

# European Destinations of Excellence



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
Department of Foreign Relations and EU Coordination





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**Graphic-Design**

Grafitürk Medya  
Ceyhun Atıf Kansu Caddesi  
1370. Sokak No: 20/2 Balgat/ANKARA  
**Phone:** +90 312 287 86 66  
**Fax:** +90 312 287 96 66

**Print**

**Korza Yayıncılık Basım San. ve Tic. Ltd. Şti**  
Büro: Büyük Sanayi 1. caddesi 95/11 • İskitler - Ankara  
Matbaa: Yenice Mah. Çubuk Yolu No:3 • Esenboğa - Ankara  
Tel: 0.312 342 22 08 (Pbx) • Fax: 0.312 342 14 27  
[www.korzabasim.com.tr](http://www.korzabasim.com.tr)

**Ankara 2012**

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# Photographs

**Ankara Hamamönü:** Altındağ Municipality

**Mersin Tarsus:** Tarsus Municipality

**Karabük Safranbolu:** West Black Sea Development Agency

**Kütahya:** Kütahya Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism

**Bolu Mudurnu:** Mudurnu District Governorship

**Bitlis Nemrut Crater Lake:** Bitlis Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Promotion, Necmettin Küllahçı, Sabit Kalfagil, Eastern Anatolian Development Agency

**Mersin Silifke:** Silifke Municipality, Turkish Aeronautical Association

**Hatay Samandağ:** Samandağ District Governorship

**Elazığ Hazar Lake:** Elazığ Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Promotion, Association for Protection of Hazar Lake

**Eskişehir:** Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality

**Kars Kuyucuk Lake:** Kuzey Doğa Society, Assoc. Prof. Çağan H. Şekercioğlu, Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Promotion

**Kastamonu Cide:** Cide District Governorship

**Bolu Yedigöller National Park and Abant Lake Natural Park:** Bolu Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism

**Bursa Gölyazi:** Bursa Governorship Association of Culture Tourism and Promotion

**Edirne:** Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Promotion, Abdurrahman Antakyalı, Suavi Sonar, Gürol Kara

**Konya Akşehir:** Akşehir Municipality

**Kırşehir:** Kırşehir Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism

**Bursa Cumalıkızık:** Yıldırım Municipality

**Bayburt:** Bayburt Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism

# Foreword

European Destinations of Excellence Project is an initiative developed by European Commission Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry in 2007. The main objectives of the project can be specified as enhancing the touristic attraction through sustainable tourism principles in destinations which have not been discovered yet and receive low number of visitors, increasing tourist flow by improving touristic attraction elements and thus, accelerating local and regional development.

In this respect, European Commission holds touristic destination selection competitions each year with a different theme within the countries involved in the project. Destinations that are not very prominent as tourist destinations but considered to have a high potential to develop as a result of sustainable touristic activities are identified and included in the common information and communication network.

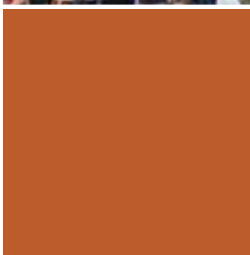
Besides the destinations in 27 European countries, 4 national destinations and 15 finalist destinations from our country have been included within the project in which Department of Foreign Relations and EU Coordination of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has taken part since 2008.

Our national destinations within the scope of the European Destinations of Excellence are as follows; Edirne with Kırkpınar Tradition within the framework of Tourism and Local Intangible Heritage in 2008; Kars Kuyucuk Wild Life Reserve with the theme of Protected Areas in 2009; Bitlis Nemrut Crater Lake with the theme of Aquatic Tourism in 2010; Ankara Hamamönü with the theme of Tourism and Regeneration of Physical Sites in 2011.

Activities such as development of sustainable tourism, exchanging experiences by creating a network and sharing examples of good practices are carried out with regard to the destinations by our Ministry and European Commission. For the upcoming period, the aim of the project is to create a sustainable tourism network across the country with the participation of the national and finalists destinations and intensify the activities aimed at enhancing cooperation with the European stakeholders.

# Ankara Halka ve Halka

National Destination of EDEN 2011  
competition with the theme of  
**"Regeneration of Physical Sites".**





Hamamönü is a part of Ankara that constitutes the oldest residential area and the heart of the city with a history going back to the times when Ankara was not the capital city yet and did not grow to be one of the most crowded cities of Turkey. Recently, as a result of the efforts of the Altındağ Municipality it gained a new appearance with the restoration and street improvement projects deemed worthy of an award, it succeeded to be a place that both domestic and foreign tourists visit most in Ankara. There are a lot of restaurants, cafes and patisseries where you can have breakfast, taste different types of food from different regions and spend an enjoyable time with your loved ones in the historic fabric of Hamamönü. Although it is located at a point which could be considered the center of Ankara, it is also the favorite place of the those running away from the hustle and looking for a quiet location being completely away from the crowd and noise of the city with its venues embedded in the cultural and historic fabric.

Hamamönü is a place that reflects the urbanization style and the architectural features of the Ottoman period as a whole and the first years of the Republic with its districts and buildings and where you can experience the history being presented an example of the ancient Ankara. Hamamönü which gives you a feeling of being in a paradise hidden in this big city with its historic fabric, serenity and the friendliness of its people possesses important cultural values. Of these examples that were revived with their renewed street fabric so successfully that makes you feel like you've visited an Ottoman city as a whole, first comes the houses that best reflect the 19. Century civil architecture. At this point we should also mention the Karacabey Turkish Bath after which the district is named, Taceddin Sultan Mosque, Hacı Musa Mosque among the prominent cultural values.

One of the important features that make Hamamönü attractive is that the house in which the famous poet Mehmet Akif Ersoy composed the Independence March that is the Turkish National Anthem is located here. You can visit this house restored as a cultural center located in the Mehmet Akif Ersoy Park near the Karacabey Turkish Bath. Apart from reflecting the Ottoman fabric with its monuments, the fact that the figures that played important roles in the history of Republic of Turkey, as seen from this example, too, lived in this district in 1920s, makes Hamamönü a settlement encompassing the founding values of the Republic.

Hamamönü is a place which could be visited throughout the year and offers the best option for those who come to Ankara for a short time and want to experience the historic fabric of this city,





and also those living in Ankara and wishing to escape from the crowd of the city. But the specific time that we would like to especially recommend you to visit is the Ramadan months during which you could much more relish this place with the festivals.

Although Ankara, capital city of Turkey, is regarded as a city that has developed after becoming a capital, it has a very bright history. It served as the capital many times before the Republic of Turkey and being located in the centre of Anatolia it has continuously maintained its significance thanks to its strategic importance.

Ankara is located at the crossing point of the routes from east to west and north to south and thus its influence and importance on commercial routes dates back to very early times such as the Assyrian Trade Colonies Period; and moreover, it was located on King Road which was one of the most important routes in ancient ages and extended from Sardis, capital of Lydia, to Susa City in Mesopotamia. Ankara had continuously been used as a settlement area during Phrygians, Galatias, Romans and Byzantine period and Alexander the Great who wished to take control of the whole world was one of the most famous people that the city had hosted. According to one of the most famous stories about Alexander the Great, it was believed that the person untying the knot in Gordian would be the ruler of the whole world and Alexander the Great who stayed in Ankara for the winter time cut the Gordian



knot with his sword. As well as that Ankara came to the fore with its mohair obtained from angora goat during Ottoman Empire period and became one of the important trade cities of Ottoman Empire owing to its location on Silk Road. Although the city entered into a stagnant period in parallel with the general decline of Ottoman Empire, it gained a new look with the proclamation of the Republic and developed swiftly as the capital city again and reached its present state as the second biggest metropolitan city of Turkey.

Hamamönü is located among the oldest settlements of Ankara. If you would like to learn about the history of Ankara, you can visit Ankara Castle first that retains the traces of all civilizations that lived in this city throughout its long history. Ankara Castle contributes significantly to the Ankara scenery and is the first place to visit during trips to the city. It was constructed on the steepest hill of Ankara that generally has a flat terrain and was used by all civilizations that lived in Ankara. This can also be understood from the inscriptions on the castle walls. The first construction of the castle which is among the symbols of Ankara and can be seen from many parts of the city dates back to Tectosage tribe under Galatia which came to Ankara in 3 B.C. and made the city capital. The Roman Empire that has taken the city from the Galatians and then Byzantines, Seljuks, the Crusaders and the Ottoman Empire made the necessary changes in the castle as its succeeding rulers and as a result, the castle gained its present look. The Castle has two parts, an inner and an outer rampart and although the outer rampart is not in a good condition currently, the inner rampart still stands with its magnificence. You can visit Ankara houses some of which date back to the 17th century and Alaaddin Mosque dated 1178, the oldest religious structure in Ankara that is available for worshipping, located within the castle area reflecting the history of Ankara in itself and relish almost the whole scenery of Ankara by climbing up the castle walls just as the soldiers who lived thousands of years ago did.

Ankara Castle environs were the centre of trade in Ankara during the Ottoman Empire period. Therefore, many of the structures of Ottoman Empire period around the castle are commercial structures. These structures are given a new function today and still used.

The Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, one of the most important museums in the world, acquired a new function owing to the renovation of 600-year old Kursunlu Han and Mahmut Pasha Covered Bazaar from the Ottoman Empire Period. Many precious pieces gathered from Anatolia after which the museum is named are exhibited in the museum and it presents rich information about the history of Anatolia, cradle of civilizations. In a way, it is like a summary of Anatolia.

This is not the only structure that has gained a different atmosphere with the new arrangements. Çengel Han dated 1522 as well, which is located below Ankara Castle and a classic example of Ottoman Empire period inner-city inns (han) serves today as Rahmi M. Koç Museum. Many devices and materials related to the history of communication and transport



**Ankara houses from the Ottoman Empire Period that are functioning in a different way. Some of the houses are used as restaurants and cafes.**



tation can be seen in this museum that covers mainly modern ages. There is also a restaurant in the museum that hosts different exhibitions from time to time.

Pirinç Han located near Çengel Han and dating back to the 18th century is a place where there are lots of shops selling antiques and handicrafts. You can eat gozleme (Turkish pancake) and have a nice conversation with your friends in the café in the atrium when you came to Ankara Castle. The other rooms around the atrium are now being used as shops selling souvenirs.

The district called Samanpazarı where there are many inns (han) and museums is the most significant touristic place of Ankara, and is full of shops selling souvenirs and antiques. Some of these shops are actually restored old Ankara houses from the Ottoman Empire Period that are functioning in a different way. Some of the houses are used as restaurants and cafes. We can say that this is one of the places that most deserves to be called as an open air museum as the houses, and the castle can all be seen at once.

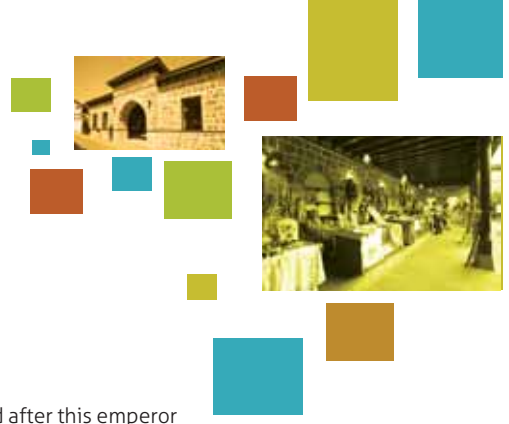
The traces of the oldest settlements can be observed in the castle and its environs. Some ruins shedding light on the Roman Period were excavated and they prove that Ankara had been a very important settlement at that time. These ruins are lost among buildings in many places which is the common fate of the rapidly emerging cities. Moreover, the other district to follow the traces of Roman Empire Period, though intermittently is Ulus which can be reached via a winding road and steep slope going down Ankara Castle. The ruins in the excavation site at the bottom of the ramparts which are on the right while going down the castle are the first examples of the traces of that period.

The ruins of the Roman Bath dating back to early 3rd century is in Çankırı Street. The area in which the bath is located and its heating systems, furnace and service sections reveals that it is a monumental piece. The Roman Empire period inscriptions gathered from different parts of Ankara are also exhibited at the bath courtyard.

These are the parts of Ankara that have not been known for years and were uncovered by the excavations. Two important monuments that throw light on the Roman Empire period are still standing. The first one of them is Temple of Augustus which enlightens the Roman Empire history via the inscription referring to the acts of the first Roman emperor Augustus, on its walls. The temple was used as a church during Byzantine Empire period. Hacı Bayram Mosque was constructed adjacent to it in early 15th century. Tomb of Hacı Bayram after whom the mosque was named and who has an important place in the history of Anatolia is also located here. In other words, this has always been a holy spot, although for different religions.

The Column of Julian which is believed to have been erected in honour of the Roman



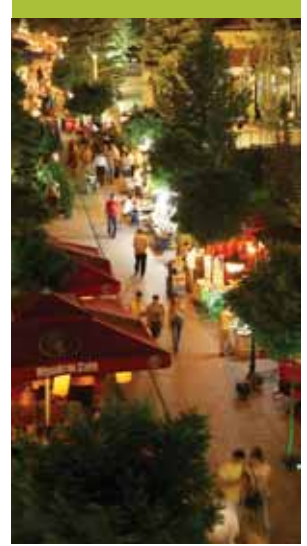


Emperor Julian's visit to Ankara in 362 and was named after this emperor is another Roman Empire period monument that you can easily spot as it is situated close to Governor's building and reveals itself among the buildings in Ulus district.

Ulus is very important in terms of the history of the Republic. After Ankara had lost its importance towards the last years of Ottoman Empire and as a result of some disasters it deteriorated, it was revived and the first public buildings were constructed in Ulus. The building that witnessed the early years of the Republic and served as the 2nd Great National Assembly of Turkey has been used as the Museum of Republic since 1981. Documents, photographs and some personal belongings, notably of Atatürk, related to the early years of the Republic are exhibited in the museum. One of the most attractive parts of the museum is the congress session hall revived with wax sculptures. The building of 1st Great National Assembly of Turkey which is two buildings away from this one serves as the War of Independence Museum today.

If you want to go to Ankara Ethnographical Museum, another important museum of Ankara that is rich in terms of the handicrafts and folklore of Anatolia and where many traditional examples of Turkish art from different parts of Anatolia can be relished, you should go in the direction of Sıhhiye, from Ulus which presents a summary of the history of Ankara.

The monument which is the most important symbol of Ankara is the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of Republic of Turkey, Anıtkabir. Those who want to learn more about Atatürk, one of the most important leaders in the world, and the principles that the Republic of Turkey he founded based on should definitely visit Anıtkabir that consists of Atatürk Museum where the belongings of Atatürk are exhibited, Peace Park containing saplings from different parts of Turkey and many other countries and, Monument Block with three sections: Lions Alley, Ceremonial Ground and Mausoleum.



## How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

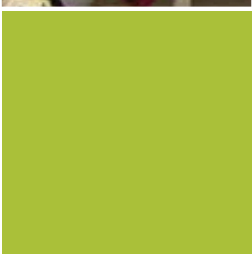
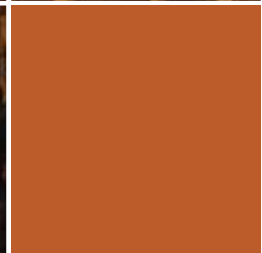
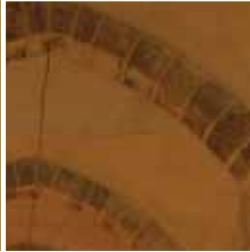
Hamamönü destination which is located in the ancient centre of our capital city has transportation advantages as it is located in the hidden city centre of Ankara which is the centre of Turkey. It only takes 10 or 15 minutes to go to the airport transfer bureau, bus terminal and train station by taxi.





# Mersin Tarsus

Tarsus is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in the EDEN 2011 competition with the theme of **"Regeneration of Physical Sites"**.





Tarsus which is the biggest district of Mersin located in the Mediterranean coast in the southern part of Turkey is a settlement famous for advantageous strategic position and the important people it hosted throughout the history. With Sertavul Strait and Gülek Pass which bridge the regions separated by Taurus Mountains, Tarsus was used as a military and commercial route, from the Roman Period to the Ottoman times and as it is a coastal town, it has always been important for commerce. Moreover, Tarsus is known all over the world because famous people such as Cicero, Julius Caesar, Cleopatra and Saint Paul left significant marks in the history of the district.

The history of Tarsus can be dated back to the Neolithic Period in the light of the current archaeological researches. Then, the district continuously hosted various settlements and became a place that comes with many famous people in the world history. Cicero, the famous Roman scholar and statesman, served as governor in 50s B.C. in Tarsus and Julius Caesar who can be considered as the most famous of all Roman emperors carried out various public works here, therefore, for a certain

***Tarsus is known all over the world because famous people such as Cicero, Julius Caesar, Cleopatra and Saint Paul left significant marks in the history of the district.***



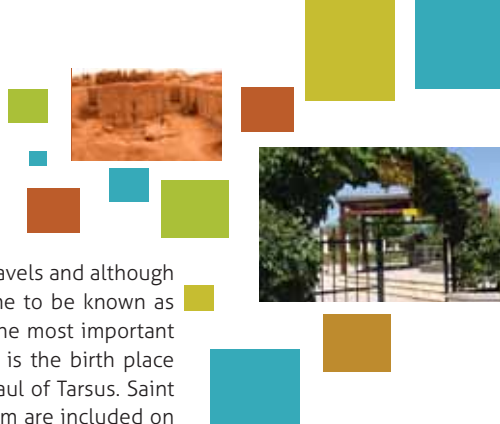
period of time, the district was named as Julio polis. It was also in Tarsus that Cleopatra, famous Queen of Egypt, and Marcus Antonius, the successor of Caesar, met. Later, Emperor Hadrian visited Tarsus in 123 A.D. and carried out significant public works here.

Tarsus was a settlement of great significance, as proven by the history, during the Roman Period. Therefore, some of the remains you can visit belong to this period. Of these remains, Cleopatra's Gate is the only trace that is left from the walls which are believed to have encompassed the whole town once. It is also known as the Sea Gate owing to its closeness to the port. Despite the fact that the researches point to the Byzantine Period, it is Cleopatra who gave her name to the Gate. Cleopatra had been visiting Tarsus earlier than that and is believed to have used the gate when she had come to the district in 41 B.C.

The Roman Temple called Donuktaş is also one of the remains belonging to this period. This temple is the biggest sanctuary in the region but its construction had not been completed and is understood to date back to the 2nd century A.D. according to the researches. Another structure which is contemporary with this temple is a public bath whose pool and heating system was found out via archaeological excavations. Roman path paved with limestone and located in the hills of Sağlıklı Village, 15 km. away from Tarsus, is 2 km long and extant as one of the most beautiful examples of its kind.

The most significant person identified with Tarsus and associated with this town in the history is Saint Paul. Saint Paul helped spread Christianity in Anatolia that faced the danger of disappearance because of the





pressure in those years, during various challenging travels and although he was not one of the 12 apostles of Jesus, he came to be known as the Anatolian apostle. Tarsus is regarded as one of the most important settlements in the history of Christianity because it is the birth place of Saint Paul who is also mentioned in Bible as St. Paul of Tarsus. Saint Paul's Church and Well and the area surrounding them are included on UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage, and regarded as holy sites for pilgrimage by Christians. Tarsus continued to be a shelter for Saint Paul from time to time after he embraced Christianity and dedicated himself to spreading it and he came here when those who were against his efforts to spread Christianity plotted to murder him in Jerusalem. Saint Paul made his decision to struggle for spreading this religion and travel kilometres of distance towards that goal. This is another factor that makes Tarsus important for the history of Christianity.

As Saint Paul is the most significant person in the history of Tarsus, when you go there, you may want to visit the places that left a mark in his life and bear his name. Therefore, we recommend you to visit Saint Paul's Well in the first place which is one of the important centres of pilgrimage for Christians and located in a site believed to be the courtyard of Saint Paul's house. The water in this well never dries up and believed to be holy and have healing powers. The basalt road which is 400 meters south of this courtyard is also dated back to the years when Saint Paul lived. Another monument in Tarsus that bears the name of Saint Paul is a museum. Although, it is thought to date back to the 11th century, it underwent substantial repairs in 1862 and gained its current appearance.







As well as these locations that bear the name and memories of Saint Paul, Tarsus also has a very high potential for religious tourism. An example for this is Cave of the Seven Sleepers, also known as Eshab-ı Khef, which is located near Dedeler Village, 15 km north of Tarsus. This cave where seven Christians, who were among the first believers of Christianity, hid inside together with their dogs in order to escape persecution and slept for 309 years miraculously is regarded as holy by Muslims as well as Christians, and thus a mosque was constructed on it. Another person who left marks in the history of Tarsus is Luqman (also known as Luqman the Wise) who gained an important place in the world history with his legends. You can see his tomb in the shrine next to Grand Mosque dated 1579. Sarcophaguses (symbolic coffins) of Prophet Seth (Shiith) and al-Ma'mun the Caliph who are holy and well-respected by Muslims are also found in the same shrine and so this place

receives a lot of visitors. On the other hand, Makam-ı Şerif Mosque is one of the sacred places for Muslims because tomb of Prophet Daniel is found here. Bilal al-Habashi Mosque can also be seen in the place where Bilal al-Habashi, muezzin of Islamic Prophet Mohammed, is believed to have recited the azan and performed the ritual prayers of Islam. So all these people who left marks in the history of Tarsus make this place be considered as holy by all divine religions.

Tarsus experienced its most brilliant years during the Roman Period but after that it lost its importance because of continuous wars. Then it prospered again after falling under the domination of the Ramadanids and witnessed significant public works activities. The Grand Mosque (Ulu Mosque), (Old) Church Mosque, Şahmeran Bath, Kırıkkaşık Covered Bazaar and Kubat Pasha Madrasa lead among the works constructed during the Ramadanids Period.

All of these richesses reveal the cultural and historical assets of Tarsus to a large extent. Moreover, Tarsus is one of those settlements that should be visited by those who would like to be alone with nature as well as explore the traces of the people significant for the world history in a unique historical and cultural fabric. There are also various alternatives for those who enjoy nature tourism or would like to be engaged in different activities during their vacation. Trekking routes through which natural beauties and historical richesses can be relished, canyons naturally suitable for rafting, its houses and plateaus that provide a pleasant accommodation choice can be counted among these alternatives. In short, it is your own choice to decide how you will spend your time during your visit to Tarsus. We can only assure you that you will return to your country with unforgettable memories no matter which of these activities you prefer.



## How to Get There?

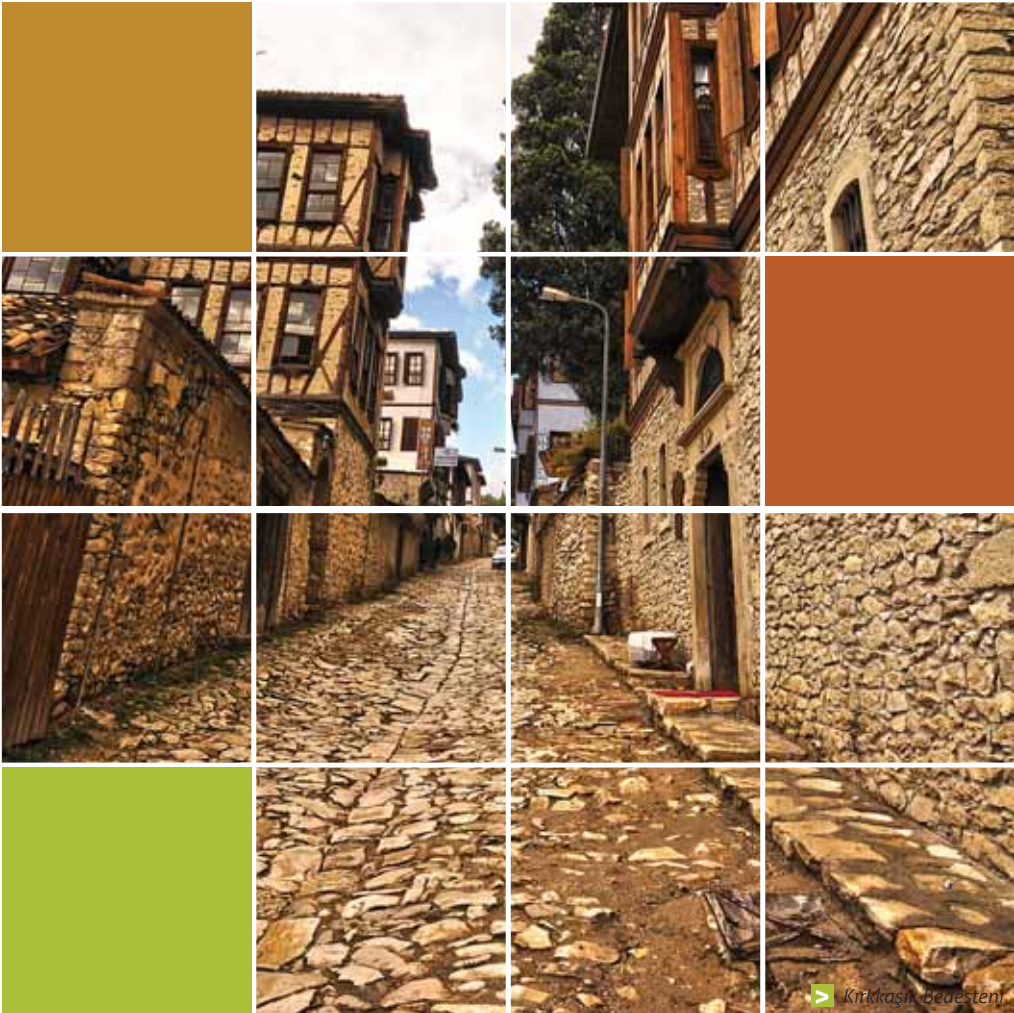
### How to Get There?

If you would like to travel by plane, the closest airport to Tarsus is Adana Şakirpaşa Airport which is 32 km. away from Tarsus. Those who prefer land route via mass transportation should first go to the Mersin station and then to Tarsus by regular buses from here.

# Karabük Safranbolu




Safranbolu is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in the EDEN 2011 competition with the theme of **"Regeneration of Physical Sites"**.



▼ Kırkkasık Bedesten





Safranbolu, a district of Karabük was included on the UNESCO "World Heritage List" in 1994 thanks to its success in preserving its historical houses that are the rich cultural heritage of the province. Safranbolu houses which were constructed with an architectural style reflecting the past, culture, economy, technology and life style of the Turkish society in the 18th and 19th centuries is entitled to be one of the finalists in EDEN undiscovered heritages contest with the theme of Regeneration of Physical Sites in 2011. v

This destination was constructed by Kayı Tribe, one of the founder tribes of Ottoman Empire. The most important sections of the palace of the Ottoman Empire were entrusted to the reliable and loyal residents of the destination in the following periods.

The area where the touristic and historical values of the town are more intense is the "bazaar" section. The castle in the northern part of the town and Hıdırlık Hill in its southern part has terraces suitable for watching the whole town. Old Government Mansion (used as a museum now), Clock Tower, The Old Jail, Cinci Caravanserai and Bath and The Yemenici Ottoman Bazaar are among the touristic attractions in the town. Many worth-seeing historical monuments inside the town await their visitors.

***Safranbolu was constructed by Kayı Tribe, one of the founder tribes of Ottoman Empire.***



Guild culture that is evident in urban structuring and production activities still ensures that the production continues in bazaars of blacksmiths, coppersmiths, whitesmiths and saddle masters via manual dexterity and carries the local and authentic characteristics of the town to present day. The Ottoman Bazaar which turned into a centre for especially handicrafts after being restored and the shops surrounding it come into the prominence as touristic places to buy souvenirs.

Safranbolu has been protected as a whole with all its quarters until today; therefore, it is regarded as a "Museum Town" unlike other towns. 1.007 of the approximately 2.000 traditional monuments in the Old city centre are registered and under protection.

Safranbolu has many local/regional values including the traditional urban fabric. Nature-human-house in the house fabric; and street-bazaar relations are very well organised and well-balanced. Houses are brilliant examples of wooden dexterity. Local food can be considered as the continuation of the history of this settlement. There are many local foods owing to recipes unique to Safranbolu. Some of these local foods are Safranbolu bükmesi (pasta filled with mince meat, finely chopped onions, spinach or silver beet), stuffed vine leaves with meat, peruhi (pasta similar to ravioli), baklava of Safranbolu (sweet pastry with nuts), well roast (meat cooked in underground pit oven), noodle soup, gelin trnağı (some kind of dessert). Safranbolu Turkish delight is a brand reflecting the local identity of the town.

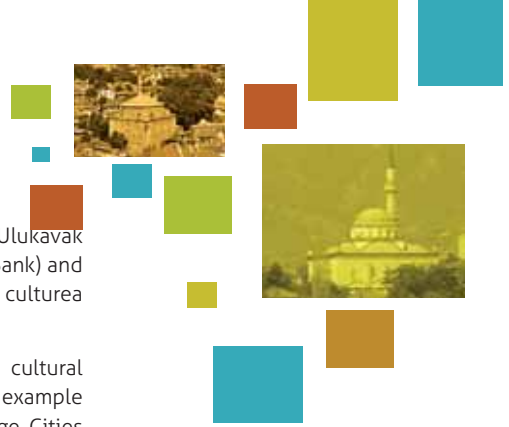
There are mainly souvenir and gastronomic shops in Safranbolu. Many souvenir shops sell woodcarvings, woven materials and handicrafts reflecting the traditional characteristics of the area. In the restaurants you can find traditional food. As well as that, there are museums and exhibition halls operated by Safranbolu Sub-Governor's Office and the private sector. Of these, the building which was known as the Old Government Office in the past is being operated by the Sub-Governor's Office as a museum and exhibition centre with the name of the City Historical Museum. Exhibitions are also organised at the Cingilloğlu Art Centre by



the Sub-Governor's Office. Other than this, Kızıltan Ulukavak Art Gallery that belongs to Ziraat Bank (Agricultural Bank) and privately operated Taşev Art Gallery are also serving culture and art.

Additionally, periodic and continuous touristic and cultural events are being organised in this destination. For example this town hosted the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) Board of Managers meeting in 2010, and OWHC seminar titled "Development of Cultural Tourism in Eurasian Cities" in 2005. Moreover various organisations and activities are being held during the tourism week which is the first week of April. Last but not least, "International Golden Saffron Documentary Film Festival" which is held in September every year is another important event.

Saffron flower which the town is named after is one of the most significant plants that reflect the local and regional features. Uluyayla, Sarıçiçek Plateau, Düzce Canyon that have a diversity of plants and animals and many caves, rivers and ponds, various Roman Period cemeteries and tumuli present ideal trip opportunities for nature-lovers.



How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

Safranbolu is 220 km away from Ankara (2.5 hours by bus), 395 km from İstanbul (4.5 hours), 74 km from Bartın, 105 km from Kastamonu, 163 km from Zonguldak and 8 km from the city centre of Karabük.

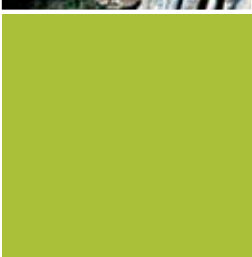
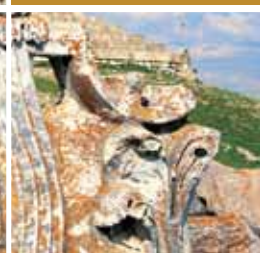
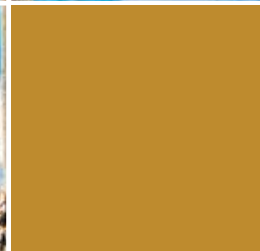




# Kütahya



Kütahya is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in the EDEN 2011 competition with the theme of **"Regeneration of Physical Sites"**.



Kütahya, whose settlement date goes back seven thousand years before, gathers the rich cultural heritage of the late Miocene Period, Neolithic period, Chalcolithic period, early bronze age, Hittite, Phrygian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Germiyan, Ottoman Period and lastly the Turkish Republic Period.

Kütahya is in a region of Anatolia where the domestic architecture is mostly wooden. The most ancient example is a 17th century Turkish house restored as a museum and known colloquially as the "Hungarian House". Lajos Kossuth family, one of heroes of the Hungarian independence war accompanied by a group of 56 refugees stayed there between the years 1850-1851 and he prepared the Hungarian constitution draft here. Besides, the birth place of the famous taleteller, Aesop, is stated as Kütahya in ancient sources.

Kütahya has been the capital city of Germiyan Beylic for one hundred thirty years and the center of Governors of the Anatolia for four hundred years and the ancient city

***Kütahya is in a region of Anatolia where the domestic architecture is mostly wooden.***







fabric formed at the outskirts of the Castle of Kütahya constitutes the core of the Turkish period in the city and perfectly reflects the houses and streets of that period. The houses of Kütahya as examples of civil architecture create an important touristic potential. The key element of this destination is the Germiyan street and its surroundings which has gone through a series of restorations and improvements as they harbor many historical structures from the Germiyan and Ottoman Period. Germiyan Street, the center of the destination, is one of those areas that preserved its historical fabric in the best way.

As a result of the improvement activities in the destination, Germiyan Mansion (19th century) serves as a restaurant, Vakıf Mansion (19th century) as a boutique hotel, İrvasa Mansion (19th century) as a handicrafts





store, Ispartalılar Mansion (19th century) as a boutique hotel, Şapçı/ Karaca Mansion (19th century) as the historical museum of the city, Şekerci Şükrü House (18th century) as a porcelain store, Kurtuluş Mansion (19th century) as a youth centre, Kütahya Mansion (19th century) as a local restaurant.

According to the Kütahya-related notes (1651-1652) of Evliya Çelebi, the famous traveler of his period, in his Travel Book, Şengül Turkish Bath which is a 16th century monument is designed as a geological museum, Büyük Bedesten (Covered Bazaar) which is a 15th century monument as a local gift shop, Küçük Bedesten (Covered Bazaar) which is a 14th century monument as a jewellery bazaar.

Rüstem Paşa Madrasa built in 1550 by Rüstem Pasha who was the Grand Vizier and son-in-law of Suleyman the Magnificent was restored by the municipality and turned into a center of exhibition for traditional outfits and handicrafts.

Umur bin Savcı Madrasa built in 1314 next to Ulu Mosque built in 1401 serves as an archeological museum where the remnants of the world-famous Çavdarhisar-Aizanoi ancient city are exhibited and Yakup Çelebi İmaret (public soup-kitchen) built in 1411, as a porcelain museum. Hıdırlık Prayer Room built in 1243 offers its visitors unique scenery of the city.

Phrygian valleys near this destination offer spectacular experiences for the people who love to walk, with its large forest land and many natural beauties. Furthermore efforts to utilize the potential for the thermal tourism are continued.

Çavdarhisar-Aizanoi cultural tourism festival, the events organized for commemoration of the independence war, Traveler Evliya Çelebi and International Porcelain Ceramic activities, the festivals in the name of Hayme Ana who is the mother of Ertuğrul Gazi one of the founders of the Ottoman Empire are among the activities not to be missed.

How to Get There?

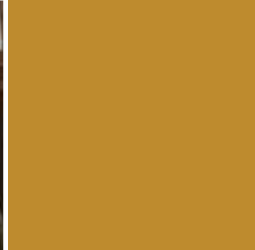
### How to Get There?

You can get to this destination by land and railway. High-speed train connects Eskişehir to Ankara and you can arrive in Kütahya by railcar in 3 hours. You can also reach this destination by airway via International Zafer Airport.

# Bolu

## Mudurnu

Mudurnu is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in the EDEN 2011 competition with the theme of **"Regeneration of Physical Sites"**.



Mudurnu located in the Silk Road also known as the Baghdad Road which is one of the most important military and trading routes of the Ottoman Period is a place in greenery and has a historic fabric. It is another example of the Ottoman museum city identity just like most of the settlements along the route from İstanbul to Ankara beginning from Taraklı. Although these settlement areas which are common in many parts of Anatolia and mainly grabbing attention with their ancient Ottoman houses look alike at first glance, they have differences with regard to both what they offer and also the way they make you feel. Therefore, even if you have already visited places with Ottoman fabric before, you can discover different beauties and richness here.

Mudurnu is comprised of houses built at both sides of a small stream flowing quietly between two steep hills. Süleyman the magnificent and Yıldırım Bayezid being aware of the importance of Mudurnu located on the Silk Road and declared as urban site carried out very important activities along the Silk Road and bestowed two mosques to the town. Yıldırım Beyazıt Mosque is one of the first examples of Ottoman style mosques with one dome and has an architecture that is admired acoustically. Yıldırım Beyazıt Bath was also built near the mosque and is one of the most beautiful examples of its period. The hand carved ornamentation of the Kanuni Sultan Süleyman Mosque is bedazzling. Mudurnu is one the prettiest towns preserving the identity of the time dating back to hundred years ago with its civil architecture, as well as these works. Its castle from the Byzantine Period shows that it stood the test of time with its history dating back to much ancient times. During your visit to this castle, you can also listen to the story of Matarni that named Mudurnu. The clock tower placed on top of a rock was built as it were to shape up those who feel that the time has stopped here.

We would like to recommend you to visit particularly the Armutçular Dome which is one of the examples of the civil architecture of the town and has a different architecture. In spite of its 150-year history, it has been successful in preserving its original form even to include its roofing tiles. These domes are the places where the wood engravers of the whole region, whom we ad-

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mire, exhibit their crafts. It is not possible not to admire especially the ornaments bearing the elegance of the laces on every wood piece from balcony parapets to ceiling ornamentation in Armutçular Dome. Keyvanlar Dome and Yarışkası Dome are the other examples of these fascinating domes. The attics of these domes are called cihannüma (means 'the world' in Turkish, its equivalent in architecture is pinnacle). It is possible to watch maybe not the whole world, as implied by its name, but the whole Mudurnu from these pinnacles.

Another feature of the houses is the reflection of Turkish hospitality. One room of the houses whether it is small or big is certainly designed to be a guestroom and serve for the same purpose today, too. The friendliness of the people is another example of the fact that this mentality has not changed in spite of centuries. If you are not satisfied with only looking at these domes lolling against the slopes as if to relieve the tiredness of years, and want to see the inside of them, the people of Mudurnu will be very glad to host you in them some of which are nearly two-century old. The reason why the domes impress you is not the fact that they defy time. Their architecture, courteous woodwork on the whole building and the door knobs reflecting the creativity of the locals keep their originality. Upon learning that the silk worms which named the road back in the day were being grown in the domes located on this historical Silk Road fascinates you even more. You can also prefer one of the restored domes for eating and accommodation. It is not possible not to be jealous of the people living in such a beautiful nature and houses each of which is a work of art, instead of the depressing atmosphere of the cities and the apartment blocks comprised of brick piles. Therefore we would like to recommend you to stay for a night in one of these domes restored as a hostel but still keeping their originality with all their features.

Mudurnu is also famous for its chickens and poultry. You can think that this feature is unique to the present time but it actually dates back to older times. It is known that the Ottoman Palace used to supply chickens from Mudurnu. We would like





to recommend you to taste various dishes cooked with these delicious chickens which have preserved their taste for years maybe because of the weather of Mudurnu or the beauty of the environment in which they were grown.

You should certainly visit Bakırcılar Bazaar if you come to Mudurnu. Your memories of this trip will be alive forever if you get at least one of the courteously weaved handicrafts and laces, the wood works reflecting the talent of the wood engravers and the copper works made using traditional methods and even traditional tools in the Bakırcılar Bazaar which is as famous as Mudurnu itself. Another example of the handicrafts reflecting the skill of the people of Mudurnu is point laces.

The legacy of the handmade needles sent to the whole Anatolia for centuries now reveals itself in the handicrafts and laces sold in Mudurnu Bazaar.

You should certainly taste the foods and fruits which the local people bring from their villages if you come to visit here. Especially, if you taste the thin-shelled and coarse-grained walnuts peculiar to Mudurnu only once, you won't be able to forget about it anymore. If you are interested in hand line fishing, you can catch Abant Trouts peculiar to this lake in certain periods of the year. If you have passion for excitement, you can paraglide in the hills in the southern part of the lake.

Sülüklügöl is perfect for those fond of walking and offroad. It is also possible to make a one-day camp near the lake visited by the picnic lovers when the weather is nice. If you prefer long-term camps, then you should get a permit from the General Directorate of the National Parks.

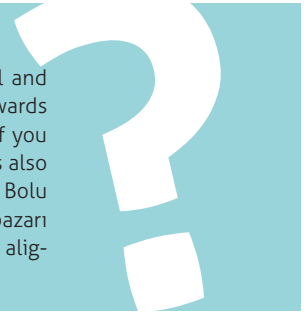
It is believed that the waters of Babas and Sarot Spas cure many illnesses. Besides these spas often visited by those with rheumatic diseases, mud baths in çamurluk village are also among the favourite places of those looking for cure.



## How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

You can go to Mudurnu via a short highway travel from both İstanbul and Ankara. Those coming from İstanbul can get to Mudurnu by turning towards Akyazı in Sakarya motorway through Kuzuluk, Dokurcun and Taşkesti. If you prefer travelling by bus, you should first come to the centre of Bolu. It is also possible to arrive at Mudurnu by the half-hourly buses departing from Bolu terminal station. Those coming from Ankara can go to Mudurnu via Beypazarı and Nallıhan, both of which have a historic fabric like Mudurnu and are aligned along the ancient Silk Road.



# Bitlis Nemrut Krater Lake

Nemrut Crater Lake is the National Destination of EDEN 2010 competition with the theme of **"Aquatic Tourism"**.



Nemrut Crater Lake located on top of the extinct volcano called Mount Nemrut is within the boundaries of Tatvan district of Bitlis province. As it is believed that this wonder of nature was discovered by Alexander the Great during his military expedition to the East aimed at conquering the entire world, it is known with the name "Alexander the Great Heaven".

Nemrut Crater ranking 16th among similar lakes in terms of its surface area has been visited for hundreds of years and the hot and cold water lakes found together surprises, attracts and evokes admiration of people. Besides, its rich flora including some endemic species and lots of bird species around the lakes, the ice caves, the steam chimney and the ponds especially make this place a heaven for nature lovers.

Nemrut Crater Lake ranking second with its size in the world among similar lakes covers one third of the whole crater with its 13 km<sup>2</sup> area. You can go hand line fishing in the lake with carps. The concerts, swimming competitions and sail group shows held in the lake in summer months are the other activities not to be missed.

The lake ranking second in terms of its size among the five lakes in the crater has a geyser. Swimming in the hot water ponds formed at the banks is among the activities mostly enjoyed by those who want to experience spa pleasure. There are hot steam vents 150 meters east of the lake believed to cure various diseases.

The nature lovers and shutterbugs should certainly visit the lake offering wonderful sceneries to its visitors. You should spend the night here and wait for the morning in order to get the most fascinating scenery. At 2.935 - meter peak, you can witness not only one of the most beautiful views of sun rise but also the unique scenery of the lake and its surroundings with the fog clouds rising from the peak.

There is a ski centre in the southern slopes of Mount Nemrut which is quite popular in winter with its chairlifts and aerial ropeways and various accommodation



***The nature lovers and shutterbugs should certainly visit the lake offering wonderful sceneries to its visitors. You should spend the night here and wait for the morning in order to get the most fascinating scenery.***







opportunities. Those who want to ski watching the scenery of Lake Van should certainly enjoy this.

Bitlis, having Nemrut Crate Lake within its borders, is culturally a very rich settlement with its districts thanks to its 5.000 years history. Its cultural richness reflects the heritage of almost every civilization which settled here at one time as the every corner of Anatolia does. The castle positioned on a boulder in the city centre of Bitlis was built in 330 B.C. by one of the commanders of Alexander the Great, Bedlis who is believed to name Bitlis. Many khans and caravansaries in Bitlis which also had a commercial importance being on the Silk Road during the Seljuks

Period, manifest that this feature of the city lasted for a long time. Among these, Hatuniye Khan dated back to the 11th century and located near a bridge with the same name, Husrev Pasha Khan and Bashhan Khan located on the Bitlis-Tatvan highway believed to be built in the 16th century by Governor Husrev Pasha and El Aman Khan one of the



biggest caravansaries in the Anatolia come to the forefront. One of the rare examples of Seljuk mosques (known to be more than fifty at the time) that survived to the present day, is Ulu Mosque dating back to 1150. The other mosques that we would like to recommend you are Seyyid Ibrahim Mosque believed to be one of the ancient works in Bitlis and date back to 1250; Kızıl Mosque whose construction date is not exactly known but epigraph dated 1505 reveals its long history and Alemdar Mosque whose construction date is also not known either but based on its epigraph we understand it was repaired in 1783.

Şerefiye Mosque and Social Complex located at the point where Rabat and Kösür streams are united, which is one of the most important cultural values of Bitlis in which there are the mosque, mescid (small mosque), imaret (public soup kitchen) and tomb was built by Şeref Khan the 4th in 1529, according to its epigraph.

The districts of Bitlis are also worth seeing with their cultural wealth. Among these districts Ahlat with the biggest Seljuk cemetery in Anatolia deserves to have the priority. Each gravestone in this cemetery is like a historical document giving information about the beliefs of its period. Besides the cemetery which is very important in terms of the Anatolian history, Ahlat also hosts many cupolas and tombs known for their spirituality and visited frequently. The most remarkable ones among these are Emir Bayındır Cupola, Kufrevi Tomb, Cifte Cupola, Emir Ali Cupola, Usta-Sagirt Cupola and Uryan Baba Tomb. The other two monuments we would like to recommend you in Ahlat are Emir Bayındır Mosque dated back to 1477 and Iskender Pasha Mosque whose minaret was built by Mimar Sinan.

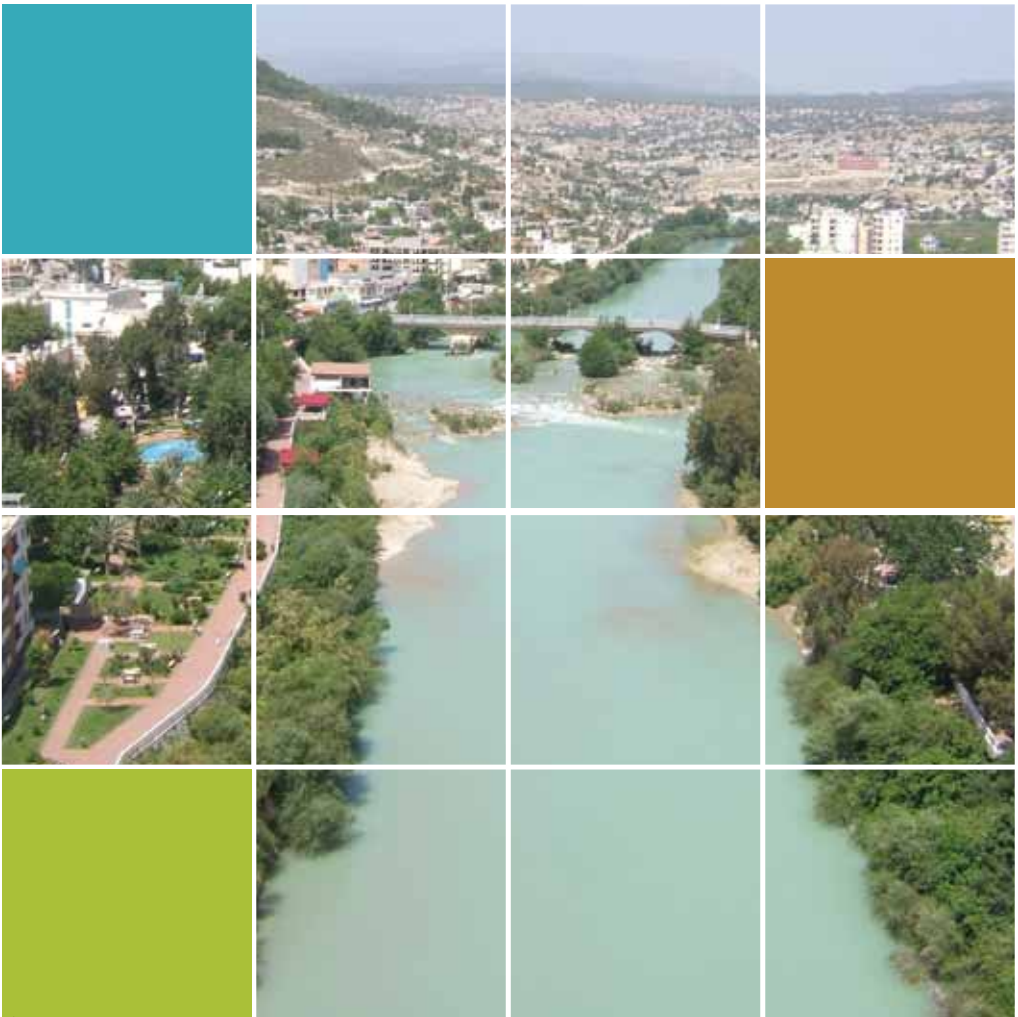


## How to Get There?

You must first go to Tatvan located at the foothills of Mount Nemrut. Those who prefer airlines can fly to Van Airport and then take a ferry to Tatvan. Railways or bus services are the other alternatives. You can get to the mountain following an enjoyable road along which you can watch the scenery of Tatvan, Lake Van on the left and Plain Muş on the right.

# Mersin Silifke

Silifke is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in the EDEN 2010 competition with the theme of **"Aquatic Tourism"**.





Göksu Delta which is one of the most significant bird migration routes in Turkey and home to a lot of endemic species is put under protection and declared as Special Protection Area according to Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR). Akgöl, Paradeniz Lagoon, drainage channels and paddy fields as well as agricultural lands, lakes, reed beds, salt marshes, dunes and beaches and settlements are located in the region.

Göksu delta is very rich in terms of wild life and accepted as one of the important bird paradises in Europe and the Middle East by the International Council for Bird Protection (ICBP). More than 300 bird species inhabit the Göksu Delta. It is the primary reproduction area in Turkey for purple swamp hen, marbled teal, flamingo, heron, pelican, dalagan, shelduck, black francolin spur-winged plover, long-legged collared pratincole, white-throated kingfisher, bee eater (*merops apiester*), marsh warbler, white-head duck and warbler.

Göksu Delta is also significant being one of the few remaining areas in the world where sea turtles (*Caretta Caretta*, *Chelonias Mydas*) and the blue crabs (*Callinectes Sapidus*) lay their eggs. It gains the status of being one of the important bird areas thanks to pygmy cormorant and dalmatian pelican, breeding marbled teal and wintering ferruginous duck, greater spotted eagle and eastern imperial eagle which are endangered species across the world. Moreover, it is breeding ground for such species as little bittern, black-crowned night heron, squacco heron, purple heron, black francolin, purple gallinule, Eurasian stone curlew, collared pratincole. Many water birds among which are greylag goose, Eurasian

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wigeon, teal and common coot spend the winter in this area and many glossy ibises and European white storks stop over here.

Göksu delta is an important ecological centre owing to the many species it has and hosting such fish species as gray mullet, conger eel.



Silifke offers its natural beauty treasures to those who want to freshen in the summer heat by various Mediterranean plants and forests around Gökbelen, Balandız, Uzuncabuğ, Kırobası plateaus that have 600 - 1200 meters of height in mountainsides of Silifke. The track between Derinçay and Değirmendere villages can be recommended as the best place for river sports in Göksu River. This track has approximately 90 km of length. Rafting races are organised here in International Culture Week between May 20 and 26.

Seleucia that is believed to be founded by Seleucus Nicator, one of the generals of Alexander the Great and founder of Kingdom of Syria, constantly changed hands between Seleucids and Ptolemaois (Egypt) dynas-





ties during the Hellenistic Era. This region was home to Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman civilizations. According to myth, after defeating Typhon, a fire flashing dragon with hundred heads, Zeus imprisoned him in the Pit of Hell, which is located near this destination for a certain amount of time before trapping him underneath Mount Etna forever. Temple of Zeus is also located here. Moreover; theatres, castles, baths, cisterns, mausoleums and churches, the monument which is located where the Roman – Germanic Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa who headed to Palestine with his army during the 3rd Crusade died can be regarded as various touristic attractions here.

Cyprus Martyrs Memorial Forest, Ataturk’s Memorial, Cyprus Martyrs Ceremonial Area and Monument are other significant assets of the region.

The region has a lot of touristic attractions thanks to its historical, natural and cultural richness; bird watching, speleological tourism; shipwreck diving and yacht tours; 300-day sunny climate in a year; coastline of 105 km.



How to Get There?

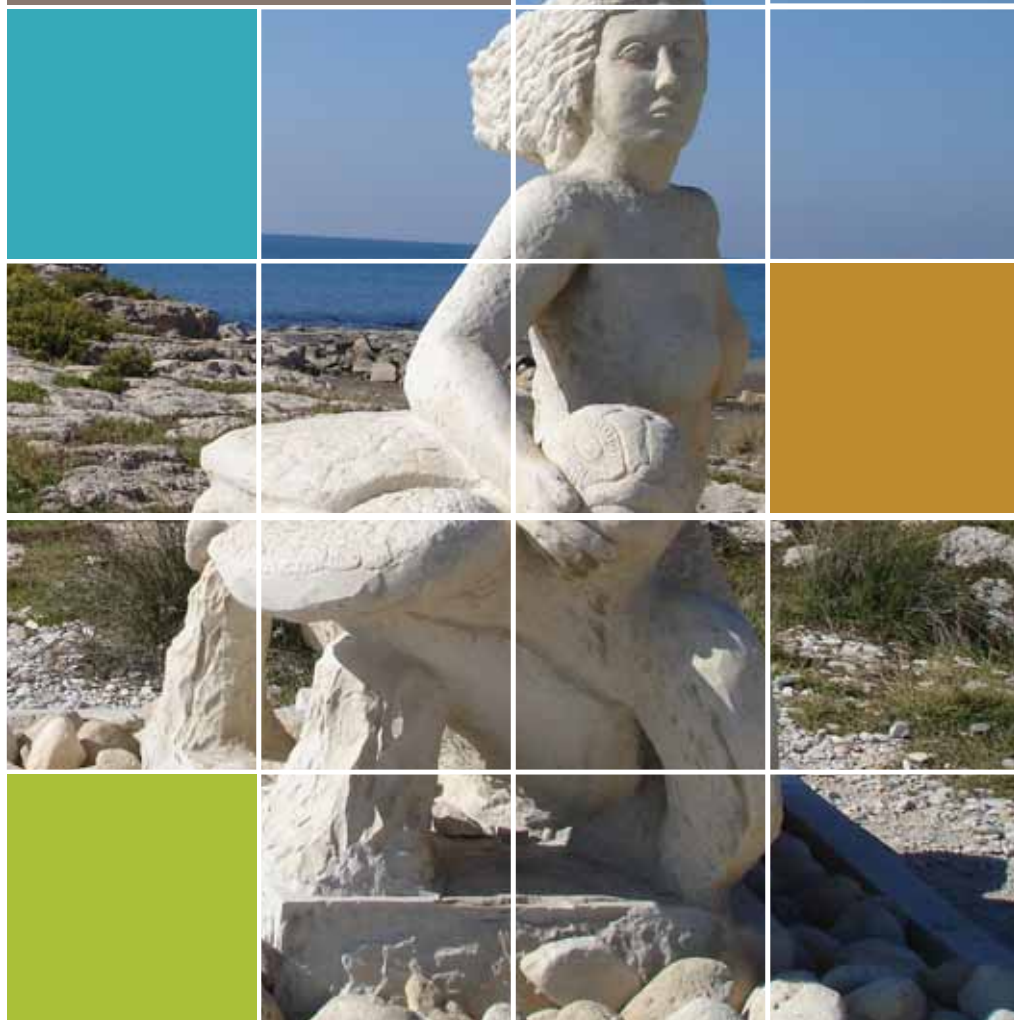
### How to Get There?

Silifke can be reached by Adana - Mersin, Karaman - Mut and Antalya - Alanya main roads. There are also ferry services between Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Silifke-Taşucu. The distance between Adana Airport and Silifke is 140 km.



# Hatay Samandağ

Hatay-Samandağ is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in the EDEN 2010 competition with the theme of "Aquatic Tourism".





Samandağ is a district situated 22 km west of Antakya (Antioch), city centre of Hatay. It is known that the first settlement in Samandağ district dates back to the Palaeolithic Age; the antique city "Seleucia Pieria" whose findings have been found recently was founded by Seleucus I. Nicator, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, in the end of IV. Century B.C.; Samandağ was under the sovereignty of Ptolemaois in the second half of the III. Century B.C; and became one of the most significant ports in the Eastern Mediterranean when it developed considerably during Roman Period.

The construction of the tunnel and channel known as Titus Tunnel was initiated during the reign of Roman Emperor Vespasianus (69 – 79 A.C.) in order to prevent flood and continued during the rule of Emperor Titus (A.C. 79 – 81), son of Emperor Vespasianus and the tunnel has 5.5 – 7 m. width, 7-40 m. height and 240 meters of it in total is a closed tunnel; moreover, it has 875 m. length and it is still in good condition and awaits its visitors.

The burial grounds complex known as Cradle Cave or Kings Vault dating back to Ancient Greece and Roman periods; St. Simeon Monastery dating back to 6th century A.C.; Shrine of Hızır which is believed to be the place where Hızır and Moses met with on a rock are among the touristic attractions of the district.

***Samandağ has one of the longest coastlines in Turkey with its 14.2 km long coast that has 200-250 meter width at certain places.***







Thanks to its cultural heritage, Samandağ contributes a lot to Hatay Archaeological Museum which is the second in terms of richness of mosaic collection and the third in terms of coins collection in the world.

Plateaus that can be reached via asphalt road, 17 km. at length, present a rich content for tourism. In the centre of the plateau where history and nature can be relished together, cool summer days are promised with ice cold crystalline water in the camping and picnic areas and various vegetables and fruits typical for Mediterranean region.

Samandağ has one of the longest coastlines in Turkey with its 14.2 km long coast that has 200-250 meter width at certain places. *Caretta caretta* (loggerhead sea turtle) and *Chelonia mydas* (green turtle) that are on the verge of extinction all over the world and under protection with international agreements comes to the Mediterranean Sea es-



pecially for nesting. 25% of the turtles living in the Mediterranean come to Samandağ coast for breeding. *Caretta caretta* (loggerhead sea turtle) and *Chelonia mydas* (green turtle) lay eggs in the holes that they dig with their feet in the coast during summer time and turtles come out of sand in the coast after 50-60 days of breeding. Moreover, 200 plant species were identified in this coast which is rich in terms of dune plants.

Since the wetland areas of the rivers that flow into the sea, especially of the Asi River (Orontes River) are on the migration route of various bird species, these areas are places for nesting and breeding for such bird species as white stork, pelican, buzzard and hawk.

The wide coastline of Samandağ is very convenient in terms of touristic activities such as scuba diving and underwater photography, sea tourism, windsurfing, boat tours, all kinds of beach sport activities, water skiing. Besides, sea water temperature is 31 C° in summer time and 20-24 C° in average in winter time.



How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

The distance between Samandağ and Hatay Airport is approximately 42 km and the distance between Samandağ and Antakya is 22 km. Transportation is provided by private minibuses departing from Antakya every 2 minutes.



# Elazığ Hazar Lake

Hazar Lake in Elazığ is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in the EDEN 2010 competition with the theme of "Aquatic Tourism".







Lake Hazar is a tectonic lake with approximately 80 square meter surface in the southeast of Elazığ and it is very important in terms of the geography of the region because it even affects the climate of the region. Lake Hazar brings Mediterranean climate to this region where normally continental climate is substantially dominant and even enables the local people to grow Mediterranean fruits and vegetables and is regarded as one of the lakes with the best sceneries in Turkey. With its blue flag beaches, the lake offers you a scenery as beautiful as that of the Mediterranean beaches especially in the summer time.

Lake Hazar also harbours a very important cultural richness under its blue surface along with its natural beauties. During the recent studies the traces of a residential area dating back to the 11st century which submerged under water due to an earthquake that occurred in the 13rd century were discovered. Besides, some architectural remnants on the island can be seen with the naked eye located in the lake when the water level falls.

Some different structures which apparently had different functions in the lake and were able to survive in a very sound form until today were found as a result of researches. It is one of the lakes that attract the attention of underwater archaeologists the most owing to this richness.

***Lake Hazar is regarded as one of the lakes with the best sceneries in Turkey. With its blue flag beaches, the lake offers you a scenery as beautiful as that of the Mediterranean beaches especially in the summer time.***

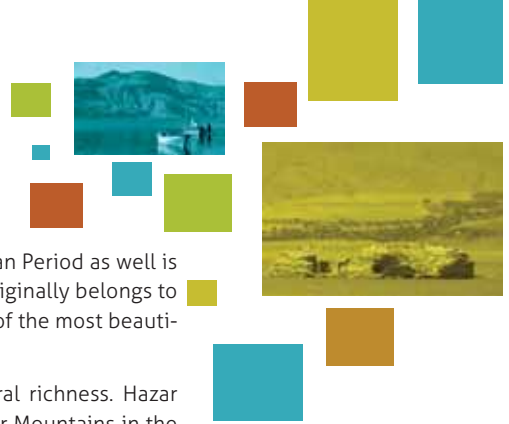


Today Lake Hazar has become an important touristic area with approximately 25 social facilities around it, such as hotels and restaurants. There are many camping areas with a large capacity for tents, along its coast. It also hosts a lot of activities and the most important of them is the International Hazar Poem Evenings held annually. Besides, handball, volleyball, water sports and paragliding competitions are held.

Elazığ harbouring Lake Hazar within its borders is a residential area with thousands of years of cultural heritage. It had always been a settlement area as it is located at a junction point in a fertile plain. Harput was the most important residential area of the region during the Ottoman Period. We would strongly recommend you to visit Harput if you're travelling to Elazığ and Lake Hazar as it is a place that absolutely attracts history lovers. The first one of the remnants you can visit here is Harput Castle dating back to the 8th century B.C., Urartians Period which was used by different civilizations in the following periods and frequently renovated and extended. It is all but a summary of the history of Harput. Meryem Ana (Virgin Mary) Church located in the east of Harput Castle is dated back to 179 A.C. and one of the most ancient Assyrian churches. Grand Mosque, which is one of the most precious examples of the art of Artuqids, was built in 1156 by the Artuqid emperor, Fahreddin Karaaslan. The memories of Aqqoyunlu (white sheep) tribe which is another civilization that left a mark in the history of Harput, are cherished by Sara(y) Hatun (Lady Sara) Mosque. Arap Baba Mosque is from the Seljuq period. It is a work of art which we would absolutely like to recommend you with respect to its mihrab decorated with tiles and ornaments inside the dome. One of the most important monuments from this period in Har-







put that preserved its importance during the Ottoman Period as well is Kurşunlu Mosque dated 1738. The mimbar, which originally belongs to Grand Mosque but has been preserved here, is one of the most beautiful examples of woodworking.

Elazığ is a residential area with a significant natural richness. Hazar Baba Mountain in the southeast of Elazığ and Mastar Mountains in the east are one of the most ideal places for mountain and nature walks with its rich flora and fauna. Walking and bicycle tours are made along Murat River in the magnificent atmosphere in which history and nature are intertwined. Hazar Baba Ski Centre which is 6 km. away from the Sivrice district centre is very important for winter tourism and all kinds of services are provided here with its 1400 meter long ski track and food and beverage premises for the visitors fond of skiing.

## How to Get There?

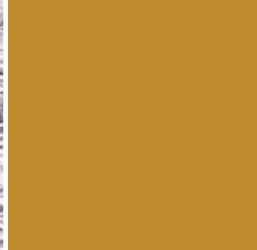
### How to Get There?

It is possible to get to Elazığ at every hour of the day by buses of various firms as it has road transport connection to every part of Turkey. Railway can be another alternative if you like it. Those preferring airlines can use Elazığ Airport which is 12 km. away from the city centre and open for international flights. Lake Hazar is 26 km away from Elazığ city centre and you can get there by following the main road to Diyarbakır.



# Eskişehir

Eskişehir is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in the EDEN 2010 competition with the theme of "Aquatic Tourism".



Eskişehir which has two important universities and a rich history has become famous as a European province in Anatolia owing to the activities that have been carried out in recent years. Its cultural richness covers both past and present.

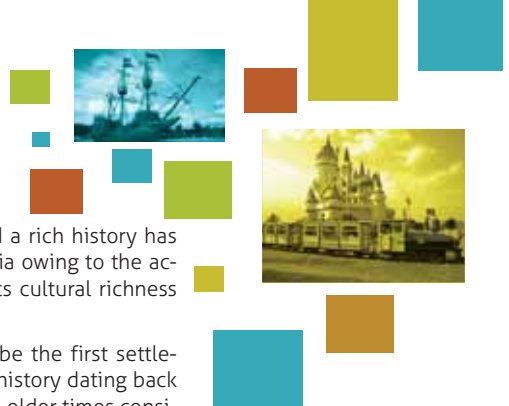
Excavations made in Şarhöyük which is thought to be the first settlement area in the province prove that Eskişehir has a history dating back to 3000 B.C. It is possible to take this history to much older times considering the findings from the other mounds around it.

The first civilization that left significant marks in the history of Eskişehir is Phrygians that lived in this region as of the 9th century B.C. The most important place where you can discover the traces of this civilization whose works can be seen in many places around Eskişehir is Yazılıkaya that was the religious centre of Phrygians and where many monuments and tombs can be seen together.

Eskişehir is also very important with regard to Ottoman history. This is because Karacahisar Castle which is regarded as the first conquest of The Ottoman Empire and is thought to be the place where Osman Bey (founder of Ottoman Empire) had the first khuthbah read in his name is located in this province.

Almost all of the districts in Eskişehir are settlements which are very rich in terms of history and culture. These main settlements are as follows; Mihalççık District where Yunus Emre, the pioneer of Turkish poem, minstrel and philosopher was born and Yunus Emre Social Complex is found; Sivrihisar which was a significant settlement during Roman and Byzantine Periods and is famous for works of the Periods of Seljuk Empire and Ottoman Empire. Besides, this district is believed to be the birthplace of Nasreddin Hodja who is also a worldwide famous philosopher; Seyitgazi where social complex of Seyyid Battal Gazi who is legendary and well-respected figure in Anatolia is located.

All of these settlements which, we believe, will certainly draw the attention of history bugs are located a little bit outside the city centre. The most important place in the centre of Eskişehir that can fascinate you



***Eskişehir is also very important with regard to Ottoman history. This is because Karacahisar Castle which is regarded as the first conquest of The Ottoman Empire and is thought to be the place where Osman Bey (founder of Ottoman Empire) had the first khuthbah read in his name is located in this province.***





with its historical fabric is Odunpazarı which is thought to be the first spot where the city was established. You can see hundreds of year old wooden houses in Odunpazarı which have been restored recently and become an indispensable touristic destination. These houses some of which are used as boutique hotels, restaurants and museums are the most marvellous examples of civil architecture of the Ottoman Period that should certainly be visited by those who want to feel the atmosphere and history of Odunpazarı more closely.



Another important work of art that you will see in Odunpazarı is Kurşunlu Social Complex which includes a mosque, a sadırvan (fountain for ritual ablutions), a public soup kitchen, an imaret, a primary school, a madrasa, a rest home and two caravansaries all of which date back to the 16th century. The rest home section of the Social Complex is separated for Meerschaum (Lületaşı) which is among the things that first come to mind when you think about Eskişehir. This stone that is one of the most important richnesses of Eskişehir is mined in very few places in the world and Eskişehir Meerschaum has the highest quality among all. It is also called as white gold or sea foam due to its colour. Although it was exported as raw material during the Ottoman Empire Period, now it is used for producing pipes, jewel boxes and jewellery which are all processed almost with the skill of an artist. Meerschaum can sometimes be extracted by digging holes going down meters in the soil. In other words, both processing and mining it is labouring. The Meerschaum Museum located in the rest home, where you can relish the richness of Eskişehir and the skills of meerschaum masters is the one of a kind all over the world. After visiting this museum, you can buy pipes, jewellery and other ornaments made of meerschaum in Atlıhan Handicrafts Bazaar.

Cultural mosaic of Eskişehir is one of the important elements that shape the food culture of the province. Çiğ börek (deep fried water thin dough with raw minced meat filling) which was learnt from Crimean migrants should certainly be tasted during an Eskişehir trip. It has been traditionally filled with minced meat but, in present, cheese, potatoes, etc are also used as filling. Another unique taste of Eskişehir is Met halva (a sweetmeat like dessert mostly made with semolina or flour). Although not as famous as these two; lamb sorpa (boiled lamb), Toyga soup (cooked with yoghurt and flour), Göbete (a kind of pastry)





and Balaban (cooked with meat and meat balls) are among the unique tastes that you should taste in Eskişehir.

Although these richnesses of Eskişehir

reveal the historical and cultural features of the province, two important universities here should also be regarded as the most important element shaping Eskişehir. More than 30.000 students studying in these universities contribute a lot to the social and cultural dynamism of Eskişehir. We must say that organisation of events such as concerts for these students play an important role in this regard. A young and dynamic population naturally invigorate the social life, too. This is the reason why there are crowds of people in the cafes, cinemas and theatres as well as streets of Eskişehir.

In addition to the education they provide, another advantage of these universities is that they make Eskişehir the centre of cultural and artistic activities. Many exhibitions, theatre performances and concerts are organized each year in these universities. During the Eskişehir Festival, which attracts a lot of interest by the people of Eskişehir as well as the university students and hosts hundreds of performers, theatre performances and concerts appealing to different tastes are being staged.

The most dynamic and vivid place in Eskişehir is certainly Porsuk River and its surroundings. You can have a tour in Porsuk River by boats or relieve your tiredness blissfully by drinking beverages in cafes alongside the river.

Science Arts and Culture Park that includes a pond where water sports and other activities can be carried out and certainly draws the attention of children is another place that we can recommend you to visit.



## How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

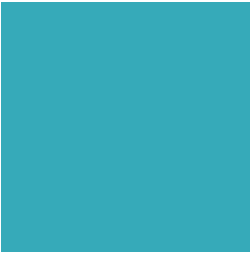
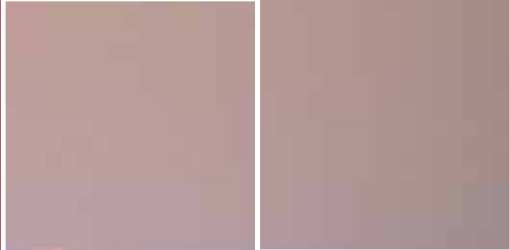
It is possible to go to Eskişehir by plane. There are three reciprocal flights between Eskişehir and Istanbul. It is also possible to reach Eskişehir by regular buses from almost all provinces since it is located between Istanbul and Ankara, the two biggest cities of Turkey. You can go to Eskişehir from Ankara, within an hour in an enjoyable trip thanks to the high-speed train.



# Kars

## Kuyucuk Lake

Kuyucuk Lake is the national destination of 2009 EDEN competition with the theme of **"Tourism and Protected Areas"**.



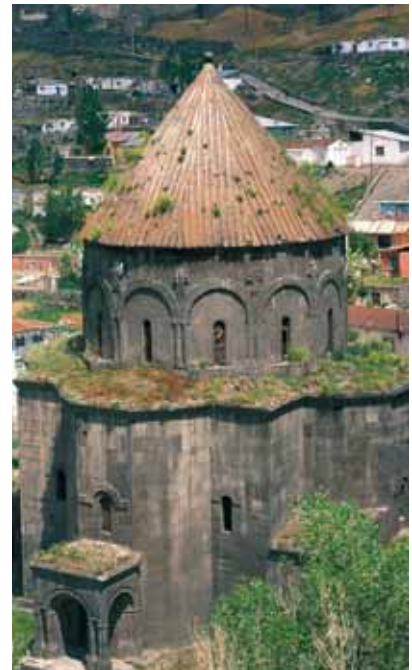
The Lake Kuyucuk is a wetland harboring many species of birds that the bird watchers should certainly visit. The researches so far reveal that more than 200 species of birds are found in Lake Kuyucuk. The birds visit this spectacular lake for breeding and nesting, and feeding and roosting in migration seasons. Therefore, those who want to see many species of birds together should visit the lake in spring or autumn.

Being an important bird watching center is the most important richness of Kuyucuk which is determined as a wild life development area in 2005 and was included on the RAMSAR list of Wetlands with International Importance in 2009. As well as that the lake environs and wildlife has a rich biological diversity. This place which we strongly recommend the nature lovers to visit, offers the shutterbugs the opportunity of immortalizing not only the birds but also the colorful wild flowers, butterflies, mushrooms, pasture lands and the other wild animals such as foxes and wolves in winter time. Furthermore, the circumference of the lake is a natural track along which you can walk with pleasure without getting tired and even ride on a horse. This feature of the lake makes this place an ideal area for promenade and nature walks. The Lake Kuyucuk is also one of the most suitable spots for star-gazing in Turkey because the light pollution which is the biggest obstacle to such activity almost does not exist at all here.

Kuyucuk is a region attracting attention mainly with its natural richness. The culture and history lovers may prefer visiting the village Kuyucuk. In every corner of the village, it is possible to see the traces left behind by Doukhobors (a Russian tribe) who came from Russia during the Ottoman-Russian War between the years of 1877-1878 and continued to live in this village until 1921. The first feature of this historical legacy that catches your eye would be the houses with attention-grabbing architecture and the street in which the houses are lined up opposite each other. The church which is used as a mosque today and the school of the village are the other examples of the cultural heritage of that period. Those whose expectation from a trip is witnessing the natural beauties as well as discovering the cultural values and who are not satisfied with Kuyucuk village trip could enrich it with travels to Ani Ruins and Kars.

Kars, which is located at the transit point from Anatolia to the Caucasus and has come to the forefront in terms of its commercial importance throughout its history, offers its visitors pleasant moments with its monumental structures and his-

***The most important richness of Kuyucuk is certainly that it is a very important bird watching centre. Moreover, there is a rich biological diversity in the surrounding of the lake with its wildlife.***



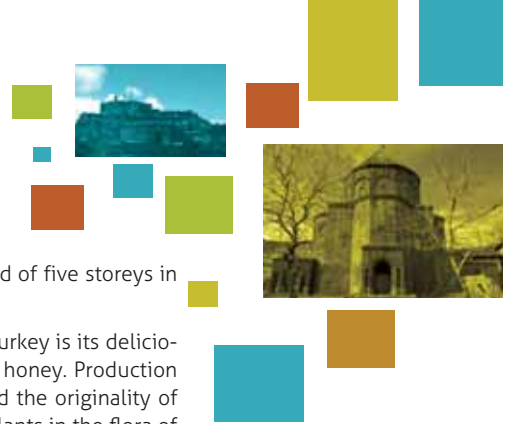


torical fabric. However while making your travel plans, do consider the season because it is covered with snow for most of the year.

The city centre of Kars has an appearance quite different from the ordinary Anatolian cities. The city, which was within the borders of Kars Castle until the Russian occupation, had got out of the castle since that date and been reformed with various public works activities. Although most of these magnificent and elegant buildings which are located in wide streets crosscutting one another vertically are more than one-hundred year-old, they are still being used.

Kars Castle, the former settlement of the city witnessed many wars and was continually destroyed, rebuilt. The last of these is Ottoman-Russian War in 1878. The ones who want to revive the memories of Kars history in their minds can visit this castle most of which nonetheless remain standing. The other monuments attractive for history lovers are BeylerBeyi Palace built by Lala Şahin Paşa in 1579, Taşköprü on two sides of which İlbeyoğlu and Mazlumoğlu Turkish Baths are located and similarly dated back to 1579, and Fethiye Mosque, an example of Russian religious architecture used as a cathedral before.

Ani is a settlement which we strongly recommend those who come to Kars to visit and can be reached with an almost one-hour short travel because it is only 50 kilometres away from the city centre. It is possible to see both its splendid church ruins and Seljuks' works side by side in Ani as a proof that it was under the domination of so many civilizations. Among the churches, Ani Cathedral started to be used as a mosque after being captured by the Seljuks in 1064, Surp Kirkor Church whose even frescos inside can still be seen, Surp Pirgiç Church with the ornaments in the front side especially worth seeing. All of these churches belong to the 10th and 11th centuries. Among the Seljuks' works, Menücehr Mosque dated 1110 which is unique being the first mosque that the Seljuks built in



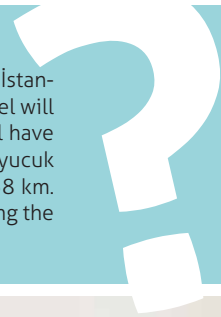
Anatolia and Sultan Palace believed to have consisted of five storeys in its original form are really spectacular as well.

One of the features that make Kars famous all over Turkey is its delicious food. In the first place it has cheddar cheese and honey. Production method of Kars cheddar cheese makes it unique and the originality of Kafkas (Caucasian) bees and the uniqueness of the plants in the flora of Kars gives Kars honey a different and delicious taste. As these two prominent and delicious foods of Kars are the indispensables of breakfast, breakfast halls offering them are opened at various points of Kars. These places are ideal for those who want to taste these delicious foods in their original place.

How to get there?

### How to get there?

Those preferring airlines to go to Kars could fly directly from centers like İstanbul, Ankara and İzmir. The railway to Kars is another alternative. This travel will of course take longer but keep in mind that throughout this trip you will have the opportunity to witness the beautiful sceneries of Anatolia. Lake Kuyucuk located in Kuyucuk village in Arpaçay district of Kars province is only 38 km. away from the city center and can be reached via a one-hour trip relishing the scenery of the Mount Ağrı.





# Kastamonu

## Cide

Kastamonu -Cide is the finalist destination of the 2009 EDEN competition with the theme of **"Tourism and Protected Areas"**.

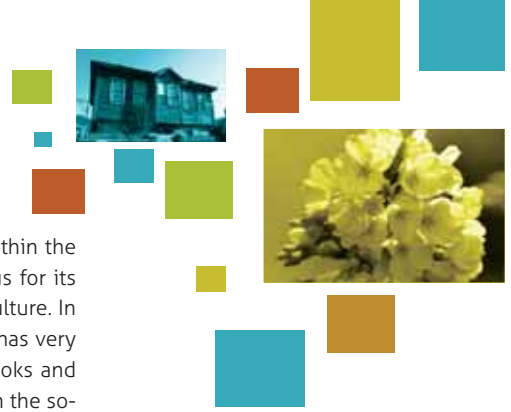




Cide is a destination along the Black Sea coast within the territorial borders of Kastamonu province famous for its natural beauty and its warm, hospitable Anatolian culture. In the north of Cide lies the black Sea and the district has very few plain areas and its land is divided by many brooks and streams. The extensions of the Küre Mountains are in the south and southeast of it, while Kestane Mountain lies in the northeast – southwest direction near the coast and its surroundings host a rich forest cover and natural treasures as a whole.

This area which was home to many civilizations throughout the history with its very long coast, splendid bays by the mountains perpendicularly falling to the sea and forests is mentioned in the Iliad of Homeros with two ancient cities, Kytoron and Aigialos. Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman civilizations left marks in Cide and this destination which hosted travellers on the Silk Road was the land of the merchants engaged in shipping trade with Russia at one time.

Although it is not known what the name Cide is originated from, it is rumoured that the word "Cide" is derived from the word "cid" which means throat in Arabic. Gideros Bay which



***It is possible to say that the gleaming water is quite calm because the part of the Bay which flows into the sea is very narrow. Besides, as it is among the destinations which haven't been discovered yet, there is no yacht or boat group to share the beauty of the water and nature. Furthermore this is a protected area.***

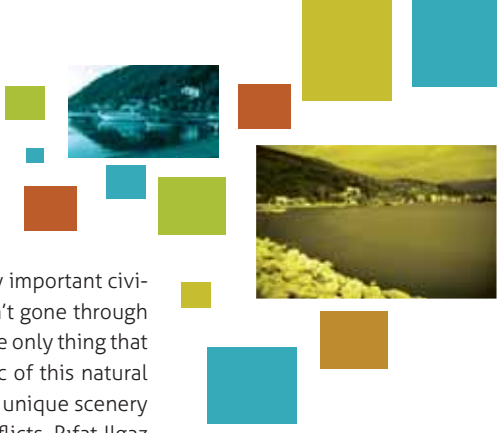


## Kastamonu Cide

is 11 kilometres away from the district centre is dated back to B.C. 15th century. There is information with regard to the fact that the first city state was founded by the Amazons and its destruction was ordered by the sister-in-law of Alexander the Great. It is possible to say that the gleaming water is quite calm because the part of the Bay which flows into the sea is very narrow. Besides, as it is among the destinations which haven't been discovered yet, there is no yacht or boat group to share the beauty of the water and nature. Furthermore this is a protected area.

The destination Cide offers visitors unsatisfied with mass tourism and looking for different experiences the opportunity to discover its treasures with its 11 km continuous beach, Gideros, Aydos, Denizkonak, Uğurlu, Çayyaka, Akbayır and İlyasbey coasts, its bays, forest lands, brooks and rivers and castles from Roman period positioned on the high hills.





This destination with many natural beauties and many important civilizations remain a mystery due to the fact that it hasn't gone through sufficient number of archaeological researches yet. The only thing that can complement the admiration created by the magic of this natural perfection can be discovering the castles in which the unique scenery is blended with the authenticity of the historical conflicts. Rifat Ilgaz Sarı Yazma Culture and Art Festival, the variety of the delicious regional food and the Anatolian hospitality are the other tourist attractions.

How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

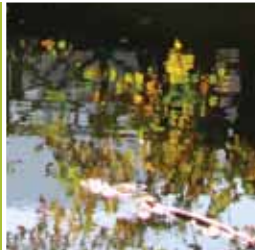
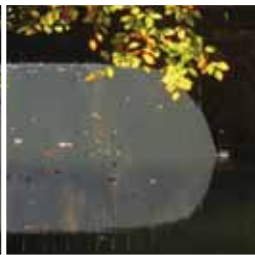
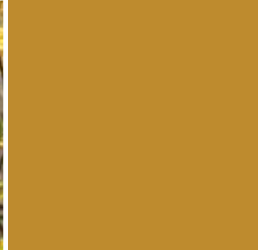
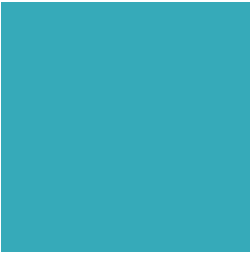
It is possible to reach Gideros by water and land. Those who chose the land can take Devrek-Bartın highway on Yeni Çağ road between Bolu – Gerede. Gideros Bay is reached through the road between İnebolu –Cide. Cide is 12 km away from Gideros.





# Bolu

Yedigöller National Park and Abant Lake Natural Park is one of the finalists of 2009 EDEN competition with the theme of **"Tourism and Protected Areas"**.





Yedigöller National Park and Abant Lake Natural Park that are both located within the borders of Bolu province are the finalist destinations for Eden 2009 Competition with the theme of Tourism and Protected Areas.

Yedigöller derives its name from the seven lakes that are formed by the closure of the front side of the valleys. It has become a getaway vacation destination with its lakes and the surrounding green area for those living in big cities such as Ankara and İstanbul who wish to escape from the crowd for a while and relish the peace of serenity in the greenery and rejoice in the beautiful weather and atmosphere away from the hustle of everyday life and it is a wonder of nature that we recommend to the nature lovers. Yedigöller which was declared as the 2. National Park of Turkey in 1965 is both ideal for a family weekend with its picnic areas and also a rare paradise for the nature lovers and shutterbugs with its heavenly scenery. Although accommodation in the bungalows is possible, one needs to make a reservation in advance. Another alternative is to pitch a tent in the camping areas.

Abant Lake Natural Park, which is located in an area surrounded by mountains completely coated with forests, is rather a tourist attraction and holiday centre gaining popularity day by day. Abant, which has an alternative for almost every visitor with different tastes and different expectations from a trip, is a place which can be visited in every season of the

***Yedigöller which was declared as the 2. National Park of Turkey in 1965 is both ideal for a family picnic areas and also a rare paradise for the nature lovers and shutterbugs with its heavenly scenery.***





year and discovered to be shrouded in a different beauty in every season. Especially the time when the forests around it are covered with snow in winter and when the lake is covered with ice is ideal for classical tours around the lake. It is also the best time for the landscape which you may wish to immortalize with photographs. It doesn't also matter if you don't like the winter time because, as we mentioned, every season has a different attraction in Abant. The ones visiting in spring and summer can have the opportunity of breathing in the scents of numerous endemic plants and taking walks along the forests hosting every shade of green while listening to the birds at the same time. Those who want to see the rare yellow - white water lilies covering the surface of the lake should visit here in the spring time. The only warning we should make about the time preference is if you wish to spend some days away from the crowd, you shouldn't prefer the time of the festive holidays when the number of the visitors is expressed by thousands of people.

Abant, which became a protected area as a Natural Park in 1988 due to both the richness of the flora of the lake, its surroundings and its potential as a very big open air recreation area, is a place which could be enjoyed with family and friends rather than being visited alone. You could eat trout which is peculiar to this lake at the restaurants along the lake or enjoy a picnic with your loved ones in the areas specifically arranged for this purpose around the lake. One of the most frequently visited places in Abant where the local people open stalls and sell the food they grow on their own is Abant Bazaar. Here you can buy tarhana (soup made with dried yoghurt), cheese, butter, jam, honey peculiar to this region and brought from the neighboring villages and various fruits grown in this region. After spending a night in the tent, having these foods in your picnic or breakfast will definitely work up your appetite.

An indispensable part of Abant trips is walks around the lake. The area surrounding the lake is 7 km and arranged to serve as a walk way. Those who don't prefer walking could take a trip by barouches or bicycles which are quite popular in the area. You can also have the pleasure of



fishing with fishing lines that you can bring with you. The nature walks in the forests around the lake could be preferred by those who want to both get a lot of oxygen and discover the plant and animal species some of which are indigenous. It is also possible for you to prefer the trips to the plateaus hosting the pretty villages around the lake. An alternative for those who want a more active holiday is paragliding in the Plateau Çepni. Regardless of the activity you prefer, the only certain thing is that you will find it a little hard to leave this natural wonder where green and blue meet and return to the rush and crowd of the cities again.

The accommodation problem that is sometimes experienced in such places united with nature is not valid for Abant. As well as being a place convenient for one-day trips, it also has the capacity to serve at the best level with its accommodation facilities to those who want to stay longer. You can either stay in the family boarding houses along the Abant Road or at the hotels and bungalows with Abant Lake scenery or spend the night in a tent if you want to be alone with the nature.

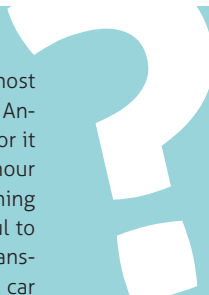


How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

Abant Lake which is within the provincial borders of Bolu, the westernmost city in the Black Sea Region is about equidistant from both İstanbul and Ankara. You could buy a trip from tour companies organizing one-day trips or it is also possible for you to travel by your own mean of transport in a few-hour trip being accompanied by the scenery telling you that you are approaching Abant. It is possible to find a bus almost hourly from Ankara and İstanbul to Bolu. The distance from the centre of Bolu to Abant is 34 km and the transportation is possible by minibuses. Those who wish to travel by their own car need to take measures against the possibility of snow and icing in the winter.

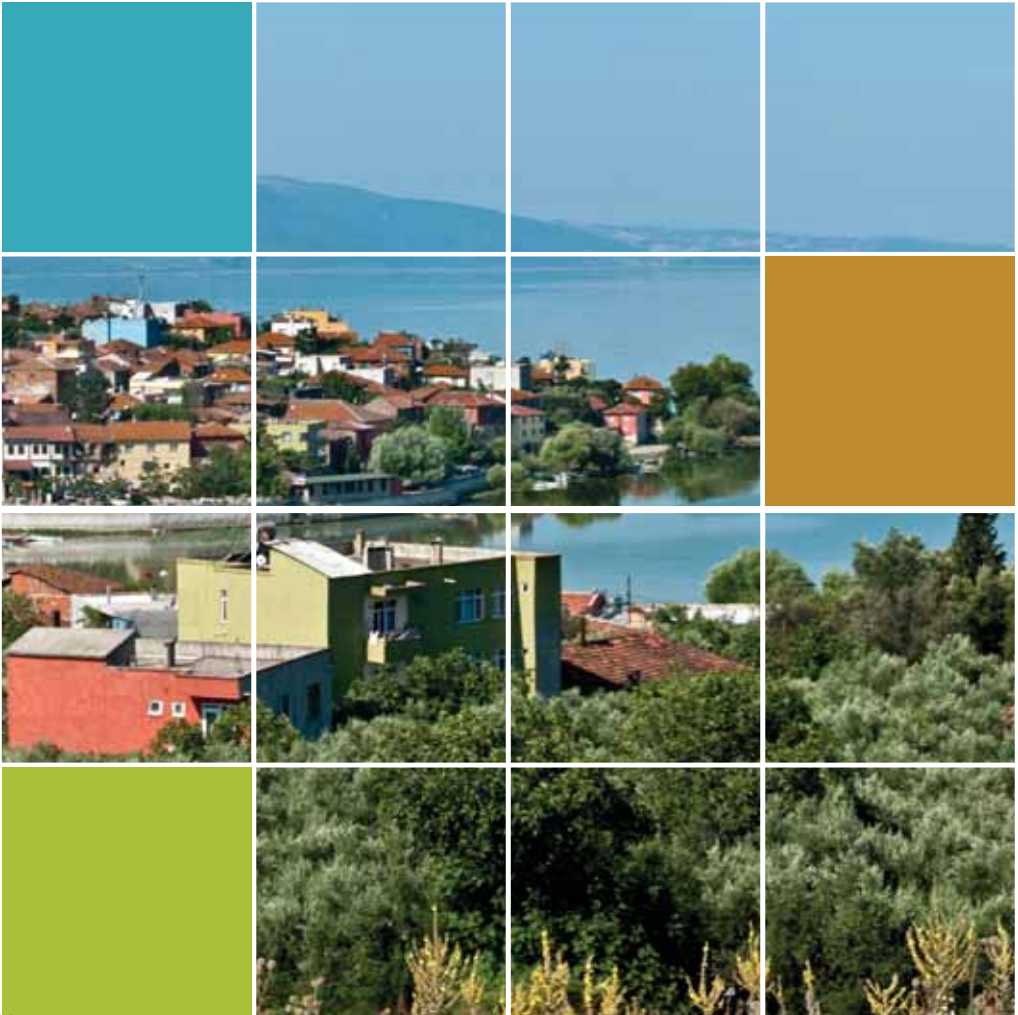
Access to Yedigöller is a little harder compared to Abant. It is possible to reach the park by driving your private car from the Bolu city center on a 42-km forest road.



# Bursa Gölyazı



Bursa, Gölyazı is one of the finalists of 2009 EDEN competition with the theme of "**Tourism and Protected Areas**".







Bursa Province has two lakes within its provincial borders. These lakes are İznik and Uluabat Lakes which attract people with their natural beauty, unique environment and the ancient settlements located along the lakeshore. One of these two lakes, Uluabat achieved finalist status in the EDEN competition with the theme of 'Aquatic tourism' in 2009 thanks to Gölyazı established along its lakeshore.

Gölyazı is located in Uluabat Lake on a peninsula connected to the land via a very narrow trail. Until quite recently, the people were only able to reach here via a bridge, due to the rising water levels in autumn and winter. Therefore it is possible to name the place where the village is located an island. This sheltered position of the town was naturally the primary reason why the people settled here throughout history, especially during the Byzantine Period.

The older name of the village, Apollonia, was also the name of Uluabat Lake in the ancient periods. Although it is one of the settlement areas with one of the longest histories in this region, as it was established in a narrow area, the modern buildings replaced the remnants of the ancient period to a large extent. Nevertheless, Gölyazı which is a 1. Degree protected area as a whole, is also a member of the League of Historical Cities.

It is possible to see all the remnants revealing its history in a short visit to Gölyazı which is quite a small settlement and you can just wander around it in a couple of hours. The big church, which welcomes you in the entrance of the village and doesn't have roofing or doors, does not have an ancient history; it belongs to late 19th century. The two-storey houses with bay windows some of which are 200 years old are among the remarkable examples of the Ottoman Period civil

***If you visit Gölyazı in June, you can taste unique tastes of the village in the fish houses in the village. Smaller models of the nets called fyke nets used for catching crayfish and identified with the village, are produced as souvenirs.***





architecture. About 90 of these houses are put under protection. Of the remnants of more ancient periods revealing the long history of the village, the theatre building dating back to the Roman Period is located in Zambaktepe, in the southern part of the island, and the ancient aqueducts and tombs are in Deliklitaş. Although some parts of the ramparts, which can be traced in the entrance of the village and along the lakeshore, belong to the Roman Period, they are dated back to the Byzantine Period when Göl-yazı became prominent with its military power. If you are a history buff, we would like to recommend you to visit the other islands in the lake by boat. These islands are quite small and have never been settled. Furthermore, they embrace important remnants such as the Apollon Temple in Kız Island which was dedicated to Apollon after whom the ancient town and the lake was named and is dated back to the Roman Period and the remnants of a church belonging to Byzantine Period in Halilbey Island.

The richness of Göl-yazı is sufficient to turn it into an open air museum. Moreover, contemporary artists supported these historical assets

and created various works of art in different parts of the village. As they are exhibited in the streets of the village, you can run across the works of a Dutch, French or Canadian artist during your trip in the village.

Although the deepest point of the lake is only a few meters, fishery is the main source of living for most of the villagers and so Göl-yazı looks like a

fishing village as a whole. You can encounter fishers feverishly making nets or colourful boats some of which are being repaired and some waiting to sail in the lake early in the morning which are the typical scenes of seaside life. Despite the fact that the crayfish, a fresh-water lobster, decreased in number nowadays, it is still regarded as the most important product of the lake where nineteen fish species were identified including horned pike and carp. If you visit Gölyazı in June, you can taste unique tastes of the village in the fish houses in the village. Smaller models of the nets called fyke nets used for catching crayfish and identified with the village, are produced as souvenirs. You can buy one of the souvenirs that will remind you of Gölyazı.

Gölyazı is one of the places that shutterbugs enjoy visiting most. Photography clubs, amateur and professional photographers from the nearby cities organize photo safari tours in Gölyazı in almost all seasons of the year. The time that you can catch the most spectacular sceneries which are as good as the post cards with boats is the moment when the sun begins to disappear over the horizon.

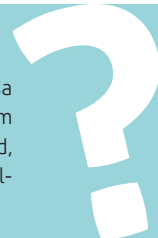
This lake also draws the attention of the bird watchers and is under protection due to this feature. Those who visit the village especially in spring can see hundreds of bird species at once. Although these birds nest and breed mainly in Manyas which is close to Gölyazı most of the birds choose Gölyazı as the feeding place. As a result, it is possible to enjoy watching many migratory birds both in reeds of the lake, gardens and fields in the bank of the lake.



## How to Get There?

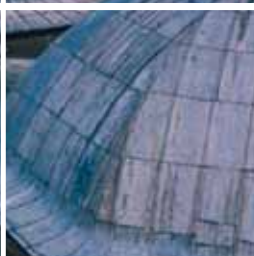
### How to Get There?

Gölyazı is located at a 40 km distance from the road that goes from Bursa to Balıkesir and İzmir. You should stray from the main road and drive 5 km further following the direction signs, to reach the village. On the other hand, those who do not prefer to travel by their private vehicle can reach the village via regular buses from Bursa bus station to Gölyazı.



# Edirne

Edirne is the National Destination of 2008 EDEN Competition with the theme of **"Intangible Heritage Destination"**.





Although Edirne the second capital of the Ottoman Empire lost this status after the conquest of Istanbul, its importance for the Ottoman sultans remained permanent. This is because there are many impressive examples of Ottoman architecture in the province and it deserves to be named 'the museum city' owing to its awe-inspiring architectural and historic wealth. Besides this wealth, its museums, cultural values, unique tastes, natural beauties also make the province Edirne to be the first to be visited among other provinces in Turkey.

Edirne became the capital of Ottoman Empire in 1361 after its conquest and stayed as the capital until 1453. Although the sultans chose Istanbul as their residence, they did not ignore Edirne and regarded it as the second capital city. Therefore, Edirne has been adorned with inspiring architecture during all periods, architectural innovations were first tried on these structures, skilful artists engraved their most beautiful ornaments on these structures, and the province turned into a centre of science and culture with the hospitals and madrasas built here. The most important one of Ottoman works that even Evliya Çelebi who visited the province in 1653 spoke in praise of is the Selimiye Mosque which bears the signature of Mimar Sinan, the most renowned architect of the Ottoman Empire. Selimiye Mosque which can be seen from anywhere in Edirne with all its magnificence was included on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2011, and is regarded as the most important structure not only of Edirne but also of the Ottoman Empire. The construction of the mosque was commissioned by Sultan Selim II and was built by the architect, Mimar Sinan. It was completed in 7 years with the efforts of thousands of people and Mimar Sinan defined this work of him as "my work of mastership", these words show that even the great genius himself accepted the magnificence of this mosque. Selimiye Mosque whose magnificence is derived from its Minarets, its dome which is the most majestic example of its period and gorgeous tiles of İznik and which could constitute the only reason to visit the province is the most important work identified with Edirne.

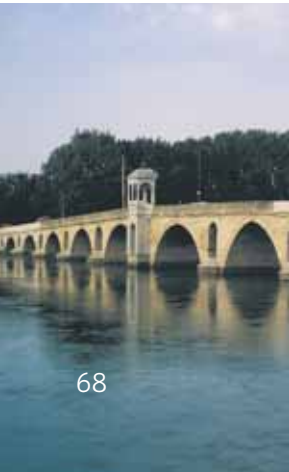
Edirne has monuments by which the development of the Ottoman architecture can be followed and these monuments represent the first of their kind in the history of the Ottoman architecture. Almost anyone in Edirne would tell you the following: "The structure of Selimiye Mosque, the inscriptions of the Old Mosque and the door of the Three Balcony Mosque are very famous" and these words summarize the places that must be visited first and the elements to pay attention. We

***There are many impressive examples of Ottoman architecture in the province and it deserves to be named 'the museum city' owing to its awe-inspiring architectural and historic wealth.***



can say that the inscriptions on Old Mosque which was commissioned by Sultan Mehmet I in 1414 will especially arouse your interest and architectural history buffs may want to examine this mosque in its entirety which is the continuation of early Anatolian mosque architecture. Those who visit the Three Balcony Mosque which is the prominent work of Sultan Murat II period and was completed in 1447 will want to see the famous door of it. However, other beauties of the mosque should not be ignored by just focusing on the door. Among these beauties are the minarets of the mosque which attract attention with niceties of different aesthetic adornments. Another mosque that was commissioned by Sultan Murat II again, and that may draw your attention with its adornments is Muradiye Mosque. The spacious Social Complex of Sultan Beyazıt II which dates back to 1488 and includes the mosque, medical school, imaret, hospital and bath also deserves to be visited both in terms of its architectural structure and adornment features. Besides, the famous hospital (Darüşşifa) used as a museum currently is also within this social complex. These are the indispensable elements not to be missed during an Edirne visit. However, limiting your visit only to these structures will be unfair to Edirne since it has a very rich cultural heritage. Bridges which also bear Mimar Sinan's signature who constructed Selimiye Mosque, his most prominent monument in Edirne, caravansaries, fountains, old houses and baths that turn Edirne into an open air museum also deserve to be visited with their niceties.

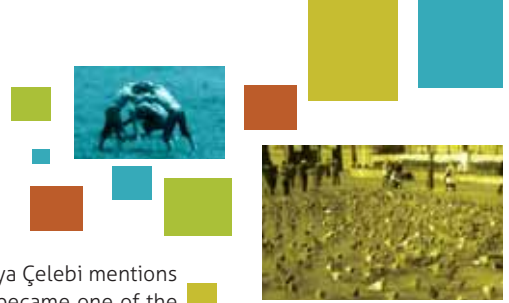
Each of these elements of this cultural wealth that is spread across Edirne presents a different unique feature of the province. However, those who want to learn about this province in details with its different characteristics and history can visit the museums. Edirne Museum, which is one of the oldest museum in the history of the Republic of Turkey and was established upon the instruction of Atatürk, consists of Archaeology and Ethnography sections established within the madrasa buildings in the courtyard of Selimiye Mosque. Archaeology Section is enriched with findings from tumulus excavations exhibiting the long history of Edirne and its environment. Ottoman Period works and daily objects revealing the richness of folk arts of Edirne are exhibited in the Ethnography Section. Besides, objects related to wrestling events that have an important place in the culture of Edirne, Ottoman tiles, ceramics and woodwork and kitchenware used in the palace are exhibited in the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art located in the Social Complex of Selimiye Mosque. Edirne Health Museum that was awarded the European Museum Award in 2004 is located within the Hospital in Sultan Beyazıt II Social Complex and could also draw your attention. The Hospital (Darüşşifa) where patients



were treated with the sound of music and which Evliya Çelebi mentions in his book of travels was constructed in 1488 and became one of the best hospitals of Ottoman Empire. It was closed in 19th century after maintaining this function for a long time and converted into a museum during the late 1990s. Since its establishment, efforts were made in the museum to explain the medical services provided in Ottoman Empire in details. Medical Madrasa next to the Hospital (Darüşşifa) serves as the Painting and Sculpture Museum today. Sukru Pasha Memorial and Balkan War Museum dedicated to those who were martyred while heroically defending this province revive that period and the atmosphere of the war. You can see the documents and photos of the period in Lausanne Memorial Museum which is established to highlight the importance of the Lausanne Agreement that is crucial in the history of Turkey.

Kırkpınar Wrestling Events that, we think, is among the oldest sport organizations in the world and will certainly draw your attention with its authenticity is among the important cultural values of Edirne. Wrestling which Turkish people define as "sport of their ancestors" dates back thousands of years. Kırkpınar Wrestling Events has been organized since 1361. Kırkpınar Area where the wrestling contest is organized is near the New Palace which was the residence of Ottoman Sultans and was completed by Sultan Mehmet II the Conqueror. Its historical significance, oiling the wrestlers to make it difficult to defeat the rival, announcers introducing the wrestlers to the audience, atabal and shrill pipe that accompanies the wrestling and the prelude that can be defined as the preparation for wrestling and some kind of ceremony before the contest are the main elements of Kırkpınar Wrestling Events that increase the uniqueness of the events. Those who want to watch wrestling there must visit Edirne in late June.

Local food of Edirne is another part of its cultural wealth. Most of the tastes that created the Edirne cuisine have spread across Turkey but it is more enjoyable to eat the local food in its original province. Among these tastes, fried liver comes first. Mavzana (cooked with aubergine and yoghurt), liver roll and akıtma (some kind of crepe) are other types of food we would suggest you to taste. Another taste identified with Edirne is Marzipan (almond paste) which you can take to your friends as a present from Edirne.



How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

Edirne is only 230 km. away from Istanbul, the metropolis of Turkey and located in the European side of the country. You can arrive in Edirne from İstanbul in two hours by your private car. There are also bus services to Edirne every hour.



# Konya Akşehir



Konya-Akşehir is one of the finalists of 2008 EDEN Competition with the theme of **"Intangible Heritage Destination"**.







Akşehir where surface researches revealed its long history dating back to Neolithic Age is an important settlement area in the history of almost all civilisations that lived in Anatolia. Traces of Hittites were proved through findings in the mounds around. It is possible to see the pieces from Phrygian Period in the Archaeology Museum. "Midas Spring" in Ulupınar village was named after King Midas, the famous king of the Phrygians. On the other hand, the name of the village of Melas is believed to be derived from the Lydian Princess' husband Melas.

Akşehir has been and is still located on the transition route and hosted prominent commercial, military and pilgrimage routes of the period such as Royal Road, Silk Road and Surre Road. Although, this strategic significance of Akşehir caused it to changed hands continuously between different civilisations, it contributed to the cultural wealth of Akşehir rather than creating destructive effects. Akşehir resembles to an open-air museum with its mosques most of which are dated to 13th century, tombs, madrasa and bathes proving its spiritual values and its houses which are examples of civil architecture and among the most gorgeous samples of its kind. "Ferruh Shah Mosque" where Bayezid the Thunderbolt committed suicide when captivated by Timur is also located in Akşehir. This Mosque is the most important feature making Akşehir an attractive district in respect of Ottoman Period. Besides, Western Front Headquarters where preparations and plans were made for the Great Offensive that concludes the Turkish War of Independence is also located



***Akşehir has been and is still located on the transition route and hosted prominent commercial, military and pilgrimage routes of the period such as Royal Road, Silk Road and Surre Road.***

# Konya Akşehir



in Akşehir and this makes Akşehir a significant place in the history of the Republic.

Akşehir has three museums in which its cultural wealth and pieces belonging to different periods can be seen together. These museums are as follows; "Nasreddin Hodja Archaeology and Ethnography Museum" where movable cultural assets are exhibited with a continuous chronology from Neolithic Age to the present, Taş Madrasa "Stone Works Museum" where cultural assets grand in respect of volume and size are exhibited and "Western Front Headquarters Museum", the building where the decision for the Great Offensive was taken.



All of this cultural wealth that we have mentioned briefly is absolutely an element of attraction for its visitors. Besides, the main reason for Akşehir being so famous and attractive is that Nasreddin Hodja who gained a universal identity beyond Turkey and a distinguished place in the world with his subtle wit and humour, as also shown by UNESCO's announcing the year of 1996 as the Year of Nasreddin Hodja, lived here and his tomb is located here.

It must also be said that Akşehir has been very successful in keeping alive the memories of Nasreddin Hodja who made Akşehir famous all around the world. Nasreddin Hodja's Tomb which is landscaped and protected meticulously is the most visitor-attracting monument in Akşehir. The tomb of Nasreddin Hodja with the inscription of the



date of his death, 1284 can also be seen here. Actually, the tomb itself belongs to a later date, the beginning of 20th century. We suggest you to visit the Gülmece Park near the tomb where jokes of Nasreddin Hodja are animated with sculptures. Those who want to see more can visit the Lake of Akşehir which is the subject of most of the jokes and anecdotes of Nasreddin Hodja. This lake hosts many different species of birds in fall and winter and thus it is a place that bird watchers should certainly visit. Those who come to the district between 5-10 July can participate in the International Nasreddin Hodja Festival.

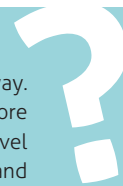
What Akşehir offers to its visitors is not limited to these. It is also a convenient place for paragliding as it is located on the foothill of Sultan Mountains. Its 550- meter high runway allows for an easy take off owing to its width and prevailing wind. It is convenient for soaring thanks to its 90 km ridge and also convenient for thermal flying due to its wide plain. The fact that the 6th Turkish Paragliding Championship was held in Akşehir in 2006 proves these advantages and its suitability for paragliding. As the take off runway is just at a 10 km distance and transportation is available by any kind of land vehicle, the sportsmen can easily utilise the social and health care services.



How to Get There?

### How to Get There?

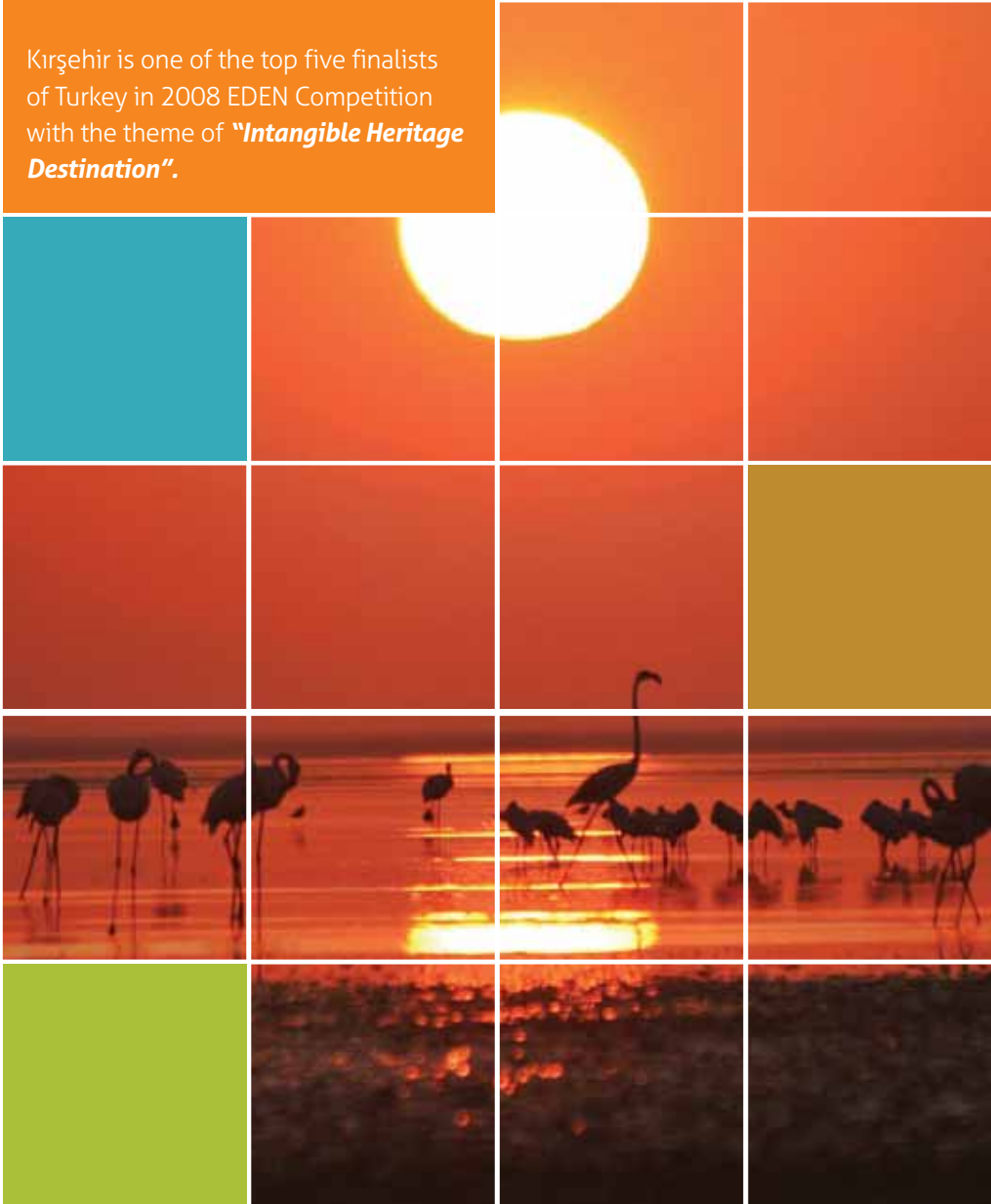
Akşehir located on Konya-Afyon highway can be reached by land and railway. You can arrive in Konya, the province this district belongs to, in just a little more than an hour by high-speed train services from Ankara. Then, you need to travel for two hours from Konya to Akşehir. Those who will come through İstanbul and İzmir can also prefer the train.



# Kırşehir



Kırşehir is one of the top five finalists of Turkey in 2008 EDEN Competition with the theme of "***Intangible Heritage Destination***".





Kırşehir is one of the first five finalists of Turkey in EDEN 2008 contest with the theme of "Tourism and Local Intangible Heritage."

Kırşehir, which was named as "Aquae-Saravena (Water City)" during Hittites Period, "Cappadocia (Country of Beautiful Horses)" during the Persian Period, "Macissus" during the Roman Period, "Justinianapolis" during the Byzantine Period and "Gülşehir (City of Roses)" during the Anatolian Seljuk Empire Period, is an important centre with its history of 5.000 years. First settlement in Kırşehir dates back to the Early Bronze Age (3000-2000 BC) and cultural heritage of the Hittites, Phrygians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Seljuqs and Ottomans reigned in the region reached the present.

Re-invigoration of Kırşehir occurred during Seljuk Empire period. It became a centre for science, arts, and culture in the 13th century. Such Turkish philosophers and sufis as Aşık Paşa who wrote books in Turkish, Ahi-i Evrani Veli who is the founder of Ahi Community which a major organization aiming at establishing a social and economic order in Anatolia, Veli Suleiman Turkmani, Ahmed-i Gülşehir, his bosom friend Hacı Bektaş-ı Veli, Yunus Emre whose poems are known all over the world, Sheikh Edebali who was the spiritual founder of Ottoman Empire lived in Kırşehir at that period.

Mongols that occupied Anatolia after the Battle of Köseadağ in 1240 turned Kırşehir into their summer and winter quarters. Nureddin Cibril Bin Cacabey, Governor of Kırşehir then, carried out two major public works activities in Kırşehir during Turkish Period owing to his good relations with Mongols. He commissioned the construction of Kesikköprü Han, which is located near Kızılırmak in 1248 and Cacabey Astronomy Madrasa in 1272. The construction of Alaaddin Mosque was commissioned by Ala ad-Din Kayqubad in 1230. Cacabey Astronomy Madrasa (1272) which was a madrasa constructed to provide education on mathematics, science and astronomy attracts attention owing to its unique architecture as well as its interior columns which symbolize the planets in the solar system, observation well, light house and observation tower. Cacabey Astronomy Madrasa is one of the first, and maybe the most important, centres to

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provide astronomy education. There are columns in three different parts of the madrasa, which is used as a mosque today, and these columns look like rockets. This fact is considered as evidence for the fact that it was used as an astronomy centre.

Ahi Evran who organized Anatolian Turkish union and especially merchants and craftsmen in the 13th century, came to Kırşehir after visiting Denizli, Konya and Kayseri and continued his activities here and made Kırşehir the centre of Ahi Community. Decisions taken in Kırşehir were effective in a wide region from Azerbaijan to Bosnia Herzegovina. The Mosque and Shrine that were built in 1482 in the name of Ahi Evran, founder of Ahi Community, are located in the city centre. Akhism Philosophy that had an important role in Anatolia in terms of trade and economy for centuries was established in Kırşehir in the 13th century. Akhism philosophy adopts the principle of "keep your hand, dining-table, door open to everyone and have full moral control of your tongue, eyes and loins" within the framework of a community philosophy that supports business ethics, protects capital and labour of workers and is based on the principles of wisdom, ethics, science and business and has certain similarities with today's cooperative system, unionism, social security, quality and price control system. Moreover, Akhism Culture Week is celebrated across the country, particularly in Kırşehir, in the third week of September each year.

Kırşehir which is the gateway to Cappadocia and witnessed various civilizations for thousands of years is peculiar not only for its rich cultural heritage, interesting underground cities and rich thermal springs but also for its natural beauties such as Seyfe Lake (Bird Paradise) and Hirfanlı Dam Lake which is known as the "Sea of the Central Anatolia" and has natural beaches. The construction of the public bath that is located near Karakurt Thermal Spring in Karalar village and was used as hospital hot spring then was commissioned by one of the famous Seljuk Sultans, Kilij Arslan in 1135. Obruk Lake, Çuğun Dam Lake, Aşık-

paşa Shrine, Yunus Emre Shrine, Suleiman Türkmani Shrine, Fatma Hatun Dome, Melik Gazi Dome, Hacıbey Inn, Ağalar Inn, Bekir Efendiler Inn, Lale Mosque, Kapucu Mosque, Çarşı Mosque and the Three Foot Church from the Byzantine Period are among the cultural heritage worth seeing.

Various ornaments made from onyx stone, famous carpets, rugs and pillows, grape molasses of Kırşehir and famous Kaman walnuts are among the symbols of the city.

Kaman Kalehöyük Archaeological Museum and Japanese garden are among the most significant places in the destination. Kaman Kalehöyük Archaeological Museum which was constructed by using the grant by the Japanese Government within the scope of Programme for Protection of Cultural Heritage" was designed in the form of mound inspired by the very form of Kalehöyük. It is the first and the only museum constructed in the form of mound in the world. Moreover, it was granted the best green museum award in the design contest that has been held in Chicago since 1950s. It was designed in a way that enables the visitors to see the excavation methods and pieces found through excavations. The museum, which was opened in 2010, has already been one of the attraction centres of the city.

Bozlak (a form of uzun hava (long tune)) culture consolidating the living treasure heritage of destination consists of works, folk songs by local minstrels known throughout the country. These sentimental works are pure enough to make some poets be embarrassed of themselves as poets and have penetrated into the fabric of the country.

The minstrels who make people remember such values as love, friendship, yearning, homesickness through their folk songs that excite and touch people's hearts each time they played the Turkish bağlama (a stringed musical instrument) preferred to lead a modest, contented and generous life. They have been carrying the past to the present and the present to the future and expressed the life style, feelings, thoughts, attitudes and perspectives of the society via their instruments and sayings.

"Kırşehir Music and Play Society of Masters" attached to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism was founded in 2001 in order to maintain and protect Bozlak culture, it wins recognition in the country and abroad and helps the bozlak tradition live on. Non-governmental organizations such as universities and schools, Youth Clubs, associations organize training and promotion activities for their members and the people in order to pass down Kırşehir Folk Dances and Bozlak to next generations.



## How to Get There?

It is possible to reach Kırşehir which is located on the Ankara – Kayseri state highway from anywhere you want. The distance between Kırşehir, which is located in Cappadocia region, and certain provinces: Ankara 185 km, İstanbul 638 km, İzmir 755 km, Kayseri 134 km, Nevşehir 91 km.





# Bursa Cumalıkızık

Bursa Cumalıkızık is one of the finalists of 2008 EDEN competition with the theme of **"Intangible Heritage Destination"**.





Cumalıkızık, which is one of the villages where the Ottomans, who were only a beylic in the early 14th century although they were soon to become a big empire expanding to three continents afterwards, settled soon after their conquests around Bursa and its surroundings, is one of the most ancient Ottoman villages in Anatolia with its 700-year history.

There are many examples bearing the name "Kızık" among the first Ottoman villages around Bursa. Besides Cumalıkızık, villages such as Derekızık, Hamamlıkızık, Değirmenlikızık, and Fidyekızık bear this word combined with another word which explains their features. The reason why it was named Cumalıkızık (Cuma means Friday in Turkish) is that the people from the neighbouring villages altogether come here and perform Friday salaah/prayer.

Even though all of their histories date back to establishment of the Ottoman Empire, unfortunately the other Kızık villages failed to stand the test of time and couldn't preserve their architectural values. However, Cumalıkızık has preserved its historic fabric, daily life and cultural values and its nature standing against the entire world in which the people believe that the only thing constant is change and therefore it deserves its title "Living Ottoman Village". This feature is one of the reasons that helped it be included on the World Cultural Heritage Candidate List by UNESCO. Thus, it is a place which makes you feel like you are visiting an Ottoman Village of centuries ago travelling through a time tunnel with its historical wooden houses, narrow streets and monument trees.

The most important feature of Cumalıkızık which makes the entire village an outdoor museum and a very popular place to visit is its historical houses which are among the most beautiful examples of the Ottoman civil architecture and some of which are even 300 years old. The architecture of these houses made of stone and wood was successfully restored and preserved without any damages. The houses

built in accordance with the patriarchal family structure have usually two or three storeys and their architecture is suitable for accommodating more than one family. When you



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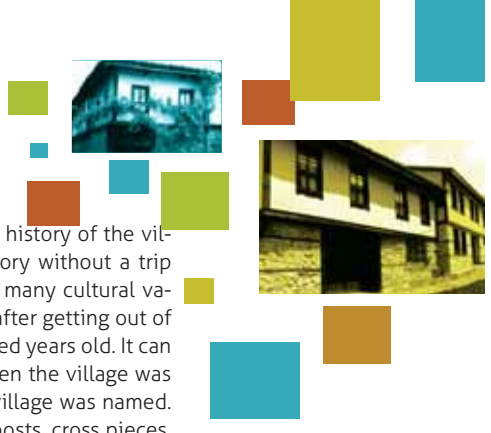
examine them carefully, it is possible to see that there are two types of houses. The first type consists of houses surrounded with a high wall made of rubble stones and with an outer courtyard. From here, you can get to the entrance door of the house and the patio. That is, the entrance of the house is not directly connected to the street. In the second type of houses, there is no outer courtyard. You can directly reach the patio through the entrance door on the street. On the outer door, there is a glassless illumination comprised of bonding timbers standing vertically and an air well. From the patio, you can get to the inner court, stable, storerooms and stairs.

The patio is the most commonly used area in Cumalıkızık houses. People gather here for different purposes especially weddings. The crops they produce are temporarily stored, categorized and maintained here. The materials used for heating in winter are neatly piled in the section allocated for them in this area. If the patio is too high, then a mezzanine is built and the materials that need to be kept for a long time are stored there.

The first storey with low ceiling in the houses is the wintertime section. Here, there are bedrooms, living rooms, bathrooms and a cook stove. The second storey is used in summer. There are bedrooms, iwans and diwans here. The "main room" is the most important and well-cared for place which extends to the street. The doors of the rooms are opened towards the sofa. There are vibrant coloured berms covered with figured cloths, and ornamented with mattresses and cushions mainly to relax, here. The pavilions placed on the corbels extending from the first and second storeys towards the patio are also unique. The closets, cages and berms found here are mainly to lead a comfortable life.

The reason for the upper storeys of the houses to have oriel windows and lattices is because family privacy was very important for the Ottoman society. Trellis fences are placed in front of the windows facing the street. This fence prevents the people behind the window from being seen from outside. But the people inside can easily see what is outside. This is why the windows near the entrance door of some houses have trellis. So the women who usually spend most of their time at home can watch the people and the street outside. If you pay attention to the details, you can enjoy these attention grabbing houses even more. Because they have details such as wooden ornamentations and door handles which may attract your attention but can only be noticed if you look carefully.

Although these houses is the most important reason that makes this place this popular, Cumalıkızık has also many other assets which you shouldn't miss. The first place that we would like to recommend those who want to learn about the history of the village is the Ethnography Museum. Many articles that enlighten the history of the village are exhibited in the museum and most of them were collected via donations. These objects belong to the period between 18th and 20th centuries and reflect the atmosphere of the village life.



Even though the museum reveals many aspects of the history of the village, it is not possible to completely discover its history without a trip through the village. Cumalıkızık Mosque is also of the many cultural values of the village which you can see right before you after getting out of the museum. The mosque is believed to be three hundred years old. It can also be claimed that this mosque existed in 1300s when the village was first established and it is the mosque after which the village was named. It is a building that attracts attention with its wooden posts, cross pieces, arches, porticos and hand carves.

The other monuments often visited as the other commemoratives of the Ottoman Period are Zekiye Hatun Fountain which is only one of a large number of the neighbourhood fountains and Cumalıkızık Bath. When you go to the northern part of the village, you can see many gravestones from the Ottoman Period in the graveyard near Deli Çay proving the long history of the village.

Cumalıkızık is a settlement which is preserved as a whole with its entire street fabric. The ongoing restorations are aimed at maintaining this uniqueness. One of the most attractive places of the village is Cin Aralığı which is claimed to be the narrowest street in the world.

Cumalıkızık is a place that is usually visited in one-day trips. However, there are houses restored as hostels for those who want to spend a little more time in this historical village examples of which are rare and fading away slowly. Those staying in these houses can have the opportunity to experience and relish the atmosphere of the village. You can taste Turkish pancakes and ravioli and other types of food produced and made by the villagers in a rural breakfast. We especially would like to recommend you to taste the village bread peculiar to this region which is prepared with sourdough and baked in wood fire. The villagers and the women from neighbouring villages sell various types of food they make on the stalls. This is a good opportunity to buy some of these foods for yourself and your loved ones as gifts on these days when we long for natural food. If you visit here in June, you can also enjoy "Cumalıkızık Feast".



How to get there?

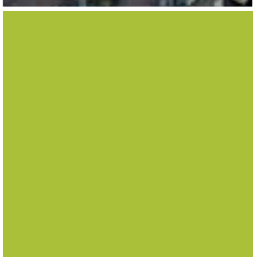
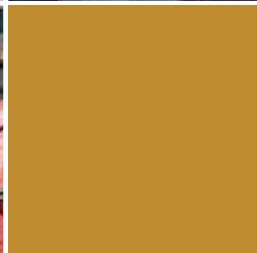
### How to get there?

In order to go to Cumalıkızık village which is only a short distance away from Bursa centre, you should drive on the road from Bursa to Ankara for 10 km and then turn to the side road that goes to the village and drive another 3 km.



# Bayburt

Bayburt is one of the finalists of 2008 EDEN competition with the theme of **"Intangible Heritage Destination"**.





Bayburt is situated on an ancient strat route on Erzurum – Trabzon historical Silk Road between Eastern Anatolia and the Black Sea. Marco Polo and Turkish traveller Evliya Çelebi passed through this road. The history of the province located on the bank of Çoruh River dates back to 3000 B.C. The province was founded by Azzi tribe and the Cimmerians and Scythians invaded the province between 770 – 665 B.C. Bayburt which then came under the reign of Scythians (Saka Turks) can be defined as a 2500 year-old Turkish city. After being under the rule of Haldis, Meds, Persians, Pontus and Roman Empire for a certain period of time, it became home to the Turkish civilization again.

When we look through its history, we can say that the region developed during Ilkhanids period; hosted Genoese and Venetian caravans; has rich Silver mines as Marco Polo stated when he visited the province during his trip to Mongolia; and Mevleviyeh and Ahi organisation progressed with Mahmudiye and Yakudiye madrasas.

After crossing Zigana and Kop Mountains, you can reach Bayburt Castle located on the commercial route that connects the Black Sea to the Persian Gulf. Although a lot of information is available with regard to the name, importance, magnificence and daily life about the castle which was a stopping point for each traveller passing by, the builders of this castle is not known for sure but it is understood that it played a role in the battles of local principalities and monarchies in early centuries of Christian Era.



**Bayburt castle is the castle that the character called Beyrek (Bey Böyrek or Bamsı Böyrek) of the story named "Kam Büre Oğlu Bamsı Beyrek Boyunu Beyan Eder" from the Book of Dede Korkut wants to conquer and thus gain reputation.**





There are 20 inscriptions in Arabic on the castle. Evliya Çelebi wrote that there was a quarter with 300 houses and Ebu'l Feth Mosque inside the castle. The castle that was invaded and blasted from time to time was substantially destroyed by the Russians during the Ottoman-Russia War in 1828.

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Among the other touristic attractions of the province are Bayburt Grand Mosque which is thought to have been built during the reign of Ghiyath ad-Din Mesud (1282 – 1298), one of the Seljuq Sultans, Çimağıl Cavern that has a 600 meter length and 30 meter ceiling height at certain points in the Aşağı Çimağıl Village, Shrine of Osman Ghazi, brother of Mengüç Ghazi who was one of the commanders of Saltukids, Aydıntepe underground city that is known as the underground city where the first Christians ostracized by Romans sheltered.

The shrine which is situated around Masat village and dates back to ancient times in terms of its construction method and architectural style is said to belong to Dede Korkut who is very important for the Turkish world. The number 718 is written on the shrine with old Turkish alphabet. The construction method and the material used reveal certain characteristics that seem to belong to Dede Korkut.

In Bayburt destination, Dede Korkut Festival is organized each year in the name of Dede Korkut who is regarded as one of the most important values of the Turkish and world cultural heritage. Dede Korkut perfectly identifies the integrative values that compose the social identity. He was a scholar and master and his works are of a didactic character. Honesty, rationality, keeping the promise, courage, sedulity, respect, struggling against challenges and sacrifice for the sake of values are emphasised while at the same time bringing to the fore the love of family, society and people and portraying the ideal person. Representatives from other provinces, Poland, Mexico, Georgia, Kazakhstan participate in the events whose main goal is to protect the historical and cultural heritage.

Traditional Jereed games, local foods, painting and handicrafts exhibitions, janissary marches and sufi music concerts, folk dance performances, poem performances, conferences and panels have been maintained for 17 years as an important social responsibility initiative in terms of introducing the people to their own history and culture.

## How to Get There?

Bayburt is situated on the ancient China-Trabzon Silk Road which connects Black Sea to Eastern Anatolia Region and can be reached by land. It is 60 minutes away from Erzurum International Airport and 120 minutes from Trabzon International Airport.





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