



**İĞDIR TOURISM
DISCOVERY GUIDE
and
TREKKING ROUTES**

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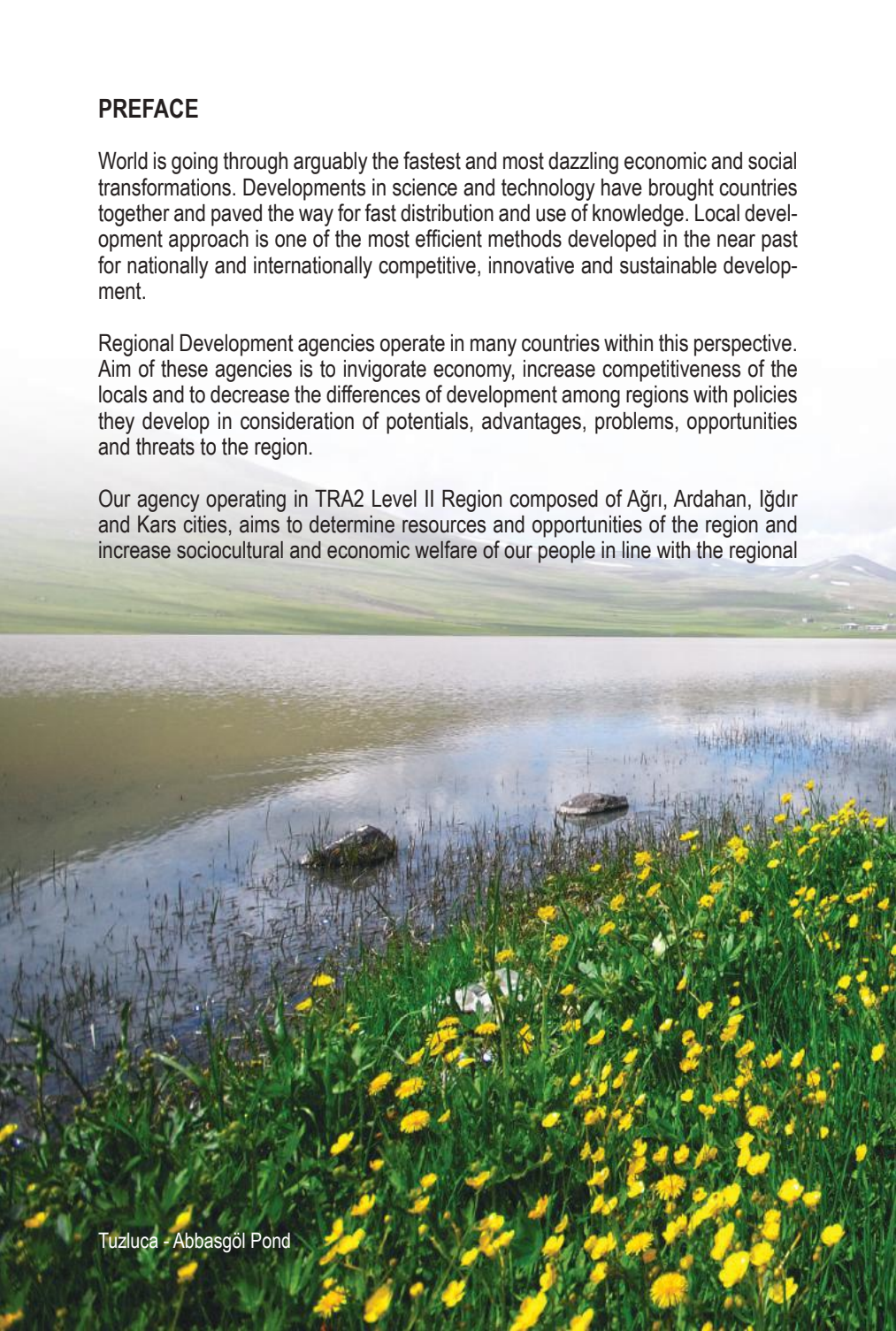
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PREFACE

World is going through arguably the fastest and most dazzling economic and social transformations. Developments in science and technology have brought countries together and paved the way for fast distribution and use of knowledge. Local development approach is one of the most efficient methods developed in the near past for nationally and internationally competitive, innovative and sustainable development.

Regional Development agencies operate in many countries within this perspective. Aim of these agencies is to invigorate economy, increase competitiveness of the locals and to decrease the differences of development among regions with policies they develop in consideration of potentials, advantages, problems, opportunities and threats to the region.

Our agency operating in TRA2 Level II Region composed of Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars cities, aims to determine resources and opportunities of the region and increase sociocultural and economic welfare of our people in line with the regional

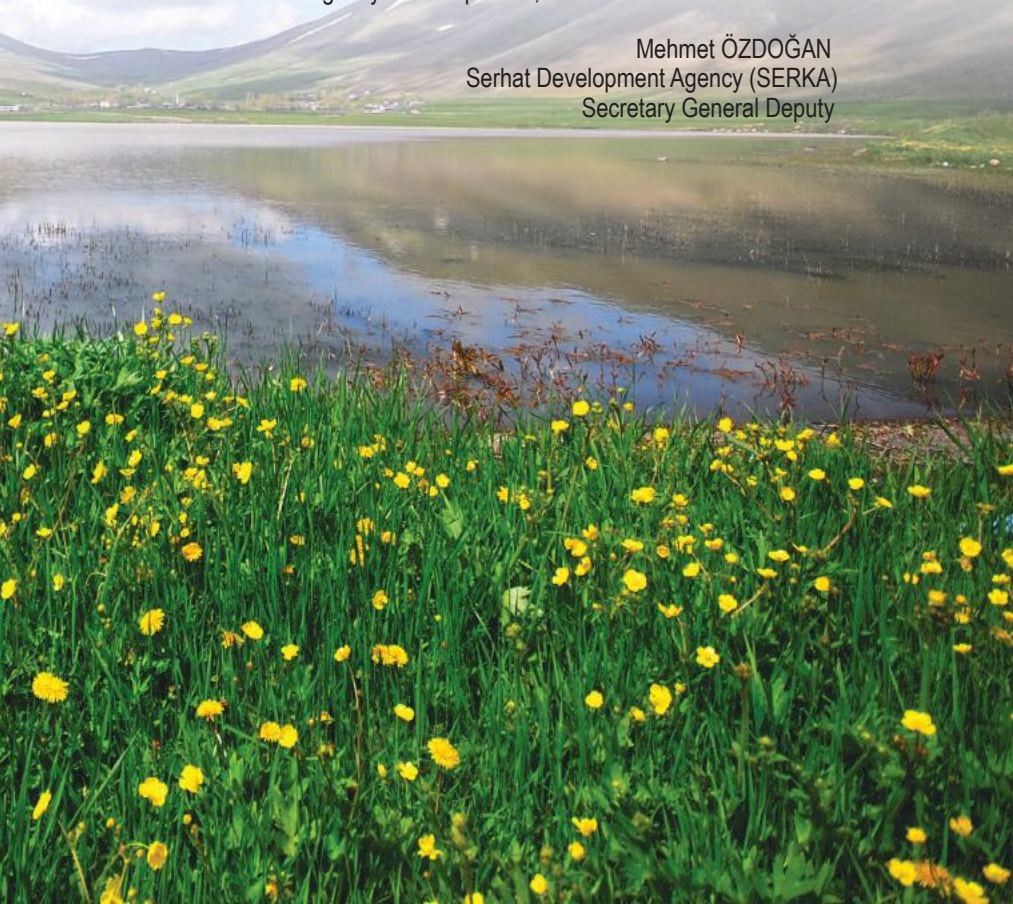


development objectives along with sharing the beauty of our region with people of our country and the world.

We aim to exploit ecotourism potential of the country to include branches such as historical city tours, camping, mountaineering, trekking, mountain biking, etc., and to introduce to modern persons trying to reacquaint with themselves with keeping in consideration the usage-protection balance of historical and social structure bearing mark of past cultures and the geographical beauties. Within this framework, "İğdır Tourism Discovery Guide" is a sequel to the works prepared for Sarıkamış, Kars, Ağrı and Ardahan.

The guide book you are holding is prepared to introduce the historical, cultural and natural beauties of our region without destroying natural life and I hereby would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Hüseyin TUTAR, founder Secretary General of our Agency for his unyielding work, to Mr. Ersin DEMİREL for his meticulous work, to Dr. Uğur ÇALIŞKAN, our Research, Strategy Development and Planning Department Director of our agency for his opinions, works and contributions.

Mehmet ÖZDOĞAN
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Secretary General Deputy



ABOUT İĞDIR

Located in the plains surrounded by mountains, İğdir has a surprising geography with its varying topographic structure. This large area surrounded by Alagöz Mountain (4058 m) on the Armenian border to the north, Karasu – Aras mountain range and Lesser and Greater Ağrı Mountains to the south has an interestingly different land structure. Vivified by the Aras River to the north, İğdir Plains is dominated by the green of orchards and agriculture fields, while the heights to the south shadow the plain with its snow white peaks. The land between the mountains and the plains has a varying view with deep valleys, streams, seasonal ponds, volcanic calcified lava flow and natural formations resembling Cappadocia. The skirts of Ağrı mountain at the south of Aralık and Karakoyunlu Counties is adorned with mainly black lava flow and calcified scum, while the central county and south of Tuzluca has a soil composition of harmonious pink, brown, white and green.

Surrounded by Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in Azerbaijan to the east, Iran to the southeast, Ağrı to the south, Kars to the west and northwest and Armenia to the north and northeast, İğdir is located on an important trade route used by caravans for centuries. The wide plain called Sürmeli Depression in Turkey and Sahat Depression in Armenia is the area people have settled after the great flood of Noah according to Bible. Located on the eastern edge of our borders makes the city “where the sun rises the first”.

Major heights of the city are located in its south. The most important peaks of Karasu – Aras (South Aras) mountain range that lie in an east – west direction for kilometers are Haşhaş (2554 m), Köroğlu (2895 m), Kızılcaziyaret (2887



Tuzluca



Tuzluca - Kandilli Uplands

m), Kavak (2521 m), Kuzkuzbaba (3027 m), Koh (3112 m), Perili (3142 m), Durak (2811 m), Zor (3196 m) and Pamuk (2639 m) summits. Among these 2550 meter high Akoluk (Tekaltı) Mountain has a special place. This summit at the northern tip of the range is in view of everywhere in Iğdır. Whether you enter the city from Kars or Ağrı or even Iran, it will welcome you with its sharp peak. To the east two massive mountains not a part of the range, rise to the skies. The best way to photograph these mountains in Aralık county; Greater Ağrı (5137 m) casting a shadow on Iğdır plane and which is the tallest peak of Turkey and Europe and 7th highest peak of our country Lesser Ağrı (3896 m).

The most beautiful valleys of Iğdır are located in Tuzluca County. Valleys of Aşağı Stream between Abbasgöl - İnce - Bağlan - Üçkaya, Acı Stream between Kandilli - Taşköprü - Karacaören - Ünlendi - Üçkaya, Sariabdal Stream between Canderviş - Akdiz - Kelekli - Sariabdal and Uğruca Stream on the line of Uğruca - Güzeldere - Göktaş yield panoramic views with their surprising earth shapes. Plateaus scattered in the nooks of the mountains on alpine meadows are the major elements of tourism potential of Iğdır. Along with Serdarbulak and Korhan Plateaus on the skirts of Ağrı Mountain, plateaus of Iğdır with their stunning views can be seen on the skirts of the mountain ranges that cover the south. Especially plateaus such as Güngörmez, Arslanlı, Tutak, Keko, Sado, Konaklı, Kandilli, Nahırkiran, Hacıbedir, Kızılcaziyaret, Kazkoparan and Akpınar that spread on the flowery meadows on the skirts of the snowy peaks are so beautiful to compete their counterparts in Eastern Black Sea Region. Surrounded by mountains to the south, Iğdır's most important stream is Aras

River that stems from the Bingöl province. This long river that sets the border with Armenia joins with Arpaçay river stemming from Lake Çıldır at Halıkışla and gets stronger. Other notable water sources of the City are Gaziler (Pernavut), Buruksu, Orta Karasu, Aşağı Karasu, Karaçomak, Yakup and Güngörmez streams. Seasonal waterfalls can be observed on these streams. Waterfalls that dry up or slow down in summer are Bahçelimeydan, Göktaş, Uğruca, Şip (Serdarbulak Plateau) and Zegman (Yenidoğan). İğdir does not house a natural or glacial lake. Only example that can be counted as a glacial lake is the Lake Küp at the skirts of Ağrı mountain that is about to dry up. Many ponds that are formed by winter rain and most of which dry up in August can be observed. Abbasgöl, Ağabey, Aşağıraktaş, Aşağı Güllüce Yaylası, Âşık Hüseyin, Aliköse (Nevruz), Greater Ağrı Mountain, Bendemurat, Bahçelimeydan, Çiçekli, Yukarı Çıyrıklı, Dipsiz, Gürgüre, Kayaören, Karasu, Ortabucak Haraba, Ortabucak Çilli, Serdarbulak, Sado, Turna, Uğruca, Unbulak, Üçkaya (Ekerek) and Yukarıkatırlı ponds are the water sources highly vital for villages and plateaus. Lake Balık at 2250 m. elevation, which is within borders of Ağrı and gets as close as 500 meters to the border of Tuzluca county of İğdir and reed lake Karasu – Aralık can be added to these.

Streams and ponds are the main sources of the aqueduct system of the region that has been used for millennia in the region. Lack of significant rainfall, irregularity of the rainfall regime and high amount of vaporization point out to the importance of agricultural irrigation in İğdir plain. Agriculture starting during the Urartu era has led to construction and use of irrigation canals.

The most important of the water canals dated back to 7th century B.C. are the structures that are built by stopping Karacaören Stream stemming from Sinek Plateau. Aliköse canal starting from Kayaören Village, Akçalı Quarter and winding down for 12 kilometers; 15 km long Mollakamer Canal that brings water to Mollakamer and Güllüce villages, Haraba Canal starting from Ortabucak (Haraba) village and watering Hamurkesen (Pecinis), Yüceotak, Bağlan (Gülabi) and Hadımlı villages and Üçkaya Canal starting from Ünlendi are most important parts of this system.

Other examples of historical water canals include; Günorta Gaşı Canal starting from Canderviş village and reaching Sariabdal Village after flowing through Akdiz, Hasankent, Çiçekli and Kelekli villages, Zor Canal that uses streams stemming from Zor Mountains and passing through Karaçomak - Aliköçek - Nişankaya - Harmandöven and Karaçomak - Bendemurat - Örüşmüş Routes and Ahmet Gor Canal 6 km southeast of Karakoyunlu County.

Due to its volcanic land natural flora is not diversified. Existence of basaltic, alluvial, clay and salty earth are the most prominent evidence of volcanic structure. Unfortunately İğdir is the poorest city of Turkey with respect to forestry. Especially due to its subarid

climate had led to the dominance of the typical flora of the Eastern Anatolia; steppes. Over two thousand meters elevation alpine meadows can be observed occasionally.

Economy of the region is based on agricultural products. This is mainly due to fertility of İğdır plains caused by the alluvium carried by Aras River and the land combined with the volcanic materials coming down Ağrı Mountain. The region grows agricultural products such as barley, grain, rye, paddy; vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbage, cucumber, aubergine, onion, beans, sugar beet, pumpkin, pepper, potatoes, kidney bean and fruits such as apricot, apple, cherry, melon, musk melon, mulberry, watermelon, grapes, peach, pear and walnut. Especially the apricot (unripened melon of İğdır) that is grown only in Kağızman (Kars) and İğdır Plain is known worldwide. Ripening in the last week of June, this sweet apricot is unique in its elliptic shape. Rock salt mined in Tuzluca Caves and pumice stone from Aralık County are the main mining products of the region. Operating as a salt mine since 1923, Tuzluca Caves go 270 meters deep.





Tuzluca - Uğruca Valley



AĞRI MOUNTAIN AND NATIONAL PARK

Declared Ağrı mountain National Park in 2004, 88,014 hectare area is spread over Iğdır and Ağrı Cities. Located within the borders of Doğubayazıt County of Ağrı and Aralık and Karakoyunlu Counties of Iğdır, the national park is most notable for Greater Ağrı summit (5137 m.) which is the highest peak in Europe and Turkey and its sister Lesser Ağrı peak. Park consists of three sections namely Greater and Lesser Ağrı Mountains, Meteor Depression and Noah's Arc region. Rising over common base up to 2500 meters, these two mountains are separated by the 14 kilometers long Serdarbulak Pass (2687 m.). The best photographs of Greater and Lesser Ağrı can be taken from Aralık and Doğubayazıt counties.

65% of the Ağrı Mountain, which is called Eğri (Crooked) Mountain by ancient Turks, Küh-i Nuh by Persians, Cebel ül Haris by Arabs, Masik by Armenians and Ararat by Western countries, is located within Iğdır's borders. It is a dormant volcano with basalt up to 4000 meters and andesite lava above that. Ağrı Moun-



Aralık – Geater and Lesser Ararat

tain also hosts the largest glacier of Turkey. Its top formation is a typical ice cap. Observed at as low as 3500 meters, thin glacier turns into valley glacier below 4500 meters. Despite being surrounded by numerous valleys all around, the most characteristic of these are the glacial valleys to the south and north. The glacial valley to the north of Ağrı Mountain, on the border with Iğdır City is also known as Ahura Depression and the glacial valley to the south is called Öküz Deresi.

An important mountain due to its geological location and the myth of housing the Noah's Ark after The Biblical Flood, Ağrı Mountain was described "not to be climbed ever" centuries ago by the famous wanderer Marco Polo. The first climb was done in 1829 by Prof. Frederik von Parat. Dr. Bozkurt Ergör, a former chairman of Mountaineering Federation became the first Turkish mountaineer to climb to the summit with his climb in 1970. Ağrı Mountain, the highest peak of our country and Europe, hosts thousands of mountaineers and travelers as a popular destination for those in love of heights and climbing.





Harmandöven (Ejder) Caravansary

The region containing traces of Paleolithic and Mesolithic ages, especially Sürmeli Depression is one of the most important living spaces of humanity. The plains between Ağrı and Alagöz mountains where Iğdır is located has been under dominance of Hurris, Urartus, Cimmerian, Sakas, Persian, Helen, Arsaklı, Roman, Armenian, Sassanian, Oghuz, İlkanid, Karakoyunlu, Akkoyunlu, Safavid, Seljuk, Ottoman and Russians through history. The trace of this historical wealth can be observed in many parts of the city.



Tuzluca - Bahçecik Köroğlu Castle

On the route of caravan, Iğdır hosts plenty of castles. Almost always nested on rocky ground on high peaks, these defensive structures are Karakale (Sürmeli), Karakoyunlu, Iğdır (Korhan), Güngörmez (Köroğlu), Kasımın Tığı, Gaziler (Bahçecik Village) Kız Castle, Âşık Hüseyin, Katırlı, Aslanlı, Gedikli, Yağlı Castle, Aliköse, Kumbulak, Bahçecik (Rağbet) Köroğlu Castle, Çiçekli, Şedik Castle, Kalaça (Galaca), Kandilli, Karakoyun, Yüceotağ, Alçalı, Kumbulak and Ünlendi Castles. Unfortunately most of these castles have been destroyed. Karakale Castle with only parts of its walls erect, located in a military zone 2 kilometers to Sürmeli; Köroğlu Castle in Bahçecik Village and Şedik Castle near Elmalık Village and Iğdır Castle in Korhan Plateau can be visited.



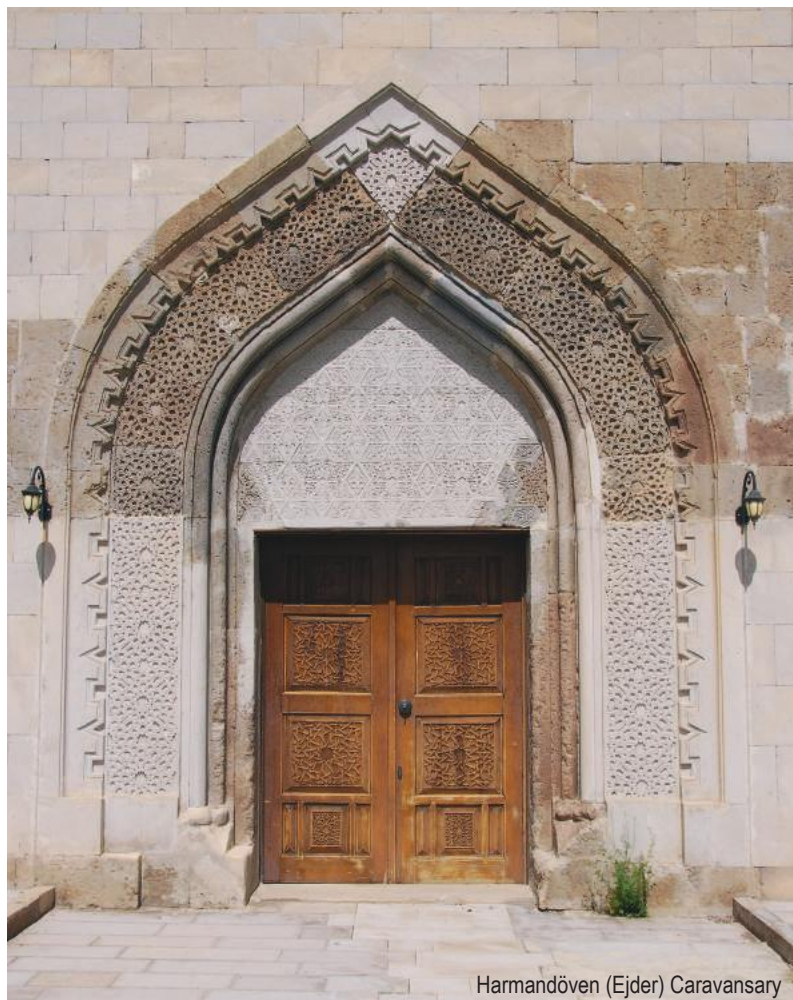
Aralık - Serdarbulak Caserne



Aralık - Kolikent Dome



Aralık - Gödeklî Dome



Harmandöven (Ejder) Caravansary



Kirikdirek Armenian Cemetery



Karakoyunlu Sepulcher



Historic Cemetery



Karakoyunlu - Battering-Ram Grave



Aralık - Serdarbulak Başeme



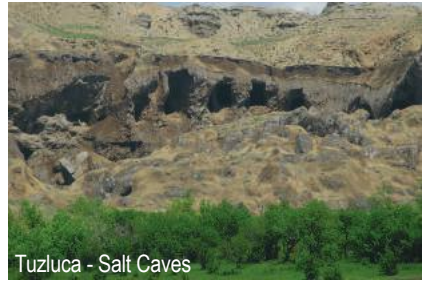
Tuzluca - Surmeli Castle



Aralık - Ortaköy Turkish Bath

Among the archeological sites are Melekli Kültepe and Gaziler Küllütepe barrows and Asma and Kamışlı rock settlements are worth mentioning. There are many sepulchers in the city. The most notable ones are Yukarıerhacı, Çıraklı, Göktaş, Aşağıaktaş and Karakoyun sepulchers. Aşağıaktaş Sepulcher in Tuzluca County is in a location commanding Aras basin. There are stairs visible on the platform over the sepulcher located south of a rock mass. Built in the same form, Göktaş Sepulcher is also atop a large rock.

Other historical monuments in Iğdır are; vaults, grave stelas, Harmandöven (Ejder) Caravansary built by Seljuks in 13th century. Ortaköy bath and manor in Aralık County. Kul Yusuf Vault in Çakırtaş village of Central County and Gödekli and Kolikent vaults in the villages of the same names of Aralık county are other notable examples reflecting Seljuk era with their architecture. Ram formed grave stelas can be found in Ağaver, Çakırtaş, Hakmehmet, Kasımcan, Kuzugüden, Küllük, Melekli, Aşağıerhacı, Yayı, Karakoyunlu, Ortaköy, Aşağıkatırlı and Hadımlı graveyards.



Tuzluca - Salt Caves



Aralık - Serdarbulak Caserne



Aralık - Tekaltı Caserne



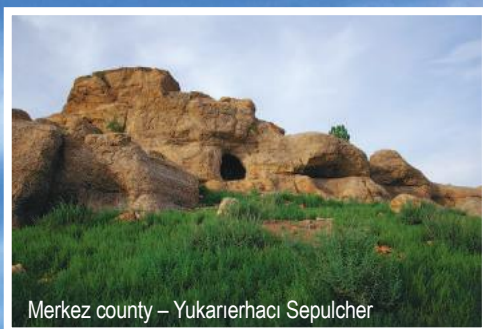
Merkez county - Kul Yusuf dome



Merkez county - Korhan plateau church



Tuzluca – Aşağıaktaş Sepulcher



Merkez county – Yukarıerhacı Sepulcher



Day 1: Tuzluca Caves - Aşağıaktaş Sepulcher, Göktaş Sepulcher - Uğruca Valley

Tuzluca Caves located 42 km to İğdir city center is our first stop. After the caves that are known to be good for asthma, Aşağıaktaş and Göktaş sepulchers are visited. After the historical journey, you can witness village and transhumance in Uğruca Valley, which will astonish you with its beauty. Returning through Uğruca Pond we stay the night in Tuzluca County.



Tuzluca - Salt Caves



**Day 2: Üçkaya - Ünlendi - Karacaören
- Kandilli - Ünlendi - Hamurkesen -
Aliköse - İnce - Kamışlı**

Next morning's route will again take us to the valleys and plateaus spread to the south of Tuzluca. Karacaören Valley starting from Üçkaya village to Kandilli will astonish you with surprises. We recommend you to pick a fine weather to take this tour to be able to shoot good photographs. You can see water canals starting from Ünlendi village on your way back. We stay the night in Iğdır city center.



Tuzluca - Üçkaya Castle and Pond



Day 3: Abbasgöl - Lake Balık Walk

Third day can be spared for activities that will leave you in the cradle of nature. After an easy walk stating from Abbasgöl Pond to Lake Balık in Ağrı city border, you can rest in the banks of the lake. We return to İğdir for the night.



Balık Lake, Border of Ağrı - İğdir Provinces

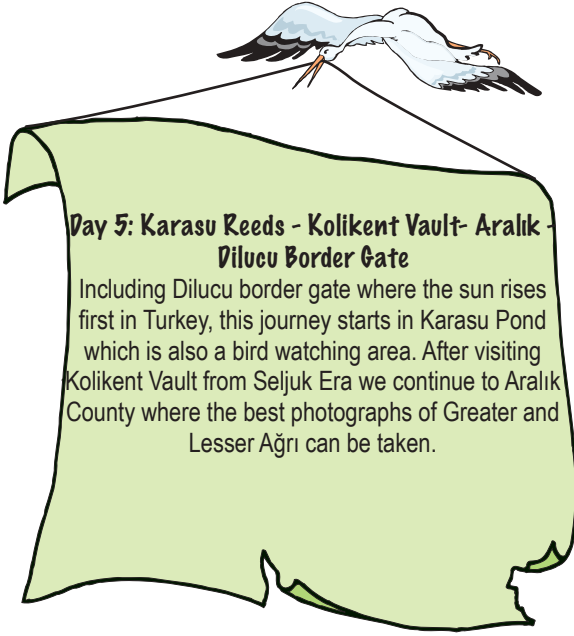


**Day 4: Harmandöven Caravansary - Asma
Rock Settlement - Zor Water Canal - Kul
Yusuf Vault**

On the fourth day a journey in history from Urartu era to Seljuk era awaits you. You can spare the rest of the day for the city tour.



Central County – Asma Village Rock Settlement



Day 5: Karasu Reeds - Kolikent Vault- Aralık - Dilucu Border Gate

Including Dilucu border gate where the sun rises first in Turkey, this journey starts in Karasu Pond which is also a bird watching area. After visiting Kolikent Vault from Seljuk Era we continue to Aralık County where the best photographs of Greater and Lesser Ağrı can be taken.



Karasu – Aralık Wetland



Tuzluca – Aşağıtaş Sepulcher



Aralık – Greater and Lesser Ararat ...



Surrounded by high mountains to the south and Aras River basin to the north, Iğdır is among the richest regions of the east with respect to plant wildlife. Covered mainly with steppes and Iğdır Plain created by Aras River, city hosts very little forests. About 1700 to 1800 plant species are estimated within the borders of the city. This diversity includes approximately 60 endemic species. Undoubtedly the lushest part of this geography is the skirts of Ağrı Mountain. It also hosts most of the endemic species of the region. Notable examples are Acem Persian Gypsyweed (*Veronica persica* Poiret), chrysanthemum (*Erodium chrysanthum*) and Ryegrass, *Centaurea depressa* Bieb, lemon balm (*Centaurea depressa*).

Some of the plant species observed in Iğdır are; juniper, alder, birch, Caucasus clover, red clover, white clover, wild tare, trefoil, Brome, foxtail, *festuca ovina*, wild barley, wild grain, wild rye, annular gillyflower, pilous gillyflower, corn broomrap, balanic tulip, dog harmal, astragalus, mountain tea, *Jurinella moschus*, feverfew, papaver, *Onobrychis viciifolia*, esparsette, yapışkan kirpi diken, blueweed, rose hip, wild rose, tangler, hollyhock, yünlü gelin, conic catchfly, trefoil, *Crupina crupinastrum*, common catchfly, heather, windflower, Davis clover, colored vetch, elegant leafed flax, zeyzek, scabiosa, Caucasian catnip, *Ornithogalum oligophyllum*, Prussian asparagus, Pyrenees *Ornithogalum oligophyllum*, tavşan topu, anchusa, sky-blue anchusa – *borago officinalis*, dandelion – common dandelion, Ağrı Mountain broomrap, wormwood, papak otu and gladiola. Botanic tour containing endemic species and photo safari activities can be done on the skirts of Ağrı Mountain.

Fauna samples observed in Iğdır city borders are Caspian snowcock, rock partridge, grey partridge, mountain sheep, *rupicapra rupicapra ornata*, fox, wolf, hare, lynx, boar, vulture, eagle and falcon.



Ornithogalum narbonneense



Sainfoin

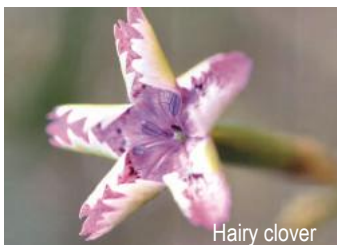


Sainfoin

FLORA and FAUNA



Veronica persica



Hairy clover



Astragalus Glycyphyllos



Cone shaped woodruff



Rindera lanata v lanata



Cephalaria syriaca
(Cyanus lanigerus - Melissa officinalis)



Echinops viscosus



Absinthe (Helichrysum)



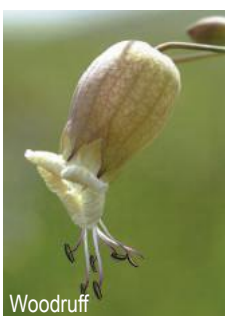
Nonea Stenosolen



Tree Heath



Plateau flower



Woodruff



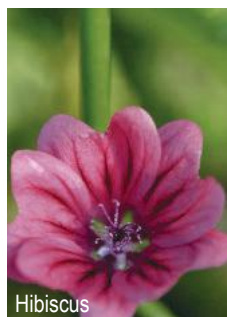
Ağrı Mountain
Orobanch



Blueweed



Windflower



Hibiscus



Crupina Crupinastrum



Davis clover



Mountain tea



Caucasia catmint



Peganum Harmala



Anchusa azurea

BIRD WATCHING AREAS OF İĞDIR

305 bird species recorded in İğdir is 65% of the species in our country and this is the mark that İğdir is the most important living space for birds. The most important element is the Aras River bird sanctuary. Being the richest area east of Samsun – Adana line, Aras River Bird Sanctuary meets 4 separate criteria of Ramsar status given to globally important wetlands.



Golden eagle



Yukarı Çıyıklı Wetland

1- Aras Bird Sanctuary: Apart from being located on one of the most important bird migration routes (Africa – Eurasia), Aras Valley, located in borders of İğdir, is also an Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). Millions of songbirds and birds of prey migrate through Aras valley each spring to their breeding areas in Nordic countries, and each fall to Africa, their wintering areas. During this migration tens of thousands of birds rest and feed in this valley. In Aras Bird Research and Training Centre founded in Yukarı Çıyıklı Village of Tuzluca County in 2006, 43.000 birds from 175 species have been ringed by KuzeyDoğa Association within the scope of scientific researches. Along with other observations 244 bird species have been recorded and this means more than half (52%) of 471 bird species in Turkey. Of these species, 24 are globally endangered. Aras Bird Sanctuary also houses species new to Turkey. Schikra Hawk, not observed in İğdir before has been added to bird inventory of Turkey as a new species. Aras Bird Research and Training Centre is the first centre and ringing station in Eastern Anatolia, and one of three active ringing stations in Turkey. Birds ringed in South Africa, Siberia and Israel have been captured in Aras station and other birds ringed in Aras have been spotted in Zambia, Cyprus, Ukraine and Hungary. These results prove that the study area is one of the globally important regions for resting, feeding and breeding for birds on their migration route. It is vital to continue studies to make more research on the region, to protect the area by informing locals about birds and to determine the effects of global warming.

2- Karasu - Aralık Reeds: Located in Bulakbaşı village of Karakoyunlu County, this pond is formed of water melting from the Ahura glacier in Ağrı mountain at 4000 m elevation. Known as Ahura Water (Holly water granted by God) by the locals, the region is a center of attraction with its rich bird species and fresh water fish. The region in the border of fossil volcanic lava flow provides a sample of geographic diversity of the city with its blue waters and green reeds. Blue-cheeked bee-eater seen in the bird sanctuary, where 78 bird species were observed, is among the rare birds of Turkey. Additionally, coypu, which is observed in South



Bonelli's warbler



Karasu – Aralık Reeds

America, otter and turtles are other evidence of richness of the fauna of the region.

3- Lake Balık: Located between Taşlıçay and Doğubayazıt counties of Ağrı, Lake Balık is one of the most attractive regions of the country tourism with its green landscape and blue waters at 2250 meters. Bordering Tuzluca County of Iğdır, the fresh water lake also hosts many migrating birds.



Chukar



Long legged buzzard



Parus ater



Lesser kestrel

ABOUT TREKKING ROUTES



Balik Lake



ABOUT TREKKING ROUTES

İğdir hosts mountain climb routes and daily trekking routes that will more than please the nature lovers. Especially the mountains ranging from 1500 to 3000 meters, to the west of Ağrı Mountain are fairly suitable for trekking with its deep valleys and plateaus located on alpine meadows. The guide book you are holding includes daily trekking activities anyone can participate. With the increase of touristic activities, camp trekking and mountain climbing routes will be added.

Due to suitable geography, İğdir trekking routes generally spread over the valleys at the south of Tuzluca county border. You can choose to hike up in tranquil valleys in breathtaking green landscape in company with clear streams stemming from the snowy mountains. Some of the routes are in Lake Balık, which is located on the Ağrı border of İğdir. Located at elevation of 2250 meters, this lake is the largest high elevation lake of Turkey. Surrounded by 3000 meter high peaks, the lake shines rich blue in a basin. With 100 meters depth, this rare wetland presents a surprising view in winters when the surface freezes. Serdarbulak, one of the most important plateaus of İğdir did not go unnoticed during the preparation of the routes. One of the most important commercial and military passes of Anatolian Peninsula, Serdarbulak Pass, located between İğdir and Ağrı is being used for centuries. This trekking route planned between Serdarbulak Plateau and Güngören Plateau trails between Greater and Lesser Ağrı Mountains.

Still bearing the signs of the commercial buzz it once had, İğdir has other trekking routes which include climb to high mountains such as Greater and Lesser Ağrı at the east. Dubbed the roof of Turkey, Ağrı is the highest summit of Turkey with 5137 m height. Reaching the summit is possible through two routes; Classical Doğubayazıt route which can be attended by anyone during summers and İğdir route which requires technical climb. Professional climbers try several different routes. Since the guide book you're holding is a touristic work, only Ağrı-Doğubayazıt classical route which can be attended by any nature lover can climb is included to minimize risks; and İğdir route used by experienced mountaineers is briefly mentioned. Regardless of the climb route, it is an advantage that the summit of Ağrı mountain is within the borders of İğdir.

We should note that 3986 meters high Lesser Ağrı, which is among the hardest climbs of Turkey is within the trekking routes. GPS coordinates of all trekking routes and climbing routes have been defined and mapped. You can access GPS coordinates on www.igdirtrekking.com. To obtain the guide book which details the routes, you can send e-mail to info@igdirtrekking.com.

You should leave your footprint on plateaus, valleys and mountains of İğdir, the land of hospitable people offering travelers as guests and friends to share their food and tea, and experience the geographical diversity it offers.



Tuzluca - Uğruca Valley and Göktaş Rock Grave

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR TREKKERS

- İğdir trekking routes should be divided into daily trekking routes and Ağrı Mountain climb routes. For daily trekking routes get required information from the web site (www.igdirtrekking.com) and keep a guide familiar with the region.

- Since animal husbandry is common in the region, beware of shepherd dogs. Don't get close to herd during trekking.

- Since the routes are at high elevations, we should remind that cold winter days are risky.

- Regardless of circumstances, do not leave the routes directed by your guide or your GPS data.

- Keep a garbage bag with you all the time and bring back all your garbage. Please be sensitive and try not to litter the mountain and your environment.

Notes for climbing Ağrı Mountain

- You need to get permission from competent authorities to climb Ağrı Mountain. Foreign nationals should apply to consulate and Turkish citizens should directly apply to Doğubayazıt county governorship. The final stage of permission process takes to apply to gendarmerie. You can conclude this step with assistance from local guides or travel agencies without actually visiting the gendarmerie stations.

- There are two alternatives to climb Ağrı; classical route used commonly by mountaineers and İğdir route. Anyone without any health issues and in good shape can easily climb classical Ağrı Mountain route in summers with a guide. We should note that İğdir route is climbable only with technical equipment by professional mountaineers and a major part is glacier climb.

- Since seasonal effects are varying in Ağrı Mountain, classical route climb should be considered separately for summer and winter. While climbing the summit is possible in three or four days in summer, you may need to stay in the mountain for up to ten days in winter. While the temperature is not low in summer, it can go below -40°C in winter.

- There is a serious water problem in the mountain during summer. It is very hard to find water from Eli Village to the campsite at elevation 3200 meters. Starting in July, 3200 meter camp also lacks water. Lately this issue is addressed by bringing water through hose system from above. Yet, it is possible to lack water until afternoon in cold days due to freezing. Another method is to carry extra water on hired mules. Since the camp at elevation 4200 meters is located next to the glacier, it is possible to find water in any season. Using disinfectants in waters in both camps can help to keep away from any health problems.

- Since cracks in glaciers can pose serious threat, extra precaution should be taken during the climb.

- You can have cell phone reception through the classical route in Ağrı Mountain.

- Always consider weather conditions before the climb. Remember that even in August the morning frost can take temperature down to -15 °C.

- We should also remind that above 4800 meters the weather gets colder and winds start to blow harsher.

- In order to get used to the elevation and to be prepared against acute mountain disease, you can spend a day walking to 4200 meter camp from 3200 meter camp and back. You may experience headache and nausea especially above 4000 meters. Your ascend tempo should be slow and you should adapt to the height. Those experiencing acute mountain disease symptoms should not be stubborn and should lose a notch and get back to lower elevations.

- Get a guide familiar with the area to minimize all risks. Many agencies with TURSAB accreditation organize tours for classical Ağrı Mountain climb route. You can also seek support from region guides in the area and professional mountain guides.

- It should be noted that most of the accidents occur on the way back. Loss of concentration, fatigue and will to reach the camp site quickly causes serious accidents. We recommend you to treat all stages of the activity seriously and to walk at the same tempo, without rushing and taking breaks when necessary.



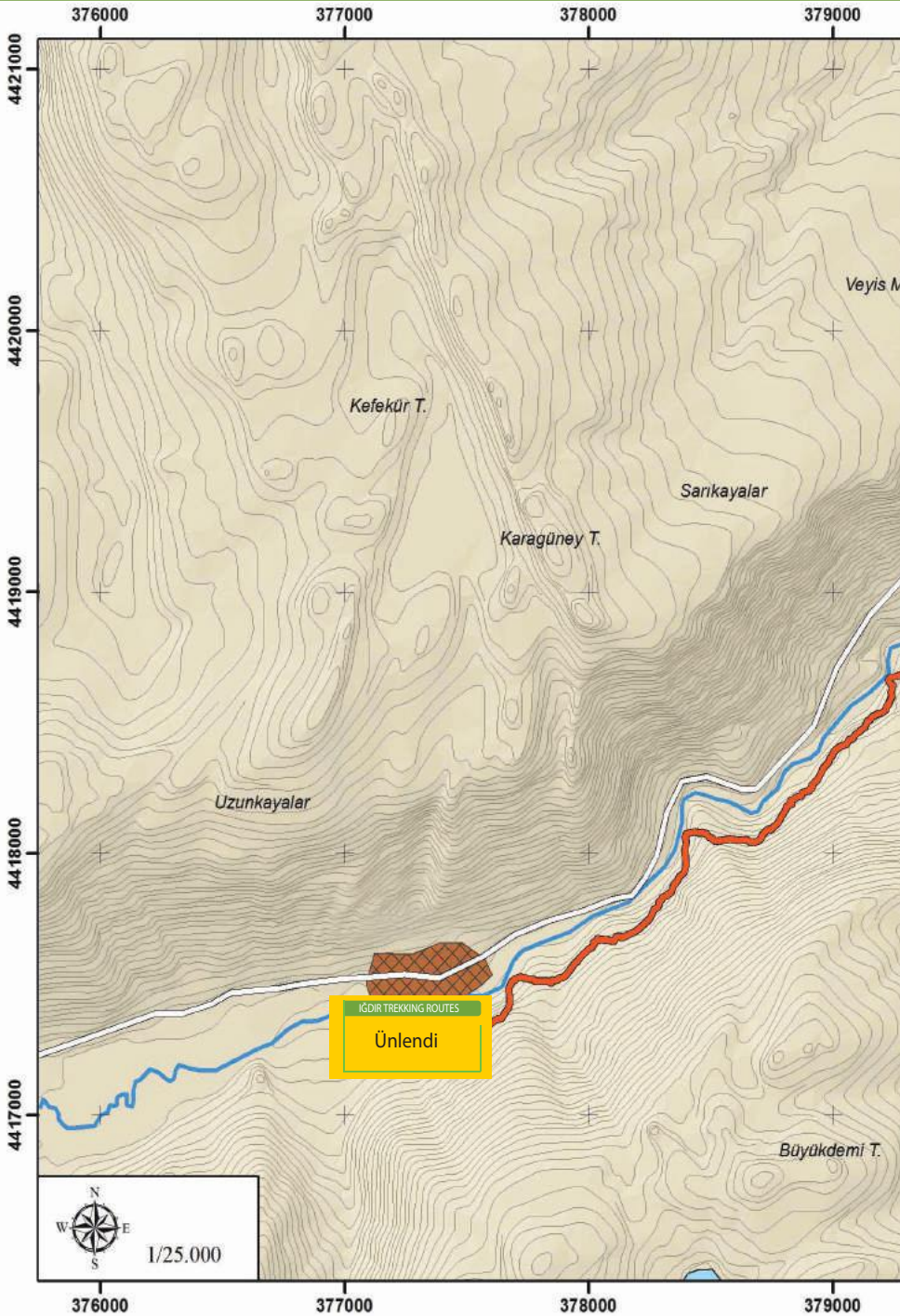
Tuzluca - Bağlan Village

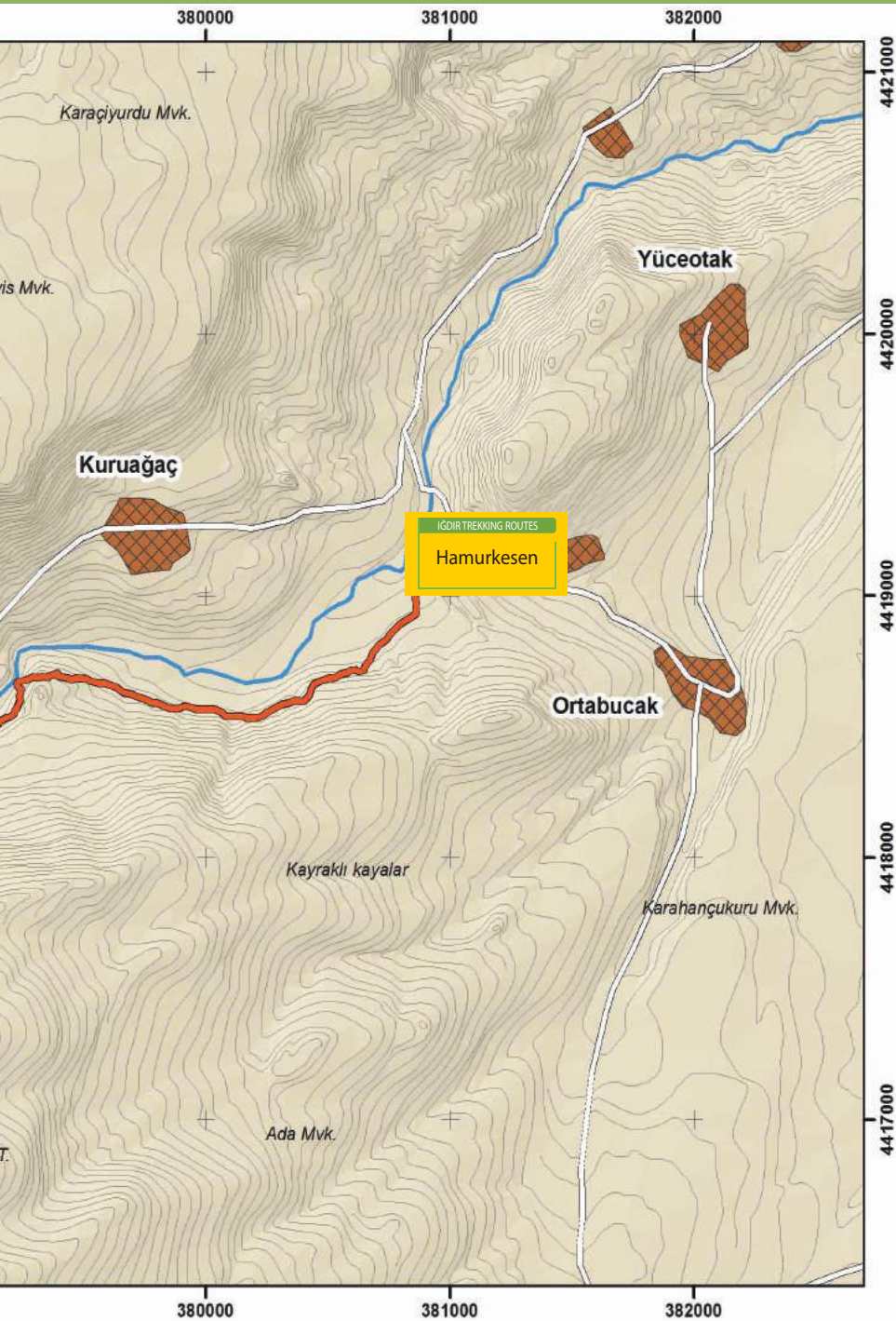
IĞDIR TREKKING ROUTES

Route 1: Ünlendi-Hamurkesen (5 km)

Ünlendi Village located in the middle of the Karacaören Valley has pastures spread over a wide meadow. The location where the stream fed by snows of Perili Mountain, Ünlendi will be the start of our activity. It should be noted that the route does not have a defined track. We cross the bridge in the settlement and start walking with the stream on our left. We will see a water canal used since ancient times at the right. Decorated with stones at some locations the canal is still used for irrigating the orchards. The valley narrowing towards the middle of the route will make it hard to walk for some time. Then it widens back and you keep on walking on the meadows. The Route ends in trout facility in Hamurkesen crossroad.







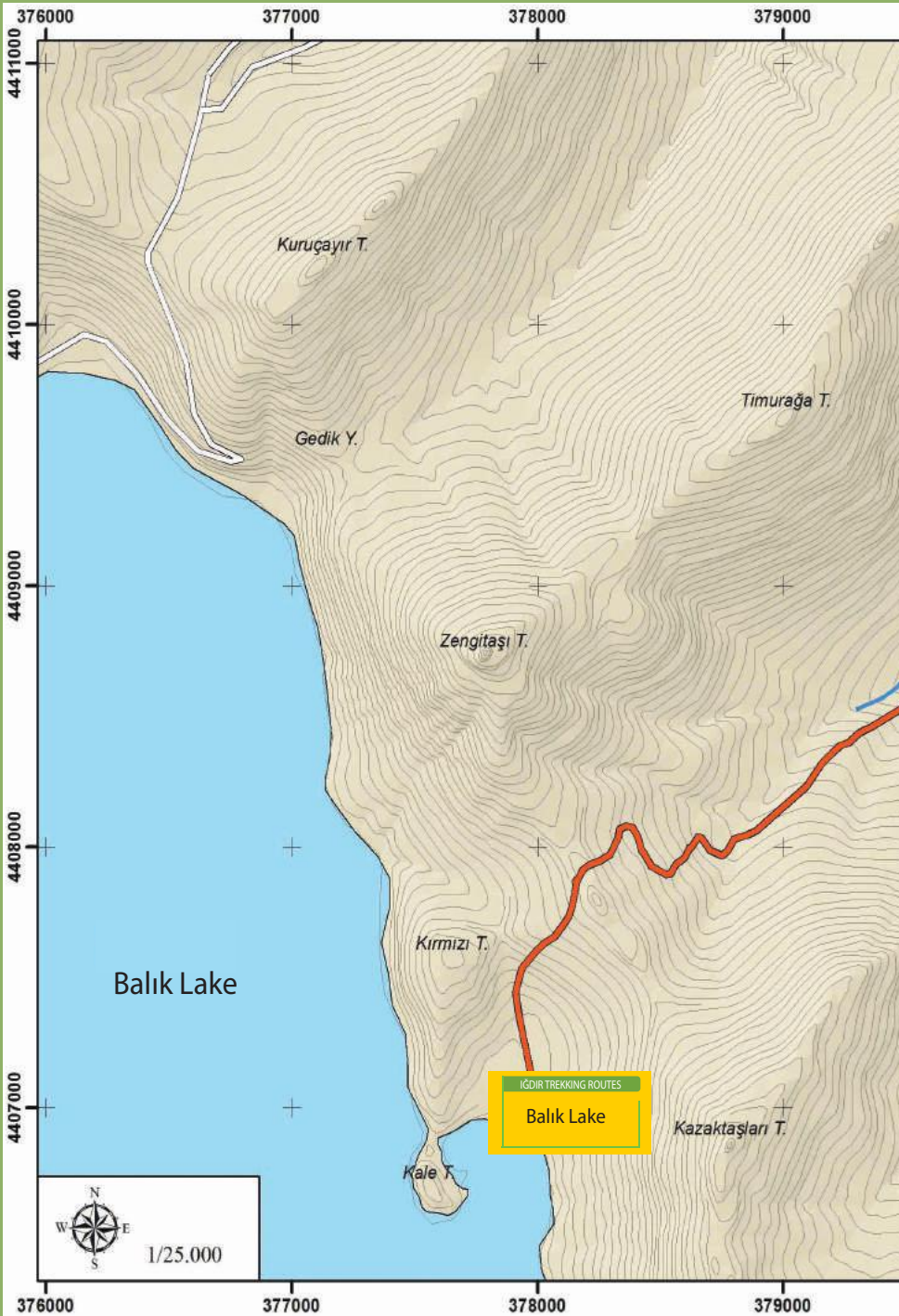
İÇDIR TREKKING ROUTES

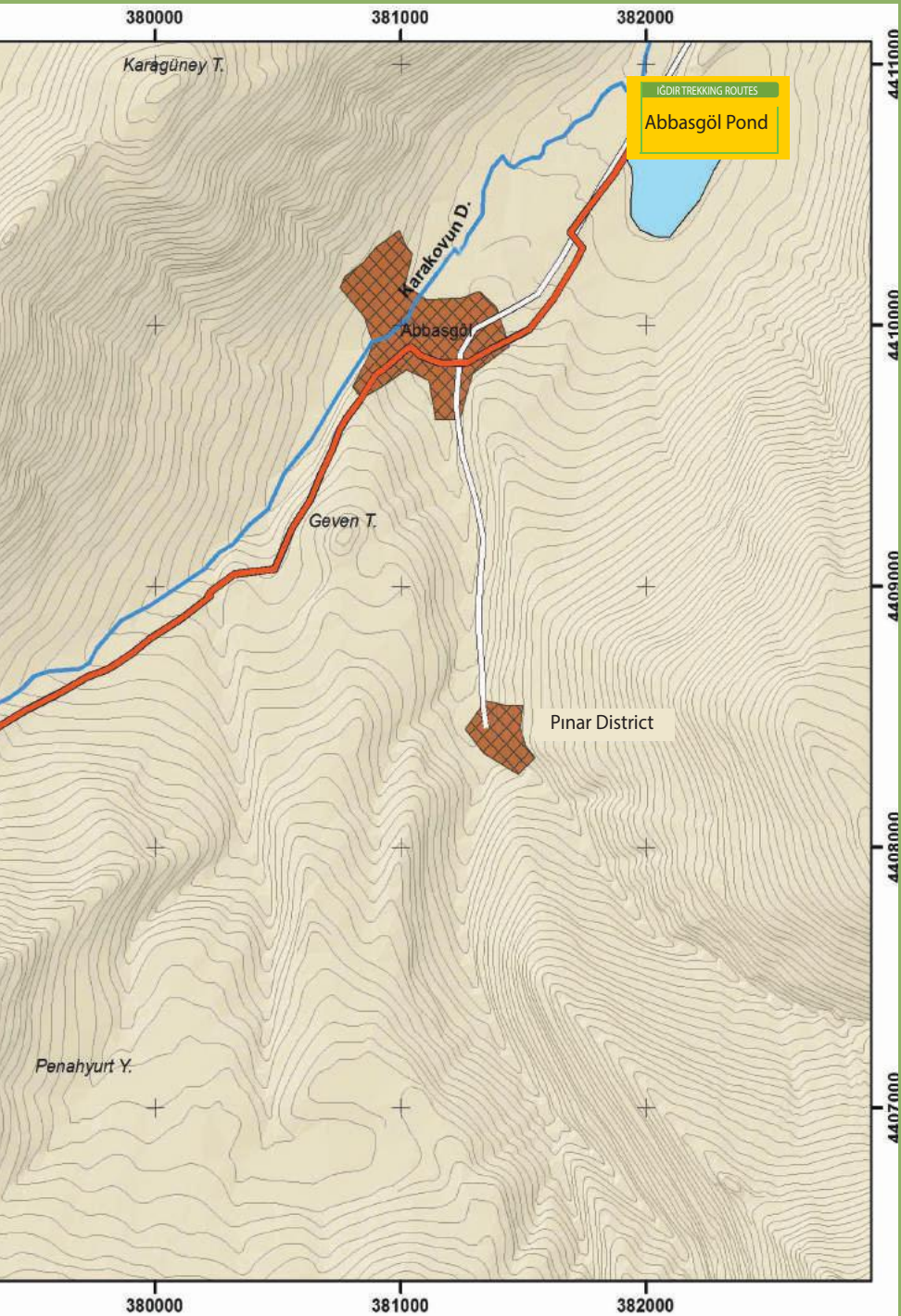
Route 2: Abbasgöl-Lake Balık (6 km)

This route which is short yet satisfying, starts at the pond right outside Abbasgöl settlement. Covering a wide area in spring, the pond dries up before the summer ends. You cross the village and continue ascending in dirt road. Rising with curves between Zengitaşı and Kazaktaşları hill, reveals the landscape of Lake Balık all of a sudden. At this point, which is also the border between Ağrı and İğdır, you can photograph the Abbasgöl plains behind and Lake Balık lying ahead like an endless sea. We start to descent. Take the left on the next intersection. The maiden beach you'll see below is the finish line of the route. You can take a swim break here in summers. The peninsula right in front of the natural beach hosts walls and ruins.

Balık Lake







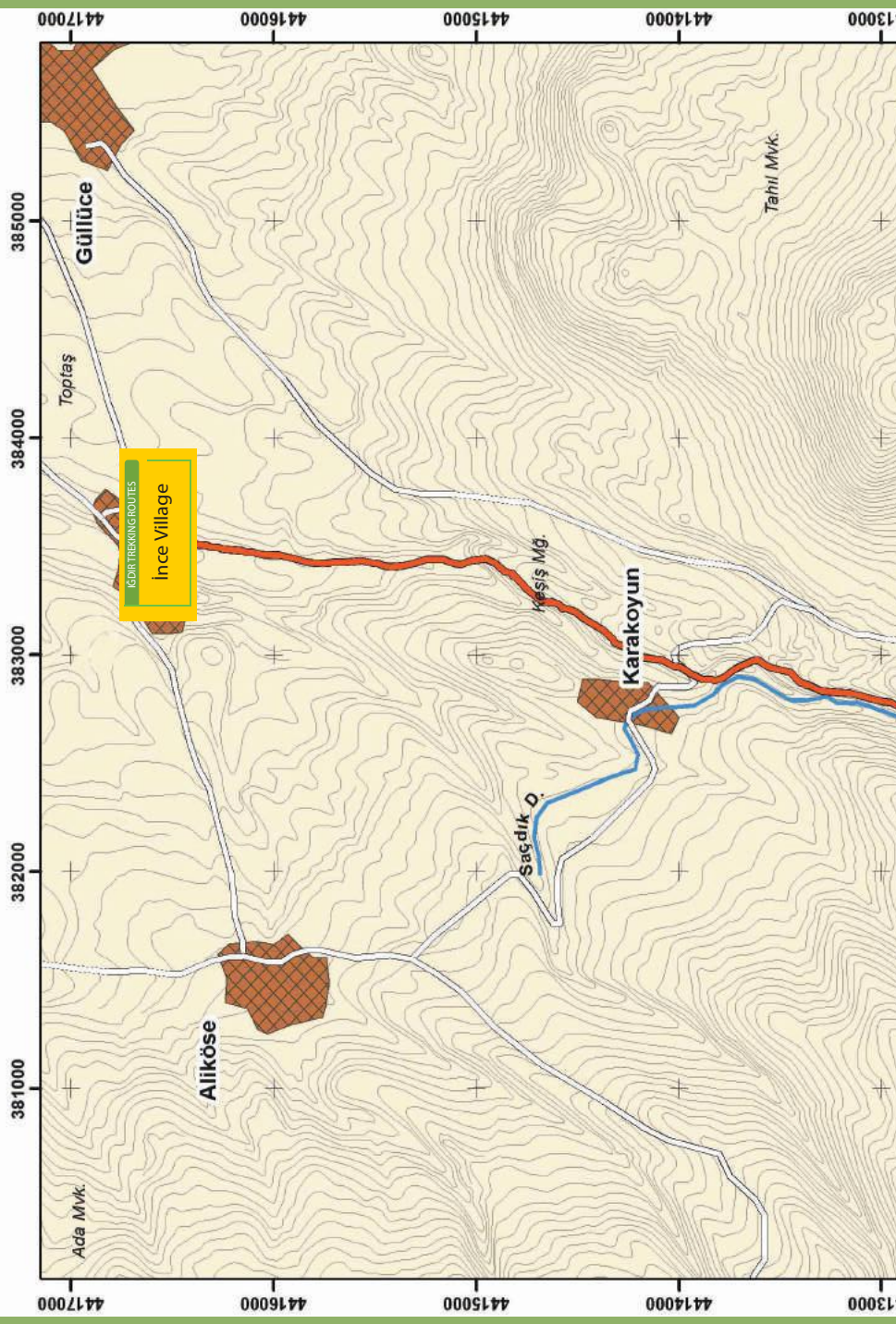
IĞDIR TREKKING ROUTES

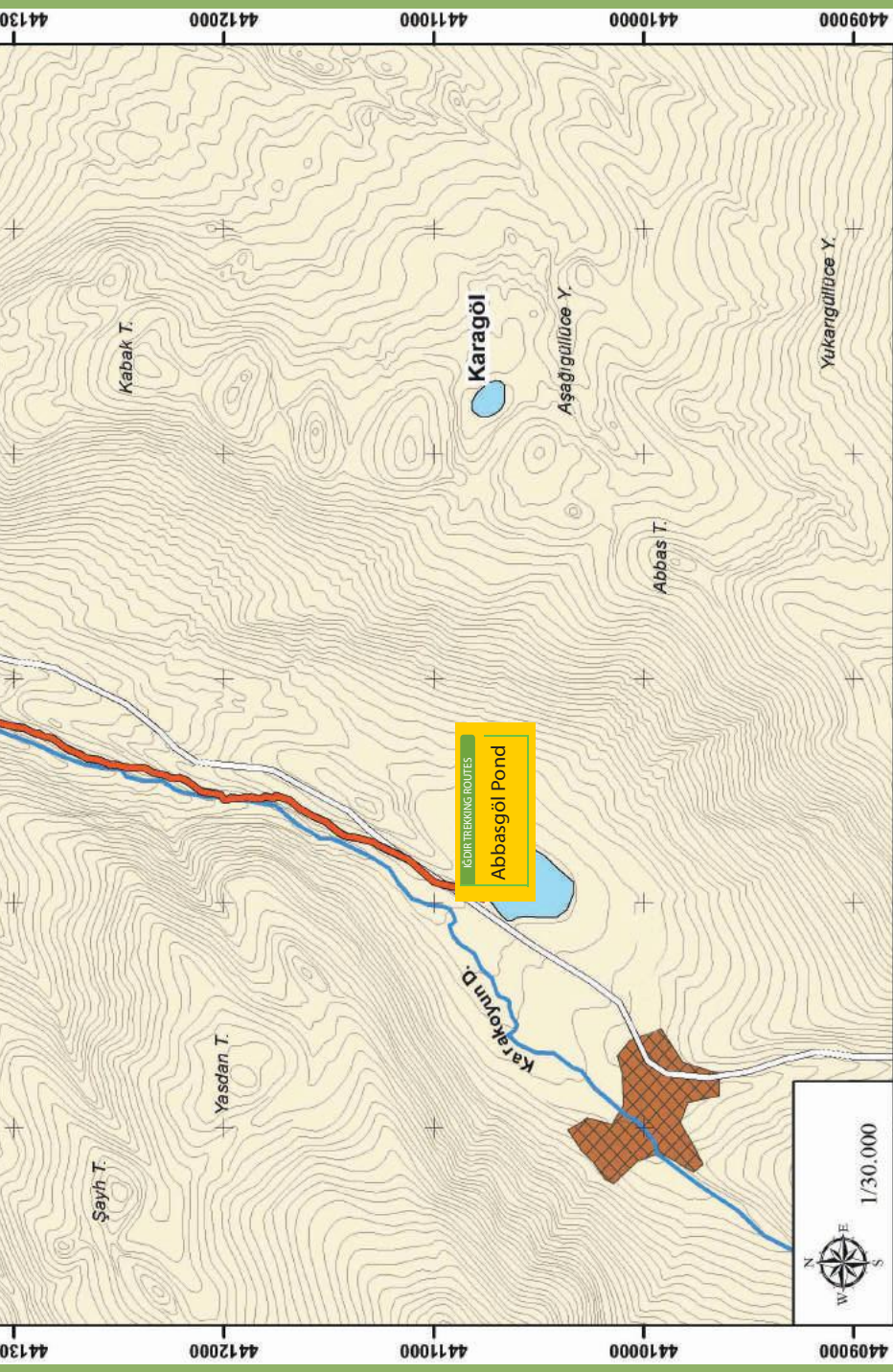
Route 3: Abbasgöl-İnce Village (7 km)

The pond at the entrance of Abbasgöl village will be your start line. The trekking with Karakoyun Stream to your left travels through a narrow valley. Starting at elevation of 2030 meters the route goes into İnce Village at 1755 meters elevation. Due to waters coming from the canal to your right, parts of the route that goes over a narrow trail have wet ground. The route that can be participated by anyone easily, ends in İnce village where the valley widens.









IĞDIR TREKKING ROUTES



Central County – Zor Channel

Route 4: Hamurkesen-Üçkaya (8 km)

Starting from the trout facilities in Hamurkesen Village, the trekking goes through Karacaören Valley. Following the left bank of Eğritaş Stream, the route crosses Aşağısutaşlı village and Yukarı Sutaşlı hamlet. Enter the dirt road you'll come across and turn right. Cross the bridge and follow the road turning left. Approximately 1.5 km later you'll see a trail going down on the left. Follow the trail to descent to where Eğritaş and Aşağı Streams merge. Circle the small rocky hill and keep following the route that crosses the stream and turns into a tractor road. Soon you'll see the houses of Üçkaya settlement. You can visit Üçkaya pond and the castle housing old Ottoman barracks.



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Yaşan kayaları

Deliktaş T.

Tap Mvk.

Kanlı kayalar

Aşağı Sutaşı

Karaçiyurdu Mvk.

Yukarı Sutaşı

Yüceotak



1/30.000

IGDIR TREKKING ROUTES

Hamurkesen

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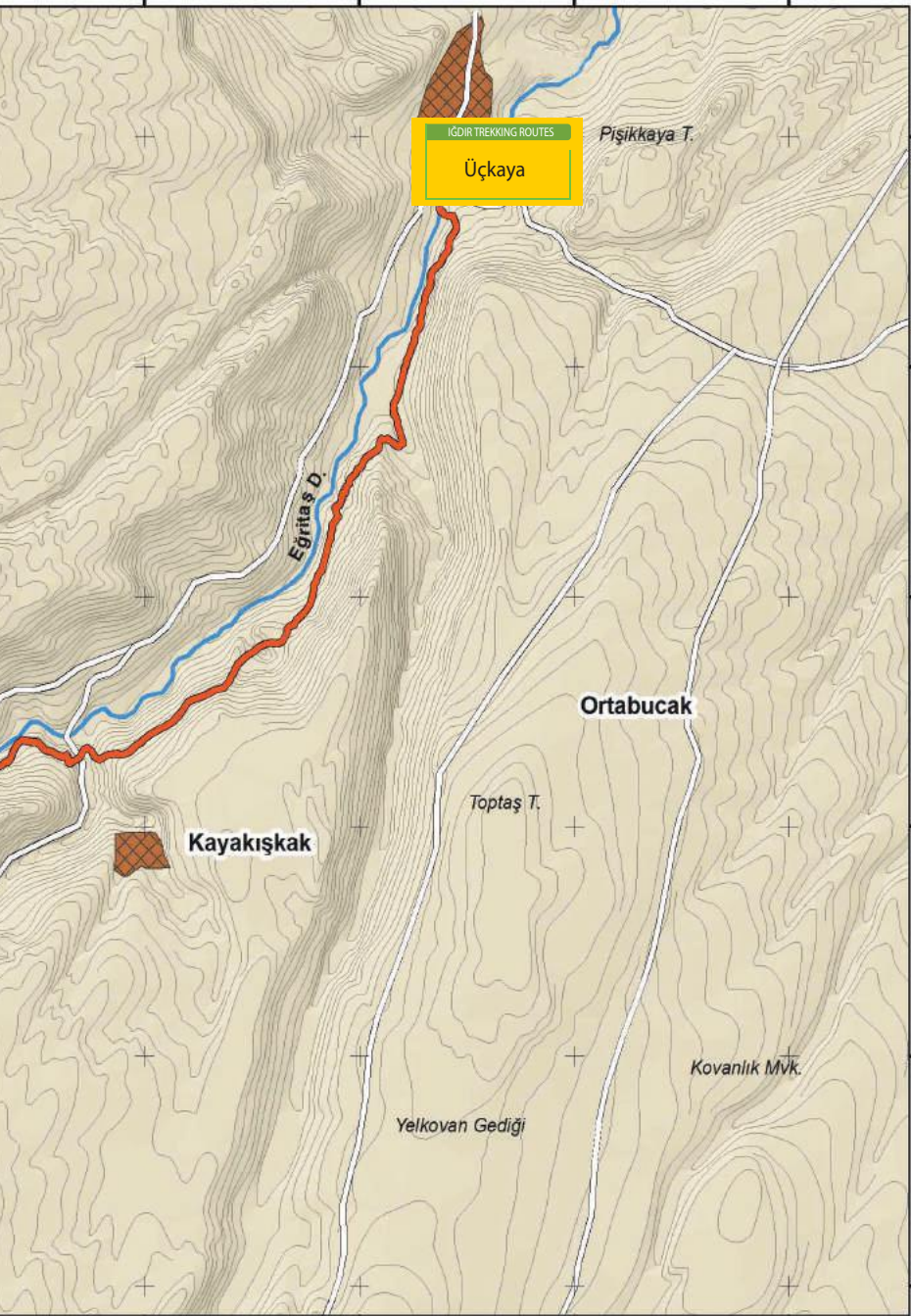
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Route 5: İnce Village-Üçkaya (9 km)

Starting in the tractor road in İnce Village, the route follows the left of Aşağı Stream. Turning into a trail between fields, the route reaches Bağlan Village with an eased walk. Cross the dirt road you'll come across and enter the trail by the house on the left. After leaving the village behind, you'll reach an old settlement now in ruins through a pleasant journey accompanied by wild flowers. After this point the valley will begin to narrow down. You'll start walking on terraces made for saplings or on rocks. The later part of the walk continues under the shade of trees in the deepening valley. When you reach to the beginning of the water canal, you'll meet a tractor road. Enter the road and walk by the stream. Cross the stream where Valley meets Eğritaş Stream. Turn left on the dirt road that crosses your path when the tractor road ends. You'll enter Üçkaya village after crossing the bridge.



Tuzluca-Göktaş



ICDIR TREKING ROUTES

Üçkaya

Pışıkaya T.

Toptaş T.

Eğriş D.

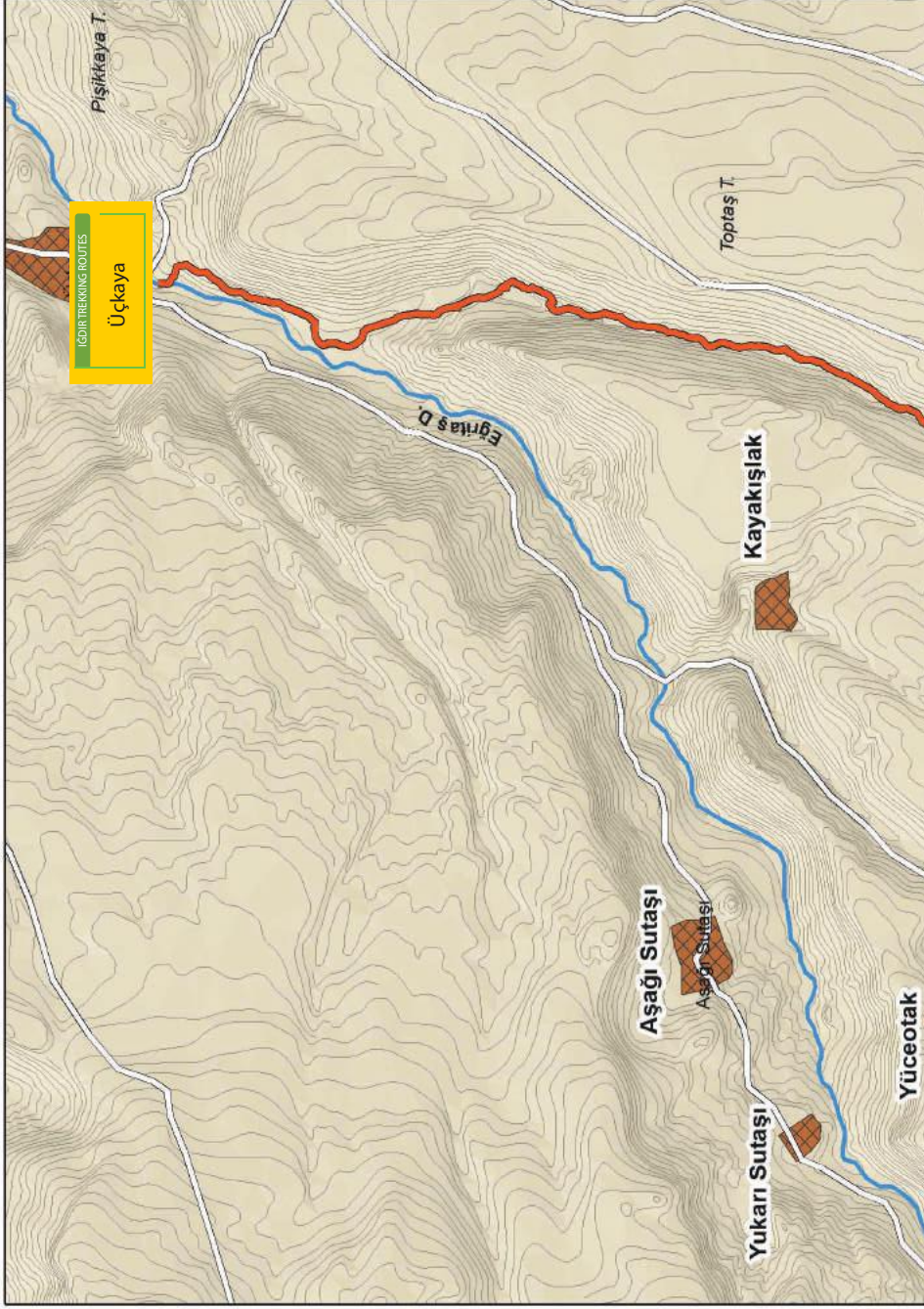
Kayakışlak

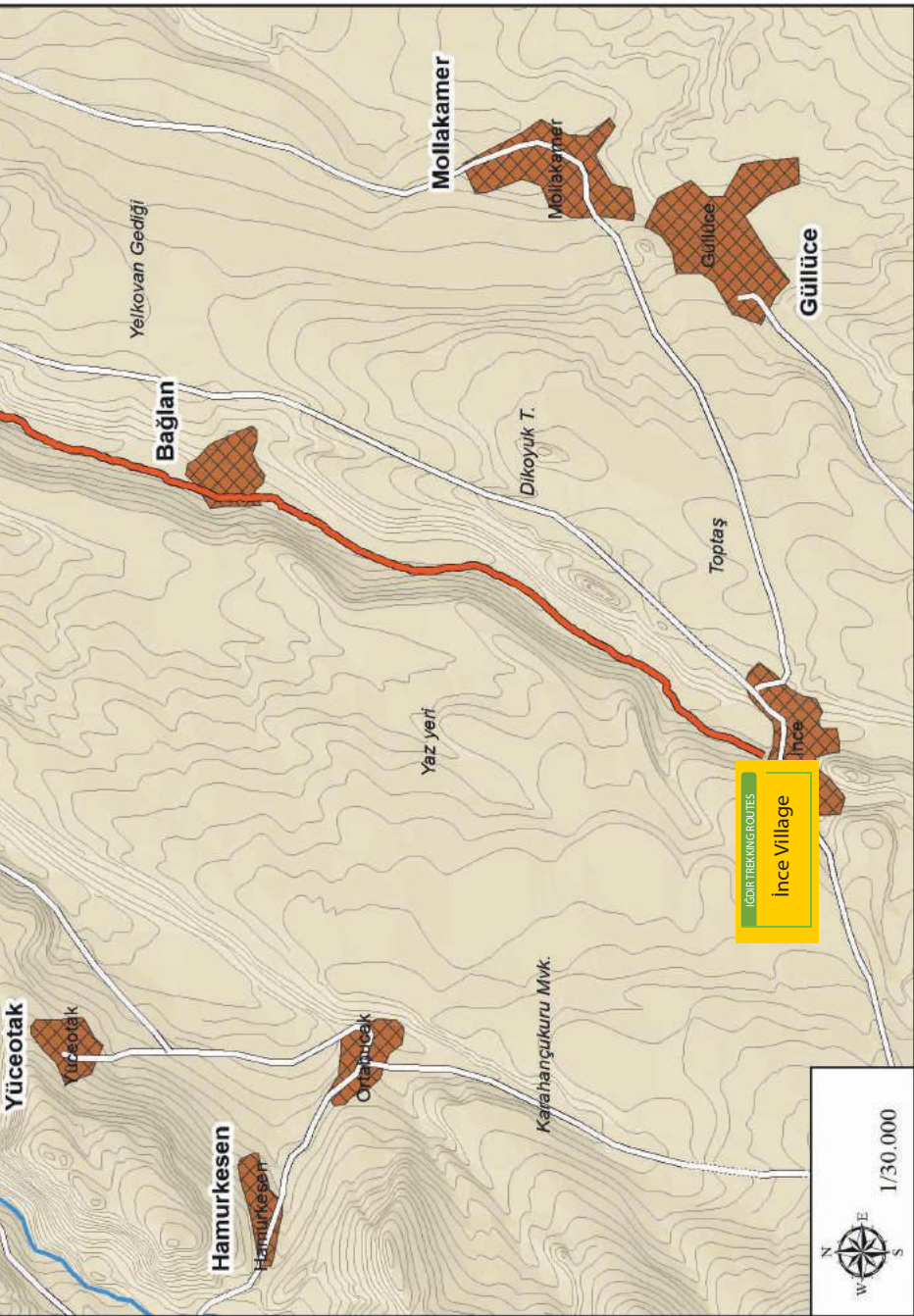
Aşağı Sutaşı

Aşağı Sutaşı

Yukarı Sutaşı

Yüceotak





Route 6: Serdarbulak Plateau - Serdarbulak Pass - Güngören Plateau (9 km)

On an ancient caravan route, Serdarbulak is among the important passes that has served humanity for centuries. The pass between Greater and Lesser Ağrı is at elevation of 2687 meters. Establishing the Ağrı - Iğdır city border, this high region is also a wide plateau for transhumance. The route ascends until Yangınyurdu Plateau and descends from thereon.

The trekking starts in Serdarbulak Plateau with views of Iğdır Plain and Aralık county. Soon you'll pass Lake Kışlağölü and former Russian garrison building. With only walls remaining, the very existence of this structure at this elevation is an indication of the importance of Serdarbulak Pass. Our first target is the Şip Plateau which boasts the Şip Waterfall composed of water from melting snow and glaciers. The route follows the tractor road used by residents of Doğubayazıt to reach some plateaus on the skirts of Ağrı Mountain by passing to Aralık County of Iğdır. You'll be accompanied by Lesser Ağrı to your left and Greater Ağrı to your right.

Follow the tractor road covered with patches of weeds. Passing three hamlets, you'll reach Güdük Plateau. The route will ascend for a brief time and pass between Lesser Ağrı and Resule Plateaus and will reach the wide meadows west of Serdarbulak Pass. You're now in Ağrı city borders. In the area lacking any paths, take 3056 meters high Kızıltepe Mountain to your right and keep walking south. The route turning into a path at the entrance of Yangınyurdu Plateau will take you to Güngören Plateau.



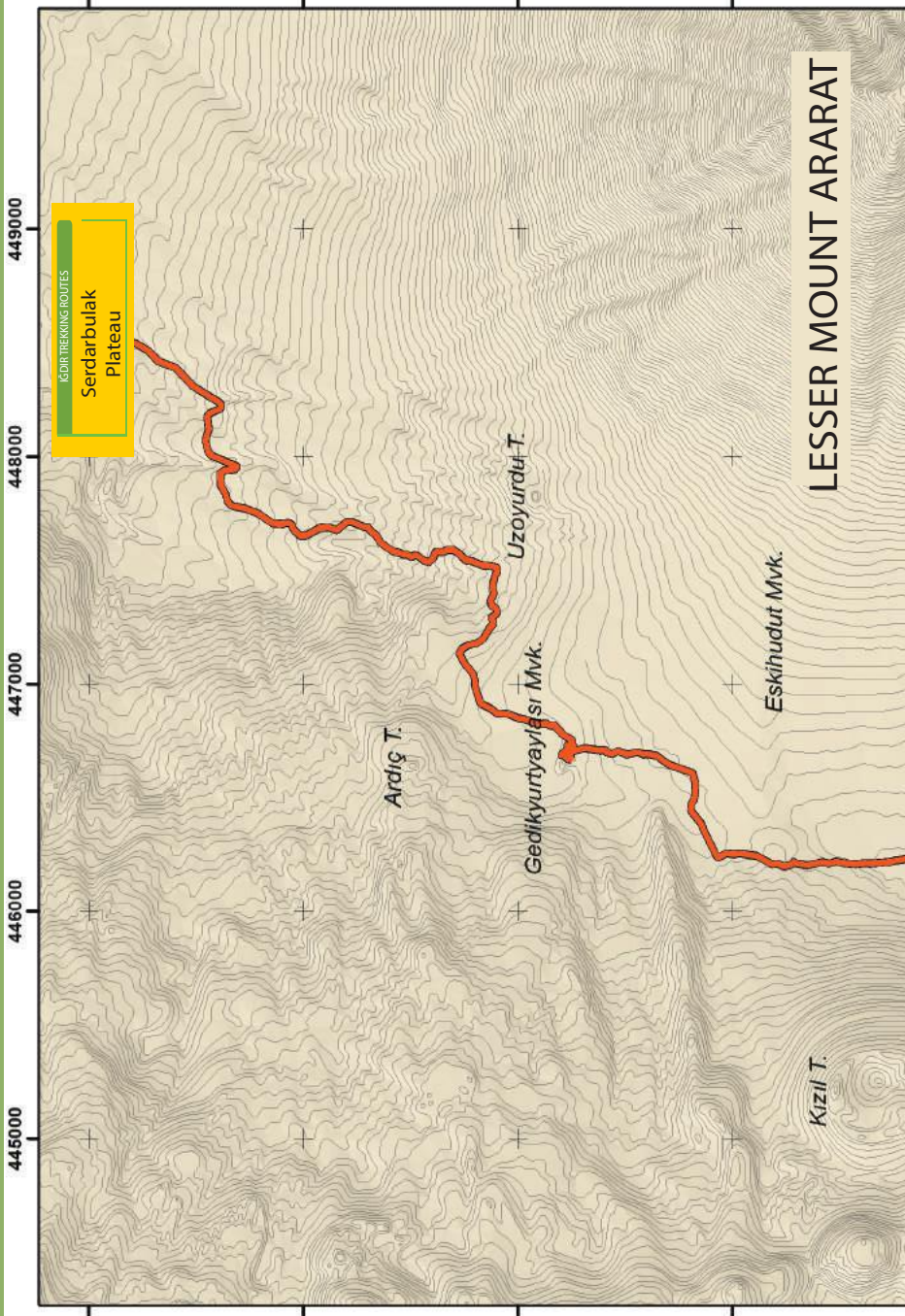
Aralık - Serdarbulak Pond



KODR TREKKING ROUTES

Serdarbulak Plateau

LESSER MOUNT ARARAT



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4393000 4392000 4391000 4390000 4390000

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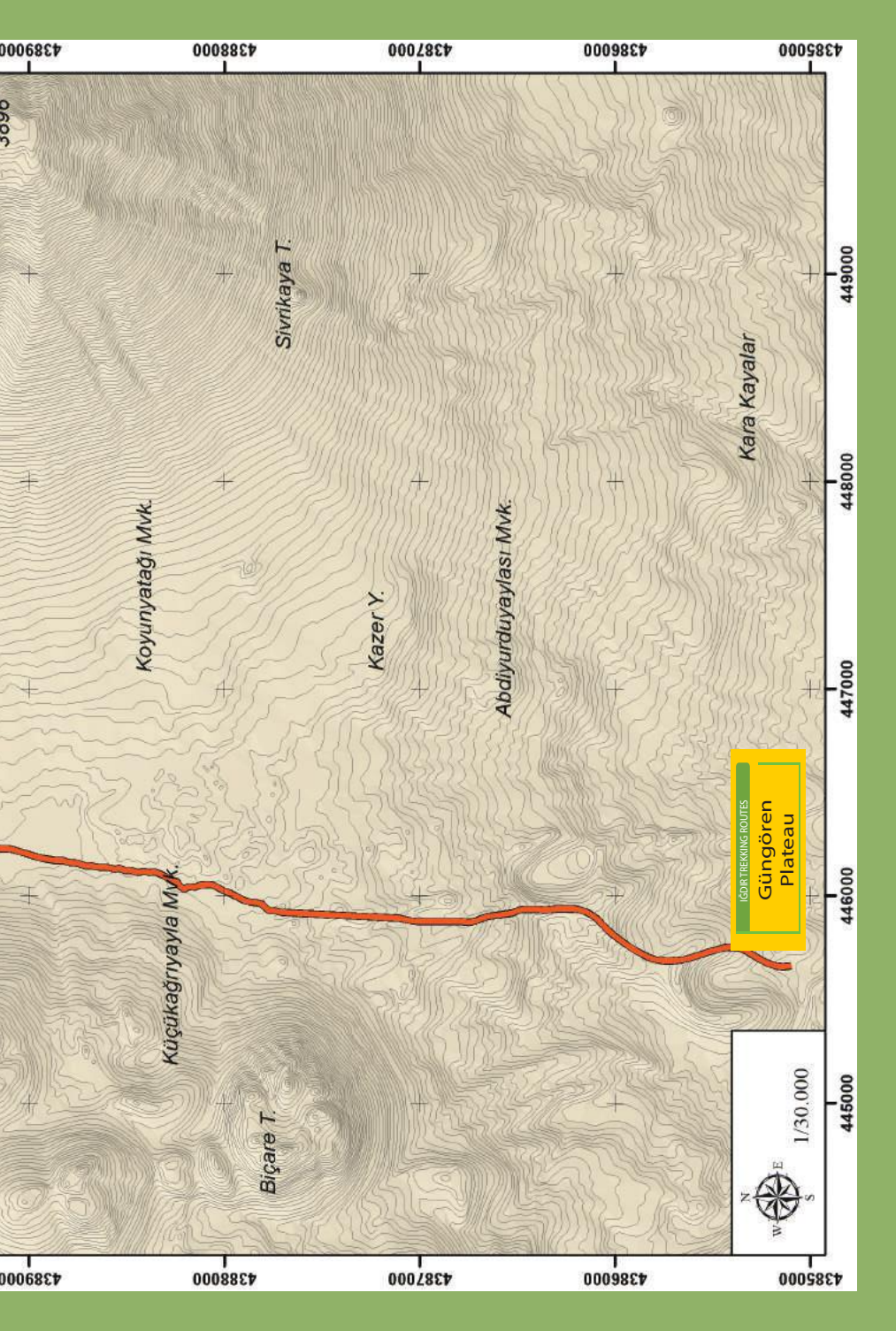
Ardıc T.

Gedikyurtyaylası Mvk.

Uzoyurdı T.

Eskinudut Mvk.

Kızıl T.



Route 7: Lake Balık -Aliköse (12 km)

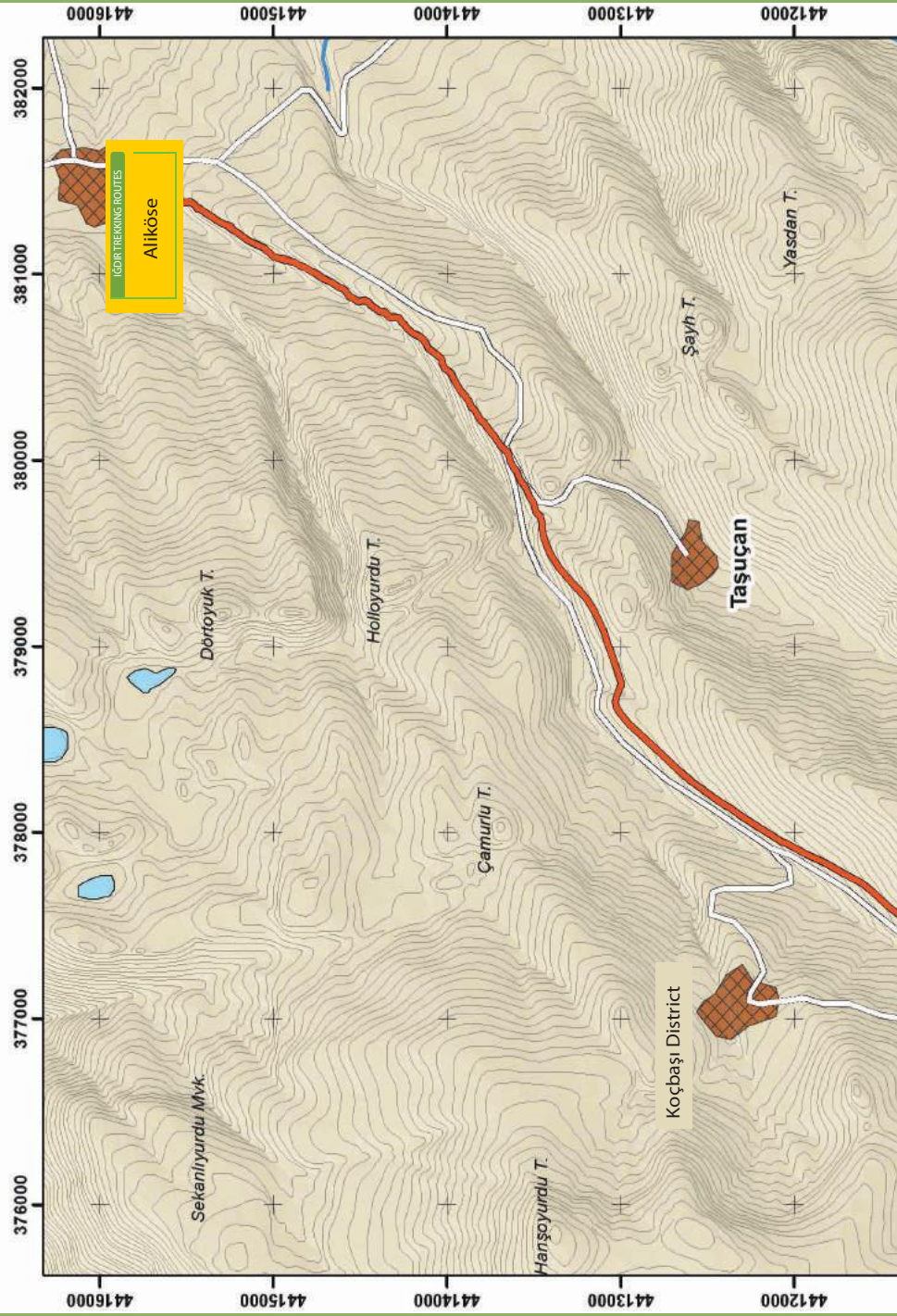
Our route starts at the Castle Beach by the Lake Balık where you'll reach from Abbasgöl Village of Tuzluca County. You can admire the lake view through the route that follows a dirt road. Take the first left on the fork ahead and keep walking. You'll need to take the right on the second fork. The reward for the 500 meters climb in this section is the natural observation terrace where you can photograph Lake Balık. After a short rest you'll reach an intersection passing between Ziyaret and Kuruçayır hills. Take the path right and walk down. You'll come upon a wide view at the horizon spreading to the Tuzluca county. You'll take a right turn and then a left turn at the intersections ahead after one kilometer. When you reach a rocky area a path going down to Abdülkerim Stream will be your guide. After walking a while, keeping stream to your right the valley will widen and you'll see Aliköse village through the trees. The activity ends at the old village school.

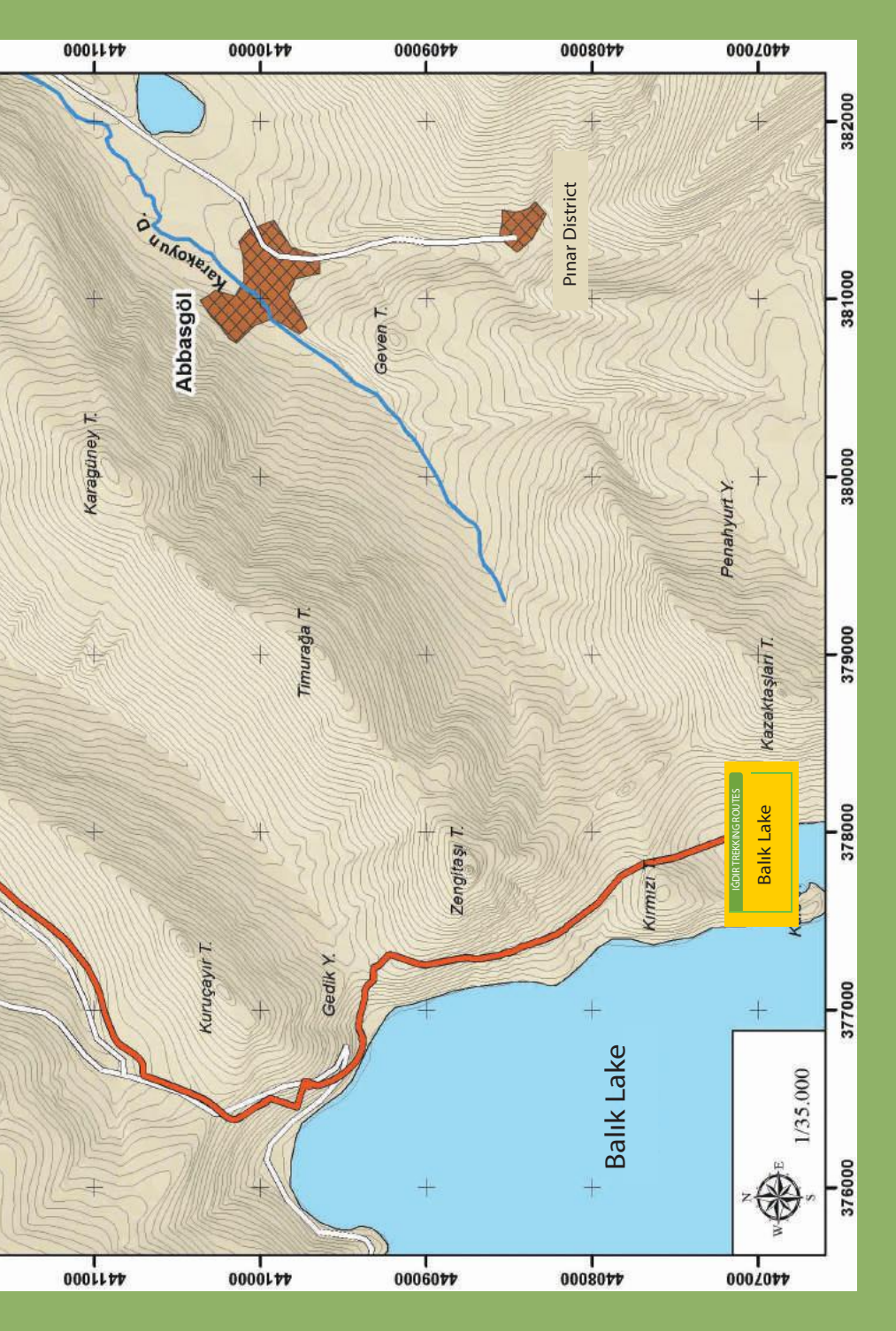


Tuzluca-Gaziler



Tuzluca - Balık Lake from Koçbaşı

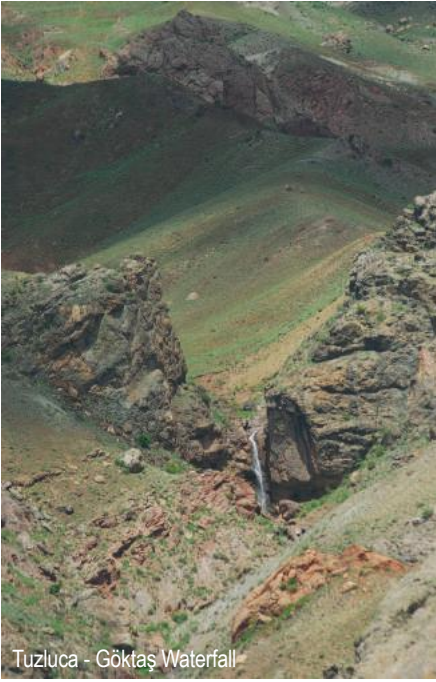




Route 8: Lake Balık -Koçbaşı-Ünlendi (13 km)

The first part of the route starting from Abbasgöl follows the same course with the route 2 until the view of the Lake balık. First we turn right at the castle beach fork and follow the eastern banks of the lake. You'll reach Gedik Plateau ascending a short slope. Turn left at the trivium at this point and keep following the dirt road beside the lake. Take the first right up the slope. At the end of the slope that will sweat you, look back. Lake Fish will pose for you with all its beauty. Then, start descending and walk the dirt road amidst the meadows. You'll meet another fork in the road. Turn left this time towards the houses of Koçbaşı Plateau you'll see. Take a break in the plateau and then follow the dirt road to the north after leaving the settlement. Leveling after a small ascend the route will take you to a pond. You can rest at the pastures between the Hanşoyurdu and Göçyolu hills. When you resume walking the dirt road will take you to a narrow valley. You'll reach Ünlendi village, by starting a descend from the right bank of a thin stream at the left.





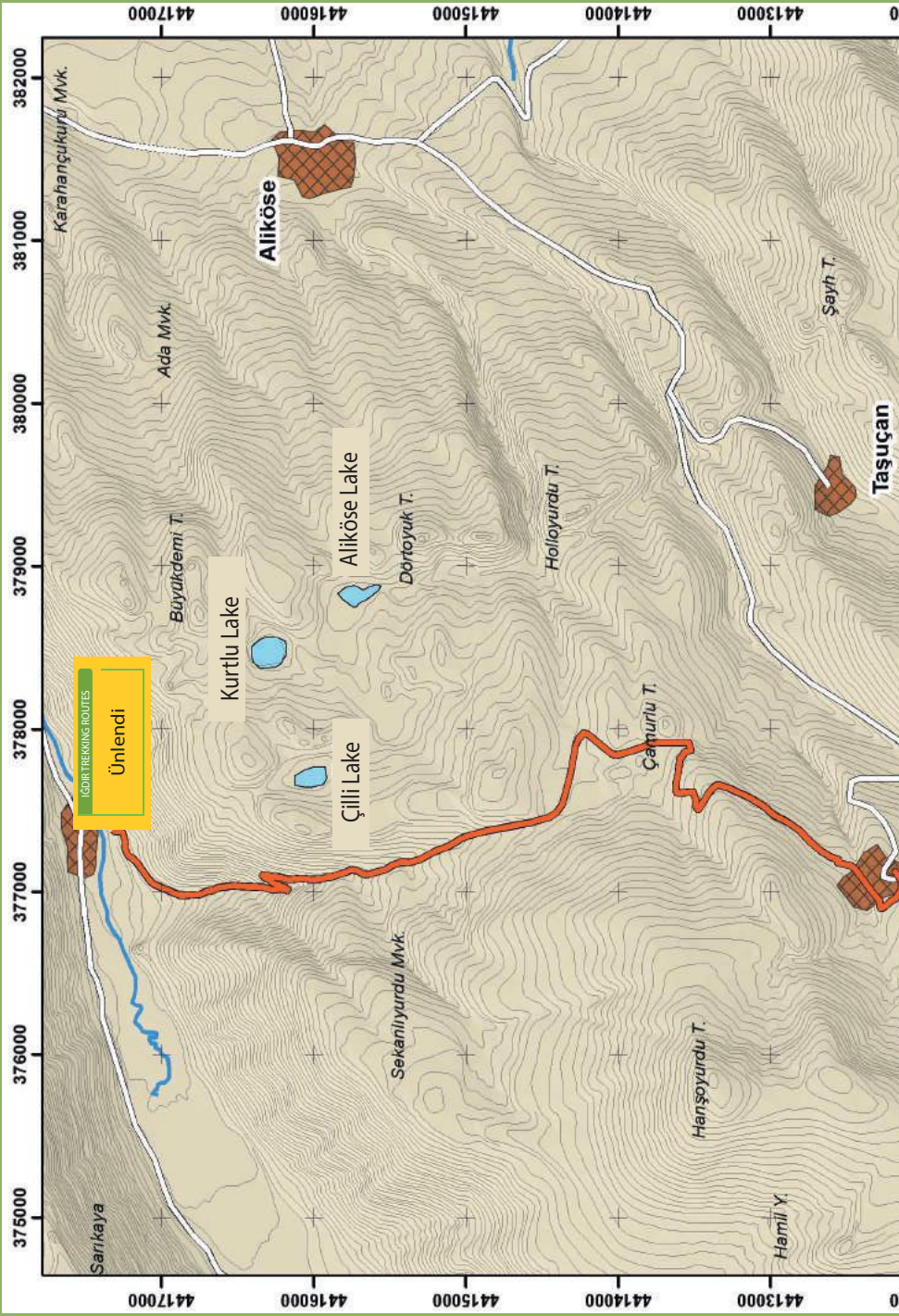
Tuzluca - Göktaş Waterfall

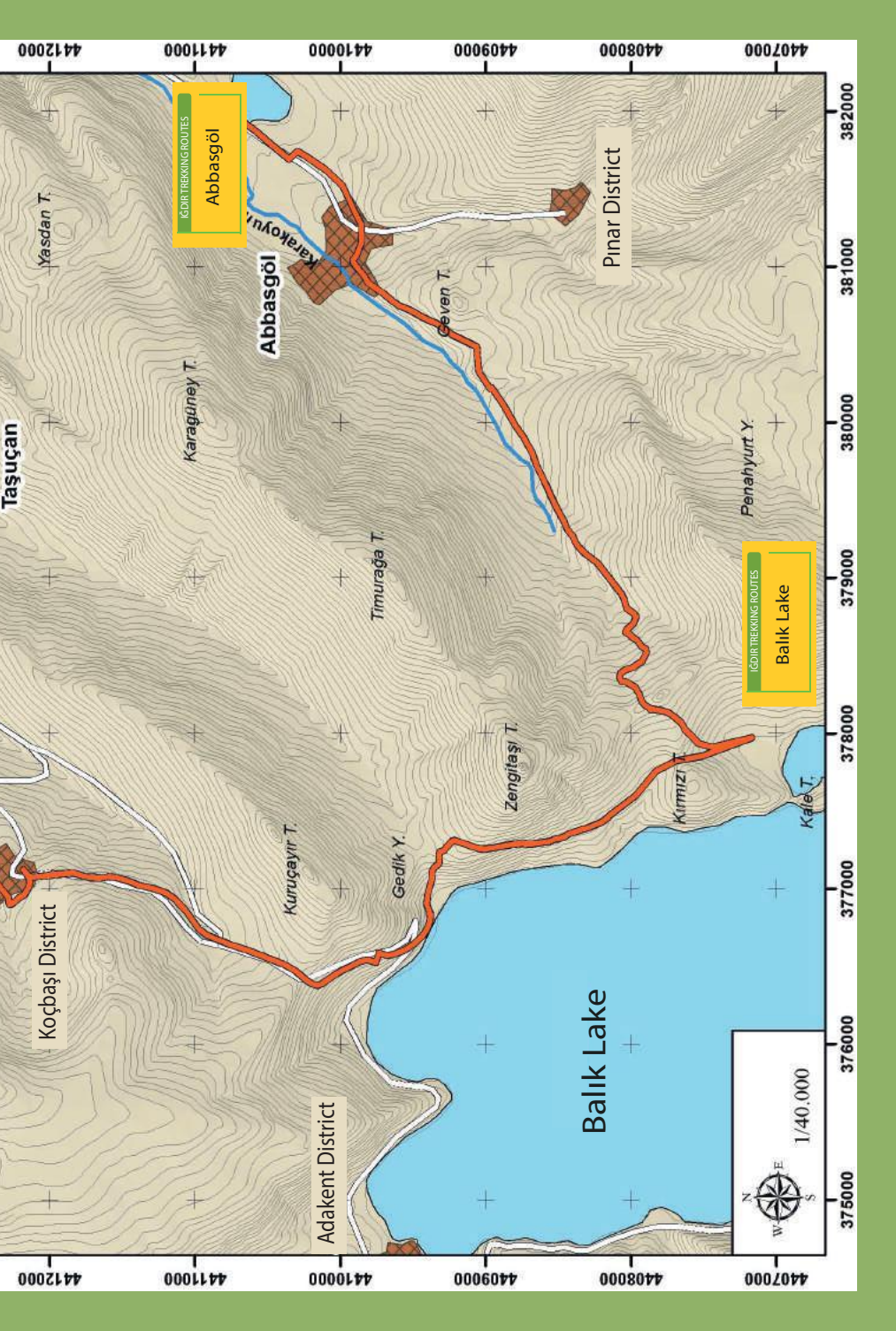


Tuzluca - Bahçelimeydan Waterfall



Tuzluca - Uğruca Waterfall





İĞDIR TREKKING ROUTES

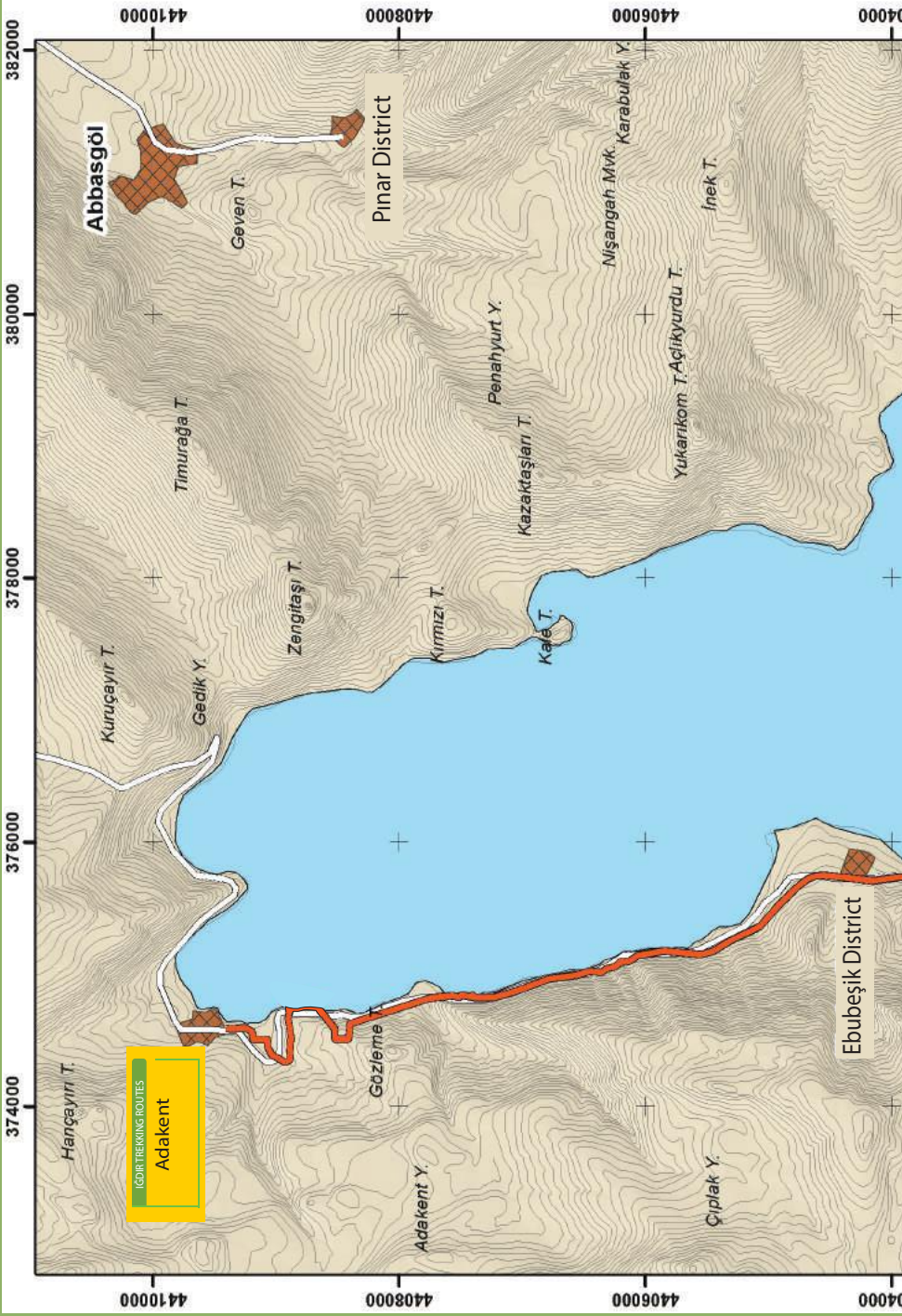
Route 9: Lake Balık 1 (Savak - Tanyolu - Adakent Quarter) (17 km)

Fed by the streams, springs and underground water from the mountains that surround it like a basin, Lake Balık is a real touristic paradise. With over 35 km. shoreline, the lake can be used for hiking to familiarize yourself with the high altitude before Ağrı climb. The first route we will recommend is the floodgate located south-east of the lake where it feeds a stream. You can walk this route either through the dirt road or the meadows. Heading west in the beginning, the route turns north after Yakacık and Yukarı Yakacık villages. We turn right and leave the road that leads to Sinek Plateau and follow the banks of the lake. After Tanyolu and Kayalı settlements the dirt road follows the bank of the lake. You may see a few beaches that allow swimming in the lake in this ever windy route. When you see pink oleanders you certainly have reached a fountain. After a short break here you'll reach Adakent Quarter. You may camp at the pastures before the settlement at 17th km.



Balık Lake from Abbasgöl Hills







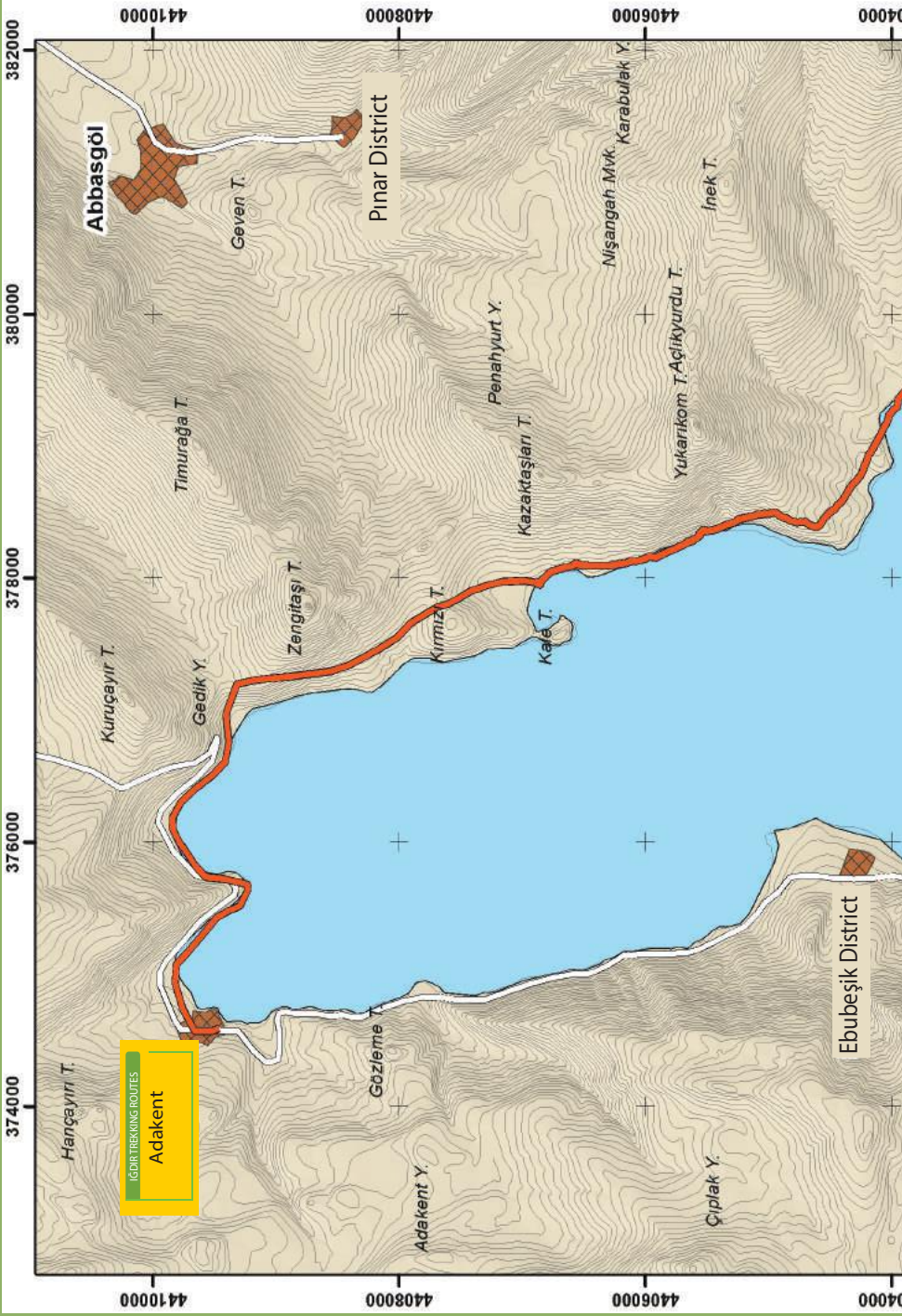
Route 10: Lake Balık 2 (Adakent Quarter - Samanlı - Sluiceway) (18 km)

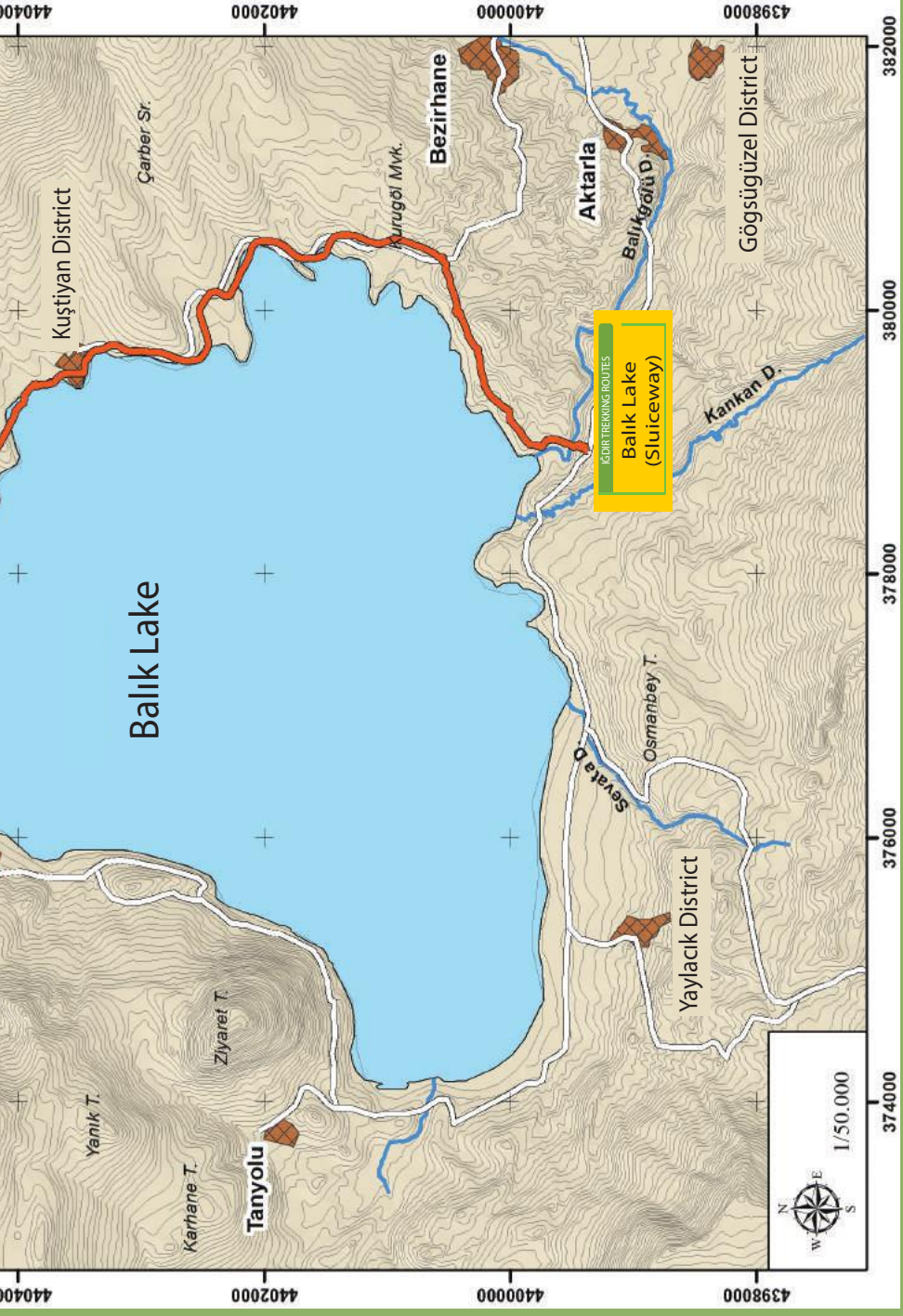
Our second route in Lake Balık, which is among the internationally important 135 wetlands in Turkey, focuses on beaches and historical locations. Turning right after Adakent Quarter, we start walking parallel to the northern banks of the lake. Soon we'll be greeted by two adorable beaches. Depending on the weather conditions, you can take swim break here. After leaving the second beach we recommend you to follow the dirt road climbing the hill. Because the beach turns into steep falls and bars any passage. After a small rise you'll meet another beach and hill. Turn right at the fork here and head to the east of the hill. You'll soon arrive at Castle beach. You'll notice a castle structure of which walls have survived to this day on an island connected to the mainland via an isthmus. When you take the road after a break you'll follow the beach to Samanlı (Kuştiyan) settlement and then pass through fields and meadows to the floodgate built at the end of the stream. Finished at 18 kilometers you can follow the bridge built over the floodgate to take the dirt road.



Central County – Korhan Plateau







IRRIGATING ROUTES
Balık Lake
(Sluiceway)

Route 11: Lesser Ağrı Climb (18 km round trip)

Located east of Ağrı mountain, Lesser Ağrı is one of the hardest climbs in Turkey. This is due to its nature that gets steeper to the summit and having a soft, sandy surface. The most suitable climb is from the north-west slope. Start of the Lesser Ağrı climb is Serdarbulak Plateau, 25 km to Aralık County of İğdir or Güngören Plateau 22 km to Doğubayazıt County of Ağrı.

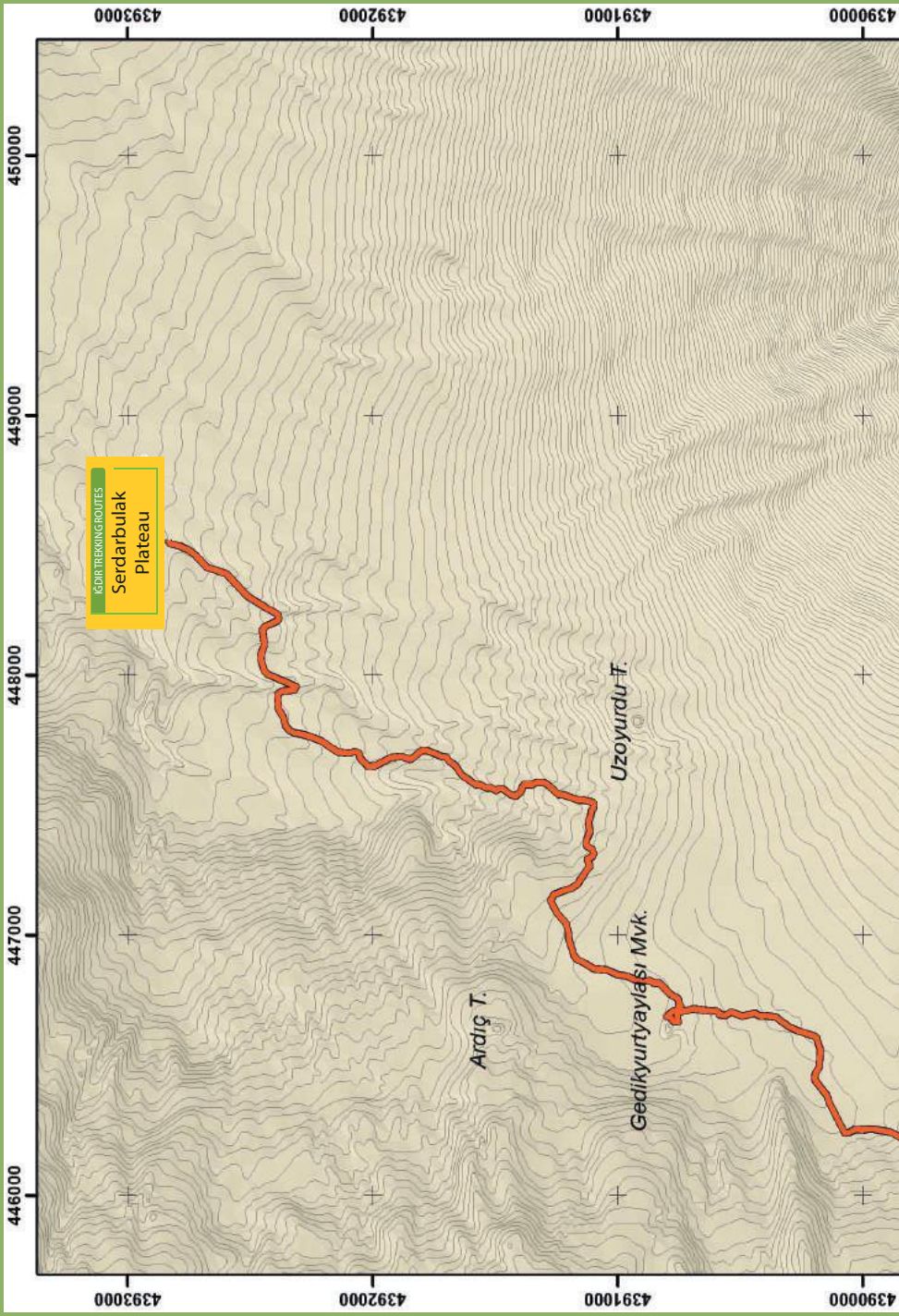
The first part of the route reaches Serdarbulak Pass as described in route 10. The pass is at the 4th kilometer of the route. From this point, turn left and keep walking towards Koyunyatağı location on a straight and level course. After a short break here, your next step will be Lesser Ağrı towering against you with all its might. Pass the stone shelter and the thick hose used to bring water after that and approach the skirts of Lesser Ağrı Mountain. The slope facing the northwest of the massive, despite its scary steepness, will be your climb line. Take the large rocks ahead for bearing and head to the left of the valley on the face of the mountain facing you. You'll now start the climb on a grass covered scrub area. You'll advance slowly, sliding back a little with every step at this hardest part of the route. When you reach the ridge atop, you'll see a large valley that forms one of the deep rifts on the body of Lesser Ağrı. Now climb to the rocky area above with a steep chasm to your left and another valley basin covered with sands to your right. This rocky part of the mountain is unstable and may easily break away. Keep rising, always on the lookout. Soon you'll reach basin under the summit of 3800 meters. A huge dome rises amidst this rocky area that forms the crater of the dormant volcano of Lesser Ağrı Mountain. You have to climb this dome to reach the real summit. Head north first to ease the slope and then turn east to reach the main crater of the mountain. The large rock at the highest point of the crater which houses a lake that dries in summer, marks the 3896 meters high summit. You can view an awesome landscape of Ağrı Mountain, Doğubayazıt, İğdir city Aralık county, İnan and Armenia from that place.

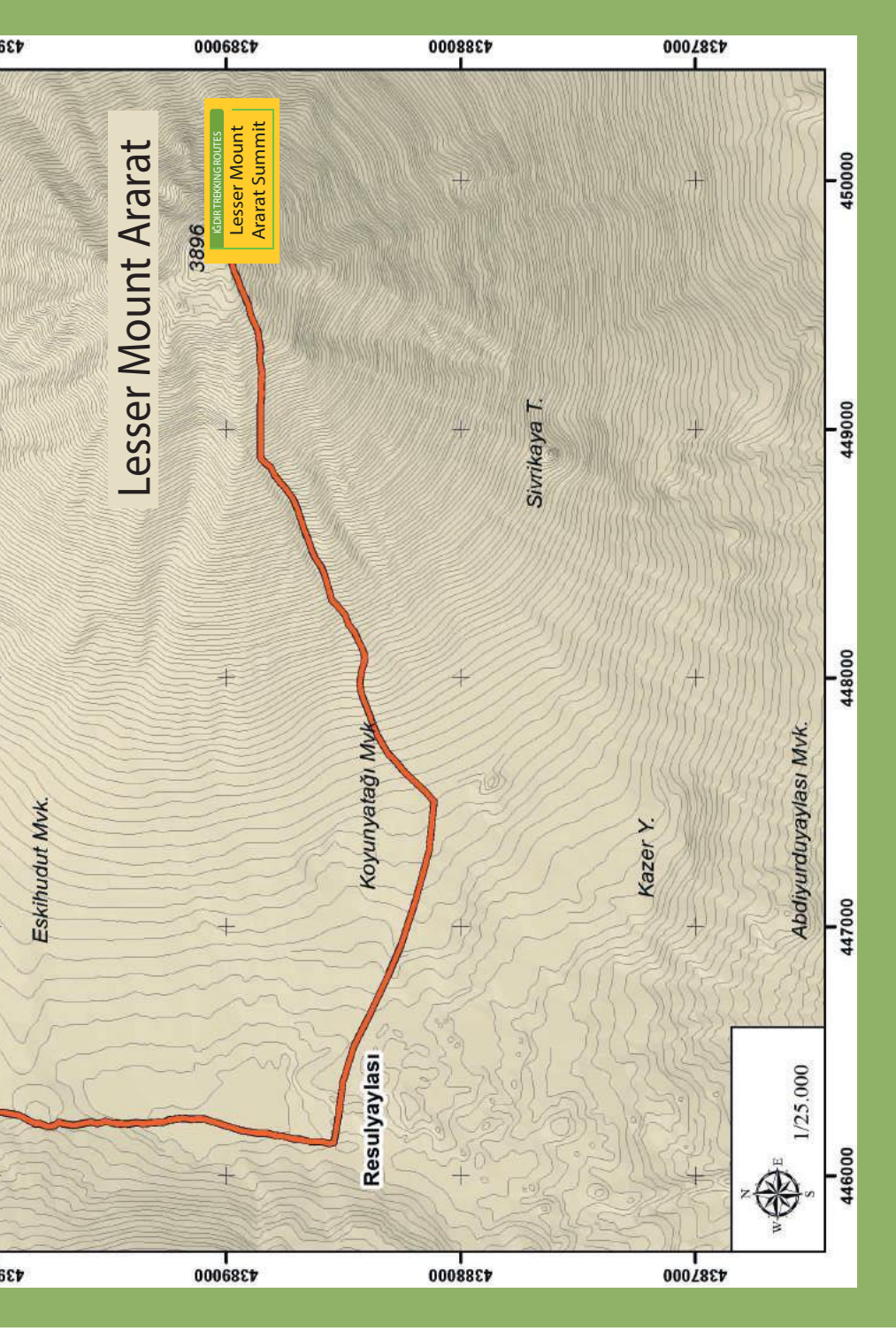
Pass the rocky area very carefully on your way back to the ridge. You can use the small sandy valley for descent now. However mind leaving space between the members of the team against rock slide risk. Remember to obtain weather forecasts before climbing Lesser Ağrı Mountain.





Lesser Ararat Climb





Lesser Mount Ararat

3896

KIDIR TREKKING ROUTES
Lesser Mount
Ararat Summit

Eskihudut Mvk.

Koyunyatađı Mvk.

Resulyaylası

Sivrikaya T.

Kazer Y.

Abdiyurdıyaylası Mvk.



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Route 12: Ağrı Mountain Climb (38 km round trip)

Despite being known as a dormant volcano, international literature classifies Ağrı mountain as an active volcano and it hosts several different routes. Most popular ones are İğdir Route (Northern Route) and Doğubayazıt Route (Classical Route).

Touristic climb starts at Eli village 15 km from Doğubayazıt. The first stage from Eli village to 3200m. base camp is vital for adopting to the mountain. This activity lasts from 6 to 12 hours depending on performance. On the second day the travel is from 3200 m. camp to 4200 m. camp. This stage takes 4 to 8 hours based on familiarity with elevation. On the third day, if adaptation is not a problem, the round trip from 4200 meters to the summit and back takes 8 to 12 hours.

The nearest settlements to the climb are Topçatan village in the plains and Eli village at 1900 meters. During the climb and at any incident, it is impossible to get logistic support from both villages. Doğubayazıt can be contacted directly in case of any incident.



Day 1

The stage between Eli Village to Camp at 3200 meters is not very steep. A team in good shape can finish the walk in 8 hours. However it is not uncommon for teams not used to mountains to finish it 12 hours. It takes longer to follow the carriage way. Generally the road is used but every short cut is taken. 300 meters northwest of the location the road ends, 3200 meters camp is visible. Since wind sweeps this stage ridges without snow should be preferred in winters.

Starting route of the first day is the dirt road used to access Eli Village. We pass the Village center for about 500 meters and leave the dirt road for the path on the right. After some climb we reach the dirt road again. About 50 meters later we take the path again on the right. We continue to climb with the view of the Ağrı Mountain. When we meet the dirt road coming up with curves we turn left and arrive at Topçatan Plateau. After a short break, we turn right from the pond at the plateau and start paving the path. The route, entering a valley soon passes a stream bed and starts rising. Now we will walk through the valley on the right, cross the dirt road again and head for the path ahead. When we reach the road once more after 500 meters we will turn right and reach a junction. We take the road left and take path that appears on the right 50 meters ahead. Crossing Yukarı Hamlet of Topçatan Plateau we start walking on a valley floor. The route, while continuing the climb, turns right from the valley floor to an easy slope and reaches a plain. Now we have another valley to our right. Getting steeper, the walk passes a ridge and reaches the area of 3200 m. camp.

The duration of stay in 3200 m camp should be decided based on the condition of the group. Complaints such as head ache and nausea are the most prominent indicators of adaptation problems. In that case another night should be spent at the camp. If the group reaches 4200 m camp sick and tired worse conditions may occur. Therefore resting another day in 3200 m. camp is better. Staying two nights in 3200 m. camp might actually increase the chance to complete the climb for those having adaptation problems. Going to 4200 m camp and returning with light load during the extra day spent is a good practice to adapt to the mountain



Greater Mount Ararat Climb

and determine members with height problems. Determining any possible health problems at 3200 meters may impact the next stage of the climb. Staying here will prevent the increase of the health problems of those unable to complete the climb.



Mount Ararat – Camping Area at 4200 m.

Day 2

The distance from this camp to camp at 4200 meters is not much. The slope gets steeper and tiresome. A team of good shape can finish the stage in 4 hours. However after 3200 meters the elevation starts to take its toll. Therefore a fast paced climb might cause the group to arrive at 4200 m. camp exhausted. The stage is short but steep. However the slope is never risky. The first stage starts with flood ravine where large boulders are scattered. Then a path starts. The path goes up to a ridge between Öküz Stream and 3200 m. camp clearly and with a nice slope. This is the hardest section of the 4200 meters camp walk. Once on the ridge the path directly heads for the summit. After a thirty minutes walk, a few tent locations are seen. This is not the main camp site but is ideal for a brief stop. Especially during the summer season, when the mountain is crowded, camping space can become an issue and this space can be used. The main camp site is at the plain at 4200 meters and the glacier starts where the plain ends. The plain is at most 45 minutes to the camp site. If adaptation problems exist, head aches would start at this elevation. Head-ache is not a symptom enough by itself for Acute Mountain Disease; it should be

accompanied by nausea and loss of consciousness. Head ache is normal for those not accustomed to heights. It will go away sometimes at rest sometimes after a few days at the mountain. Loss of appetite is also natural at this height. Nevertheless plenty of liquids should be consumed and something should be eaten. Especially water intake is vital for adaptation to the mountain. If the team is not accustomed to heights it would be wiser to spend two nights at 4200 m camp. Team leader and the guide should decide that. If symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and hallucination are observed along with headache, it would be best to relocate the patient to the previous camp site. The patient will recover with decreased elevation.



Greater Mount Ararat through Serdarbulak Pass

Day 3

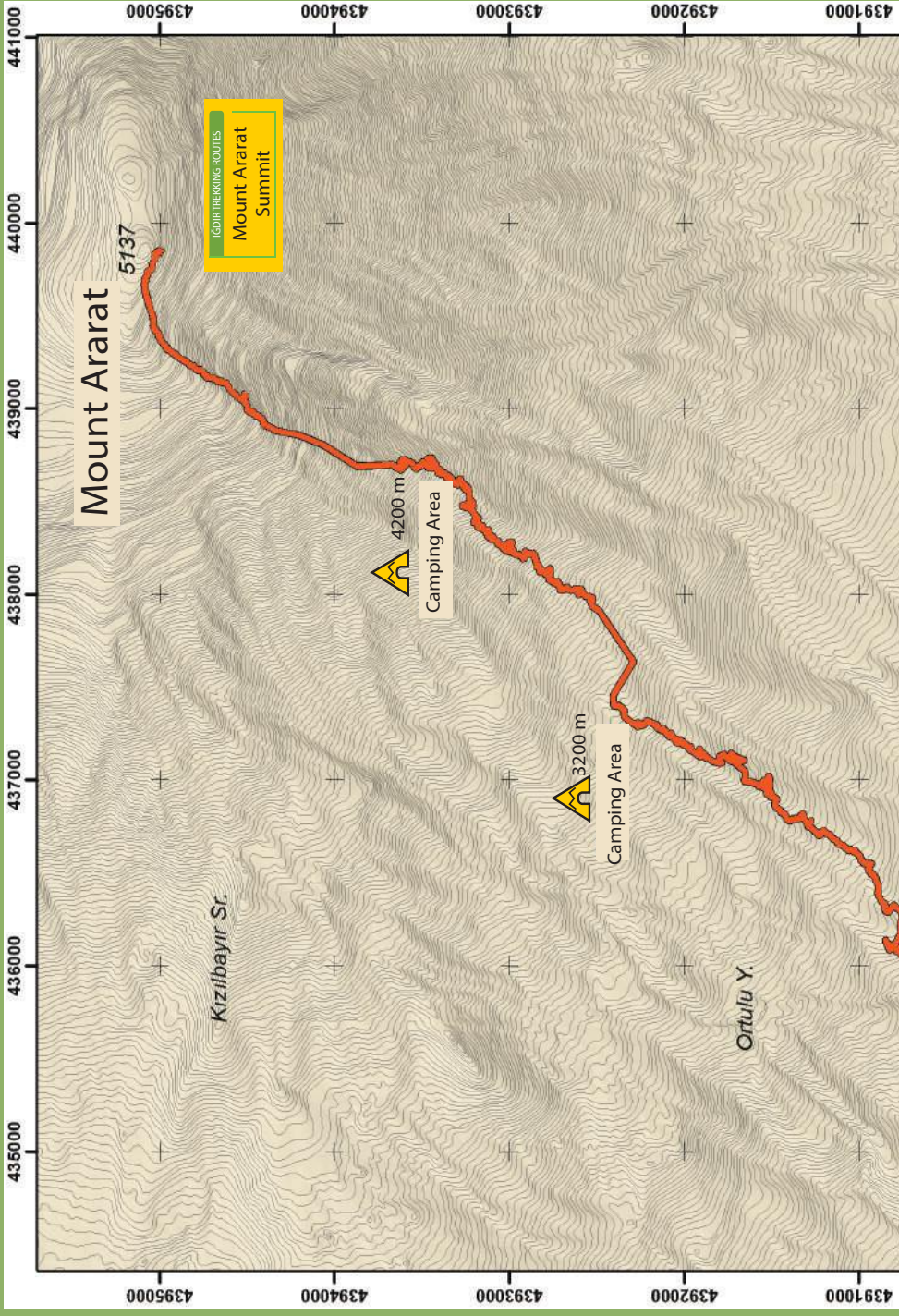
You should get up early and have a healthy breakfast. Plenty of liquids should be taken along with energy providing food. A good performance is not the only way to achieve a healthy climb to the Ağrı mountain; it is plenty of liquid intake. Regardless of your performance, you cannot climb to the mountain if you don't have enough liquids. The climb starts with the path 100 meters ahead of the camp. The first stage is hard. Because it starts with a steep slope just outside the camp, before the body warms up. Soon the ridge with sharp basalt blocks is reached. After this stage helmets are mandatory since sudden falls may cause vital danger due to sharp edges of the basalt blocks. During the climb breaks should be spent standing up rather than sitting. Because extended sitting causes lactic acid accumulation and makes re-summing harder. Furthermore as the elevation rises it gets harder to adapt after a long break. During the climb you should breathe deeply. Deep and long breaths are better in high altitudes. This stage takes 2 to 3 hours. Once basalt block are cleared at the end of the stage, rocks get smaller and lateral passage on the glacier plateau, the most risky part to the summit begins. Under normal circumstances the 100 meter long section can be easily passed. However it gets so hard in winters that spikes don't penetrate. Therefore if it's extra icy, the section could be passed with using safeguards. Calks should be nailed and both ropes should be used. If the system can be set-up quickly it can be passed in 15 minutes. After this lateral passage the glacier plateau under the summit is reached. This is a plain as wide as a few football fields. The summit can be reached from the glacier plateau in 15 to 30 minutes. The summit stage is not very steep and can be icy in any season. Despite being not very risky, amateur groups are still recommended to use safety ropes.

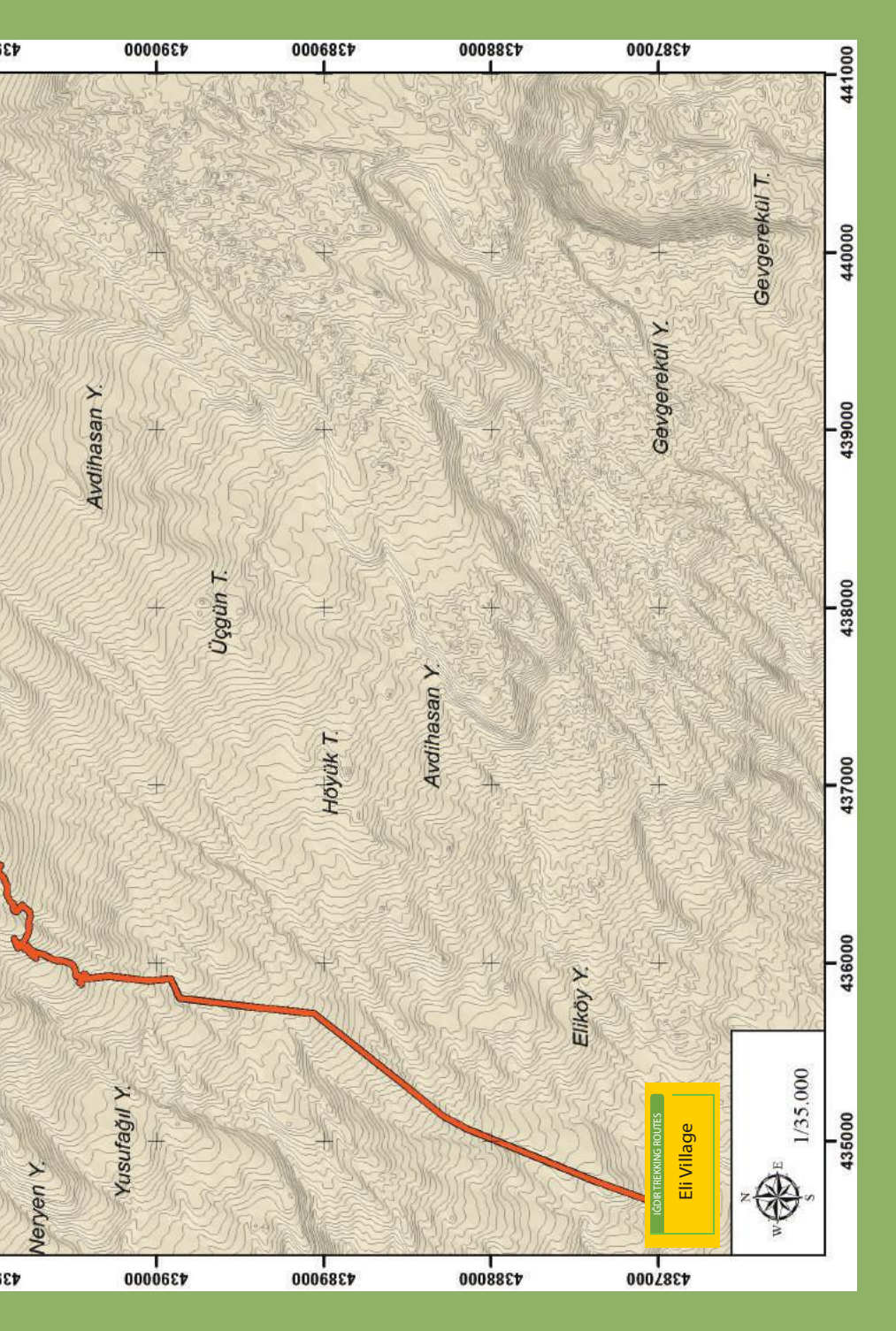
In Ağrı Mountain climbs 4200 m. camp is left at 1:00 or 2:00 am at night. The summit is reached at around 7:00 or 7:30 am. The summit can be windy, especially at morning frost. One should be extra careful on the way back. Lack of concentration or exhaustion may cause accidents. (Güngör, 2009)





Mount Ararat Summit



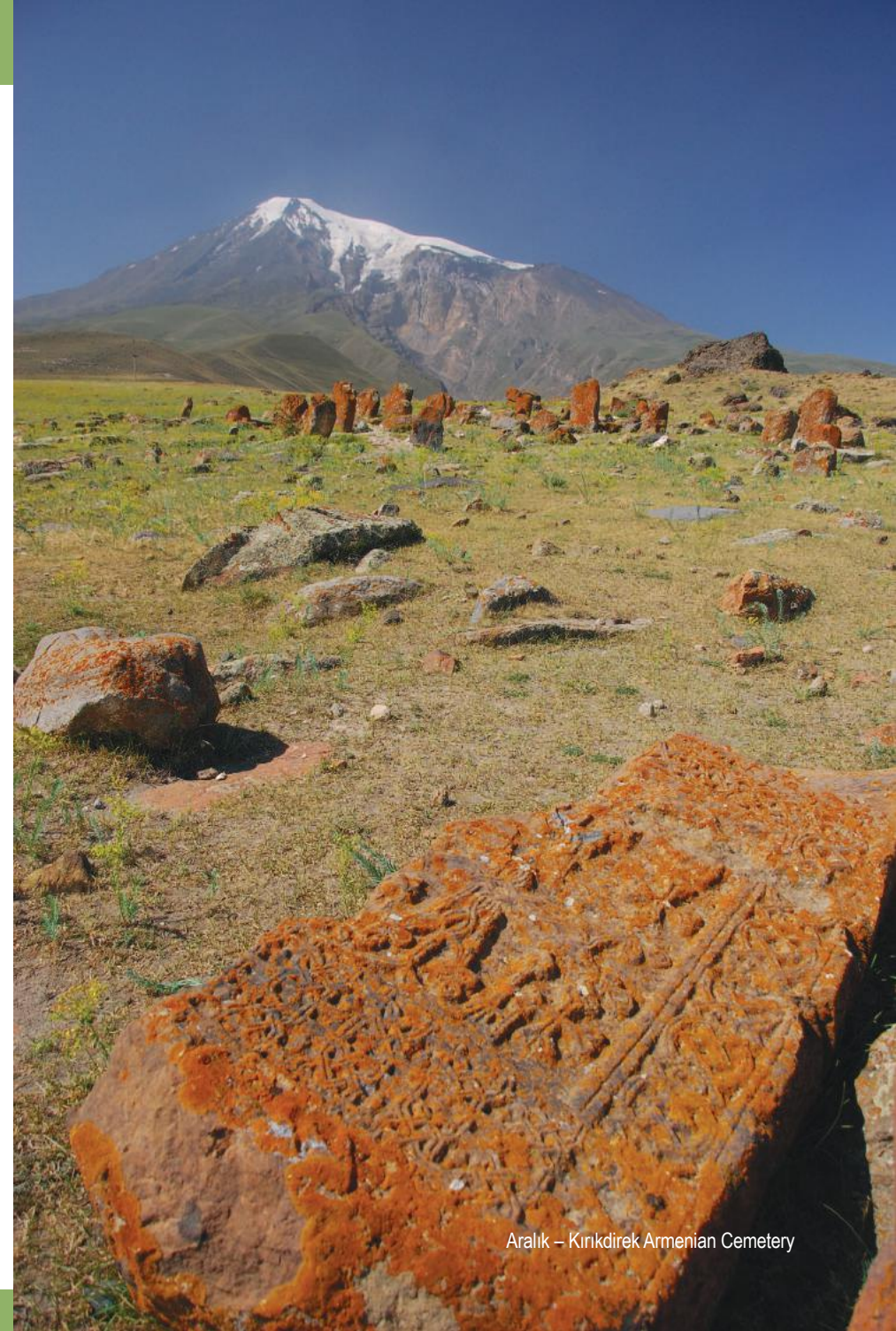


Route 13: Ağrı Mountain Climb from İğdir (round trip 22 km)

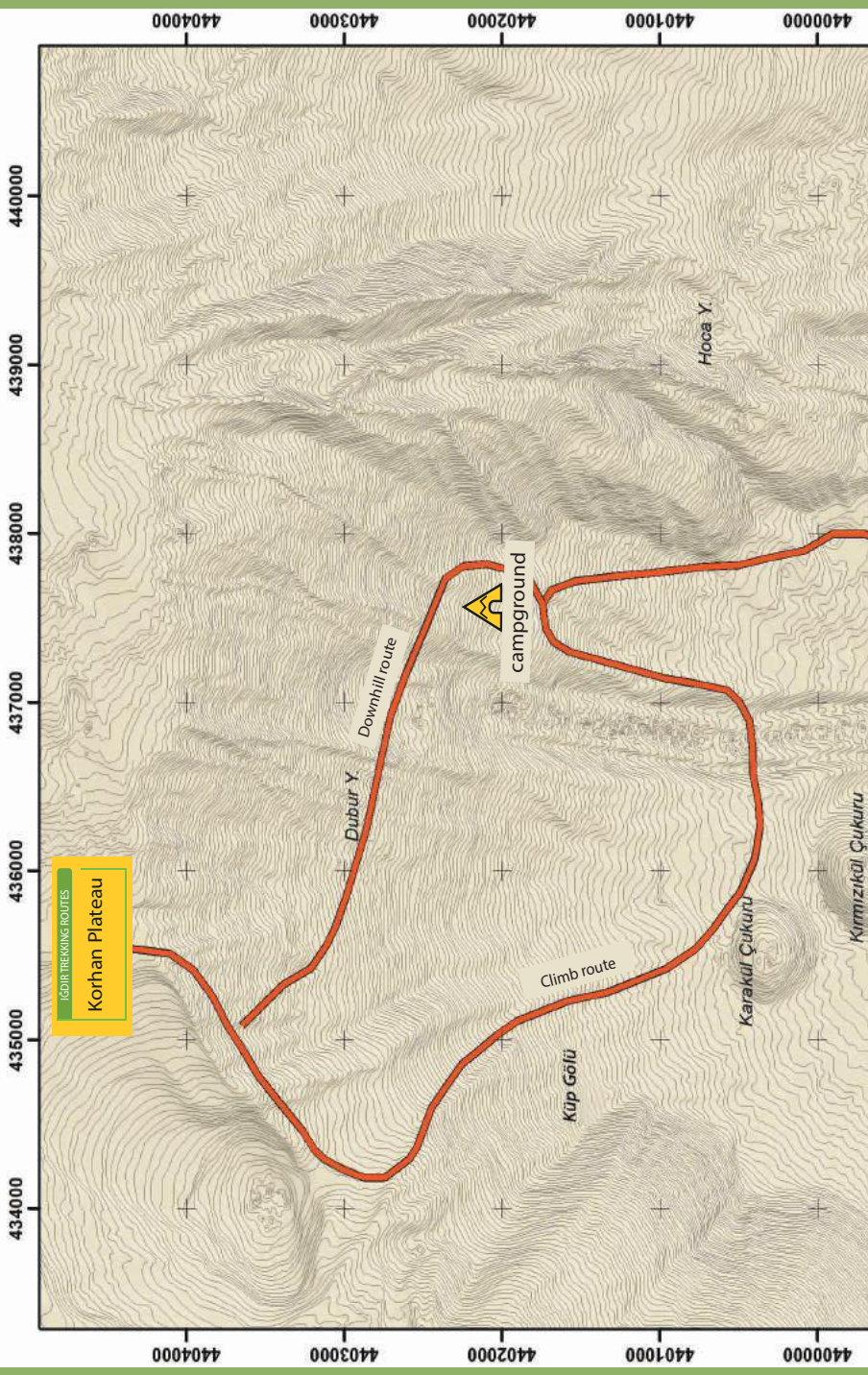
North route of Ağrı Mountain is a harder route requiring technical skills. The climb starts at Korhan Plateau. Leaving early on vehicles Korhan Plateau at 1950 meter altitude and later second camp between 3200 and 3400 meters can be reached in a single stage. But this would be exhausting. Rather spending a night at the plateau would be wiser. Since it will be harder to ascend to the next camp site (around 4200 meters) from Korhan Plateau with camping gear, it would be better to load the gear on mules and travel with a light bag. This stage covers a highly steep route and 5 to 7 hours of time. After the second camp gears can't be transferred with mules. The distance between second camp and 4200 meters camp is very steep. Crawling beside deep chasms at some points, the route goes through rocks and ends at a plain. This stage also takes 5 to 7 hours. Summit climb starts here. It's wiser to set out for the summit early. The weather is harsher compared to the south at this region. Approximately half hour into the climb the glacier starts. Therefore spikes should be prepared at night. From this point the whole journey to the summit is on glacier. The round trip between the camp and the summit may take between 12 and 16 hours. The route, which is steeper compared to the south becomes riskier in return trip. This stage continues almost perpendicular until the glacier plateau. There is always the risk of an accident for tired members. After reaching the glacier plateau the slope of the summit becomes child's play compared to the route in general. (Yıldırım Güngör)

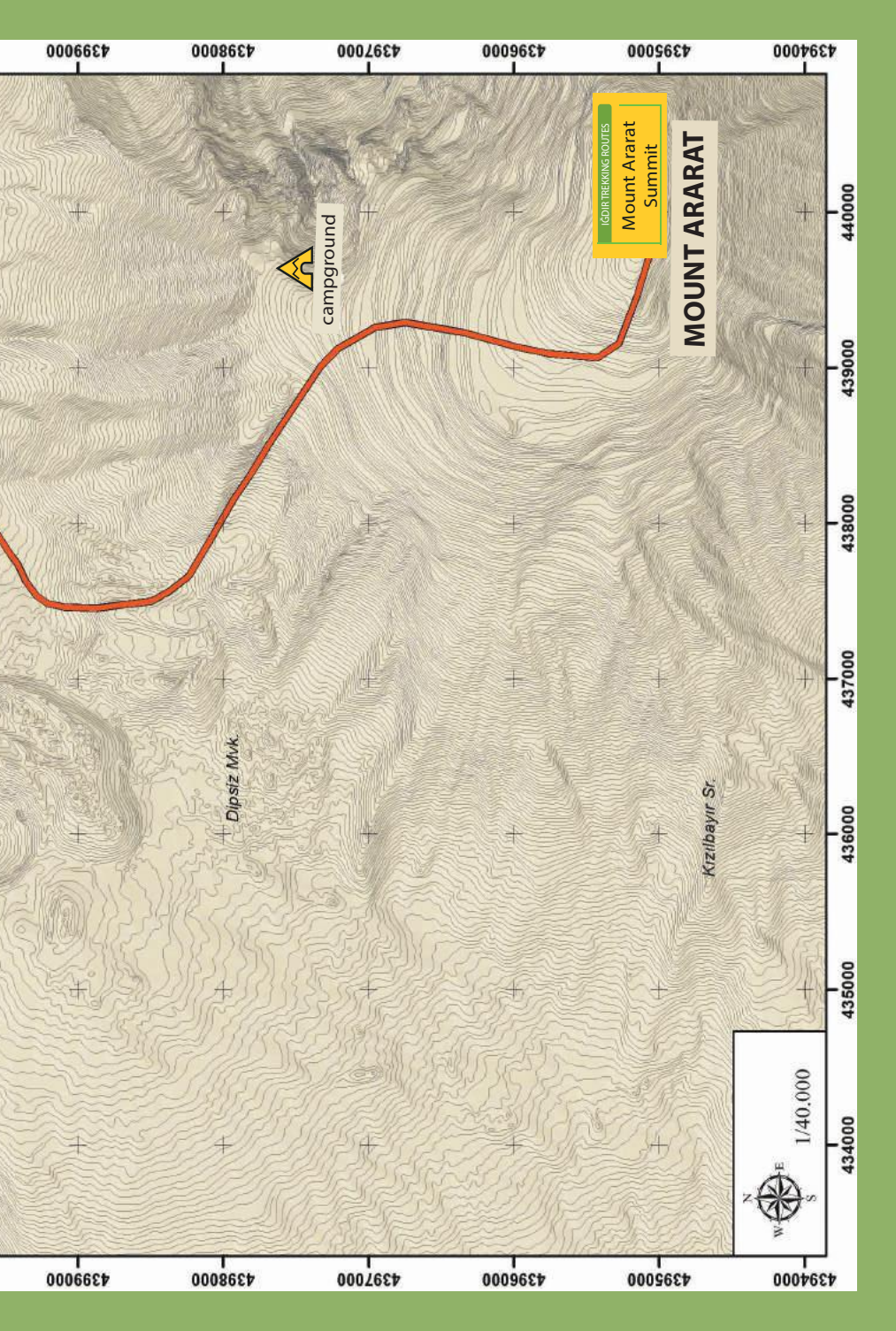


Mount Ararat – İnönü Hill



Aralık – Kinkdirek Armenian Cemetery





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MOUNT ARARAT

IGDIR TREKKING ROUTES
Mount Ararat
Summit

campground

Dipsiz Mvk

Kızılbayır Sr



4394000 4395000 4396000 4397000 4398000 4399000

BIKING ROUTES

Bicycle routes that follow asphalt village roads on plains, are generally on a rather smooth regions. Mountain biking routes use both asphalt and dirt village and plateau roads.



Lesser Mount Ararat



Route 1: Bayraktutan-Doğanyurt-Aşağıkatırlı-Yukarıkatırlı-Gedikli-Güllüce-Mollakamer-Kamışlı-Tuzluca (49 km)

A pleasant trip in Tuzluca village roads that are completely asphalt. Starting at 902 meters and climbing to 1868 meters with easy slopes and curves the route reaches Tuzluca at 1112 meters.

Route 2: Iğdır-Tuzluca-Yukarı Çıyrıklı (53 km)

Starting in Iğdır city center, the route follows Tuzluca road. Free of serious slopes, the route ends in Yukarı Çıyrıklı Pond, which is one of the important wetlands of the city.

Route 3: Iğdır-Karakoyunlu-Bulakbaşı-Aktaş-Yazlık-Adetli-Kolikent-Karahacılı-Yukarıtopraklı-Saraçlı-Aralık (54 km)

This fully asphalt route moves on a level course. It leaves Iğdır - Nakhchivan road after Karakoyunlu settlement and follows village roads. Joining the high road near Saraçlı Village, the route ends in Aralık county center.

Route 4: Iğdır-Halfeli-Alibey-Aliköçek-Harmandöven Caravansary-Asma-Harmandöven Caravansary -Iğdır (62 km)

The highest point of this route is a hamlet at 1965 m altitude. We should warn that there is a curvy climb approximately 1050 meters during the route. After Harmandöven Caravansary, which is one of the most important locations in Iğdır the route starts to descend. You may cut 12 km off the route by skipping Caravansary – Asma – Caravansary section of the route.





Route 5: Aralık-Gödekli-Serdarbulak Plateau-Bilican-Gömük-Yenidoğan-Aralık (69 km)

This rough route starts in Aralık county at an altitude of 834 meters and climbs to Serdarbulak Plateau at 2325 meters. We recommend you to take the easier climb from Gödekli Village and descend from Bilican hamlet. The road between Serdarbulak and Yenidoğan is dirt road and the rest is asphalt. Keep in mind that there is no water on the route, except for the village and the plateau.

Route 6: Aralık-Yenidoğan-Esenkaya-Korhan Plateau-İğdır (71 km)

Another biking route starting from Aralık County follows the asphalt village road to climb Yenidoğan village at 1684 meters. Becoming a dirt road at this point the route descends to Esenkaya settlement at 1565 meters. Then there is a slope climbing up to Korhan Plateau on the skirts of Ağrı Mountain at 1993 meters. Rest of the route is downhill. Reaching asphalt in Doğubayazıt – İğdır road, the route ends in İğdır city center at 904 meters.

JEEP SAFARI ROUTES

Landscape vehicle routes and jeep safari routes running through high mountains and deep valleys home of the hospitable transhumant folk visiting historical locations and cradle of nature all the same promise high adrenaline entertainment. You can try any route between May and October. Muddy dirt roads and snowy passes may become impassable during the rest of the year.





JEEP SAFARI ROUTES

Route 1: Tuzluca-Göktaş-Güzeldere-Akdeğirmen-Kalaça-Canderviş-Akdiz-Kelekli-Sarıabdal-Tuzluca (48 km)

The route continues on asphalt village road until Güzeldere Village. You can photograph Göktaş Sepulchers while watching the view of Uğruca Stream Valley. After Güzeldere you take the dirt road and climb until Canderviş. At this point you enter another valley with company of historical water canals. Accompanied by rock formations resembling those in Cappadocia from time to time, the journey ends where it begins.

Route 2: İğdir-Korhan Plateau-Esenkaya-Yenidoğan-Gömük-Bilican-Serdarbulak Plateau-Gödekli-Aralık (63 km)

The road on the route crossing the northern skirts of Ağrı Mountain is dirt road between Korhan and Serdarbudak Plateaus. The route with a unique view of black volcanic lava flows, rolls with the view of İğdir Plains.

Route 3: Tuzluca-Eğrekdere-Üçkaya-Ünlendi-Karacaören-Taşköprü-Tutak-Unbulak-Başsinek Plateau-Ada Quarter-Lake Balık -Abbasgöl-Güllüce-Mollakamer-Kamışlı-Tuzluca (80 km)

Crowned with ponds, plateaus and alpine meadows, the route's favorite part is, without a doubt, the Lake Balık. The section between Başsinek Plateau and Abbasgöl is within borders of Ağrı. Remember that the part between Ünlendi and Abbasgöl is dirt road.



Tuzluca - Southern Aras Mountains from Uğruca Village

Route 4: Tuzluca-Ağabey-Gaziler-Bahçecik-Dipsiz-Aşağı Civanlı-Kazkoparan-Uğruca-Karataş-Güzeldere-Göktaş-Tuzluca (81 km)

The route turning back to Tuzluca after a wide circle provides profiles from mountain villages in two different valleys. Bahçecik Köroğlu Castle and Göktaş Sepulcher are among the historical values on the route.

Route 5: Iğdır-Halfeli-Alibey-Aliköçek-Harmandöven Caravansary-Taşlıca-Pınarbaşı-Kızılkule-Yağlı-Yassıbulak-Yukarıkatırlı-Gedikli-Güllüce-İnce-Aliköse-Hamurkesen-Üçkaya-Eğrekdere-Tuzluca (89 km)

Crossing almost all Southern Aras Mountain Range within the borders of Iğdır in an east- west direction. The route is stabilized road in Pınarbaşı-Yukarıkatırlı section. The highest point of the route visiting historical locations, most important of which is Harmandöven Caravansary, is the Kızıl Kule Pass. The pleasant ride amidst plateaus and orchards finish in Tuzluca Caves.

Route 6: Tuzluca-Göktaş-Güzeldere-Uğruca-Kazkoparan-Aşağıcivanlı-Karanlık-Yaylacık-Sarıbulak-Aşağıkent-Cumaçay-Ağrı (92 km)

This historical road also provides transportation between Ağrı and Kağızman. Transhumants of Iğdır use the same road to visit Ağrı city center for shopping in summers. You should note that dirt sections of the road can be dangerous during rainfall.

Route 7: Iğdır-Halfeli-Alibey-Aliköçek-Harmandöven Caravansary-Asma-Kucak-Suluçam-Aktarla-Lake Balık -Tanyolu-Abbasgöl-Güllüce-Kamışlı-Tuzluca (128 km)

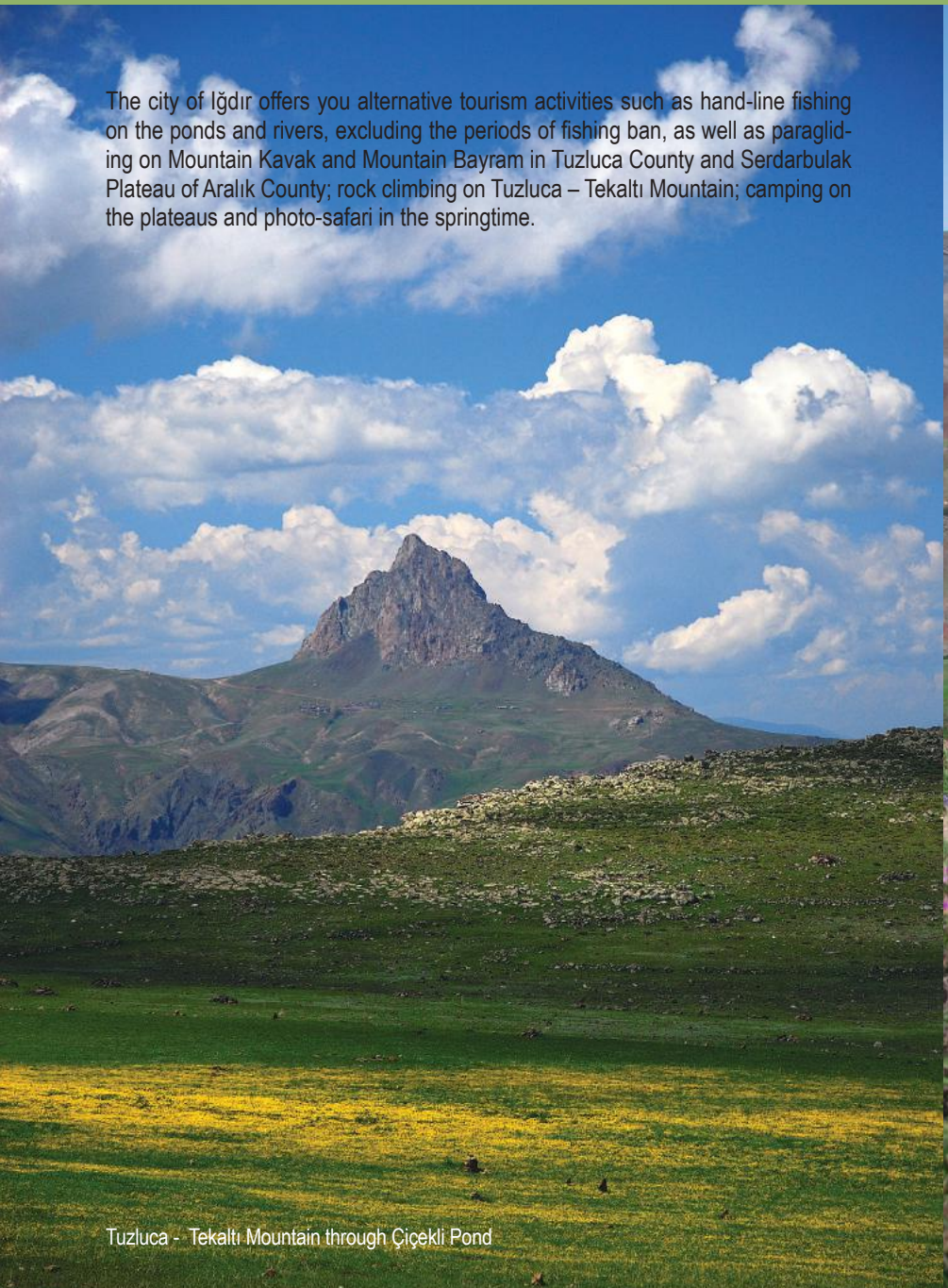
The route following the historical trade route enters Ağrı borders between Asma and Abbasgöl. Also visiting Harmandöven Caravansary that once housed many caravans bearing commodities, this route is also a journey to the past. Returning to Iğdır after traveling around Lake Balık, the route mostly uses dirt roads.



Tuzluca - Karacaören Valley

ALTERNATIVE TOURISM ACTIVITIES

The city of Iğdır offers you alternative tourism activities such as hand-line fishing on the ponds and rivers, excluding the periods of fishing ban, as well as paragliding on Mountain Kavak and Mountain Bayram in Tuzluca County and Serdarbulak Plateau of Aralık County; rock climbing on Tuzluca – Tekaltı Mountain; camping on the plateaus and photo-safari in the springtime.



Tuzluca - Tekaltı Mountain through Çiçekli Pond



Tuzluca - Bahçecik Koroğlu Castle



İğdır Central County

Karakale, Asma Village Sepulcher and settlement, Korhan Castle, İğdır Harmandöven (Ejder) Caravansary, Kul Yusuf Vault, Yukarıerhacı Sepulcher and cult area, Yukarıerhacı Kız Castle, Karaçomak Church, Korhan Church, Güngörmez Village Köroğlu Castle, Melekli Kültepe Barrow, Aşağıerhacı Oğlan Castle, Korhan Plateau, Obaköy Martyrs Monument, İğdır Genocide Monument, Graveyards (Ağaver, Çakırtaş, Hakmehmet, Kasımcı, Kuzugüden, Küllük, Melekli, Aşağıerhacı, Yayı)



Aralık

Hacı İbrahim (Gödekli) Vault, Ortaköy Bath, Serdarbulak Barracks, Tekaltı Barracks, Ortaköy Graveyard, Kolikent Vault, Kırıkdirek Armenian Graveyard, Süreyya Fountain, Serdarbulak Plateau



Karakoyunlu

Karakoyunlu

Karakoyunlu Castle and settlement, Karakoyunlu Sepulcher, Karakoyunlu Graveyard, Karasu - Aralık Wetland



Tuzluca

Tuzluca

Tuzluca Caves, Aslanlı Castle, Aşık Hüseyin Castle and settlement, Bahçecik Village Kız (Gaziler) Castle, Gedikli Castle, Hadımlı village Köroğlu Castle, Hasankent Cairn, Hasancan Castle, Kalaca Castle, Küllütepe Barrow, Uçkaya Ottoman Barracks, Rağbet Village Köroğlu Castle, Karakale Castle (Sürmeli Castle), Tavşantepe Castle, Üçlertepe Castle, Yukarıkatırlı Castle, Yüceotağı Castle, Aşağıaktaş Sepulcher, Gökteş Sepulcher, Çıraklı Sepulcher, Gedikli Martyr's Cemetery, Graveyards (Aşağıkatırlı, Hadımlı), ponds (Canderviş, Uğruca, Abbasgöl, Unbulak, Yukarıkatırlı, Ünlendi, Çiçekli, Uçkaya), Plateaus (Arslanlı, Tutak, Keko, Sado, Konaklı, Kandilli, Nahırkırın, Hacıbedir, Kızılcaziyaret, Kazkoparan, Akpınar).



The wealth of this ancient city that witnessed numerous civilizations is reflected into the cultural texture as well. Rug, carpet, halça (a kind of carpet), socks, felting, bagpipe, needlework, harmal, whitesmithing, saddle-making, tin making and lorimer are among the handicrafts trying to survive in Iğdır. Unfortunately, decreasing transhumance and increasing migration threatens the extinction of handicrafts.

The rugs woven by spun from animal wool and colored with madder are generally adorned with Karabakh, Caucasus and Ottoman Palace motifs. Wool socks used as winter clothes generally carry plant or animal patterns. You can purchase carpets, rugs, bags and socks as souvenirs mainly from the workshops of Meskhetian Turks.

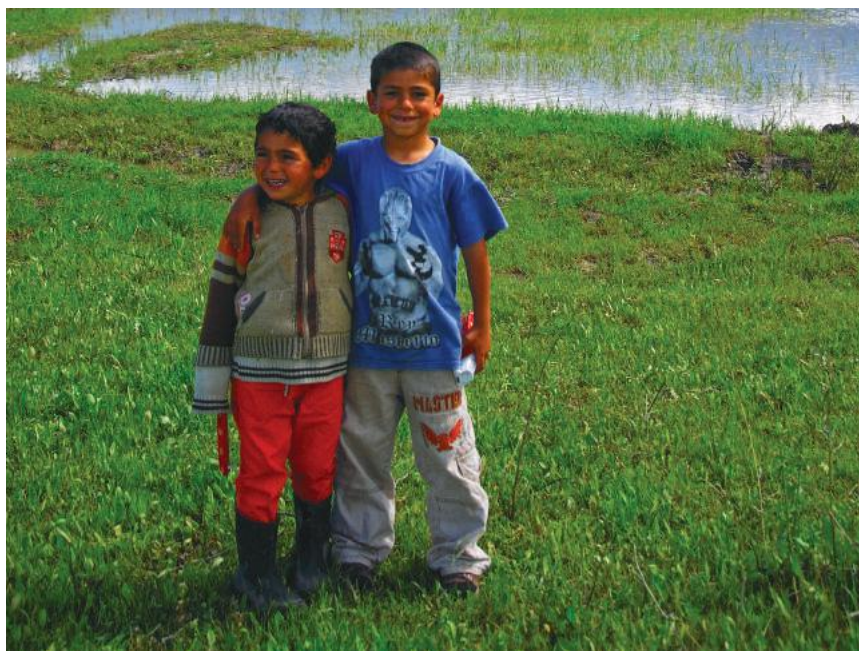
Iğdır's multi colored mosaic is also reflected in its cuisine. Soups such as Katık aşı, kelecöş, hörre, ayranaşı (gırara dev), omaç (evelik) aşı, kail, şile aşı, süt aşı (milky soup) (gırara şir) and main dishes such as bozbaş, roasted meat on an iron plate (selegeli), Kurdish meatballs, cıvır, salmanca (roasted meat), tike kebab, piti, hingel, meat pastry, fish cake, haşıl, mafış, helise, zeğme, onion stew, rice pilaf and killor are some of the local tastes.













Distance of some cities to Iğdır;

İstanbul	1563	km.
Ankara	1196	km.
Antalya	1705	km.
Ağrı	145	km.
Kars	143	km.

Distance of its counties to Iğdır central county;

Tuzluca	41	km.
Karakoyunlu	13	km.
Aralık	45	km.

Bus Companies

Bizim Iğdır Seyahat : 0090 476 227 88 92

Has Iğdır Turizm : 0090 476 2276671
www.hasigdirturizm.com

Iğdırlı Turizm : 0090 476 2286901 – 0090 476 227 84 20
www.igdirliturizm.com.tr

Air Travel

Ağrı Airport is 10 km to the city centre on the road to Tuzluca County. Various companies have direct flights from and to İstanbul and Ankara and connected flights from and to Antalya and İzmir, every day.

**KARS
(DİGOR)**

**KARS
(KAĞIZMAN)**

ARMENIA

AĞRI

AĞRI (DOĞUBAYAZIT)

IRAN



CITY CENTER

Gold Kerem Yıldırım Hotel ***

Tel : 0090 476 2270227
Website : www.hotelgoldyildirim.com

İmparator Hotel ***

Tel : 0090 476 2241444-45
Website : www.imparatorigdir.com
E-mail : omerkara76@hotmail.com

Öz Olimpia Hotel **

Tel : 0090 476 2271866
Website : www.ozolimpia.com.tr

Alkış Hotel **

Tel : 0090 476 2271568
E-mail : hotelalkis@hotmail.com

Dedemin Hotel **

Tel : 0090 476 2273920
Website : www.hoteldedemin.com.tr

Hotel Yılay **

Tel : 0090 476 22745677

Latif Hotel

Tel : 0090 476 2279754
Website : www.hotellatif.com
E-mail : hotellatif@gmail.com

Tuncer Hotel

Tel : 0090 476 2278184

Barbaros Hotel

Tel : 0090 476 2273919

Azer Hotel

Tel : 0090 476 2277190
E-mail : otel_azer@hotmail.com

Öz Grand Derya

Tel : 0090 476 2271995

İğdır Teacher's House

Tel : 0090 476 2276715

İğdır University Guest House

Tel : 0090 476 2274185

: 0090 476 2276806

E-mail

: konuskevi@igdir.edu.tr

TUZLUCA

Tuzluca Teacher's House

Tel : 0090 476 3112097

IMPORTANT PHONES

Police 155

Gendarmerie 156

Emergency 112

Forest Fires 177

Iğdır Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate : 0476 2277044

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iktm76@kulturturizm.gov.tr

GPS coordinates and information

: www.igdirtrekking.com

info@igdirtrekking.com

www.ersindemirel.blogspot.com

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