



AĠRI TOURISM EXPEDITION GUIDE



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TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Preface	4
Introduction	7
About Ağrı	8
Mount Ararat	14
History	18
İshak Pasha Palace	22
Ağrı Expedition Route	24
About Route	34
The Highest 20 Peaks of Turkey	35
Necessary Information and Warnings for Trekkers	38
Trekking Routes	42
Ağrı - Kars Culture and Nature Trip	92
Ağrı - Van Culture and Nature Trip	94
What is Located Where?	96
What to Buy?	104
Transportation	106
Accommodation	108
Important Phone Numbers	108
Information and Local Guidance	108
Bibliography	108

PREFACE

The vision of the regional plan, qualified as a road map for years 2010-2013, which is prepared by Serhat Development Agency on the basis of participation principle with the local actors for the development of TRA2 Level II region, is determined to have a “Border Region - a logistics and trade center opening to Caucasia and Central Asia with its competitive enterprises - , which is known for its natural richness, has become brand with its tourism and agricultural products and has made use of the facilities of cultural heritage going beyond the borders”.

As it is seen in the vision statement, tourism in TRA2 Region, which consists of the provinces of Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars, is perceived as an important potential to improve and a development sector. The region has hosted many civilizations and cultures and it accommodates the cultural richness brought about by its location on the border. Within this scope, there are great numbers of historical values in the region. Mount Ararat, İshak Pasha Palace, Sarıkamış Ski Centre, Ani Ruins, Şeytan Castle, Kur River, Ejder Caravansary and thermal springs are among the important culture and tourism values of the region.



Great and Little Ararat from Doğubayazıt Plain

Tourism sector has many sub-branches. Eco tourism is the leading tourism activity, which is important for TRA2 Region. As Eco tourism, which can be perceived as rendering environmental and cultural values available for whole humanity on a sustainable basis, is a quite new concept and also as it is built on the principle of causing no damage to local communities, culture and environmental values, it is positioned importantly with respect to both sustainable life and local development. Within this framework, this guide book, which is qualified as the continuation of Sarıkamış Trekking Routes, Kars Expedition Guide and Ardahan Trekking Routes, is prepared to provide historical, cultural and natural beauties of Ağrı, and especially Mount Ararat to the service of today's people, who are in search of self-recognition and exceeding self, without any damage to the natural, historical and social life and I wish it would be beneficial for our region.

Dr. Hüseyin TUTAR
General Secretary of Serhat Development Agency





Great Ararat from the peak of Little Ararat

INTRODUCTION

In memory of İskender İğdir and all deceased mountaineers!

Ağrı is a city, where good-humored and hospitable people live, in spite of its harsh geography. Whichever remote corner of the city you go, you are welcomed with such phrase “with great pleasure” and held in high esteem. This city is home to the generous people.

Hosting selected examples of Anatolian cultural heritage, the city is also considered as the roof of Turkey. Ağrı province is the dream of mountaineers with its charming mounts, summits ever covered in snow, which is rising to the sky miraculously and ranked among the “highest peaks” and the mystical Mount Ararat mentioned in the holy scriptures. As it is the highest mountain of Europe and Turkey, Mount Ararat is among the important tourism destinations of Turkey.

This holy mountain has challenged those, who have fallen under the spell of its magnificence. It embodied some of them into its whiteness, bidding farewell to them, whereas it gave way most of the mountaineers, who conquered its peak.

The guide on your hand, which is the 11th book of the eco-tourism projects that I implemented in Turkey, includes peak climbs such as Mt. Süphan, Little Ararat and Mount Köse along with classic climbing route to Mt. Ararat. The mountaineering sport, which covers walking, camping and climbing at high lands, fits mostly to this city due to its unique geographic location. We, not as mountaineers, but as experienced trekkers and nature lovers tried to assess the activities on Mount Ararat and in its vicinity.

In this land, where you will have unforgettable adventures, we wish you untroubled climbing experience.

Ersin DEMİREL

ABOUT AĞRI

The province of Ağrı, which can be referred to as “Himalayas of Turkey”, hosts high mountains with peaks, competing with the clouds. In addition to be featured as the highest mountain of Turkey with an elevation of 5137 meters, Ağrı, located at 1640 meters altitude above sea level has dozens of summits rising above 3000 meters. The neighboring countries on the border have also their shares from these elevations greatly. Kars, Iğdır and Erzurum lay to the north of the city and it is bordered with Iran to the east, Van and Bitlis to the south and Muş and Erzurum to the west. The city center, surrounded by the peaks rising between 2500 m - 3500 m, spreads over a plain area.

These mountain ranges, some of which are volcanic, create different land forms throughout the province. These elevations that are regarded as the continuation of Alp-Himalayan volcanic mountain system are generally in the form of mountain ranges. The peaks of Great and Little Ararat create splendid visuality with their giant masses rising towards sky. Just as it is in Mount Fuji in Japan, Mount Osorno in Chile and Volcano Arenal in Costa Rica, their vertically-extending structures independent of the hills around them, which rise to the sky suddenly, are as picturesque as to be used on postcards. The mountain ranges, spreading to all Ağrı province, are classified as Northern Side (Aras South) and Southern Side. The mountain ranges on the northern side, which are approximately 250 km long, are referred to as Tahir, Mergezer (Taşkom), Çemçi, Solhan (Çift Öküz), while those lying on the southern side as Çakmak, Mirgemir and Aladağ.

In the list of Turkey's highest peaks, Ağrı is ranked on quite top places (with its three mountains ranked in the top 10 and five mountains ranked in the top 50). The most important elevations of the city are Mount Ararat (5137 m), Süphan (4058 m, it is located in the boundaries of the district of Patnos, Ağrı with its second summit of 4054 m), Little Ararat (3896 m), Tendürek (3533 m), Mount Köse (3433 m), Aşağı Dağ (3274 m), Aladağ (3250 m), Kara Dağ (3243 m) and Mount Tizli (3200 m). A considerable part of these summits, which appeal the mountaineers, is suitable for touristic climbs. Tendürek, an inactive volcano, provides marvelous visual beauties with lava flow on the southern side, which reaches up to the district of Çaldıran in the province of Van. The molten scum, spreading over miles and taking interesting shapes throughout the valley, constitute one of the attractive features of the region in touristic terms.

The harsh topographic structure, formed by the steep peaks, allows only favorable connections between the mountains to be used for the road transportation network within the provincial boundaries of Ağrı. Tahir, Eleşkirt, Kılıç, Mızrak, Çat, Ahtalar, Hamur, İpek, Çilli, Teperiz (Çetenli), Serdarbulak,



Ishak Pasha Palace

Tuci, Kucak and Pamuk passageways, which are listed among the steep elevations, have been ensuring the relationships and trade between the people since centuries. In the middle of these mountain formations, being gifts from geological times, the valleys are situated. The valleys such as Cumaçay, Derecek, Diyadin, 10 Elmalidere, Hamur, and K rçay, Şeryan (G zeldere), Taşlısu and Yukarı Toklu form deep corridors between naked grey hills.

Ağrı has a sufficient resource in terms of streams. The main reason of that is the existence of streams with miscellaneous dimensions, which are formed by the creeks coming from snow-capped summits. The most important water basins of the region are Murat, Eleşkirt, G zeldere, Karasu, Bađdısan, İncesu, Malhas, G rlevik, Kesik, Sarısu and Lake Balık brooks. Murat River, one of the branches of the Euphrates, is described as the longest river within the boundaries of the city. Murat River, incorporating such brooks and streams as Ahmetbey, Eleşkirt, Gelutan, K rsu, K pkıran, Kopuzdere, Mandalık, Şıryan, Taşlıçay, T kenmez and Tuzlusu, flow through Ağrı, pass over Muş Valley and pour to the Euphrates.

Lake Balık, located 56 km away from the city center, within the district boundaries of Dođubayazıt, is the biggest and most important lake of Ağrı. Lying at an elevation of 2250 meters, this dammed lake has 34 km² areas. The depth of the lake exceeds 100 meters at some parts. From the lake that creates a charming atmosphere with its blue surface, you can take the photo of Mount Ararat at clear weathers. Lake Balık, titled as the biggest of the lakes located at this altitude in Turkey, is one of the tourism areas that are open to improvement. Other remarkable lakes of the province are Kurtkapan, Şeyh, G ly z  and Saz lakes, which spread to the skirts of Mount Ararat and dry partially in summer months. These lakes with a coastline in mud are also straw supply for villagers. Near Ağrı city center, Yazıcı dam lake and in the district of Patnos, Patnos and Şekerova dam lakes are situated. What's more, there are many glacial lakes on the ridges of Mirgemir and Aladađ. Especially glacial lakes that are scattered on the slopes of Aladađ are among the new tourism destinations of the city as they are located near to the uplands. You can reach to the lakes under Koçbaşı summit over Yeltepe village in the district of Taşlıçay or Delihasan village in the district of Diyadin.

The plains, formed by collapse of basins, line up between the mountains and valleys. The large valleys such as Eleşkirt, Karak se, Dođubayazıt, Patnos and Tutak are used as agricultural lands and for the purpose of cultivating grass to produce animal feed. Livestock, the source of living in the region, is the most important factor that makes the uplands and transhumance important. The root cause of that is the existence of the fertile meadows and rangelands spreading over the high and treeless hills. The transhumance concept in the region is in the form of tent settlement rather than established

upland house structure. The uplands, colored up by the traditional hair felt tents, are the favorite locations of Anatolian hospitality.

The most famous uplands in Ağrı are Aladağ uplands, used by Hamur, Diyadin and Taşlıçay districts and Sinek Upland, extending between Lake Balık and Ahtalar Pass, which is climbed by those living in the villages, affiliated with the districts of Doğubayazıt and Taşlıçay in the North. Also Mirgemir Çakmak (Kılıç) uplands between Eleşkirt and Tutak, Davul (Dehol) Upland, located to the north of Eleşkirt and Ağrı plains, Kraktin Upland, situated between Mount Çift Öküz and Mount Ararat near Lake Balık, Pani and Katavin uplands to the southeast of Patnos, Süphan uplands to the south of Patnos (Beyaz Kom, Keleşkomu, Hasretpınar, Aşare, Kıcak and Usokomu) are the high living spaces of Ağrı in summer.

In Ağrı, where the forest vegetation is scarce, the dominant vegetation is grass and flower types on steppes. In areas, dominated by steppes, spring flowers appear when the snow melts. In the region with severe continental climate, it is dry and hot in summers and cold and snowy in winters. The province of Ağrı as well as Sarıkamış district of Kars are among the rare regions, where the lowest temperatures (-45 °C) are observed.

The most important thermal spring among those found in Ağrı, home of inactive volcanoes, is Diyadin Thermal Springs, which was formed by hot underground water coming from Mount Tendürek. The thermal springs, located at a 65 km distance to the center of province and a 5 km distance to the center of Diyadin district, spread over Davut, Köprü and Yılanlı regions. Thermal waters, containing bicarbonate, chloride, sulfate, calcium, carbon dioxide gas and various minerals, help the treatment of especially such diseases as gynecological diseases, rheumatism, bone diseases and arthrolith, sciatic, skin and metabolism disorders.



Patnos



EYLÜL



MOUNT ARARAT

Ağrı, called as Eğri Dağ by Ancient Turks, as Küh-i Nuh by Persians, as Cebel ül Haris (Greater Ararat) by Arabs, as Masik by Armenians and as Ararat by Western communities, is the highest mountain of Europe and Turkey with its 5137 meter high mass. It is easily seen from miles away between Iğdır plain on the north and Doğubayazıt plain on the south. Along with its brother Little Ararat, which is 3896 meters high on its East, it rises in the face of Doğubayazıt monumentally. These two cones, rising on a common base until 2500 meters, are separated by approximately 14-km-long Serdarbulak Passageway (2687 m). Lots of uplands are located on this passageway, which lies on the old caravan route. It is a noted mountain for its geologic location and for hosting Noah's Ark after Great Flood.

Although it is known as an inactive volcano, Ağrı is mentioned in the international literature as an active volcano. It is featured as a volcanic mountain, formed of basalt until 4000 meters and andesite lava at higher elevations. Mount Ararat and its vicinity have a highly rough terrain. Except for Great and Little Ararat, there are many large and small peaks in the region. Most of them are the parasite cones of an existing volcanic system. The lava flowing from the volcanic mountain system covered the plains with caps. Through the collapses, formed in the areas, where lava flows and sets over time, lava tunnels emerge. Some lava tunnels cause the formation of quite interesting glacial caves. Although there are large and small valleys at both sides of Mount Ararat, glacial valleys lying to the south and north are the most characteristic ones. The glacial valley, located on the provincial border of Iğdır to the North, is also known as Ahura Hollow. The glacial valley in the North is named as Öküz River. The formation of both valleys started with volcanic activities, and deepened as a result of the physical disintegration that develops depending on the glacial movements and the climate of the region. The geomorphological process that has been undergone still continues. Especially big rock falling and small scaled landslips, which are observed in summer months, are among the ordinary scenes of the mountain.

Ağrı also hosts the biggest glacier of Turkey. The formation on its top is a typical cap glacier. The glacier, descending until 3500 meters at some places, transforms into valley glacier after 4500 meters. The glacial cracks within the valley are observed very clearly in summer months. Moreover it is scientifically proven that the glacier volume has reduced dramatically in the past 30 years.

A severe continental climate prevails around Mount Ararat. It is dry and hot in summers, while winters are cold and snowy. There are considerable

differences between night and day temperatures (15 0C) in both summers and winters. The region receives most and least rainfall in April and August, respectively. The water sources of the mountain emerge on Earth in Yakup, Örtülü and Ganigork (Topçatan) districts. However the snow water that does not find any crack flow through the skirts of the mountain. On the north-western shoulder of Great Ararat on the border of Iğdır, there is a crater lake named Küp Lake, located at 4000 m height. The lake, which dries in summer months in the last periods, is accessible from Korhan Upland of the province of Iğdır.

Centuries after famous traveler Marco Polo described that “no one can climb there ever” in the face of the magnificence of the mountain, Frederik Von Parat climbed on October 9th, 1829 and Dr. Bozkurt Ergör, a former president of Mountaineering Federation, was titled as the first Turkish mountaineer climbing to the summit of Ararat. As one of the most important tourism destinations of our country, Mount Ararat still hosts climbing lovers. (Güngör, 2009)



Mount Ararat from Hallaç Village



Doğubayazıt Castle and Mosque



HISTORY

Due to the fact that Ağrı, land of ancient civilizations, is a transition route on Central Asia and Anatolian peninsula, it hosted many tribes for centuries. The region became acquainted with the dominance of many cultures, brought in by Hittite, Hurrians, Urartian, Med, Persian, Armenian, Georgian, Abbasid, Byzantians, Ani dynasties, Jelali, Karakoyunlu, Akkoyunlu and Ottoman civilizations, which resulted in rich historical and cultural heritage accumulation. The existence of Mount Ararat, shrined by many nations and religions and the legend of Noah's Ark, which constitutes the subject of cuneiform scriptures in Mesopotamia caused the city to play important role in the history of humanity all the time.

One of the most important civilizations that left its mark on the region is Urartian Kingdom. It is possible to see in many parts of the city, the traces of this powerful kingdom of its time, which reigned between 9th and 7th century B.C and is known with sacrificial rituals for the gods. Undoubtedly, Doğubayazıt Castle is the most important work of this magnificent civilization in the city, which defined their land as Uruatri, meaning "Highland". It is also possible to encounter with several Urartian scriptures in Atabindi village of the district of Tutak and near Karagöz Church, which are the clearest ones. However the most permanent work of Urartian Civilization is the antique water channels found in Van, Iğdır and Ağrı. These former occupiers of Anatolian peninsula, who grasped the importance of water for the maintenance of life, built many dams and water channels in order to cater their requirements. The water channels, unearthed by Dr. Oktay Belli, are still used today. Demyeler, Leško and Aligor channels found in the district of Taşlıçay as well as Zor Osman Pasha and Ferhat channels found in the district of Doğubayazıt are engineering masterpieces of their period. Especially Zor Osman Pasha channel that is supplied from Aladağ and reaches into Iran with its one affluent differs from others with its length of



Tutak - Urartian Scriptures



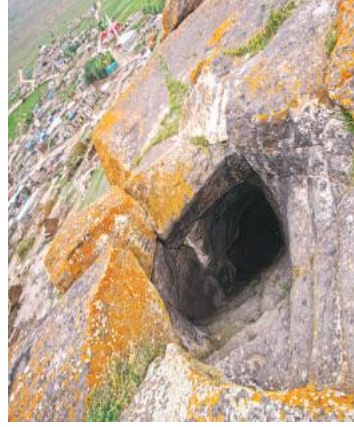
Hamur-Rock Settlement



Tutak - Karagöz Church



Doğubayazıt - Alaca Bridge



Diyadin - Tokluca Castle

75 km. Also Lower Kom, Upper Kom, Sünnet Nebi and Reşan dams, located to the south of Diyadin district, can be described as the most beautiful works of human creativity versus difficulties.

The city, referred to as Şorbulak, Karakilise and Karaköse in the past, is full of artifacts that will take those who are fond to a mysterious historical trip. The featured locations of this trip are Pazı Castle in the central district, Diyadin and Tokluca Castles in the district of Diyadin as well as Meya Rock Settlement; Ishak Pasha Palace located in the district of Doğubayazıt; Ahmed-i Hani Shrine; Kan (Doğubayazıt) Castle; Toprakkale Mound and Mosque in the district of Eleşkirt; Large Tomb, Sosik Castle, Beklemez Underground Church, Karlıca Maiden Castle and Havaran Castle in the district of Hamur; Anzavur Castle and Giriktepe Mound in the district of Patnos; Karagöz Church as well as Zencir and Kan castles in the district of Tutak. The historical places such as vaults in the district of Patnos, Avnik (Koçbaşı) and Kuje castles in the district of Diyadin, Küpkıran (Harabegöl) Castle in the central district, Üç Kümbetler in the district of Taşlıcağ are destroyed unfortunately, failing to stand the test of time.

Tokluca Castle, located in Tokluca village at a 19 km distance to the district of Diyadin, which extends to underground through stairs, Meya Rock Settlement with cross patterns engraved on rocks, which is found in the borders of Günbuldu village that is 12 km away from Diyadin, but accessible over Kapanca village, the Vault, rising in Hamur district cemetery with its gorgeous look, Şoşik Castle, ascending over the steep cliff at a 22 km distance to the settlement of Hamur and Karagöz Church, found within the borders of Atabindi village of Tutak district are among the places that must be visited.



Ishak Pasha Palace



ISHAK PASHA PALACE

Undoubtedly, Mount Ararat as well as Ishak Pasha Palace constitutes the most important tourism potential of Ağrı. The building, standing out with both its architecture and outlook, represent one of the most selective examples of Anatolian cultural heritage. The palace, which rises on the cliffs that seem steep and wild, is like a jewelry shining in the middle of moor. The colorful stones used in the architecture of the building bring about a different aesthetics.

The palace, which was started to be built by Çolak Abdi Pasha, Flag Officer of Doğubayazıt, in 1685 and completed in the period of İshak Pasha II in 1784, is like a miniature Topkapı Palace. Its spectacular gate, reminding of Seljukian architecture, is covered with ornamentations and decorations. With its buildings designed in the shape of U and two courtyards, İshak Pasha Palace has a unique plan. In the entrance section, fountain, watchmen and guard rooms, dungeon and mews take place. In the central yard, there are mosque, shrine and servant rooms. Featured as the place with the first central heating system in the world, the building also accommodates harem, kitchen, cellar and bath sections. İshak Pasha Palace, which was covered with glass in the restoration process, is one of the important monumental artifacts, dating back to the Tulip Era of the Ottoman Period.



Ishak Pasha Palace



Ishak Pasha Palace Details

AĞRI EXPEDITION ROUTE

One-week expedition route, which allows you to visit by a car almost all historical and natural places, located within the provincial boundaries of Ağrı, and to participate in various activities.







Hamur Vault

Day 2:
Sinek Upland-Lake Balık -Meteor Hollow-Noah's Ark
Next morning, we go to Lake Balık, located at 2250 meter height, over Sinek Upland in order to get prepared for climbing to Mount Ararat. After a short trekking on the coast of the lake that has a charming beauty with its appearance, we start a busy travel. Following Meteor Hollow, situated near Iran Gürbulak border gate, Karnıyarık Tepe Crater and Buz Cave, we complete Noah's Ark tour. We spend night in Doğubayazıt.



Day 3-4-5 :

Activity: Climbing Mount Ararat

Climbing Mount Ararat, which is detailed in the next sections, includes a 3-day activity. During this climbing route that encompasses 38 km hike for reaching to and returning from the peak, starting from Eli village, located at a 15 km distance to Doğubayazıt, you will set up tent camp for two nights. It will be lodged in Doğubayazıt again in the last day.



Day 6:
Diyadin Thermal Springs-Meya Rock Settlement-Ishak Pasha Palace
You can rest your bodies that get tired during 5137-meter peak climbing in Diyadin Thermal Springs. After visiting Meya, an ancient settlement engraved in rocks, we reserve afternoon for Ishak Pasha Palace, which you cannot get enough of taking photos. In the evening, we return to Doğubayazıt.



Day 7 :

Tendürek Lava Flow

In the last day, you can visit the region, which displays lava erupted by Volcano Tendürek, a miracle of the earth, when it was active. The scenes of a type that you can only encounter in exceptional parts of the world will hit you deeply.



Mount Tendürek and Lava Flow





Doğubayazıt Meteor Hollow



ABOUT ROUTE

The mountains in Turkey with different geomorphologic and tectonic structure, which are located at various altitudes, provide extraordinarily attractive and amazing opportunities both for winter tourism and mountain trekking. With their diverse flora and rich wildlife, these high summits also serve as climbing locations for those, who like mountaineering. The climbing routes such as Ağrı, Aladağlar, Kaçkarlar, Bolkarlar, Erciyes and Toros in Turkey are the attraction places for both native and foreign mountaineers.

Ağrı is surrounded by mountains with peaks exceeding 3000 meters. Appealing to mountaineers and nature lovers with this feature, the city stands out with many climbing routes. Ağrı, positioned as the roof of Turkey, enters in the list of Turkey's highest peaks with its summits such as Great Ararat, Süphan, Little Ararat, Tendürek and Mount Köse. In this sense, we created the trekking routes in the province of Ağrı, focusing on mountain trekking and climbing concept.

In order to ensure the adaptation of trekkers to the high altitude, the routes were firstly created in Lake Balık, Serdarbulak Upland and Mount Köse, located at 2200 meters. The climbing routes to Little Ararat, one of the mountains in Turkey, which is difficult to climb, Mt. Süphan with crater lakes on the top and especially Mt. Ağrı, the highest peak of Europe and Turkey were evaluated. Mount Ararat, announced to be as national park in 2004, attracts adrenaline junkies with its qualities as being a volcanic mountain with a permanently snow and ice capped summit for four seasons, which hosts the biggest glacier of Turkey and its geological structure formed as a result of lava eruption, and Noah's Ark legend mentioned in bible. There are totally two routes climbing to the summit of Ağrı, one is classic and the other requires technical climbing. As the guide book on your hand is a work intended for tourism, it only includes the classic route in order to minimize the risks.

GPS coordinates, belonging to the routes of Ağrı, which encompass peaks of Great Ararat, Little Ararat, Süphan and Mount Köse as well as Lake Balık and Serdarbulak Upland, were determined and mapped. To get guide book online please visit www.agritrekking.com web site and please send an e-mail to info@agritrekking.com.

Ağrı, hosting magnificent historical artifacts of Urartian Kingdom, waits nature lovers with its natural values such as İshak Pasha Palace and snowy peaks to be discovered.

THE HIGHEST 20 PEAKS OF TURKEY (*)

	Mountain	Province	Height
1	Mt. Great Ararat	Ağrı	5137 m
2	Mt. Cilo (Reşko Hill), Southeastern Taurus Mountains	Hakkari	4135 m
3	Suppe Durek, Southeastern Taurus Mountains	Hakkari	4060 m
4	Mt. Süphan	Bitlis	4058 m
5	Mt. Kaçkar	Rize	3932 m
6	Mt. Erciyes	Kayseri	3917 m
7	Mt. Little Ararat	Ağrı	3896 m
8	Mordağ, Southeastern Taurus Mountains	Hakkari	3807 m
9	Kızılkaya, Central Taurus Mountains	Niğde	3766 m
10	Demirkazık, Central Taurus Mountains	Niğde	3756 m
11	Karadağ, Southeastern Taurus Mountains	Hakkari	3752 m
12	Emler, Central Taurus Mountains	Niğde	3723 m
13	Verçenik, Kaçkar Mountains	Rize-Erzurum	3709 m
14	Kaldı Hill, Central Taurus Mountains	Niğde	3688 m
15	Başet Hill, Mt. Koçkiran	Van	3684 m
16	Başkaledağı Hill	Van	3668 m
17	Mt. Soğanlı, Kaçkar Mountains	Rize	3664 m
18	Kızılyar Hill, Central Taurus Mountains	Niğde	3654 m
19	Kavuşşahap Hill (Kavuşşahap Mountains)	Van	3634 m
20	Gürtepe, Central Taurus Mountains	Niğde	3625 m

(*) : The list is prepared by geologist Assist. Prof. Dr. Yıldırım Güngör, who is one of the most important figures in Turkey regarding mountaineering, making use of the topographic map.



Mount Ararat Peak Climb



NECESSARY INFORMATION AND WARNINGS FOR TREKKERS



To climb to Mount Ararat, it must be taken permission from competent authorities. To this end, foreign people are required to apply to the consulates and Turkish citizens to the district governorate of Doğubayazıt directly. In the last phase of the permission, you are directed by the District Governorate to Military Police. You can carry out this procedure through travelling agencies found in the region or their guides, providing/receiving service in the area, without going to Gendarmerie station.



Contrary to general view, Mount Ararat is an easy mountain to climb. Physically-fit every one, having no health problem, can easily climb to the Mount Ararat in summer months with the company of a guide. In other words, it is not a must to be a mountaineer to climb to Mount Ararat in summer months. Climbing to Mount Ararat must be considered in two categories: summer and winter climbing. Because the conditions of the mountain in the summer and winter differ greatly. While it is possible to climb the mountain in three or four days in summer, under winter conditions, it may be required to stay on mountain for ten days. The temperature is not too low under summer conditions, but it sometimes decreases under -40°C in winter months.



As everywhere is covered in snow during winter climbs, water problem does not arise. It is possible to get water, melting snow. As the boiled snow water is near to pure water, it does not contain any mineral. So it is good to drink the molten water adding sugar or lemon in it. Drinking hot liquids will minimize the energy loss. Since it is required to take plenty amount of hot liquid especially in winter, this condition must be taken into account while buying fuel for the furnace.



The glacial cracks pose serious risks during climbing, so it must be acted very carefully.



It is good to have a doctor and a person trained on first aid kit in climbing team, because fast response is essential during an accident. In case of plights, even if military helicopter comes for help, it is very critical to give the injured first vital response until the helicopter arrives in the scene. To do this, there must be definitely a camp doctor in the team.



While going to Mount Ararat, any food requirement must be figured well. In both summer and winter climbs, it is likely to be stuck for days upon being caught to snowstorm at any time. Therefore you should take

food with you, considering the number of days that you will stay on the mountain plus two or three additional days.



No matter whatever the conditions are, never leave the classic route directed by your guide or GPS data.



Always have a garbage bag with you throughout your journeys during trekking and make sure that you return all your garbage back with you. Act responsibly and take care not to pollute the mountain and nature on your behalf.



Definitely consider weather conditions before climbing. Don't forget that the temperature sometimes declines up to -15 °C in the morning frost even in August.



Let's remind that the weather gets colder especially after an altitude of 4800 meters and the high winds start to flow.



In order to adapt to the altitude and take precaution against acute mountain disease, you can spend one extra full day, walking from the altitude of 3200 meters to 4200 meters and getting back to the beginning point again. Especially after 4000 meters, it is likely to have headache and nausea. Your climb pace must be so slow and you must adapt yourself to the height. Those, who show the symptoms of acute mountain disease, should not be stubborn and descend to lower levels, losing altitude by one grade.



In addition to adaptation to the height, you should also have a good physical condition for such an activity. It is good to make condition and strengthening exercises before climbing.



It is not competed with mountain and sea. You may be concentrated and stay focused on the target. However do not be stubborn and do not become furious for certain.



Pay attention to your diet before and during activity.



40 To minimize any risk, you should definitely hire the service of a guide, who is familiar with the territory. Many TURSAB certified traveling agency organize tours to the region. Also you can benefit from site guides and professional mountain guides in the region. It is possible to get the necessary information on this subject at www.agritrekking.com.



In both camping sites at 3200 m. and 4200 m., tents should be surrounded by snow fences while setting up. Otherwise the tents are inevitably damaged by strong winds.



It must be especially stressed that considerable part of the accidents on the mountain occurs in the return way. Loss of concentration and fatigue, and a wish to arrive at camping site as immediate as possible cause serious accidents during return from the peak. We advise you to continue down the road at any moment of the activity, maintaining the same seriousness, rest in the short breaks and walk at the same pace without hurrying.



Essential Equipment: As Ağrı (Mt. Ararat) is a high mountain, the equipment to be taken in summer and winter seasons does not differ much. In summer months, the weather conditions get sometimes more unfavorable than winter conditions. So you should be well equipped while climbing to Ağrı. During summer and winter months, the main materials that should not be forgotten to take include goose feather anorak, water-proof top, polar, thermal underwear, durable shoes (good leather shoes may be enough for summer, but in winter, the shoes with internal boot that are made for winter conditions must be absolutely preferred), digger, crampon, helmet, furnace, sleeping bag (comfort) made for at least -15 °C in winter, a good pad, 8 or 9 mm thick two ropes measuring 50 meters, safety belt, carbine, ice screw, ice digger, gloves, snow mask (balaclava), GPS and walkie talkie. It should be paid attention that the tent features '4 seasons'.





The camping site at 3200 m at Mount Ararat

For İskender;

Throughout life time, we feel for very little number of people that it is the last time we meet them. İskender Iğdır, from Cartography Service of AtlasJournal, died on February 29th, 2000 in Mount Ararat. In the last climb of my friend, who considered mountaineering as a fine line between life and death, I was the last person, who saw him. Along opposite lining of blue ice, crampons, digger and ropes, only İskender was launched into eternity among us. I placed myself in his shoes many times. I thought I would act in the same manner. He still lives among us with his smiling face, good intention and mountaineering ambition.

Kuvvet Lordođlu

TREKKING ROUTES



Route 1: Mount Ararat Climb (round trip 38 km)

For climbing to Mount Ararat, which is referred to as active volcano, although it is known as an inactive volcano, there are several different routes. The most known among them is İğdir Route (Northern Route) and Doğubayazıt Route (Classic Route).

The touristic climbing starts from Eli village, located at a 15 km distance to Doğubayazıt. The stage, extending between Eli village and the camping site at 3200 m, is of vital importance for adaptation to the mountain in the first day. The time of this activity may vary between 6 and 12 hours according to the performance. In the second day, it is ascended from camping site at 3200 m towards another camping site at 4200 m. This stage takes 4 - 8 hours depending on the adaptation to the altitude. In the third day, if there is no problem concerning adaptation to the mountain, climbing to the peak from 4200 meters, and getting back will take approximately 8-12 hours.

While climbing to the mountain, the nearest settlement area is Topçatan village, located on a plain and Eli village, situated at 1900 meters. It is not possible to receive logistics support from both villages during climbing or in case of any accident. Consequently when an accident occurs, it should be directly contacted the district of Doğubayazıt.



Doğubayazıt - Topçatan Upland

Camping Sites

Camping Site at 3200 m:

It is a very smooth and even area. There is enough space to accommodate 50-60 tents. As it is located within a wind-free basin, it is quite protected. Only problem is the unavailability of water in the camping site in summer months. On the camping site, there are three different accommodation sections for several guide groups.

Camping Site at 4200 m:

Here is the beginning of the last stage for climbing to the peak. The small plain areas in the region, where the glacier begins, have been turned into camping site. The view of the camping site is spectacular. You can view Doğubayazıt Plain and Little Ararat completely from this point. The peak and climbing route is seen clearly from the camping site. Big rock blocks detached from Öküz Deresi, which is located immediately below the camping site, may sometimes disturb the climbers. The melting glacier in summer months pours down as a small waterfall. (Güngör, 2009)

Climbing Diary

Day 1

The stage from Eli village to the camping site at 3200 m is not much sloppy. A team in a good condition may cover this distance in 8 hours. But for those, who are not familiar with mountain conditions, it sometimes takes 12 hours. When it is hiked, following the car road, this time increases further. It is generally hiked on the road and all short cuts that are encountered are used. When it is hiked approximately 300 meters towards northern west from the ending point of the road, the camping site is seen. Since this stage is swept by wind in winter months, you should walk on snow-free ridges.

The beginning route of the first day consists of soil road, ensuring transportation to Eli village. Passing the village center by approximately 500 meters, we leave from the soil road and enter the pathway on the right. After ascending a little bit, we again get to the soil road, which lies ahead of us. After approximately 50 meters, we again head towards to the pathway on the right. We continue ascending with the view of Mount Ararat in the face of us. When we reach to the soil road that climbs uphill with bends, we turn left and arrive at Topçatan Upland. After a short break, we take the road on the right, along the pond on the upland and walk on the pathway. The route, running through a valley, passes the stream bed after a short while and ascends. Trekking with the valley lying on our right side, we will now pass through intersecting soil road and direct towards the pathway on

the opposite side. When we get to the road once again after app. 500 meters, we will turn right and arrive at the intersection point. We will firstly take the left road and then enter the pathway that is seen on the right side, ahead of 50 meters. We pass Upper Arabla Field of Topçatan Upland that is located at this point and start to walk on a valley bottom this time. The route, which continues to ascend, turns to right from the valley bed ahead and reaches to a plain after rising slightly. This time, there is another valley lying on our right. The trekking that becomes steep increasingly passes over a ridge and ends in the area, where the camping site at 3200 meters is located.

How long to stay in the camping site at 3200 meters should be decided considering the general condition of the team. Such complaints as headache and nausea are the clearest indications, showing that the team could not adapt to the mountain well. In such a situation, it is required to stay in the camp for one more night. Even if the team reaches to the camping site at 4200 meters, getting tired and becoming ill, it is likely to face with worse situation here. So it is good to rest in the camping site at 3200 meters for one day. For those, experiencing adaptation problems, staying 2 nights at the camping site at 3200 meters may increase the chance for climbing to mountain. It is a good practice to go to and return from the camping site at 4200 meters with a very light pack in resting day in order to adapt to the mountain and to identify those, experiencing altitude problem. If there are people with a health problem, identification of them at 3200 meters may affect the next stage of climbing. Those, who do not have suitable health condition for climbing, to stay here prevents furtherance of their health problems.

Day 2

The distance between this camping site and the other one, located at 4200 meters, is not much. The slope becomes steep depending on the height and becomes exhausting. A team in a good physical condition may pass this stage in 4 hours. However beginning from 3200 meters, the effect of high altitude comes out gradually as it is climbed higher. So fast trekking may cause arriving at the camping site at 4200 meters in a tired and exhausted condition. The stage is short, but steep. However the slope is never risky. The first stage begins with a gully, where huge rock blocks drift. Then it is entered in a pathway. The pathway ascends quite prominently with a nice slope and climbs on to the ridge between Öküz Deresi and the camping site at 3200 meters. This part is the most challenging stage of trekking to the camping site at 4200 meters. When it is arrived at the ridge, the pathway directly runs on in the direction of the peak. After trekking for half an hour, it is encountered with several tent set-up areas. This place is not the main camping site, but it is an ideal location for resting. Especially in summer season, when the mountain is very crowded, there might be camping site problem and this location can be used to solve the problem. The main camping site is located on a big plain at 4200 meters and glacier begins where the plain



ends. The distance between the plain and camping site takes about 45 minutes. If it is not adapted to the mountain, it is observed headaches at these altitudes. Only headache is not an enough symptom for Acute Mountain Disease; it must be accompanied with nausea and loss of consciousness. Those, who are not accustomed to high altitudes, to suffer from headaches in first days is normal. These complaints disappear, when it is rested or stayed on the mountain for a couple of days. As from this altitude, the loss of appetite is also normal. In spite of this situation, you must make effort to drink plenty of liquid and eat something. Especially consumption of plenty of liquid is of vital importance in order to adapt to the mountain. If the team is not accustomed to high altitude, it is good to stay at the camping site at 4200 meters for two nights. This matter must be decided by the team leader and the guide. If the symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and hallucination emerge except for headache, taking the patient to a previous camping site will be the best resolution. As the height decreases, the patient will start regain consciousness.

Day 3

In climbing day, you must wake up early and have a good breakfast. In addition to energizing food, you must take plenty of water. The only way to climb to Mount Ararat in a sound manner is not only having good performance, but also taking plenty of liquid. No matter how your performance is good, if you do not take liquid well, you cannot climb to the mountain. Climbing begins from the pathway, which is located 100 meters ahead of camping site. The first stage challenges a little bit. Because once you leave the camp, it is started to climb up a steep slope without warming up the bodies. After a short while, it is arrived at the ridge, where cutting basalt blocs are found. As from this stage, you should certainly wear a helmet. Hitting your head to the cutting edges of huge basalt

blocks as a result of sudden falling down may cause vital risk. During climbing, you should not give a sitting break too much; you should instead take frequent breaks in a standing position. Because staying in a sitting position for a long time causes accumulation of lactic acid and when it is started to trek again, it gives quite challenge. Also adaptation to climbing becomes difficult after long-term rests as the altitude increases. You should take deep breath during climbing. It is beneficial to take deep and long breath at high altitude. This stage takes 2-3 hours. When the basalt blocs are passed over at the end of the stage, rocks firstly becomes smaller and then it is arrived at the side passage on the glacier pla-



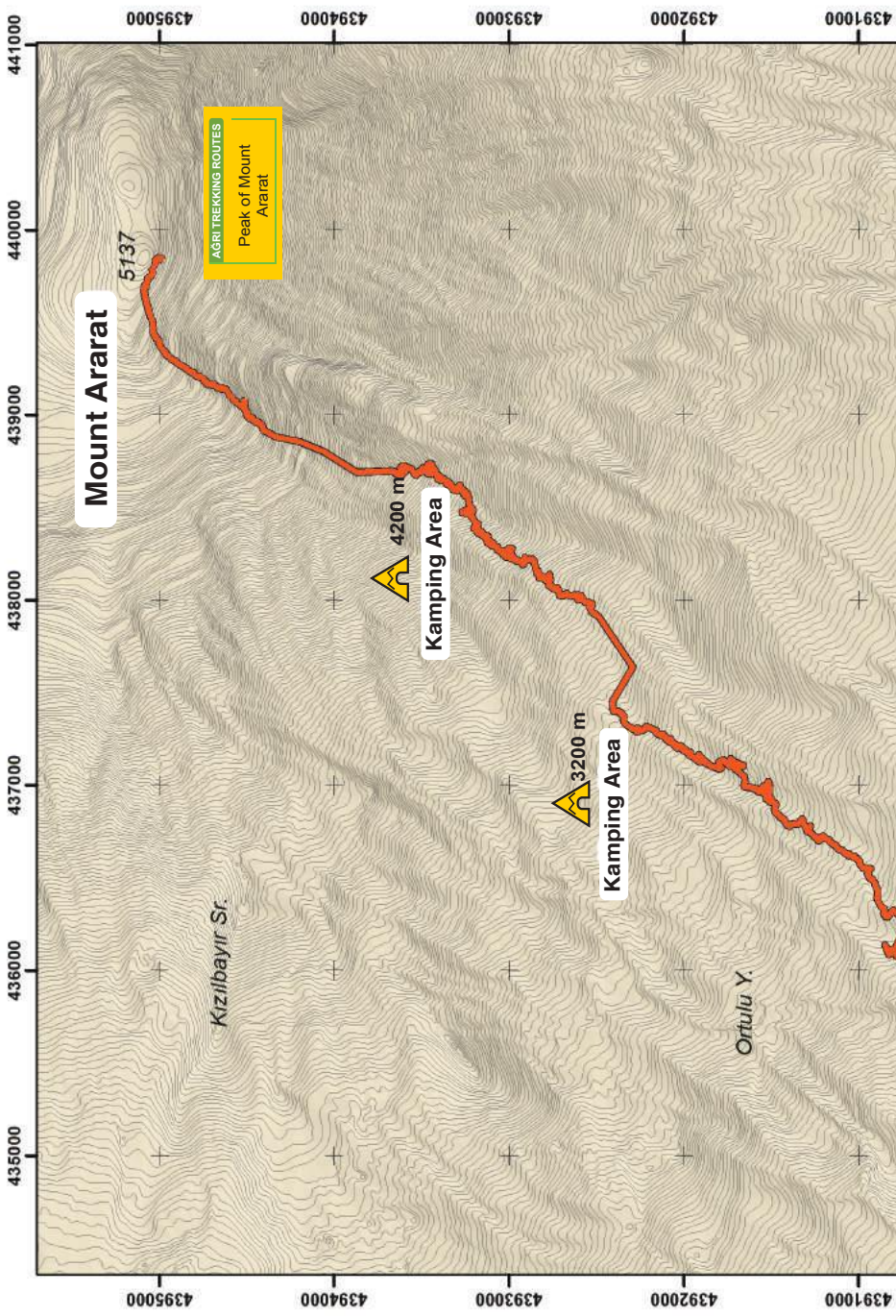
The Camping Site at 3200 m on Mount Ararat

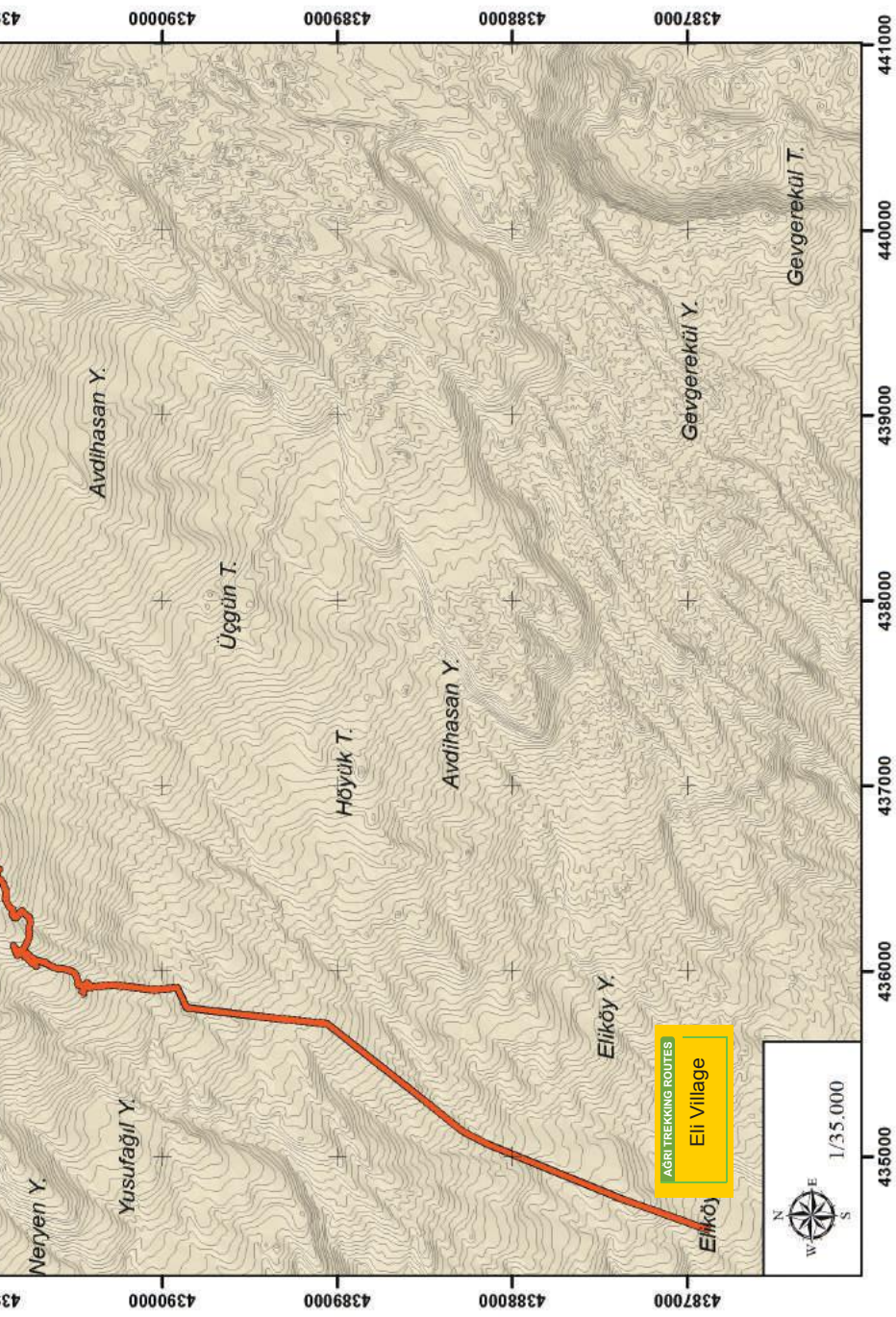
teau, which is the most risky region leading to the summit. This section, which measures about 100 meters in length, can be easily passed under normal conditions. However the glacier sometimes becomes so hard in winter months that even crampons fail to penetrate. So if it is too icy, then this area must be passed, taking security precautions. To take security precaution, burying the ice screws, it must be also used two ropes. If the system can be set up promptly, this area can be passed within 15 minutes. After side passage, it is arrived at the glacier plateau under the peak. This area is a plain in the size of a couple of football pitches. It can be climbed to the peak from the glacier plateau within 15-30 minutes. The peak stage is not so steep, but can be icy during summers and winters. Although it does not include much risk, it is the best method to climb up, taking security precaution with a rope for amateur groups.

For climbing to Mount Ağrı, it is hit on the road at 01.00 or 02.00 hours at night generally. It is got to the peak at about 07.00 or 07.30. The peak point may be windy especially in the morning frost. After peak climbing, it must be paid maximum attention in the return way. The lack of concentration or excessive fatigue may cause accidents.

(Güngör, 2009)









Crater Lake on the Peak of Mount Süphan



Route 2: Mount Süphan Transit Pass (17 km)

Mount Süphan rises among Adilcevaz, Erciş and Patnos to the north of Lake Van in Eastern Anatolia region. Two peaks (4058m and 4054m) of the mountain with an area remaining within the provincial boundaries of Van and Ağrı, are in Adilcevaz and Patnos. On the peak point of Mount Süphan, an inactive volcano, there is a second dome. The peak of the mountain, the fourth highest peak of Anatolia, is covered in covering glacier. Lake Van, located to the Southern side of Süphan, seems like a vast sea. During climbing, not only Lake Van, but also Lakes Aygır and Sodalı also pose for the cameras. It is generally climbed to Mount Ağrı, following classic eastern route. On the side of Patnos in the North, there is a harsh route. We will suggest you the route of transit pass to the south through classic route.

Day 1

Kışkılı Neighborhood in the town of Aydınlı, which is 38 km away from Adilcevaz district of Bitlis, is the beginning point of the route. The first plain of Atalanı Upland, located at about 2 km above the village, is the camping site of the first day. You may either trek up to this location at an altitude of 2700 meters in order to adapt to the height or access by a car. After the tents are set up, those, who wish, may go for a 2-hour short walk until the ridge, where the main plain of Atalanı Upland is located, for adaptation climbing to the high altitude. In the first camping site in Atalanı Upland, there is a water source that dries in summer months. The view of moonlight that lightens Lake Van at nights with clear weather is spectacular from the area where you set up tents.



Mount Süphan, Atalanı Upland

Day 2

We start trekking after having breakfast at 2.00 hours in the morning. Climbing to the 2nd camping site at 3900 meters includes a trekking activity for about 4.5 hours. Let's remind that there is no water source between two camps. It is possible to derive water from melting glacier that you will encounter only in high altitudes. The first stage of trekking is Atalanı Upland, where you will ascend, taking Kıztaşı Rocky Place as a triangulation point. You will continue to ascend, walking on the right side of a stream bed. Let's remind that the pathway that runs on the valley bottom lying on your left is risky as it turns into flood bed in rainy weathers. When you arrive at the plain, you will turn left from the stream bed and start to climb the steep slope, called as "mirror" by the mountaineers. This section, lying between 2900 meters and 3600 meters, is the most tiring and sandy area of Mount Süphan. We suggest you to trek in broad spirals to climb this section, which is highly steep and takes your breath away. In winter climbs, you should definitely use a digger and crampon in this area. Keklik Cliff, placed at 2850th meter of the slope that is covered in grass, is an ideal place for break. If you are lucky enough to have good weather conditions, you can watch sunrise here. When you reach to the highest hill of Ayna region, you will see a valley bed on your left. While the route, which turns into a clear pathway, twirls towards left, the Süphan crater cap will come into your view. When you get to the slopes of the cap at the end of the valley, you will turn right and enter in a rocky terrain. Below Patnos Valley, which the northern slopes face to, will come in view. This place is also your camping site at 3900 meters. You can use the waters, pouring from the glaciers at the streams and lowest part of the rocks, almost over the whole camping site at 3900 meters, for your requirements.



Mount Süphan Southern Glacial Basin



Day 3

Following a good rest and strong breakfast, you can start climbing to the peak at early hours in the morning. The section between the camping site at 3900 meters and the peak completely consists of huge rock blocks. The rocks are light and unstable. So you should act very carefully. Let's state that most of the accidents in Mount Süphan occur in this section. After trekking for about 1 hour, it is reached to the basin plain of the mountain, which is referred to as 'cap'. The main peak is located in western direction, exactly opposite of you. After climbing for 30 minutes by heading towards East, you will get to the first peak at 4056 meters. If the humidity rate on the air is low and the visibility range is good, you will have the chance to easily see the complete shape of Great Ararat and Lake Van as it is on the map and the districts of Patnos and Erciş as well as Van city center.

After enjoying the first peak, your new target will be the crater lakes. By walking down the western direction from the northern slope of the peak, you will reach to crater lakes found at 4020 meters. Glacial lakes consist of three different pools and the biggest lake is the one situated in the North. Completely icy water surface evokes admiration with its turquoise appearance. After walking for 20 minutes towards southern direction after the crater lakes, it is got to Sandık Tepe, also known as "Big Summit". If you are lucky, you will be welcomed again by a spectacular view. Following a break at the main peak, now it is time for descending. Now your target will be the glacial area in the basin seen below. Trek towards south from the rocky terrain. Let's remind that this region with a texture, formed by highly steep cliff and scree, is a dangerous route. Climbing to and descending from the cap is very risky and challenging. As the ground is composed of wholly broken

rocks, there is no clear pathway. The approximate inclination is 50-60 degrees during ascending to and descending from the cap.

In this process, in which you should act very carefully, you descend towards southern basin glaciers for 45 minutes. At this point, you have two options. You can reach to the finish point, trekking for 1 more hour over Lake Ayşen on your right or you can trek for 20 minutes on southern basin glacier, and then start to descend on the opposite ridge. While passing the glacier, it may be required to use digger and crampon according to the state of the ice. As from the ridge, the route turns into a sandy route and descends sharply. While trekking in this area, you can also see Lakes Arin and Aygır within the boundaries of Adilcevaz along with Lake Van. Lake Aygır is remarkable especially with its different shade. Passing by Büyük Keflik Castle, the route starts to descend fast and then reaches to a stream bed following the pathways between meadows. The route enters in the pathway that heads towards left from the slopes of Küçük Keflik Hill and ends where it meets the soil road that comes from over Yıldız village. This locality, situated at 2950 meters altitude, is located at a 6 kilometers distance to Yıldız village. Keep in mind that in case of emergency, regular cars, other than tractors and four wheel drives cannot climb to this place from Yıldız village.



Süphan Climbing



Eastern Peak of Mount Suphan



310000

311000

312000

313000

Mount Süphan

4049



4311000

Kırkşehir T.

Hızırözü Mvk.

4310000

Sekiler Mvk.

4309000

4308000

Hodaktaşı T.

4307000

Keçikayası T.

AĞRI TREKKING ROUTES

Yıldızlı Village

Chalet



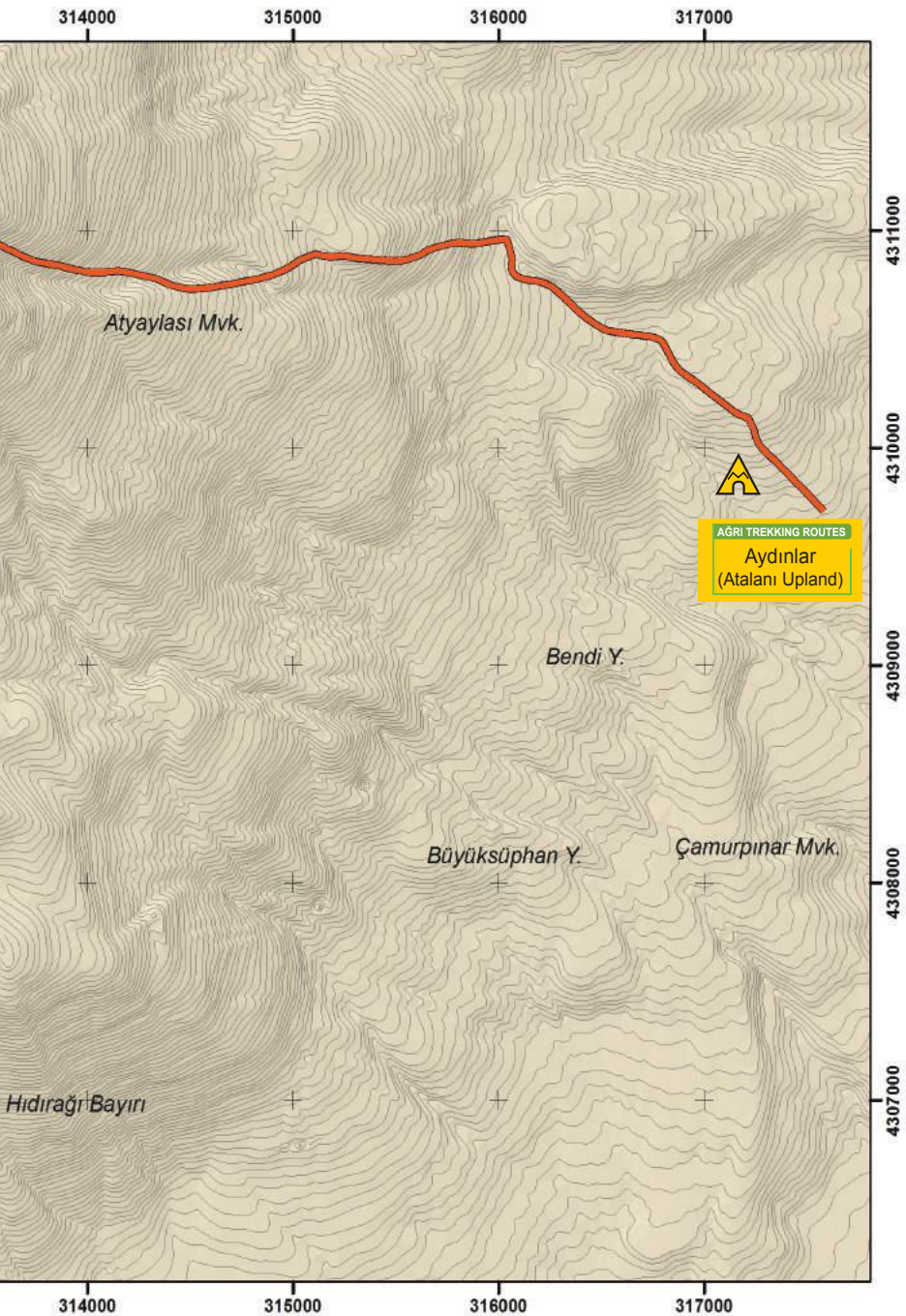
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Mount Little Ararat



Route 3: Mount Little Ararat Climb (round trip 18 km)

Little Ararat, located to the east of Mount Ararat, is one of the most challenging mountains to climb. The most important factor of it is the structure of the mountain that gets increasingly sharpening shape towards the peak and the soft sandy surface of the mountain. The most easy-to-climb part of the mountain is the northern west shoulder. The beginning of Mount Little Ararat climb is Güngören Upland, which is 22 kilometers away from the district of Doğubayazıt. In order to reach this place, you firstly need to come to the village with the same name, which is 15 kilometers away from the district center. The region between the village and upland is a very amazing area due to the lava flow that occurred after volcanic eruptions, and the formations resembling to the moon surface.

The upland, located 7 kilometers away from Güngören village, is found at the foot of Mount Biçare. The first stage of the route includes trekking on small hill, resting to the north of the upland, which lies at 3216 meters altitude. The pathway behind the hill constitutes the main axis of the route thereafter. Passing by a stream, you will arrive at arable field of Güngören Upland. After a short break here, you will continue to rise, leaving Mounts Biçare and Great Ararat behind you. Your route will pass a stream bed and direct towards east. The route will arrive at Yangınyurdu (Sakaniler) Upland after a while and continue on an even and horizontal line. After passing a cliff on your left, you will arrive at Koyunyatağı locality. Now you are at the peak of Serdarbulak passage. When you look towards the North, you can see the lands that run into the provincial borders of Iğdır.

Passing by a stone shelter (kom), which will come to your way in this plain, and a thick hose used to bring water, approach to the skirts of Little Ararat in the eastern direction. Although the shoulder, facing to the northern west of this huge mass, scares you a little bit with its steepness, it will constitute your climbing route. Taking a bearing of big rocks ahead, head towards left of the valley bottom, facing to you. Now you will start to climb in a sandy area, covered in grasses. In this most difficult part of the route, you will make way very slowly, sliding back a little bit with every step you take. When you arrive at the ridge above, a big valley, which constitutes one of the deep grikes on the body of Little Ararat, will come to your view. Now climb towards to the rocky terrain above with a deep cliff on your left and another valley bed, covered in sand, on your right. This rocky part of the mountain is highly unsound and poses detaching risk. Acting precautionary in every step, continue to ascend. Soon you will arrive at the basin underneath the peak at 3800 meters. In the middle of this rocky field, constituting the crater of Mount Little Ararat, which is an inactive volcano, rises a huge dome. In

order to reach to the main peak, you need to climb this dome. Firstly decrease the slope, trekking towards North, and then reach to the main crater of the mountain, turning to the east again. The big cliff, located at the highest point of the crater opening, where a pond, drying in summer months, is situated, indicates 3896-meter peak point. You can watch a marvelous view, covering Mount Ararat, Doğubayazıt, province of İğdır district of Aralık and lands of Iran and Armenia, from the point where you stand.

In the return way, pass the cliff area very carefully and descend to the ridge. You can use the small sandy valley, which was on your right side during ascending, for descending. During this descending, pay attention to leave space between the members of the team as a precaution for rock falling. For climbing to Little Ararat, do not forget to get information related with weather conditions in advance.

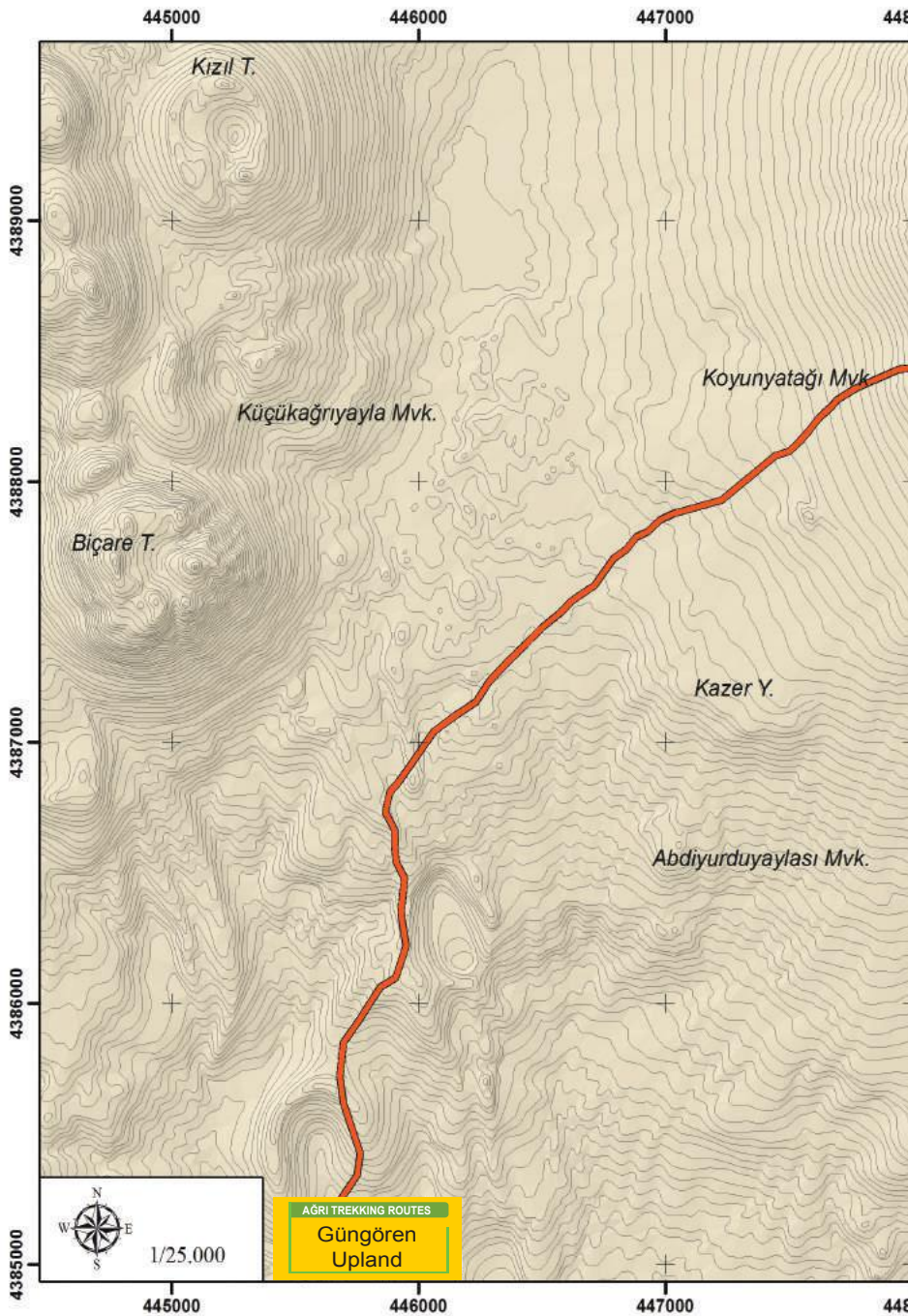


Mount Biçare



Mount Great Ararat from the peak of Little Ararat





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Mount Little Ararat

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AGRI TREKKING ROUTES

Peak of Little Ararat

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4388000

4387000

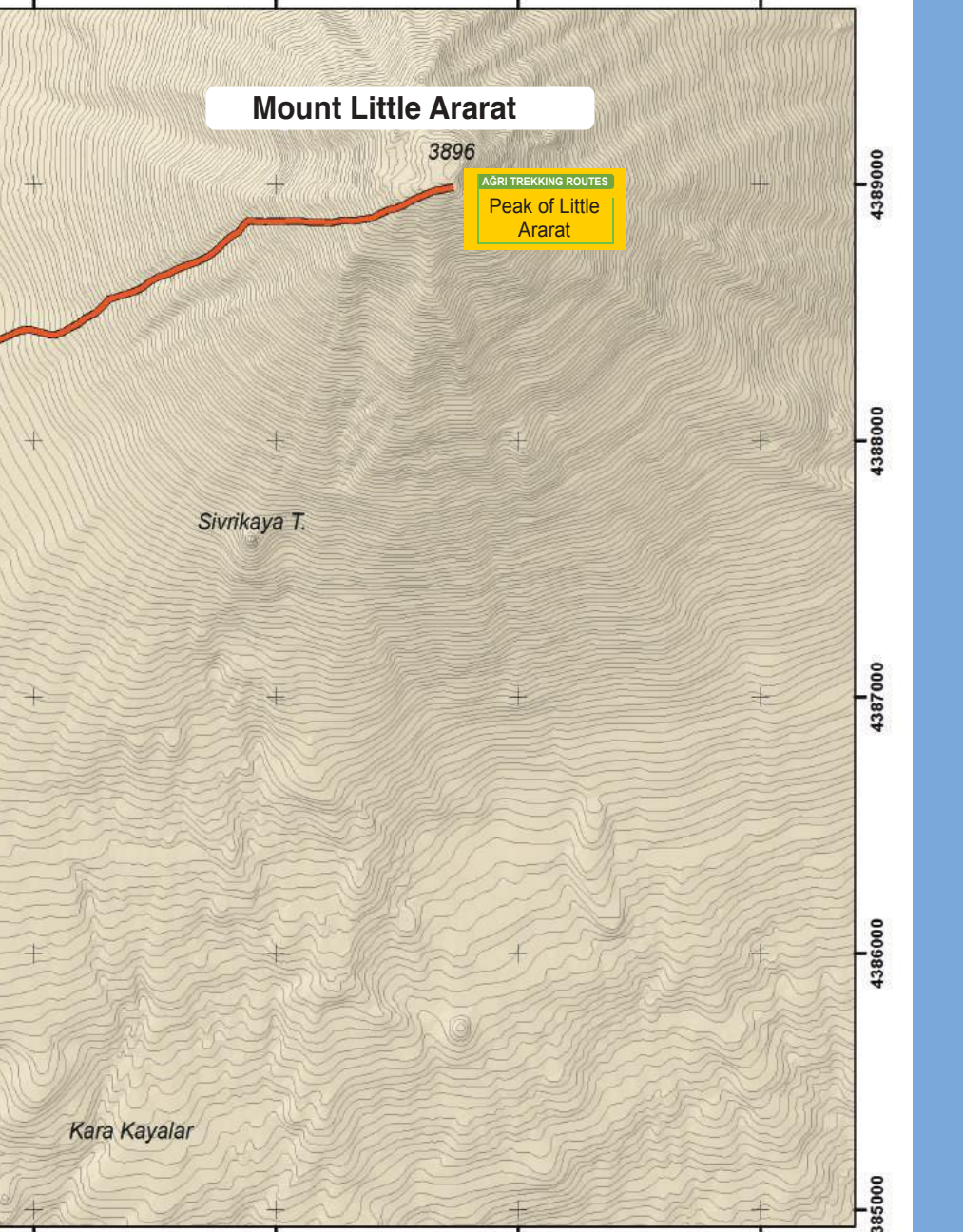
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Sivrikaya T.

Kara Kayalar

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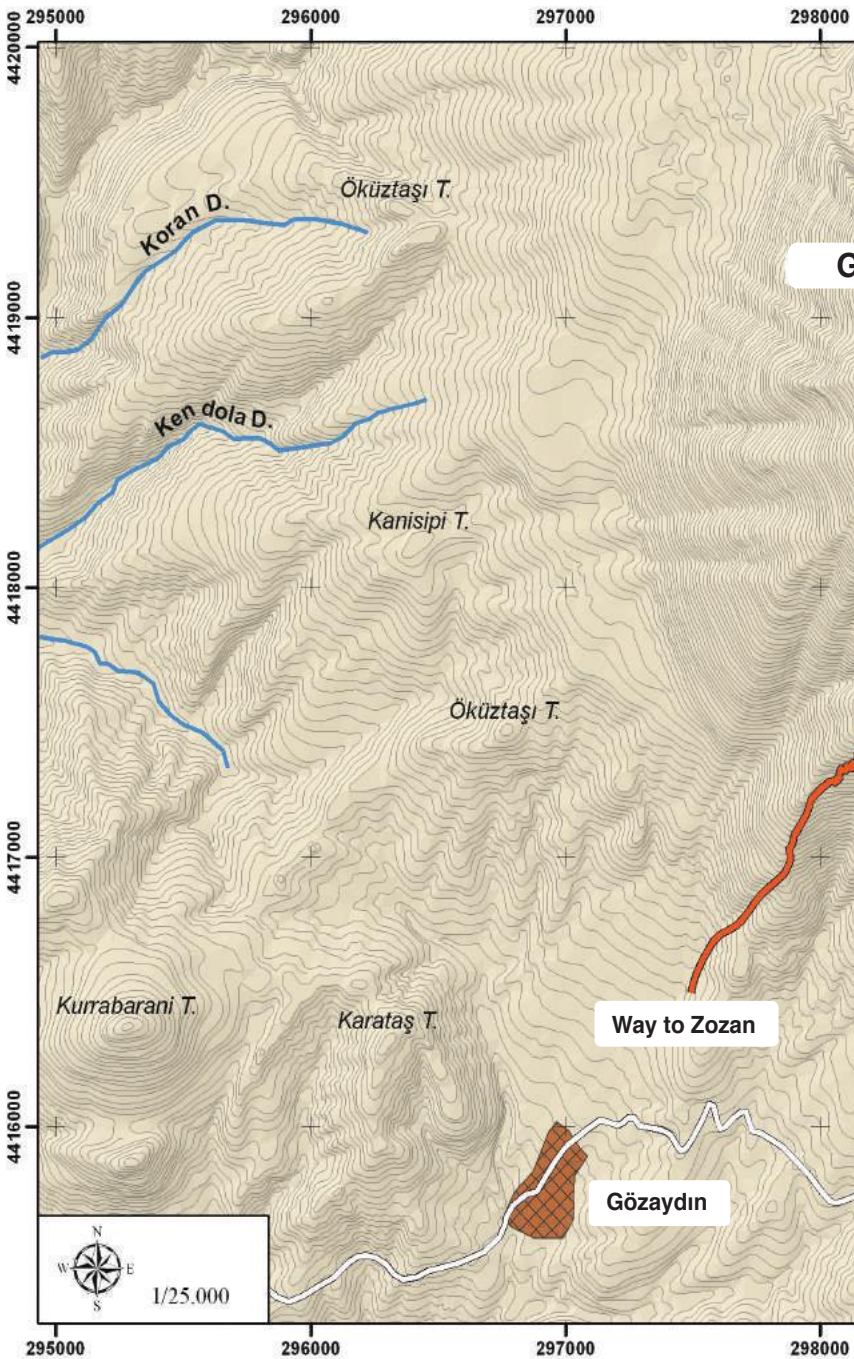


Route4: Mount Köse Climb (round trip 14 km)

Mount Köse, rising alone to the northwest of Eleşkirt Valley, can be seen from the peaks of Kaçkar Mountains, which are kilometers away. This huge mass, rising 3433 meters, displays an excellent visual fest within the boundaries of Sarıkamış district of the province of Kars, located in the North of the mountain. Appealing the mountaineers with its peak that seems sharp and inaccessible in the middle of a vast moor, the mountain was named as Mount Köse due to the fact that its dome-like structure is naked and steep.

The topographic structure of the mountain rising between Yukarıkopuz and Gözüaydın villages of Eleşkirt district allows climbing most easily over the ridge, located on Gözüaydın village. Climbing to Mount Köse is like a good exercise for those, who want to climb to Mount Ararat. For climbing, you need to firstly follow Gözüaydın-Ramazan road at the northern exit of the settlement and then enter in the left soil road at the end of 1st kilometer, which goes towards Zozan Upland. After following this road for about 2 kilometers, it is reached to a locality, where a single tree is found. Here is the take-off point of the classic route for climbing to Mount Köse. We start to trek in zigzags from the foot of the slope, which is located on the left of the single tree. Our aim is to decline the slope and reach to Kaytar ridge. After gaining about 100 meters altitude, we reach to the ridge of the mountain, which rests on the eastern slope. This steep line, covered in rocks and grasses at some parts, is one of the most challenging parts of the route. The cliffs, which you can take as a triangulation point in foggy weathers, spread to several regions along the ridge. Passing by the left of the cliffs, we continue climbing uphill towards the peak with the guidance of the ridge. As we ascend higher, the houses in Gözüaydın settlement seem smaller. In the section, which meets other ridge running down the peak, the route heads towards the left. Now in company with a clear pathway, we reach at stone 'father', which is built to assist mountaineers to find their ways at 3030 meters. After a short break, we continue climbing. We move forward to the peak, following the ridge sometimes and walking in clear zigzags from time to time, and reach to the first summit that may be used as a camping site. After the break, the most challenging stage of climbing to Mount Köse waits us. In this area, you can encounter with stone shelters built to be protected from the wind and snow. Following the pathways on the ridge in the stony place, we primarily reach to the peak at 3250 meters and then the main peak, offering a great view. While walking on this part, we would like to especially state that you should be careful to the maximum extent. As one side of the mountain is a cliff, the said stage includes an apparent risk. We suggest you to follow the incoming route as a return way, and certainly not to head towards other routes, embarking on an adventure.





Gözütaşı T.

Koran D.

Öküztaşı T.

Ken dola D.

Kanisipi T.

Öküztaşı T.

Kurbarani T.

Karataş T.

Way to Zozan

Gözütaşı T.



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295000

296000

297000

298000

4420000

4419000

4418000

4417000

4416000

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301000

4420000

ter Mount Köse

3433

AĞRI TREKKING ROUTES

The Peak of
Mount Köse

Kösedag Sr.

4419000

4418000

Ziyaretyolu Mvk.

4417000

Little Mount Köse

2884

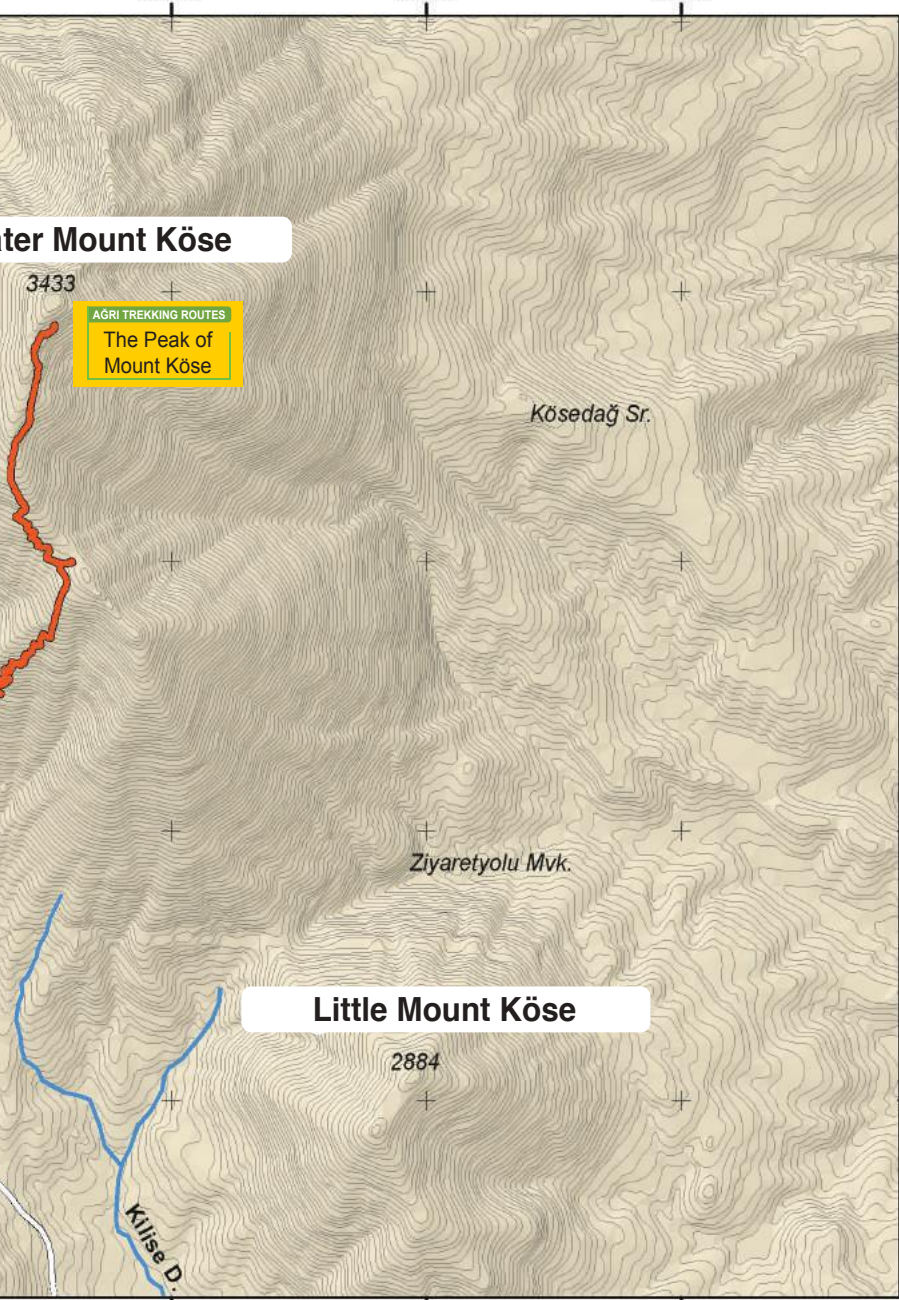
Kilise D.

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Peak Basin of Mount Süphan



Route 5: Güngören Upland - Serdarbulak Passage - Serdarbulak Upland (9 km)

Serdarbulak, located on an ancient caravan route, is an important passage that has served humanity for centuries. The passage, situated between Great Ararat and Little Ararat, rises 2687 meters. The high land, which forms the border between the provinces of Ağrı and Iğdır, is also a broad upland. The first part of the route that we will suggest follows the same course together with Little Ağrı climbing route. Use the route, which is described in route 3, until Yanginyurdu Upland.

In the entrance to Yanginyurdu Upland, select the pathway that heads towards the north. The route, which will ascend for a while, will pass across the Little Ararat Upland and Resule Upland and arrive at a broad meadow in the west of Serdarbulak Passage. In this area, where there is not a clear path, continue to trek towards North with Kızıltepe, at an altitude of 3056 meters, on your left side. After about 500 meters, you will arrive at a tractor road. This road is a route used by residents in Doğubayazıt in order to access to some uplands on the skirts of Mount Ararat, passing to the district of Aralık in Iğdır. Follow the tractor road, which is covered in grasses from place to place. After passing three arable fields, which belong to Güdük Upland, appearing before you, the route will get declining stand. Now you are in the provincial boundaries of Iğdır. Turn right from the intersection of Şip Upland and continue trekking. Let's remind that Şip Waterfall that formed as a result of melting of snow and glaciers is located slightly above the upland. A little ahead, you will see Kışlağölü, belonging to Serdarbulak Upland as well as Russian military post building, which dates back to ancient times. Location of this building with only walls that have survived up to now at such elevation is evidence, stressing the importance of Serdarbulak Passage. The road, proceeding towards left from the upland that spreads over a wide area, will take you to Yenidoğan (Ahura) village, whereas the road on Iğdır- Nakhichevan highway to Gödekli village.





Doğubayazıt - Serdarbulak Passage

4393000

4392000

4391000

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0000

449000

AGRI TREKKING ROUTES

Serdarbulak
Upland

448000

447000

446000

445000

4393000

4392000

4391000

4390000

0000

Ardıç T.

Uzoyurdulı T.

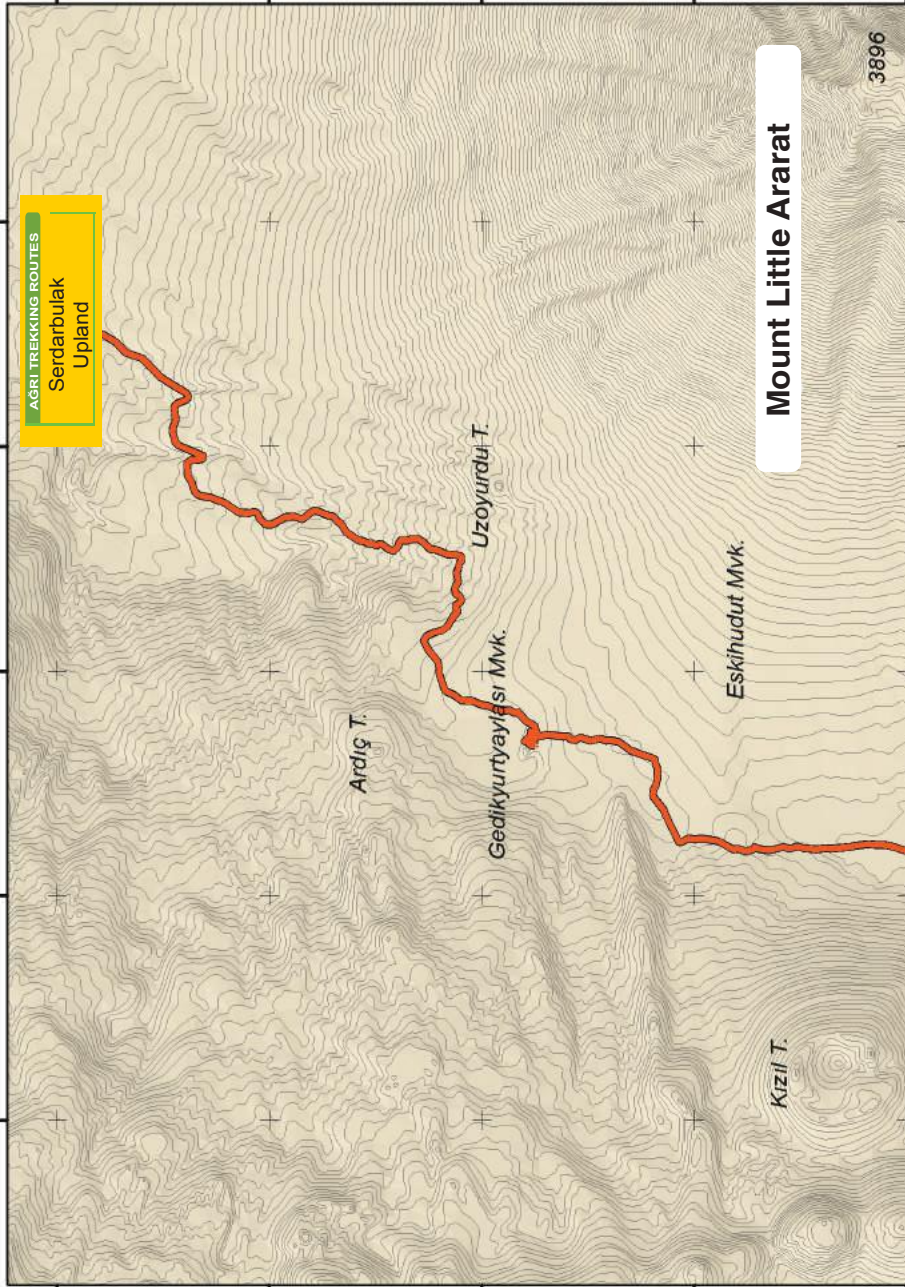
Gedikyurtayvılısı Mvk.

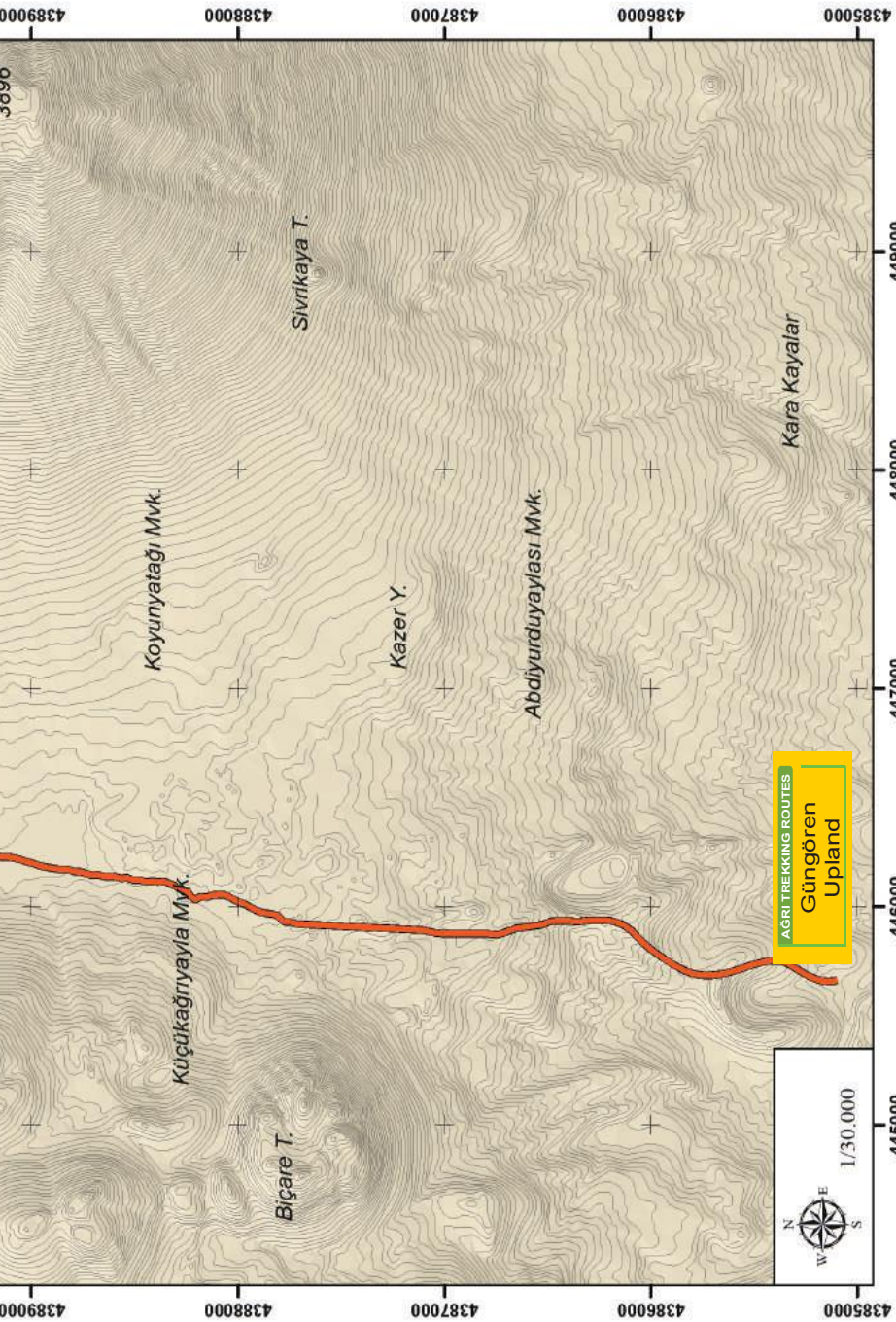
Eskihudut Mvk.

Kızıl T.

3896

Mount Little Ararat





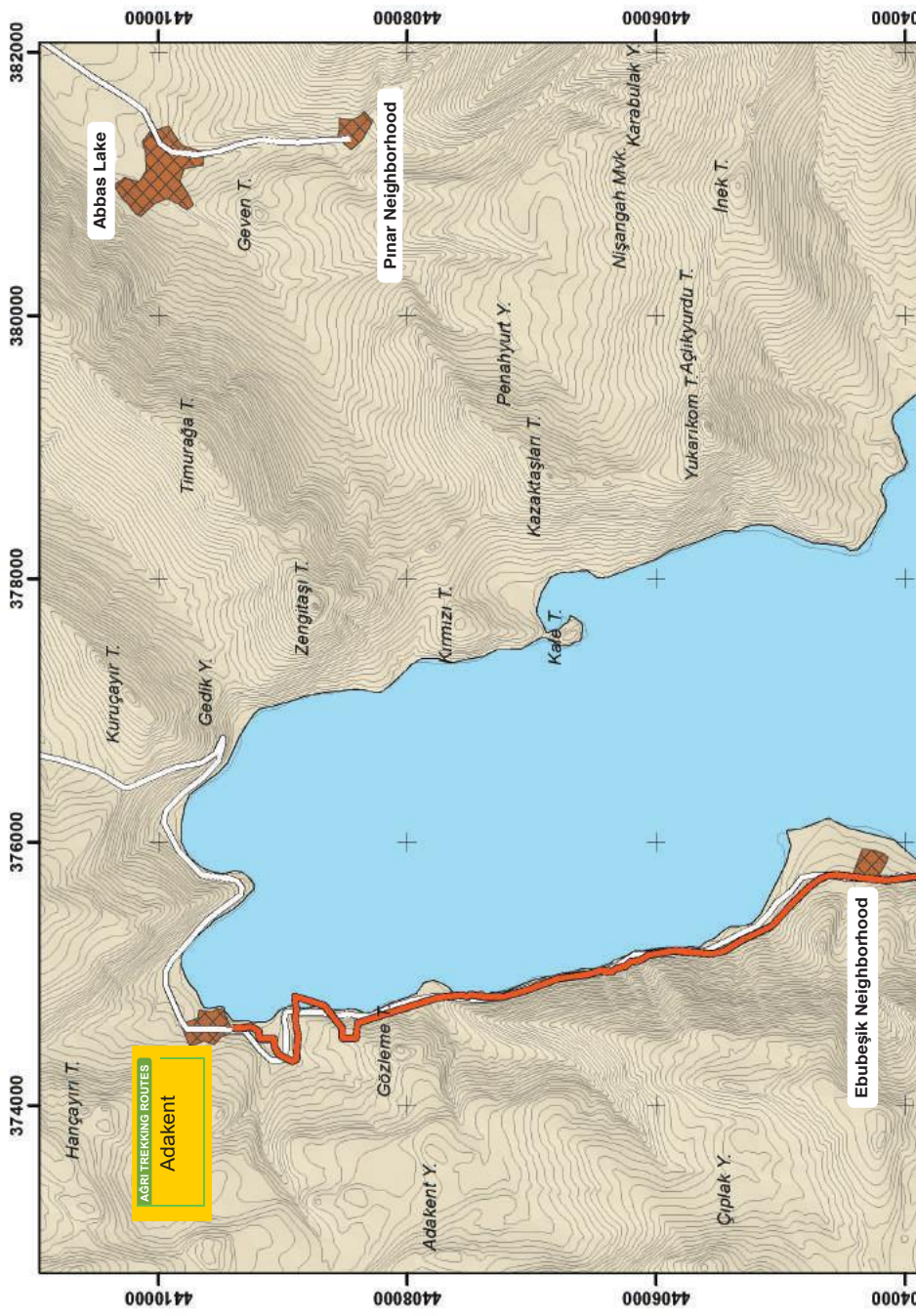


Lake Balik

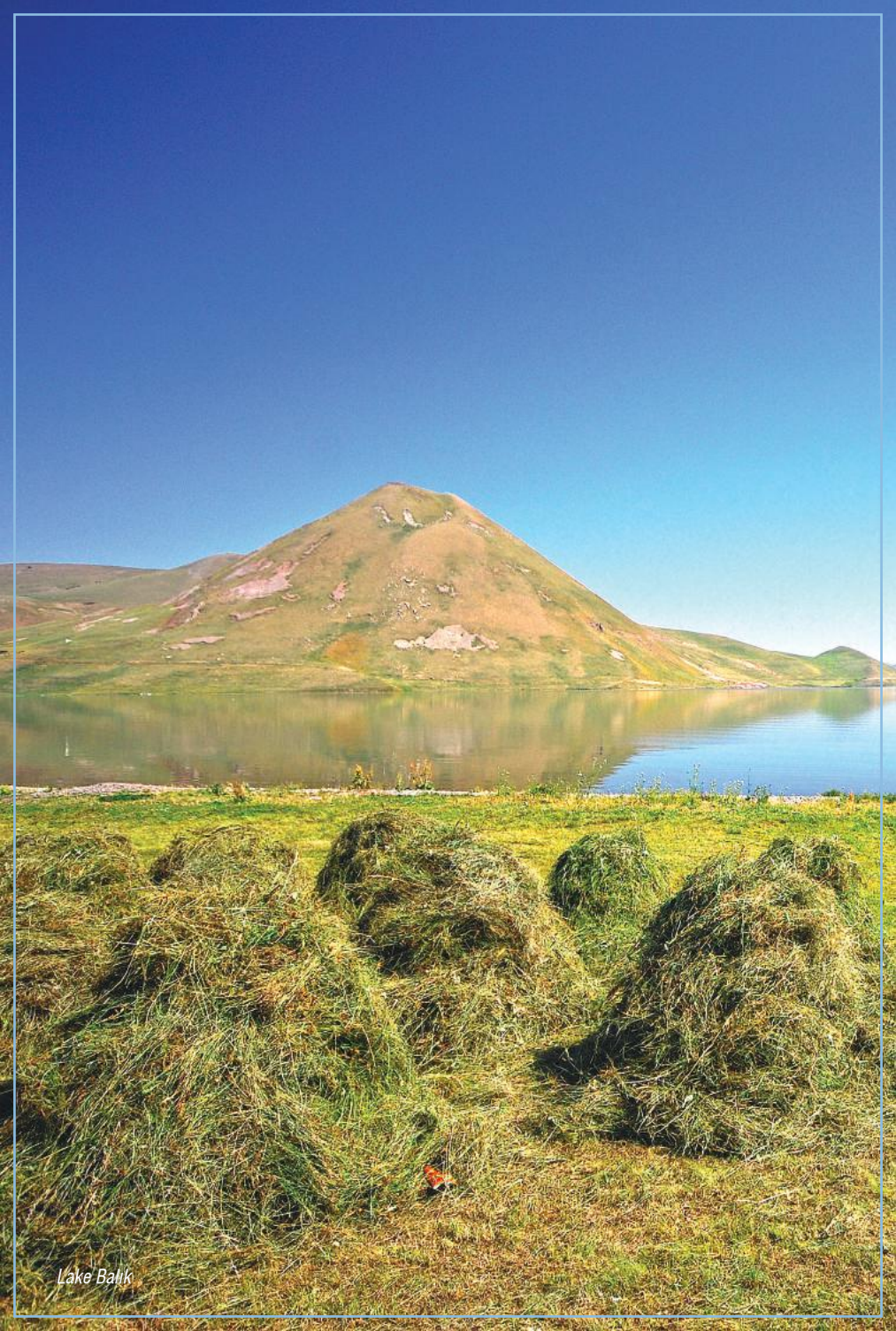
Route 6 : Lake Balık 1 (Sluiceway - Tanyolu - Adakent Neighborhood) (17 km)

Lake Balık, which is fed with the fountains, underground waters, streams running from the mountains, which surround it as a basin, is a real tourism paradise. Around the lake, which has about 35 km long coastal line, you can take a walk in order to adapt to high altitude before climbing to Ağrı. The first route, we will suggest you, is the floodgate that is positioned to the southern east of the lake and where the stream that the lake pours its waters is located. You can trek this route through vehicle road or meadows. The route, proceeding towards west at the beginning, heads towards north after passing Yakacık and Yukarı Yakacık villages. At this point, we take the right direction from the road that ensures access to Sinek Upland and follow the lakeside. After Tanyolu and Kayalı settlements, which come our way, the soil road progresses in parallel to the lake. You can encounter several shores, which allow swimming in the lake, in this route that is windy all the times. When you come across pink rosebays on the roadside, it means that you have arrived at the side of fountain. After a short break here, you will get to Adakent Neighborhood. Before entering in the settlement at the 17th kilometer, you can make a camp on the meadow in the shore.









Lake Balk



Route 7: Lake Balık 2 (Adakent Neighborhood - Samanlı - Floodgate) (18 km)

Our second trekking route at Lake Balık, one of 135 internationally important wetlands in Turkey stands out with its beaches and historical places. We turn right after Adakent Neighborhood and start to trek in parallel with northern shores of the lake. A little ahead, two gorgeous beaches will come your way. According to weather conditions, you can have swimming break. After leaving the second beach, we suggest you to follow the soil road, which ascends to the peak. After that point, the coastal line turns into steep slopes and does not allow for trekking. After ascending a little bit, a new beach and hill will appear on your right. Turn right from the soil road, which forks at this point, make way towards the eastern side of the hill. Soon you will meet Kale beach. On the island, connected to a mainland with a neck, a castle with surviving fortification walls will attract your attention. When you hit the road again after the break, following the coast, you will firstly get to Samanlı (Kuşıyan) settlement and then the floodgate, built on the stream mouth, passing through fields and meadows. At the end of trekking, which finishes at the 18th kilometer, you can reach to the soil road, passing through the floodgate.

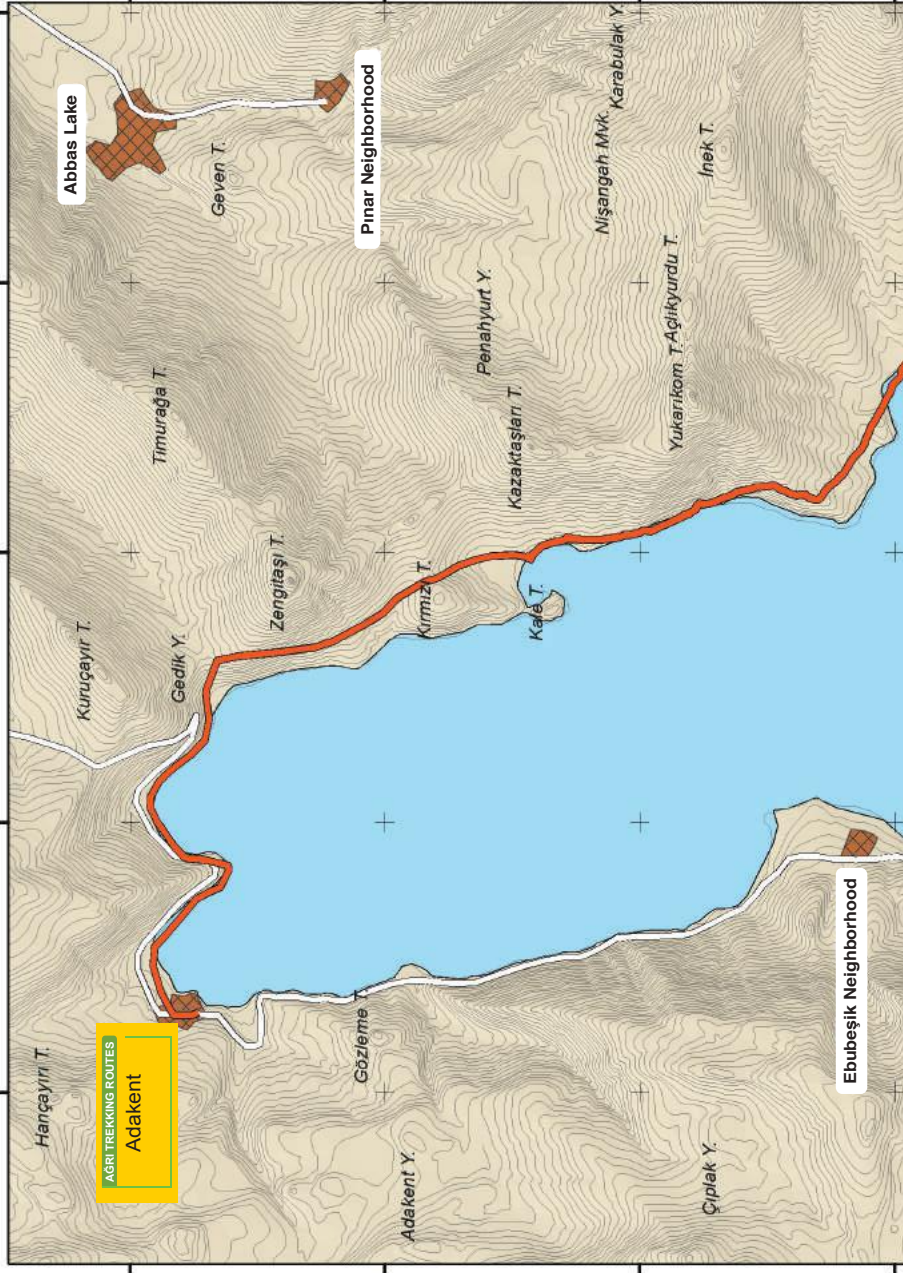




Mount Süphan from Bitlis - Adilcevaz

374000 376000 378000 380000 382000

4410000 4408000 4406000 440000



Abbas Lake

Pinar Neighborhood

Ebubeşik Neighborhood

AGRI TREKKING ROUTES
Adakent

Hançayırı T.

Kuruçayır T.

Timurğa T.

Geyen T.

Zengitaşı T.

Adakent Y.

Gözleme Y.

Kırız T.

Kale T.

Penahyurt Y.

Kazaktaşları T.

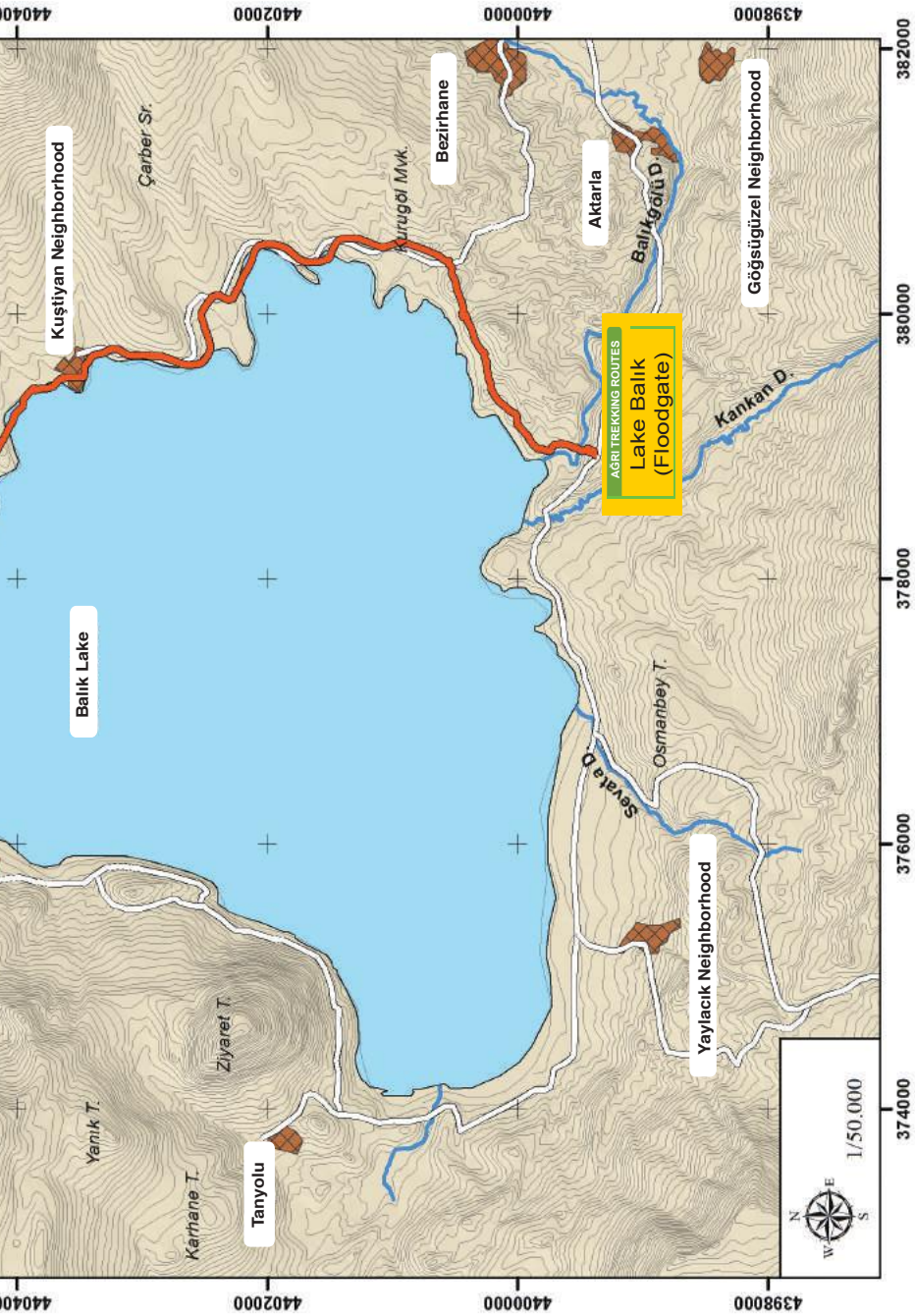
Nişangeh Mvk.

Yukarıkom T. Açıkkyurdü T.

Çıplak Y.

Inek T.

Karabulak Y.



AĞRI-KARS CULTURE AND NATURE TRIP

Kars city center is full of artifacts that display the selected examples of civil architecture in addition to cultural and historical texture. The city trip, supported by city center map and direction signs, enables its guests to have enjoyable time. After visiting Ani Ruins, nature lovers may do bird watching in Lake Kuyucuk or take a walk in Susuz Valley trekking routes. Those, who are connoisseur of history, may take trip through past in the routes, including castles, bastions or churches. In Boğatepe Eco tourism Village, you can witness cheese making and herb drying processes. You can have pleasant times in world renowned ski-runs or trekking routes of Sankamış, which is one of the biggest districts of Kars.



Kars - Ani Ruins



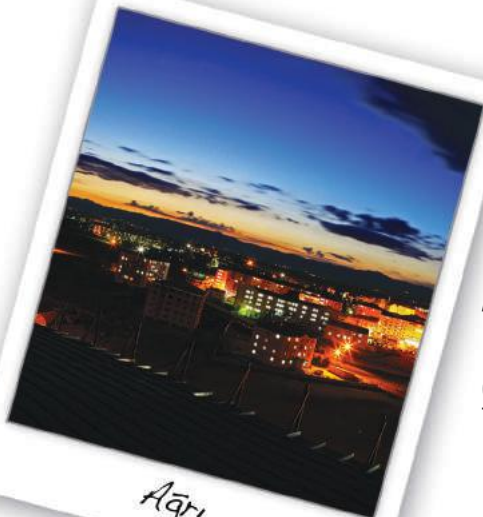
AĞRI-VAN CULTURE AND NATURE TRIP

Van, one of the most important tourism centers of Eastern Anatolia, which is noted for its cat, lake and historical places, is located to the south of Ağrı. In Van, which is accessible through Doğubayazıt Çaldıran - Muradiye - Erciş or Hamur - Tutak - Patnos - Erciş roads, you can spend a couple days with culture and nature trips. The biggest soda lake of the world, which names of the city, as well as historical remaining on Akdamar (Ahtamar) Island on the lake must be your first stop. A spectacular castle, Hoşap Castle, Menua Urartian Water Channel and Muradiye (Bendimahi) Waterfall, which are located in Van city center, a capital city of Urartians in the past, are among the major stops of your trip.



Van - Muradiye Waterfall





Ağrı City Centre

Pazı (Eyüp Pasha) Castle, Yazıcı Dam Lake, Bubi Mountain Ski Centre, Yolluyazı (Dambat) Thermal Spring



Diyadin

Yılanlı, Davut and Köprü spring thermals, Diyadin and Tokluca castles, Meya Rock Settlement, Aladağ uplands, Aladağ glacial lakes

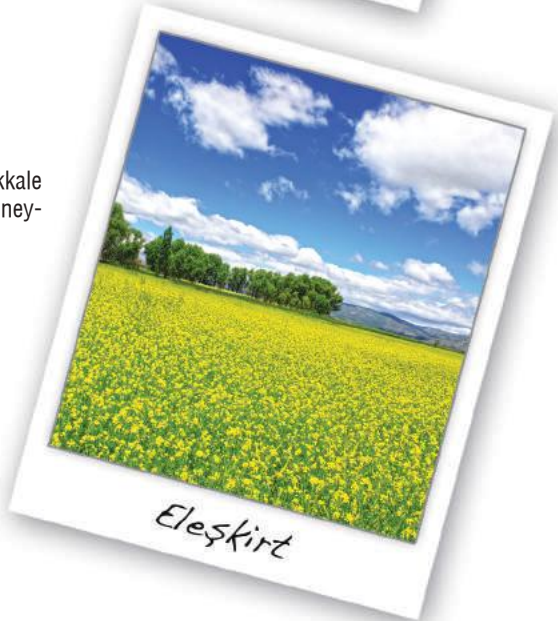
Doğubayazıt

İshak Pasha Palace, Ahmed-i Hani Shrine, Kan (Doğubayazıt) Castle, Great Ararat, Little Ararat, Meteor Hollow (Sarıçavuş village), Glacial Cave (Hallaç village), Lake Balık (Suluçem village), Lake Gülyüzü and Lake Saz, Tendürek Crater Lake, Buzhane Cave (Üzengili village), Noah's Ark, Karnıyark Hill Crater Hollow (Güngören Upland), Tendürek lava flow



Eleşkirt

Toprakkale Mound, Toprakkale Mosque, Mount Köse, Güneykaya Ski Centre

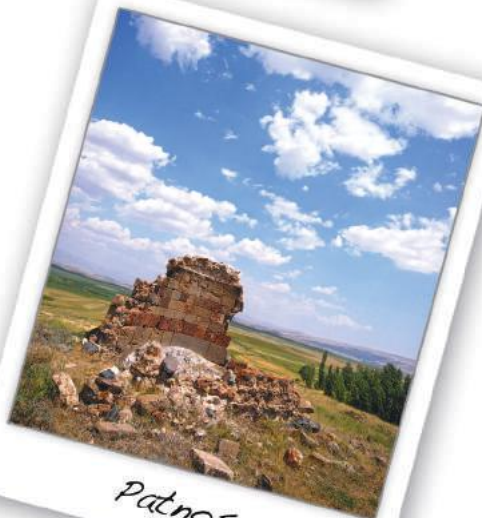




Hamur

Hamur

Kümbet, Şoşik Castle, Beklemez Underground Church, Karlıca Maiden Castle, Havaran Castle, Karlıca healing waters



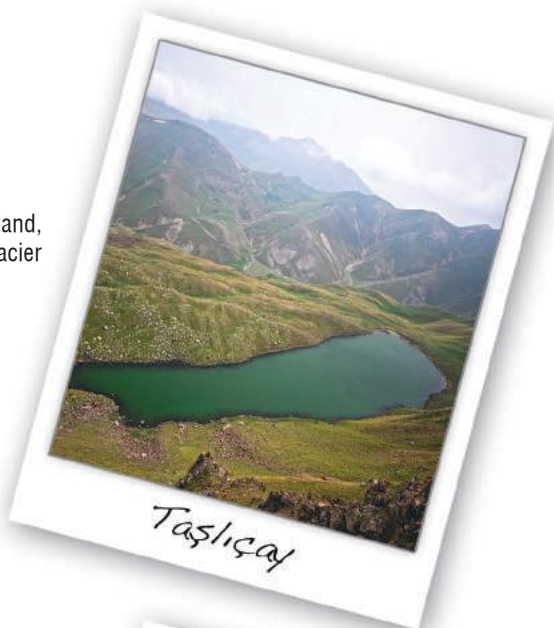
Patnos

Patnos

Giriktepe Mound, Anzavur Castle, Patnos and Şekerova dam lakes, Mount Süphan

Taşlıçay

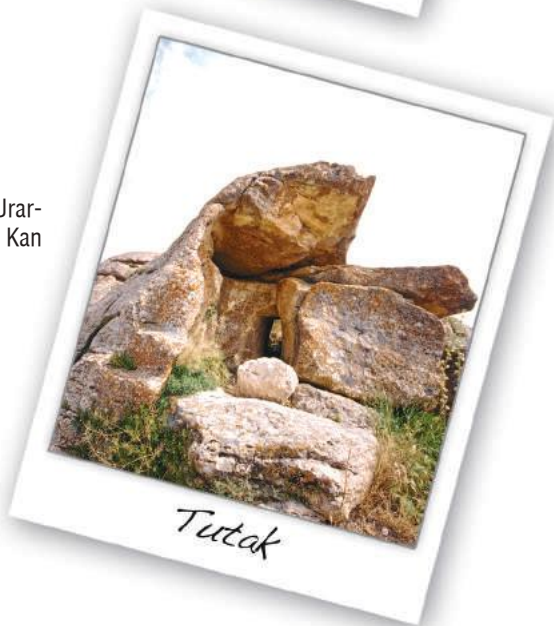
Balık Lake, Sinek Upland,
Aladağ uplands, Aladağ glacier
lakes



Taşlıçay

Tutak

Karagöz Church, Atabindi Urar-
tian Scriptures, Zencir and Kan
castles



Tutak



We suggest handicraft products and white honey as souvenir for those, who visit Ağrı. In hand woven carpet and rug patterns, especially in silk carpets, the details reflecting the cultural texture of the region are remarkable. Mohair socks and gloves, which are knitted with yarns that are spun more thickly than wool, are eye catching. In addition to self-colored pullovers, socks and saddlebags, which are knitted with local sheep wool, you can also find their other versions, ornamented with traditional patterns.

Felt making is a handicraft that developed depending on livestock in Ağrı. Felt is generally obtained, passing the lamb wool through carder dredges and pressing with special methods. The patterns are made on it with colorful wools. As it keeps warm, especially ground cloths made up of felt in rural areas are preferred more than carpets and rugs.

Bags, baskets and tea trays that are manufactured from the wheat and rye stem as well as üzerlik (a handicraft hung on the wall for protection from evil eye), which is produced stringing harmful grains on the yarn and shaping them geometrically or nazarlık (lucky charm) are among the most preferred products of handicraft stalls. As Üzerlik is considered as an item that protects from evil eye as blue bead, it ornaments the walls of the homes. In some places, instead of harmful, barley and corn grains are painted and used. You can take handicraft products that reflect the cultural identity of Ağrı as gift for your beloved ones.







Mount Ararat from Doğubayazıt Valley



TRANSPORTATION

Distances of some cities to Ağrı;

İstanbul	1405 km.
Ankara	1057 km.
Antalya	1430 km.
İzmir	1636 km.
Trabzon	483 km.
Erzurum	183 km.
Kars	215 km.
Van	232 km.

Distances of Ağrı districts to the city center;

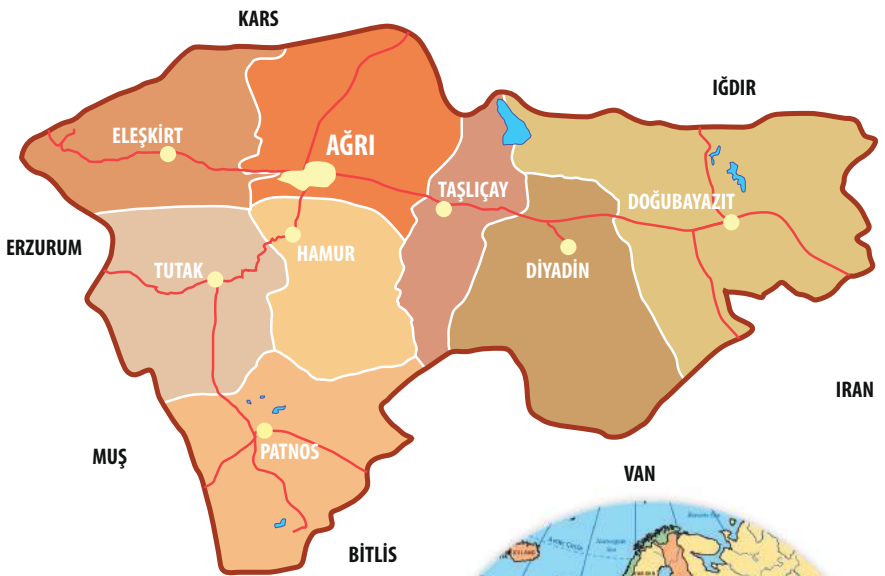
Diyadin	59 km.
Doğubayazıt	94 km.
Hamur	13 km.
Eleşkirt	34 km.
Patnos	79 km.
Taşlıçay	31 km.
Tutak	40 km.

Bus Companies

Ağrı Doğu Anadolu Turizm	: 0090 472 3124094-3124095 www.agridoguanadoluturizm.com
Mek Ağrı Dağı	: 0090 472 2164960-2151020 www.mekagridagi.com.tr
Ağrı Yavuz Seyahat	: 0090 472 2159924-2153333
Cesur Ağrı Dağı Turizm	: 0090 472 2151154-2151554
Patnos İtimat Turizm	: 0090 472 2151509-2152309

Air Transportation

Ağrı Airport is located at a 5 km distance to the city center on the district road of Hamur. Various firms organize reciprocal flights to Istanbul and Ankara every day.



ACCOMMODATION

City Centre

Grand Cenas Hotel (4*)

Phone : 0090 (472) 215 99 50

E-Mail : grandcenas@cenas.com.tr

Website : <http://www.grandcenas.com>

Birlik Şahin Hotel (3*)

Phone : 0090 (472) 2160404-2161100

E-Mail : iletisim@agriotelsahin.com

Website : www.agriotelsahin.com

Hatemoglu Hotel (3*)

Phone : 0090 (472) 215 65 65

E-Mail : info@otelhatemoglu.com

Website : <http://otelhatemoglu.com>

Hotel Metecan (2*)

Phone : 0090 (472) 2163854

Beyazıt Hotel

Phone : 0090 (472) 2157770

E-Mail : beyazitotel@gmail.com

Website : www.beyazitotomotiv.com

Büyük Ağrı Hotel

Phone : 0090 (472) 2151140 - 2154861

E-Mail : buyukagrioteli@gmail.com

Website : www.buyukagrioteli.com.tr

Kılıçaslan Hotel

Phone : 0090 (472) 2151116 - 2159199

Website : www.otelkilicaslan.com

Hotel Acar

Phone : 0090 (472) 2151130

Hotel Akbulut

Phone : 0090 (472) 2154014

Hotel Aydemir

Phone : 0090 (472) 2152260

Hotel Salman
Phone : 0090 (472) 2152430

Ađrı Teacherage
Phone : 0090 (472) 2152889
Website : www.agriogretmenevi.com.tr

Dođubayazıt

Golden Hill Hotel (3*)
Phone : 0090 (472) 3128717
E-Mail : goldenhill@windowslive.com

Hotel Nuh (3*)
Phone : 0090 (472) 3127232 - 3127233
E-Mail : hotelnuh@hotmail.com
Website : www.hotelnuh.com

Hotel Simer (3*)
Phone : 0090 (472) 3124848-3124842-312 48 43
E-Mail : dbeyazit@simerhotel.com
Website : www.simerhotel.com

Hotel Ararat
Phone : 0090 (472) 3124988
E-Mail : info@hotelararatturkey.com
Website : www.hotelararatturkey.com

Hotel Byk Derya
Phone : 0090 (472) 3127531

Hotel Ortadođu
Phone : 0090 (472) 3124225
E-Mail : metinyvz1@hotmail.com

Diyadin

Esmat Hotel
Phone : 0090 (472) 5112725
E-Mail : esmatotel@hotmail.com

Diyadin Teacherage
Phone : 0090 (472) 5112362 - 5112205
E-Mail : diyadinogretmenevi@hotmail.com

Patnos

Patnos Urartu Hotel
Phone : 0090 (472) 6161206 - 6161208

Patnos Teacherage
Phone : 0090 (472) 6161021
Website : www.patnosogretmenevi.com

Tutak

Tutak Municipality Pension
Phone : 0090 (472) 4112320

IMPORTANT PHONES

Police 155
Gendarmerie 156
Emergency Service 112
Forest Fire 177

INFORMATION AND LOCAL GUIDANCE

Ağrı Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism 0472 2153217
www.agrikulturturizm.gov.tr

GPS coordinates and information : www.agritrekking.com
info@agritrekking.com
www.ersindemirel.blogspot.com
www.cultureroutesinturkey.com

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