rock.

Opposite Page

The swimming pool area features large rocks sourced from Elmalı, and the Jacuzzi is built using pebbles from the local coast. Even the huge boulders used in and around the pool were transported here from Elmalı. The patio areas use the same stone as inside the house, but different colours have been selected to give a beautiful contrasting effect.





Opposite Page

Many of the interior walls at Elmalı are plastered with a traditional mixture of either white clay and hay, or white clay and cedar bark. As well as providing an extra layer of insulation, this helps to keep the house cool in the summer and warm in the winter, and it also allows the house to breathe. In the sitting room, however, some of the walls have been left unplastered, making a real feature of the natural stone. The plastered fire place wall again spotlights the natural stone, as it includes a few small areas where the stone has been left to show through the plaster.

Chestnut is used for the ceiling beams, and oak is used for the large coffee table in the sitting room. There is also a smaller side table made of eboya – with recesses in it ingeniously filled with pebbles, covered with resin and polished to create a really unique finish.

Bespoke ceiling lamps in the sitting room use iron, chestnut wood and rope – the rope gives a connection to the sea, and is also used as a discrete fencing in some of the outside area at Elmalı.

The exquisite handmade rug is sourced from Milas. It's made by stitching together offcuts of many different rugs to form a complete rug – a traditional wedding gift which originates from this area.

This Page, Main Photograph

The unique bathrooms in Elmalı showcase the skill of the stonemason. In the bathroom for Master Bedroom South, the basins have been made from a single piece of metamorphic rock, split in half, and the walls are lined with pebbles from the Dalaman River and single slabs of limestone, from Antep.

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The wardrobe in Master Bedroom South doesn't use hinged doors – instead ironwork is used to make the sliding door mechanism following a traditional technique.

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The beautifully crafted pergola is made from reclaimed oak and Elmalı stone and has a sense of permanence and solidity, as if it's been on this spot forever.





'You must come home with me and be my guest; You will give joy to me, and I will do all that is in my power to honour you.'

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY



Our Concierge Service

We want you to feel at home when you're staying with us here at Gökçe Gemile. Ultimately the team here are a family and this is our home, so if you're happy to be here then we are too. Every one of us wants to make you feel welcome, relaxed and content.

Our Concierge Service is intended to be informal and understated – but it's something we take very seriously indeed. We aim to offer our guests a level of privacy, solitude, comfort, relaxation, attention to detail and service that we believe is unrivalled anywhere on the Aegean and Mediterranean coast. The setting itself is totally secluded – Gökçe Gemile is invisible from the road and the 24-hour gated security ensures that access is diligently restricted. Once inside the grounds, you are ensured of complete privacy both in the communal areas, as well as in the gardens and houses, so you can be sure that you won't be disturbed whilst at your tranquil retreat.

All you need to do then, is relax and enjoy your stay with us.



Dining at Gökçe Gemile

Dining at Gökçe Gemile is usually informal but the food is always delicious and service is second to none.

All our food is organic and locally sourced whenever possible, and we buy seasonal fruit, vegetables and produce such as eggs and bread from local farmers and producers. Meals are always freshly cooked to order, which is why we ask you to let us know in advance what you'd like to eat. The Beach Clubhouse is where the team prepares breakfast, lunch and dinner, and where we also serve drinks. We choose not to call this a restaurant, as we want you to think of Gökçe Gemile as your home-from-home for the duration of your holiday – you are our guests, not 'customers'. Whether you want to eat down at the beach, in the privacy of your house at Gökçe Gemile, or at a restaurant in a nearby village or town, we offer a variety of dining choices . . .



Waterside Dining

Meals are served down at the beach. We offer a range of dining options during your stay, from self-catering to full board. We prefer to cook dishes of your choice, rather than having a rigid set menu, so we may ask for between 24 and 48 hours' notice for some dining options (no notice is required for lunch and snacks). Please note, in the evenings, dinner is served to only one house party at a time, in order to ensure a unique experience and preserve privacy.

In-House Service

Eating in the privacy of your own house at Gökçe Gemile may be your preferred option, especially if you have young children. On request, a female member of our team will come to your house and prepare delicious, traditional Turkish village meze and main dishes, according to your requirements. She will also help in a range of domestic duties, such as shopping, cleaning, child-minding etc. if required. For this service we require two weeks' notice.

Full Board & Drinks

This option is available for parties taking all three houses at Gökçe Gemile. Our full board price covers breakfast, lunch, an à la carte three-course evening meal, desserts, fruit, all soft drinks, fresh fruit juices and hot drinks throughout the day. Food is all cooked in the Gökçe Gemile Clubhouse Kitchen, and all meals are served down at the beach or in your house. Advance notice of what you would like us to cook is required for this option.

Eating Out

If you wish to dine out while staying at Gökçe Gemile there are lots of different options from which to choose – whether you go to nearby Kaya or Fethiye, there is plenty of choice to suit all tastes and appetites. We are happy to advise you about where to dine in the local area, and we will also book your table and organise chauffeur-driven transport if and when required.



The Bounty of Nature at Gökçe Gemile

Down at the Beach Clubhouse we offer breakfast, snacks and light lunches during the day – these are prepared by the team at Gökçe Gemile, all of whom want to share with you the simple joy that comes from using the very best, the freshest and the most local of ingredients.

We focus on traditional home-cooked Anatolian dishes and these are served on the shaded seating area overlooking the sea. Here are just a few of the organic locally-sourced ingredients that are an integral part of cooking and eating at Gökçe Gemile . . .



Rock salt

This is harvested from the rocks on the mountainside – and found by following goats who are searching for mineral licks.



Pink Tomatoes

Grown on the mountaintops of Sögüt, they are unique to this area and can't be bought in supermarkets. They have an extraordinary flavour.



Pine Honey

At breakfast you'll get to taste the pure and delicious honey from our own hives. The bees' main nectar supply comes from the pine trees of this area.



Herbs

A selection of wild herbs from the mountain (such as thyme and sage) are used to make tea, and they are also added to savoury dishes or used as marinades to flavour meat or fish.



Carob

We use carob flour and pods in our cooking, again sourced from our own trees.



Olive Oil

All of the olive oil we use is made and pressed at Gökçe Gemile itself – using olives gathered from olive trees on the surrounding mountains.



Morel Mushrooms

These are found in the mountains around Gökçe Gemile. They are often used to accompany seafood.



Walnuts

These come from the surrounding trees at Gökçe Gemile. They are full of flavour and totally delicious.



Relax & Reconnect

We believe that Gökçe Gemile is the perfect retreat. Here, you can relax by being as laid-back or as active as you like. The choice is yours.

Once you've arrived, you can choose not to leave Gökçe Gemile, but if you do enjoy getting out and about and exploring, we can arrange tours and excursions to places such as the Dalyan Delta, the Saklikent Canyon, Xanthos, Letoon and Patara. Wherever you wish to go, whatever you wish to do whilst you're staying with us, just let us know and we'll try to arrange it for you. From snorkelling and sailing through to spa therapies and beauty treatments, we offer a wide range of options. Here are just a few examples of what it's possible to do whilst staying with us here at Gökçe Gemile . . .



Fishing

We have all the necessary fishing equipment to enable you to fish from the rocky coves right here at Gökçe Gemile. You can also choose to spend a few peaceful hours fishing at sea on our speed boat with our knowledgeable skipper who is well practised in the art of fishing. While we can't always guarantee you a catch, if the trip is successful the team will bring your fish back to the Clubhouse and grill it that evening, then serve it to you for dinner.



Sailing

The southwest coast of Turkey offers some of the best sailing in the world. At Gökçe Gemile we have our own 42.2 ft Jeanneau Sun Odyssey yacht. Accompanied by our experienced crew, you can sail single-handedly for the day, or just have a go at sailing and learn some of the skills involved. You'll explore the spectacular coastline and also get to eat onboard too – a fabulous experience.



Scuba Diving

The deep, clear waters of Gökçe Gemile bay are among the best in Turkey for scuba diving. You can explore the coastline and the underwater secrets of Balaban island. We work closely with a team of highly-trained master divers from a well-respected local company, and so we're also able to offer a full range of diving courses from PADI and CMAS: from the Discover Scuba course for beginners to speciality courses for experienced divers.



Kayaking & Paddleboarding

Kayaking and paddleboarding are great ways to explore the local bays, coves and islands. At Gökçe Gemile we have two kinds of ocean-going kayaks: single and tandem. We also have our own stand-up paddleboards, so if you haven't tried paddleboarding before, you can have a go at that. You will be provided with life jackets and a basic course on safety.



Trekking

The area around Gökçe Gemile is a walker's paradise, with stunning trekking country and an abundance of glorious walks and trails right here on your doorstep. The start of the Lycian Way is within a few kilometres of Gökçe Gemile and there are plenty of marked trails through the forests and countryside. If you wish to explore further afield, we can organise a trekking expedition, where you will be accompanied by a qualified and knowledgeable guide.



Yoga

Gökçe Gemile is a tranquil and beautiful place, the ideal environment in which to practice yoga. Our experienced yoga teacher offers yoga sessions in the privacy of your own garden. She will adapt to your requirements, and can offer Hatha, Ashtanga or Yin yoga. She is also a fully trained Reiki Practitioner, so you may also choose to indulge in a reiki treatment – perfect if you're looking for total relaxation and a deep feeling of calm and wellbeing.

“There is pleasure in the pathless woods, there is rapture in the lonely shore, there is society where none intrudes, by the deep sea, and music in its roar; I love not Man the less, but Nature more.”

LORD BYRON

Arriving & Departing

Your journey to and from Gökçe Gemile is an integral part of your holiday and our aim is to ensure that however you choose to arrive or depart, you have the best possible experience. Our Arrival and Departure Service is extensive and is designed to ensure that there are lots of options.

Although hidden away, Gökçe Gemile is easily accessible by air, land and sea. We are situated on the Lycian coast, approximately half an hour from Fethiye by car. You can choose to travel independently, or you can use one of our quick and seamless transfer options, as listed below (more details are available on our website). This part of southwest Turkey has many exclusive marinas, so if you wish to arrive by boat, it couldn't be simpler — at Gökçe Gemile we have our own private jetty and lazy lines for the sheltered mooring of yachts, motor launches and gulets.



Private VIP Luxury Transfers by Road

The Gökçe Gemile Concierge Service can organise transfers from every airport, marina or town in the region. The majority of roads in the area are excellent, and experienced chauffeurs ensure a comfortable journey in either a VIP luxury car or people carrier.



Private VIP Helicopter Transfer

Travelling by helicopter is an ideal option if you have a busy life and tight schedules. Your helicopter can land at the Kayaköy Helipad, which is just minutes away from Gökçe Gemile, and a chauffeured VIP vehicle will meet you on arrival and transfer you quickly here.



Private Luxury Yacht/Speed Boat Transfer

At Gökçe Gemile we are able to organise private luxury yacht or speedboat transfers from many locations, including Fethiye, Göcek, Kaş, Kalkan, Datça, Bozburun, Marmaris, Bodrum, Yalıkava and Antalya, as well as Cyprus, Rhodes and other Greek Islands.

‘Travel and change of place impart new vigour to the mind.’

SENECA



THE VOICE OF THE SEA

sometimes even the sea needs to find a place to rest
 a quiet spot
 an empty cove
 a place so secret and so still
 that it can let go and be its very fluid essence.
 it found such a site some years ago
 and it stopped and took a moment to compose a plea
 then it whispered on a breath of wind
 that skimmed its pure blue waters
 and glided up and on
 it spoke to the mountains and the forest
 and all the elements around:
 "gather yourselves, my friends,
 and let us come together.
 bounteous earth let us all feast upon your treasures
 let your fruit and nuts, honey and oil, salt and herbs
 nourish and sustain
 let your fragrant pine mingle with the mountain air
 so that we may all take long pure breaths
 and feel restored.
 allow the blacksmith to forge and bend your iron
 let the carpenter chisel and sand your wood
 let the stonemason chip and polish your rock.
 if you are fallen or lost, if you are not quite whole,
 no matter
 you, impressive oak, can make a mighty table
 and you, dear chestnut will be a giant door
 you, proud basalt can hold cleansing waters
 and you, strong iron can be the brace
 that binds the wood

you, sweet pebbles and weighty boulders can
 give me places where my waters may tumble
 and flow around you
 and where feet can softly tread
 upon your ancient path.
 worry not, grandfather carob,
 for you have stood so long in this same spot
 that we will work around you
 and give you the reverence that you deserve
 for truly you will be the beating heart
 of our new home.

so let us work together
 to make a place where we can all rest
 all be still
 a place as peaceful as can be
 a place where sea and earth and breath of wind
 can chime and sing so quietly that still the cicadas
 are not disturbed."

And so it was that the sea's voice
 crept unnoticed up the mountain
 and Gökçe Gemile was born.

CHANTAL ROSER

A guest at Gökçe Gemile, July 2018



Gökçe Gemile
GOKCEGEMILE.COM