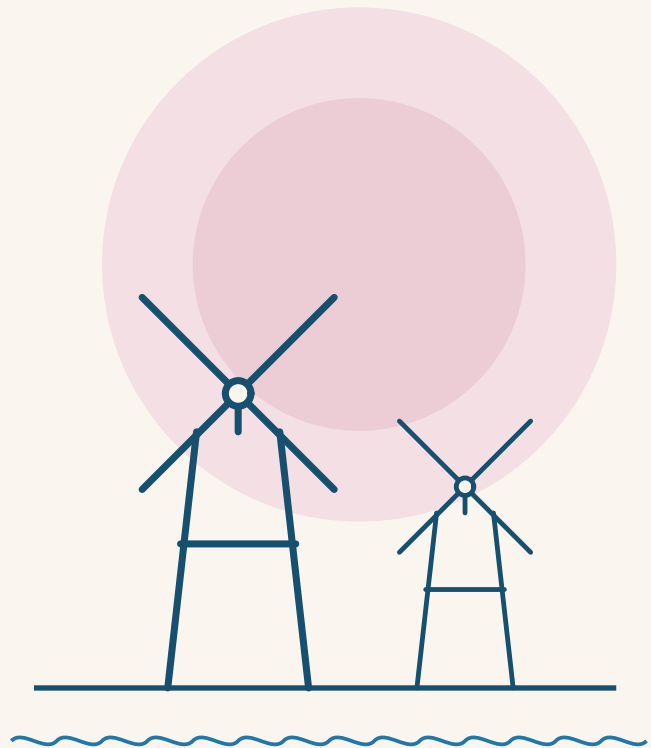




THE FREE MINI GUIDE FROM ALACATI.CO

Alaçatı Like a Local

*The insider shortcut plus a ready-made 3 day itinerary,
written by two people who actually live here.*

alacati.co

2026 edition · prices verified in town, July 2026

Ten rules for doing Alaçatı like a local

Alaçatı rewards people who know its rhythm and quietly punishes people who fight it. These ten rules are the compressed version of everything we tell visiting friends. Follow them and you will skip most of the queues, the flat light and the tourist pricing.

1. Mornings are for water, afternoons are for wind.

The meltemi wind sleeps until about 1pm, then blows almost every summer afternoon. Swim early, sail late. Plan every beach day around this one fact.

2. Walk Kemalpaşa Caddesi before 10am.

The old town belongs to locals and cats until the tour vans arrive late morning. The cobbles, the bougainvillea and the coffee are all better early.

3. Book dinner in the morning, not at 8pm.

In July and August the good garden restaurants fill by 8pm. Decide at breakfast where you want to eat, and reserve then. Walk-ins work fine off season.

4. The windmills are a sunset spot, not a midday one.

They face west. At noon the light is flat and hot; in the last hour before sunset the stone glows. Time your climb accordingly.

5. Saturday is market day. Go before 10am with cash.

The biggest market on the peninsula, on İnönü Caddesi. Herbs, village cheese, fish and flowers sell through early.

6. Skip the rental car unless you are chaining day trips.

The old town is pedestrian, the teal dolmuş covers the beaches every 10 to 15 minutes in season, and August parking is genuine misery.

7. Your airport is ADB, İzmir. Never BJV.

Milas-Bodrum airport shares the coast but sits 2.5 hours away. We meet victims of this booking mistake every summer.

8. Meyhane night is a marathon, not a sprint.

Cold meze first, then hot, then fish, with rakı or a cold Aegean white. Budget the whole evening and 30 to 55 EUR (1,600 to 3,000 TRY) per person.

9. Beach club fees are minimum spends, not tickets.

That 60 EUR (3,200 TRY) for two beds converts to food and drink. Weekdays are calmer and cheaper than DJ weekends; arrive before noon.

10. Prices move with the lira. Trust the EUR figure.

We quote both currencies at about 54 TRY to 1 EUR (July 2026). Lira prices drift within a season; the euro figures stay roughly true.

THE ESSENTIALS

Know before you go

Airport	İzmir Adnan Menderes (ADB). About 85 km, 50 to 60 minutes on the O-30 motorway.
Private transfer	Fixed 55 EUR (about 2,950 TRY) per car up to 7 people. Driver tracks your flight, meets you in arrivals. Best for couples, families, late landings.
Budget route	Havaş coach toward Çeşme, 550 TRY (about 10 EUR), stops at Alaçatı Terminali on the boulevard. Then a short taxi or dolmuş for the last 2 km into the old town.
Money	About 54 TRY to 1 EUR (July 2026). Cards work almost everywhere; the market and dolmuş prefer cash.
Season	June to September is high season, August is peak everything. May, late September and October are the local favorites: warm sea, empty lanes, lower rates.
Wind	The meltemi builds after about 1pm nearly every summer day. It is why the windsurf bay is world class and why beach umbrellas fly.
Market	Saturday, along İnönü Caddesi by the dolmuş garage, roughly 10 minutes on foot from the main street. Go early.
Getting around	The old town is entirely walkable, about 10 minutes end to end. Teal dolmuş minibuses connect Alaçatı, the windsurf bay side and Ilıca beach every 10 to 15 minutes in season.
Tap water	Drink bottled; locals do. Restaurants serve it by default.
Reservations	Essential for good restaurants on July and August evenings, and for boat days. Ask us if you get stuck (last page).

The old town on foot

MORNING · SERPME KAHVALTI AND THE STONE STREETS

Start with serpmekahvaltı, the Aegean breakfast ritual: a table buried under small plates of village cheese, peninsula olives, tomatoes, honeycomb and clotted kaymak, with endless tea. Give it a full hour. Then walk Kemalpaşa Caddesi, the pedestrian spine of the old town, end to end. Halfway along sits the squat stone Hacımemiş Mosque, born a Greek Orthodox church, the oldest landmark on the street and the easiest place to orient from.

LOCAL TIP Walk the main street before 10am. The day trippers from Çeşme arrive late morning, and by noon the lanes are shoulder to shoulder in July and August.

AFTERNOON · WINDMILLS AND BOUTIQUES

Climb to the windmills at the top of town, a gentle 10 to 15 minute walk uphill, for the one wide view over the peninsula. Then lose an hour in the boutiques: linen, ceramics, olive oil soap, mastic sweets. The good shops hide in the side-street grid, not on the main drag.

LOCAL TIP The windmills face west. Midday light is flat and harsh; come back in the last hour before sunset when the stone glows.

EVENING · GARDEN DINNER AND A SLOW BAR LOOP

Dinner in a garden restaurant in the old town (booked that morning if it is high season), then a slow loop of the cocktail bars near the top of Kemalpaşa Caddesi. Warm stone, music from open doorways, and no taxi needed all night. This is the thing Alaçatı does best.

Beach, bay and a seafood meyhane

MORNING · SWIM THE WINDSURF BAY WHILE IT SLEEPS

Head to the windsurf bay about 3 km south of town, five to seven minutes by taxi (roughly 250 to 400 TRY, 5 to 7 EUR) or a short dolmuş hop. Before 1pm the meltemi has not woken up: the bay is waist deep, sandy bottomed, glassy and warm, one of the calmest swims on the coast.

AFTERNOON · LEARN TO SAIL, OR CLAIM A COVE

Option one: take a beginner windsurf lesson. This is one of the friendliest learner bays on earth, and most people are crossing flat water on day one. Group lessons run roughly 60 to 100 EUR (3,200 to 5,400 TRY) for a couple of hours. Option two: a swimming cove or beach club toward Çeşme, like the clear water at Delikli Koy. Two beds and a parasol cost just under 60 EUR (about 3,200 TRY) as a minimum spend that converts to food and drink.

***LOCAL TIP** Wind builds after about 1pm almost every day: swim in the morning, sail in the afternoon, and pick a weekday for the beach clubs unless you want the DJ crowd.*

EVENING · MEZE, FISH AND RAKI

Tonight is meyhane night: cold meze first (fava, samphire, octopus, stuffed vine leaves), then grilled fish, with rakı or a cold Aegean white. Expect roughly 30 to 55 EUR per person (1,600 to 3,000 TRY) for the full spread in high season, more at the marina.

Market morning, farm lunch, wine

MORNING · THE SATURDAY MARKET (OR THE WINE ROAD)

If today is Saturday, walk 10 minutes to İnönü Caddesi for the biggest market on the peninsula: fresh fish, flowers, wild herbs and greens, village cheese. Go before 10am with cash and a tote. Any other day, drive 30 minutes east to the Urla wine route instead, where about ten producers cluster within a short drive of each other, reviving native grapes like Bornova Misketi and Urla Karası. Arrange a driver so everyone can taste.

AFTERNOON · POINT AT YOUR LUNCH

For lunch, head to Asma Yapağı, the farm-to-table kitchen just outside the old town with a Michelin Green Star: you walk in, look at the day's dishes laid out, and point at what you want, most of it grown on their own plot. It is the meal people remember from the whole trip. Reserve ahead in season.

EVENING · THE FAREWELL DINNER

Keep the last night simple. Pick the garden restaurant you walked past on Day 1, book it in the morning, and end with one final slow drink near the little marina. Town, water, market and wine, covered without ever rushing.

LOCAL TIP *Traveling as a couple? Trade pace for polish: a stone house hotel, golden hour at the windmills, one long winery lunch. Windsurfer? Stretch this plan to 5 to 7 nights and follow the wind clock instead.*

The short eating list

Restaurants here change hands fast, so this is the durable shortlist we send friends, verified in July 2026. The full, continuously updated guide lives at alacati.co/restaurants/.

Asma Yaprığı

The farm-to-table icon. Aegean dishes from their own garden, chosen by pointing at the day's spread. Michelin Green Star, deservedly. Book ahead.

Fava Alaçatı

Long-standing seafood and meze house with years of consistency behind it. A safe great choice for the big fish dinner.

A seafood meyhanesi night

Dem and Leblebisi are the classic rakı-table format: cold meze, hot meze, whole fish. Go with time, not hunger alone.

Serpme kahvaltı, anywhere with a courtyard

The breakfast ritual matters more than the address: dozens of small plates, endless tea, one full hour minimum. Weekday mornings are calmer.

The Saturday market, for the picnic route

Village cheese, warm gözleme, olives, tomatoes that taste like tomatoes. Build a beach picnic for a fraction of restaurant prices.

***LOCAL TIP** High season table trick: decide at breakfast, book by phone or ask your hotel to call at opening time, and take the 7pm slot if 9pm is gone. The kitchen is fresher anyway.*

THE WIND

Windsurfing in one page

Alaçatı bay is one of the best places on the planet to learn to windsurf, and it is not close. The bay is waist deep for hundreds of meters over a sandy bottom, the water stays flat because the wind blows from land toward the sea, and the meltemi delivers that wind nearly every afternoon from May to October. You cannot drift out to sea, you can always stand up, and the schools have taught total beginners here for decades.

What it costs (2026)

Beginner group lesson	about 60 to 100 EUR (3,200 to 5,400 TRY) for roughly 2 hours
Multi-day beginner course	the sensible buy: most people sail independently within 3 days
Gear rental (licensed sailors)	daily and weekly rates at every school; book ahead for August
Season	May to October; July and August are windiest and busiest

The daily rhythm: light wind in the morning for lessons and relaxed cruising, building through early afternoon, peaking from mid-afternoon when the good sailors come out to play. Kitesurfers ride nearby spots on the peninsula rather than the main bay itself.

***LOCAL TIP** Book lessons for the morning slots. Learning is easier in 12 knots at 10am than in 25 knots at 4pm, and the schools know it: the best instructors work the early sessions.*

Getting there and around

From İzmir airport (ADB)

Private transfer	55 EUR / ~2,950 TRY per car (up to 7)	Best overall: fixed price, flight tracking, door to door. Essential for late arrivals.
Taxi from the rank	60 to 90 EUR / 3,100 to 4,800 TRY	Fine for solo travelers in a hurry; agree the fare or confirm the meter first.
Havaş coach + last mile	about 13 EUR / ~700 TRY total	The budget route. Coach to Alaçatı Terminali, then a short taxi or dolmuş 2 km into town.
Rental car	25 to 45 EUR / 1,350 to 2,400 TRY per day	Only worth it if you plan several day trips. August parking in the old town is grim.

Once you are here

Feet cover the old town: 10 minutes end to end. The teal dolmuş minibuses run every 10 to 15 minutes in season between Alaçatı, the bay side and Ilıca beach, for pocket change in cash. Taxis are fine for the 3 km windsurf bay run. Give drivers your hotel's street name and lane number, not just its name: map apps routinely dump people at the wrong end of the pedestrian grid.

***LOCAL TIP** Landing after midnight? Pre-book the transfer. The dolmuş stops around 21:00 and the airport coach only solves the first 83 of the 85 kilometers.*

ONE MORE THING

Want it all arranged for you?

We live in Alaçatı year round. One of us was born here, which means the restaurant that is "fully booked" online often is not, the trustworthy transfer driver is a phone call away, and the boat with the good captain is bookable without a mystery markup.

Tell us your dates and what you need: hotels matched to your budget, dinner tables in August, boat days, windsurf lessons, airport pickups. We reply within a day, usually much faster in season.

alacati.co/plan-your-trip/

And every guide on the site carries the date we last verified it in person, with prices in both TRY and EUR. No stock photos, no recycled itineraries. If this PDF got anything wrong by the time you travel, the website version is the freshest truth we have.

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