

KARS TOURISM EXPEDITION GUIDE



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INTRODUCTION

The earth is undergoing one of its fastest and most dazzling eras with regard to economical and social changes. Rapid advances in science and technology made the countries more connected and allowed the emerging information to rapidly spread and be utilized. One of the most efficient methods developed recently for innovative and sustainable development is the concept of local development.

Within the frame of this new approach, today "Regional Development Agencies" operate in several countries. The objective of these organizations is to invigorate the region's economy through the policies developed taking into account the potentials, advantages, problems, opportunities of regions as well as the relevant threats in order to enhance the local competitiveness and contribute to the alleviation of developmental inequalities amongst regions.

Operating in TRA2 Level II Region which covers Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars, our Agency aims to locate the resources and opportunities, thus enhance the socio-cultural and economic welfare of the people in accordance with regional development objectives, as well as allowing region's beauties to be shared with country and world publics.

It is targeted to make use of eco-tourism potential as including the branches such as historical city tours, camping, mountain climbing, trekking and mountain biking by observing the exploitation-protection balance of historical and social structure bearing the traces of ancient cultures as well as geographic beauties and also to present it to today's people who are in search of self-recognition. In this context, Kars Expedition Guide constitutes the second leg of the mission that started with Sankamış Trekking Routes and finishes with Ardahan, Ağrı and Iğdır studies/works.

Within this scope, this guide is prepared for use by people with the intent to utilize historical, cultural and natural beauties in our region without destroying the natural life, and I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Ersin DEMİREL for his devoted efforts, to Mr İlhan KOÇULU and Mr Vedat Akçayöz for their contributions with their opinions, advices and comments, and to our Agency's expert and tourism coordinator Dr. Uğur ÇALISKAN for his devoted efforts and contributions.

Dr. Hüseyin TUTAR
Serhat Development Agency
General Secretary



KARS



Kars City Center



ABOUT KARS

Dwelling on the biggest and widest plain of Eastern Anatolia Region, Kars is regarded as a gateway of Turkey opening to Caucasus and Central Asia. Within the historical course, it maintained its importance in all eras due to its position as a crossroad of old trade routes.

Dominance of Chalcolitic, Ancient Bronze Age, Early Iron Age Cultures, as well as the political sovereignties of Urartian, Scythian, Kimmerian, Persian, Roman, Arsakian, Sassanian, Umayyad, Abbasid, Byzantian, Bagratian, Seljuk, Saltukid, Mongolian, Georgian, Karakoyunlu Aqqoyunlu, Ottoman, Russian, and Turkish states is seen on the region in which the first settlement dates back to 13000 B.C. Today on the land of Kars which witnessed the settlements of so many tribes and nations, accommodate Natives, Kurds, Terekemes (Karakalpakstanis) and Azeris and there are minorities of Malakani and Doukhobor communities.

The first name of the region is referred as Daiieni in Assyrian sources (twelfth century B.C.) and as Diauehi in Urartian sources (ninth century B.C.). The historical settlement, name of which is referred as Corzene in Strabon's book of Geographiga, is referred to as Cha(o)rsa in Ptolemaios' Guide to Geography book in second century A.C. In Georgian sources it is used as Kari (gate-way). In eleventh century, Mahmud Al-Kashgari refers to name of Kars



Kars General View

as "a dress made of camel's and sheep's wool" and Karsak as "the desert fox leather of which is used for making fur". Another theory is that the name of the city comes from Corsacs, a Turkish Tribe that came from Caucasus in 130-127 B.C. and settled about Kars.

With its geographic structure with an average altitude of 1768 meters, most of the region is comprised of plateaus. Its most significant mountains can be listed as Allahuekber, Kısır, Akbaba, Aşağıdağ, and Aladağ. There are several lakes with miscellaneous dimensions in Kars Province which embodies the largest plato of Eastern Anatolia. Among these blue lagoons are Aygır, Karzak Çenklice, Erhan, Turna, Çenekçi, Kuyucuk, Çatı, Deniz and Lavaşın, the biggest of which is Çıldır. Aras, Arpaçay, Kura and Kars Stream are the primary rivers within provincial boundaries.

Natural vegetation of the city which lacks forests is moorlands. Most of the forests are composed of yellow pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) that spread throughout the district of Sankamis. The geography of Kars hosts plateaus and mountain grass which are regarded as one of important ecologic systems. Around 1250 flowering plants grow naturally in these fields. A hundred of these plants are among rarest plant species that don't grow anywhere else in the world. We can mention several plant species that bear the name "Kars". *Lathyrus karsianus*, *Festuka karsiana*, *Allium karsianum*, *Caucalis karsianum* and *Nonea karsensis* are just a few of them.





The best and most accurate way to explore a city is to wander street by street. You can satisfy your curiosity regarding that city only through walking, thus you can achieve an inner richness as you observe the details. Here are the expedition tour routes we prepared for you, including the historical city center:



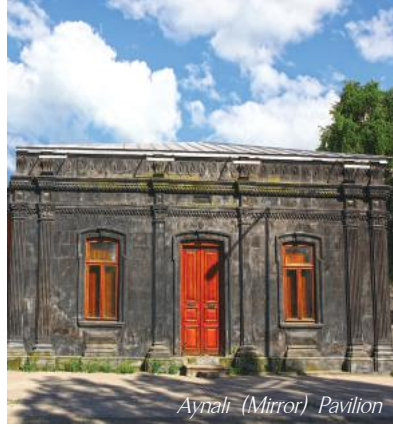
Long City Tour

Kars settlement that moved to Ortakapı, Cumhuriyet, and Yusufpaşa neighborhoods during Russian sovereignty after old Ottoman settlement in Kaleiçi neighborhood has a grid plan consisting of orthogonal cross cutting streets. This long city tour passes through almost all historical places within the old settlement area. Our trip starts with the museum that is placed in the north east of the city. The artifacts that belong to Paleolithic, Ancient Bronze, Urartian, Roman, Byzantine, Christian, Seljuk, and Ottoman eras are exhibited in the **Archeological Museum** which also has an ethnography hall. You set on a deep journey that dates back to ancient periods while you observe the historical and cultural assets

inherited from rooted civilizations that dwelled on Kars. Following the museum tour, we start walking through Cumhuriyet Avenue. The first historical building that we come across on the left is the structure which is today used by **Kars City Council**. This authentic structure which was built in Baltic architectural style as railroads service building in nineteenth century, served as Kars Customs House in the years following the declaration of

Republic and then it was restored in 2001 staying loyal to its original design. On the left we see the monument of Kazım Karabekir Pasha and Kars Railroad Station. We keep on going through Cumhuriyet Avenue.

On the right, old Russian stone buildings standing in the military area draw our attention. These spectacular structures drawing interest with their robust and aesthetical looks seem to challenge the passing years. A little further we encounter **Aynalı (Mirror) Pavilion**, which is also known as Yazıcıların Evi (The House of Clerks). The building, which takes place in the "Kar" (Snow) novel of famous Nobel prize winner man of letters Orhan Pamuk as Maruf Bey's house, was built in a fashion in line with nineteenth century Baltic architecture. On the northern outer front of Aynalı (Mirror) Pavilion which is designed as single floor and with a rectangular scheme, there is a construction tablet which is dated to the year 1893.



As we arrive at the city stadium, we turn from **Fethiye Mosque** on the corner, toward Ordu Avenue on the right. The structure, which was built as a church by Russians in the late nineteenth century, has an eye-catching sight. The Alexander Nevski- Russian Military church of a particular period, serves as a mosque today with addition of two minarets in 1985. Cumhuriyet Square, which is located on a little ahead of Fethiye Mosque is decorated with a monumental Atatürk statue. This impressive picture is perfected with the sight of **Provincial Council Building** which is located on the right corner. This enormous structure on the third kilometer of our route adds an aesthetical aspect to our journey with

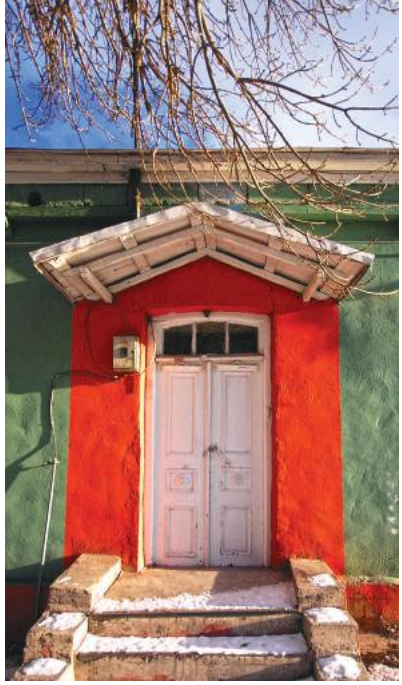


KARS CITY TOUR

its outer front built with basalt. The building which served as an office of Ziraat Bankası (Agricultural Bank) in the first years of Republic was used as Anatolian High School for a period after the restoration in 1984.

Our tour heads to the left as it leaves Ordu Avenue for a while on the next crossroad point. Before entering Şehit Yusuf Bey Avenue, you should take the photos of Aşıklar (Lovers) Marquee and Kars Bar Association building. The first historical site we come across in the avenue is Eski Kars Evleri (Old Kars Houses) Cafe on the right. Then you can see the Teachers' Lodge and Kars Culture House on the left. You can get information and advertisement brochures from Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate Information Office, located next to the Culture House which was once used as women's prison.

Moving a little further, we walk into the street on the right passing by the Governor's Building and head toward Faik Bey Avenue. Police Headquarters stands on the



Provincial Council Building

Hekimevi (Cheltikov Residence)



Provincial Directorate of Health

right across the avenue, and Provincial Directorate of Environment and Urbanisation Office stands right before us.

We keep going along our route as we turn left on the avenue. **Mesut Yılmaz Park** as one of the most important green fields of the city located right across Dere Tabya and Meçul Asker (Unknown Soldier) Monument on the left, is our first resting place. Haydar Aliyev Monument rises on the opposite shore of curving and calmly flowing Kars Stream.

Şehit Hulusi AYTEKİN Avenue lying at the end of the park is our second route. The most important historical place of this avenue is **Hekimevi Building** which was built for Cheltikov family in 1894. We leave this building behind which is one of the most authentic examples of Russian architecture, and again start walking toward Ordu Avenue, this time in opposite direction. You will not be able to put down your camera along the avenue which resembles an outdoor museum with ancient and historical structures on both sides.

The first residence on the road which turns into a slight slope is the **Provincial Directorate of Health** building on the right. On the eastern entrance front of this triplex building, which was built in a Baltic architectural fashion in 1907, fake pillars and cartouche decorations draw attention. The building served as a hospital for a while after the declaration of Republic. Right beside stands the Azerbaijan Consulate and across the avenue stands **Revenue Office Guest House** which was built in 1897 and used as Court House for a while. In the middle of this expanding point of Ordu Avenue is Atatürk Park and statue.



Baltic Architectural Sample

Chamber of Industry and Commerce building rises on the right and the Old Governor's House (Stavuski Mansion)

rises on the left side of the park correspondingly. The mansion built by Russians in 1883 and located on the fifth kilometer of our city tour, is single-floored and designed in the "U" shape. The most important case about this building that has fake pillars and relieves on its eastern entrance front walls, is that it is the place where Treaty of Kars was signed on October 13, 1921. The building, which was used as Governor's House after the declaration of Republic, has been registered as "Cultural Real Property" as of 2010, as a result of renewal operations that started in 2005.

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce building across the mansion is another structure that is brought into service in the late nineteenth century. The structure planned as a winter house by cut basalt and tuff stone, was also used in the Republic period. This historical artifact withouter fronts decorated with kerb ornaments was visited on October 6, 1924 by Atatürk.

The next monumental artifact is the **Revenue Office Building** built in accordance with its contemporary architectural style. Fake ornaments on the exterior front walls of the artifact designed in a triplex "L" shape are spectacular. The structure was used as Governor's Office of Kars as from the declaration of Republic until 1980. Across this building is today's **Gazi Kars Anatolian High School** which was used as Girls' Training College for a while. Later on, passing by Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports,



we reach to Faik Bey Avenue. As we turn to left and again head toward left on the point of crossroad, we start moving along Gazi Ahmet Muhtar Paşa Avenue. Our first destination is **Gazi Ahmet Muhtar Pasha Mansion** built in Ottoman architectural style in the first quarter of 19th century. The wooden balcony ornaments of this historical artifact, which was used as headquarters by Eastern Front Commander Ahmet Muhtar Pasha during the 1877-78 Ottoman-Russian war, are regarded as the magnum opus of the era. Today the building serves as an art gallery.

Across the mansion is the old residence of Cihangirzade Ibrahim Bey who presided the Southwestern Caucasian Government. The mansion, which is also referred as Yaşar Çelebi Residence, was used as Kars Broadcastinghouse for a period. After that, passing by **Fevzi Pasha Elementary School, Kars History Tourism and Culture Society, Community Center and Clock Tower** respectively, we climb to the head of the hill. Merkez (Central) Mosque stands on our right, where Russian Orthodox Church once used to rise. We carry on walking downhill toward Kars Stream. Passing by the Old Russian Consulate, (Haşim Arkan Mansion) residence of Resul Yıldız, Caucasian University State Conservatory buildings, we arrive at Kars Butik Hotel. The two storey building by cut basalt stones designed in "L" shape has spectacular kerb ornaments on its exterior walls. The building serves as a hotel after the restoration it underwent in 2001.

The next historical place is **İsmet Pasha Elementary School**, which dates back to the late 19th century and bears the traces of Baltic Architecture. The two-storey, "U"

Revenue Office Building



KARS CITY TOUR



Ismet Pasha Elementary School



Caucasian University State Conservatory



planned stone building's intended use was as a military post, in the years that it was built. It has been serving as a school since 1923. The historical artifacts with their spectacular sights continue to line up one by one as we pass by this building. The last location on this avenue is **Tuncer G's (Güvensoy) Residence** who takes place in "Kar" (Snow) novel. The residence in yellow, which provides a wonderful sight with the ornaments and and carvings on its door, was built in 1890. The old Market building renewed under personal ownership maintains its place within the historical texture of Kars. Across the building stands an Ottoman era building Yusufpasha Mosque.

Demirköprü (Iron Bridge) on Kars Stream greets us as we arrive in Hulusi Aytekin Avenue again. We carry on our history and culture oriented journey as we turn left. As we pass by the single-storey, old colored houses and İstihkam Tea Garden beside Kars Stream, we pass across to the other shore over **Tahta Köprü (Wooden Bridge)**. You can take a tea break here if you get tired.

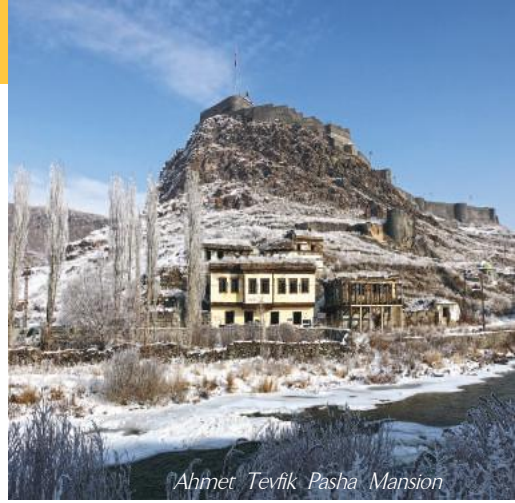
Topçuoğlu Turkish Bath built in 1742 stands on our left. The building with a body built by plain face stones, lays on the east-west direction. Taşköprü (Stone Bridge), one of hundreds of arched bridges that date back to Ottoman era, stands between Mazlumaga Turkish Bath and Namik Kemal House. The bridge with three arches, which was built by the command of Sultan Murad the 3rd under the supervision of Lala Mustafa Pasha in 1579, was rebuilt after the flood that took place in 1715. Mazlumaga Turkish Bath, considered as the biggest turkish bath within the boundaries of Kars Prov-16

Tuncer Güvensoy's Residence

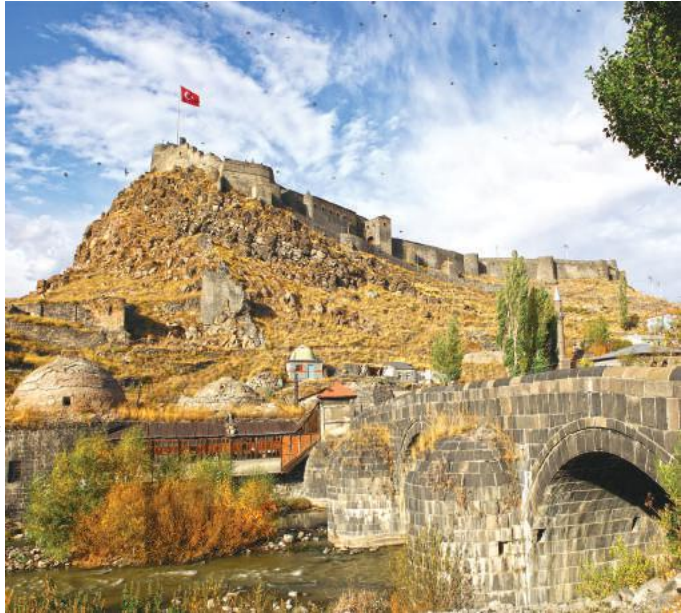
ince stands beside the bridge with its 54 meters length and 8 meters width. The turkish bath that has a big pool in the middle hosted art galleries during the sovereignty of Russians, after the visit of Russian author Pushkin in 1829. The next historical artifact is the residence of famous poet Namik Kemal, which is today used as Community Center. The poet's grandfather Abdullatif Pasha resided here when he was assigned as Governor in Kars in the years 1853-54.

On the opposite shore is Muradiye (İlbeyoğlu) Turkish Bath, the another Ottoman structure. The building dating back to 1774 is also referred to as Balconied Turkish Bath. Beside that, there is Ahmet Tevfik Pasha Mansion which seems to resist the relentless effects of time. The mansion built by the command of Hacı Eyüp Bey from Kars gentry is one of the elegant buildings in the city.

We move on with Kars Stream on our right. There are Armenian Catholic Church's remnants on the hill rising on the right slope. Soon, we find ourselves before the Pasha Mansion, one of 19th century artifacts, built in Baltic architectural fashion. The magnificent residence, which once hosted high state officials, carries on its service as Caucasian University Institute of Social Sciences.



Ahmet Tevfik Pasha Mansion



Tasköprü ve Muradiye Turkish Baths



KARS CITY TOUR



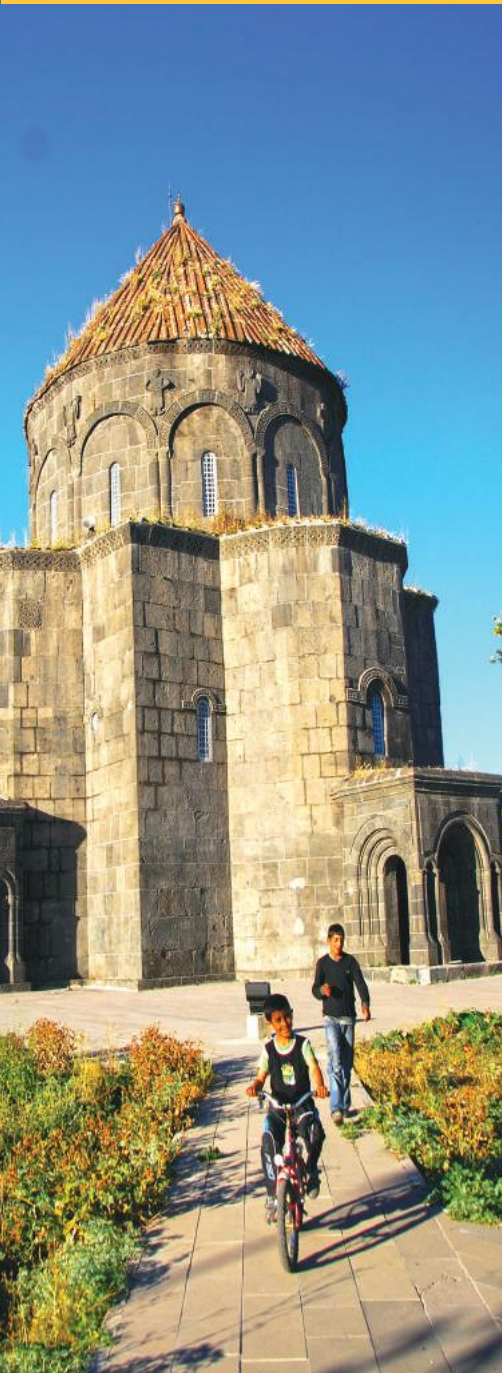


On the right slope of the valley which gradually becomes steeper and narrows, stands Castle of Kars and bastions, and on the left there are ruined historical structures aligned one after another. The Valley of Dereiçi, which is to be renewed within the scope of urban transformation plan, takes on a verdant aspect especially in spring months. Accompanied by the sound of Kars Stream, we get away from urban noise and arrive in **İkinci Taşköprü (Second Stonebridge)** built in 1855. On a little ahead of the bridge, that stands between Arabian and English bastions, is **Kent Ormanı (Urban Forest)** which is also a picnic area.

Passing through Taşköprü, our route heads towards Kale. On the left of a slight slope of 1 km, we encounter the bastions built in Ottoman era in order to withstand the enemy. We head for the stairs rising at a point where the road makes a sharp bend, and reach to the castle which is regarded as one of the symbols of the city. The tea garden within this historical ambiance, which also serves as a view terrace, offers the chance to enjoy the finest recreation in the course of our 10 kilometers of journey.

The Castle of Kars, built in 1153 by Vizier Firuz Akay commissioned by Saltuk Sultan Melik İzzeddin, was architected as two parts, interior and exterior castles. The castle seems to maintain its authenticity in spite of the demolitions and renovations made during and after the attacks in various eras. Only 7 bastions survived until today on 3.5 kilometers of castle walls built by basalt face Stone, whereas there had been 220 of them earlier. There are four entrances in total, namely Su Kapısı (Water Gate or Çeribaşı), Kağızman (Middle Gate), Behram Pasha and Ana Kapı (Main Gate) which opens unto the cliff. There is also a tomb at the main entrance of the castle vaulted with glazed tile, which was built in the name of Celal Baba who died in a Mongolian attack in 1239. On the utmost point of the hill that the castle lies on, is Arap Baba Cemetery, on a place where the transmitters are sited today.

After watching the city plan, which was designed as a grid during Russian era, from the bastions of the castle, we carry on our route as we exit through Kağızman Gate. Beylerbeyi Palace, with its sidewalls as its only surviving architecture, is placed on a location that looks down on the city. The



building built by the command of Lala Mustafa Pasha in 1579 served as Government Office until 1918.

We carry on our route towards Kars Stream. Soon, we arrive before the **Church of Twelve Apostles (Kümbet Mosque)** and **Evliya Mosque** where the languages and ethnical textures coalesce, thus reflecting the sociology of the city. The church roof in the shape of a pointed cone and the mosque minaret, which outstandingly reflect the cultural interaction once existed among co-habiting religions, rise adjointly. Kümbets (large tombs) built by Seljuk Turks as an inspiration from aforementioned church roofs, constitutes another sample of cultural interaction. The stone relieves of twelve apostles and various ornaments draw attention around the dome of the old church built by Armenian Bagrat King Abas in 937. The building, converted to mosque by Seljuks in 1064, was used as Kale Cathedral following the Russian Invasion in 1877. This authentic archifact which served as a museum after 1964, was put into service again as a mosque as from 1993. Evliya Mosque built by Lala Mustafa Pasha in 1579 rises beside Kümbet Mosque. The tomb of Ebul Hasan-i Harakani is located in the mosque's yard. Harakani, real name of whom is Ali Bin Ahmed Cafer, was martyred during the Seljuk-Byzantian war which took place near Kars in 1033. The opinions of this man of sufism, who influenced the philosophers such as Ahmet Yesevi and Mevlana, were compiled in his opus named Nurul Ulum.

We reserve the last part of our journey to the historical structures on Atatürk Avenue. The buildings of **Yusuf Pasha Mosque** built by the command of Kars 20

Kümbet Mosque (The Church of Twelve Apostles)

Beylerbeyi (governor) Seyit Yusuf Pasha in 1664. **Serhat Development Agency, The Old Municipality, Kars City Theatre** and old Russian Houses are the primary details that ornament our route. Especially the Old Municipal Building built in 1883 gives an aesthetical sight to the avenue with its Baroque style ornaments. The building bearing the title as the city's first Girls' High School underwent a repair in 2005.

Our 'Long City Tour' route ends on a point where Atatürk and Faik Bey Avenues intersect. You can take a rest in cafes and restaurants located in this avenue or shop in the stores where local products such as cheese are sold.



Short CityTour

Our journey that follows the same route with "Long City Tour" starting from Archaeological Museum to Fethiye Mosque on the corner of Ordu Avenue, heads towards a different route as from this point. It firstly passes along entire Ordu Avenue and then goes through Gazi Ahmet Muhtar Pasha and Atatürk avenues. Turning right after Tasköprü (Stone Bridge), stopping by Vaizoglu Mosque and the Church of Twelve Apostles, it ends at the Castle of Kars. Those who have time can also visit the Ottoman era mosques: Vaizoglu, Büyük Abdiaga, Küçük Abdiaga, Yusufpaşa, Hacı Seydi, Aliaga, Laçın Bey, and Beşik (Cradle) Church in Kaleici neighborhood located near the historical texture.



KARS EXPEDITION ROUTE

The expedition route allowing you to travel almost all natural and historical places within Kars provincial boundaries by a vehicle.



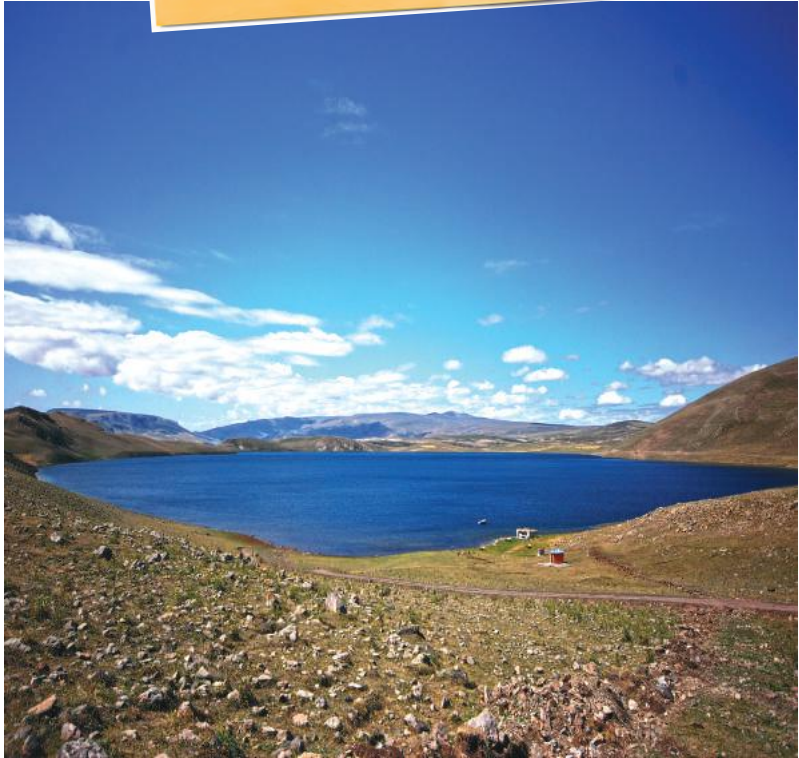
The Castle of Kars



1st Day

Kars-Çakmak-Çamurlu-Ortalar-Kayadibi-
Gölbaşı-Aygır Lake- Boğatepe Village (37
km)

After the short Kars city tour, we are visiting the Malakan House, which was arranged as a museum in Malakan Village Çakmak. Then comes the Boğatepe Village tour, which has a reputation for cheese production, desiccation of healing herbs and organic agriculture practices. We lodge in Boğatepe Village in the evening.

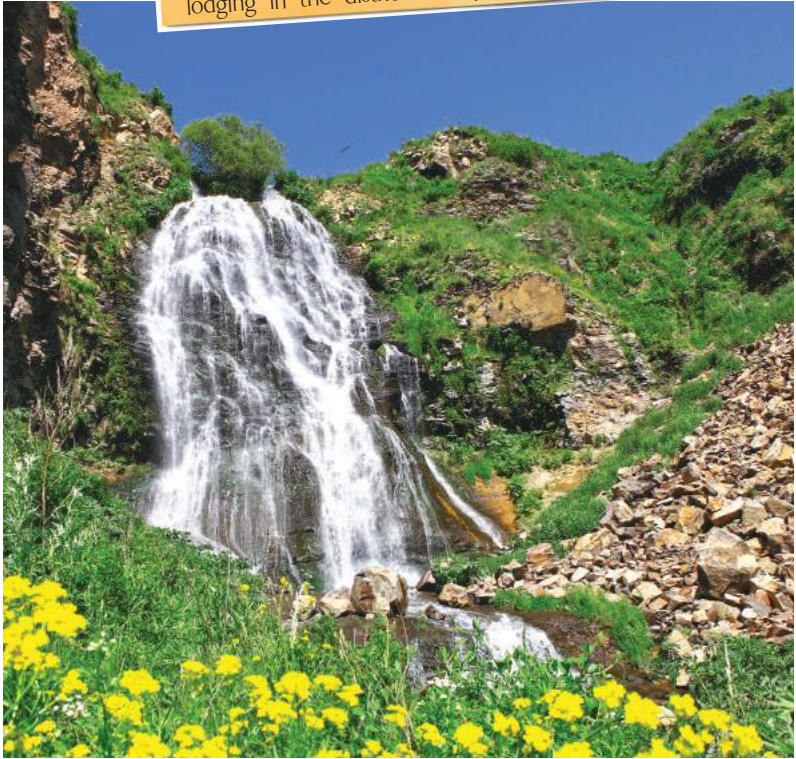


Aygır Lake

2nd Day

Boğatepe - Susuz - Susuz Fall - Cila-
vuz Cave - Porsuklu - Arpaçay - Çıldır
Lake - Doğruyol - Akçakale - Doğruyol
- Arpaçay (98 km)

Our first destination is Susuz Fall and Cila-
vuz Cave. Afterwards we make a vehicle
trip along the eastern shore of Çıldır Lake.
We visit Cromlech megalithic monument on
Akçakale Island and the church in Doğruyol
Village. After the fish feast beside Çıldır Lake,
we take the return way following the same
route and visit the Urartian tablet found in
Tasköprü. We end this long and tiring day
lodging in the district of Arpaçay.



3rd Day

Arpaçay - Tepecik - Okçuoğlu -
Değirmenköprü - Küçükçatma - Kuyucuk
Lake-Kurudere - İncedere- Akyaka - Kal-
kankale - Kayaköprü - Hamzagerek -
Oğuzlu Church- Yağikesen Church - Ar-
paçay Dam Lake - Arasoğlu - Ocaklı Ani
Ruins (83 km)

After the birdwatching at Kuyucuk Lake in the morning, we visit the Castle of Kalkankale-Tignis, near Akyaka. Afterwards we are stopping by the churches in the settlements of Oğuzlu and Yağikesen with old stone structures, which we reached through Kayaköprü Village. The last destination of the day is ancient site of Ani with its impressive ruins. Let's remind that there is also a camping site in Ocaklı Village.



Ancient City of Ani

4th Day

Ocaklı - Esenkent - Kozluca - Digor
Beşkilise - Kilittası - Mreni Karabağ -
Kars (70 km)

Kozluca Village, with its two churches, is the first destination of the 4th day, which is 7 kilometers away from Esenkent. Later we visit Beşkilise (Five churches), surviving with only one structure remaining in the deep canyon in district of Digor. Afterwards, we complete the trips to Kilittası and Mreni Karabağ churches. We are lodging in Kars city center that we reached passing by the coast of Çalı Lake, at the end of the tour.





5th Day

Kars - Selim - Sarkamis (54 km)

We visit Katerina Hunting Lodge, Yanik Church, and the railway repair shops in Sarkamis district center. After the lunch, we visit the martyrdoms around and take a tour to Kizlar (Toprakkale) Castle which faces Keklik Valley. Nature lovers can take a walk accompanied by the fragrant ait of yellow pine forests. We complete the day after the dinner at Sarkamis Cultural Center.

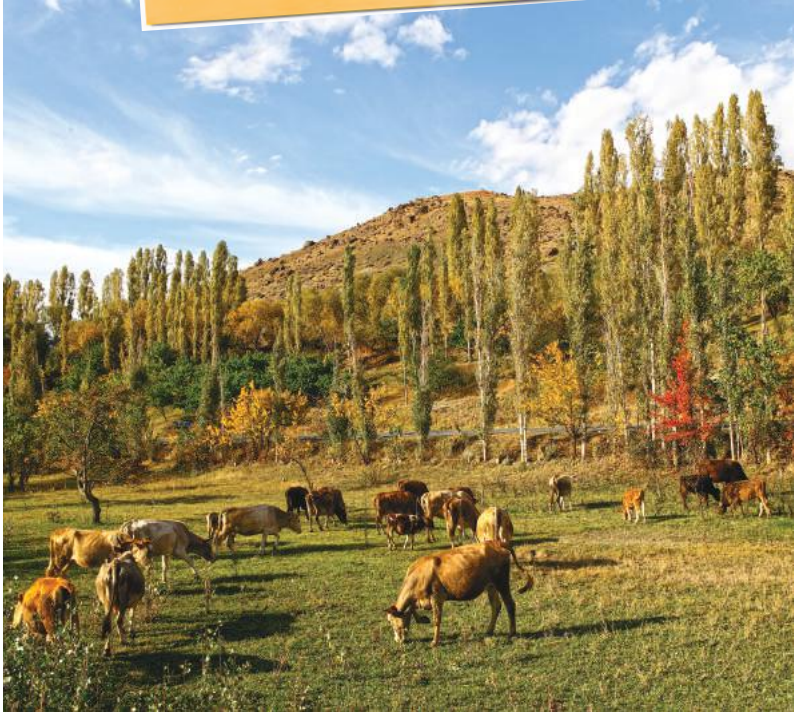


Sarkamis Katerina Hunting Lodge

6th Day

Sarıkamış - Handere - Karaorgan - Zivin
Castle - Altınbulak - Micingirt Castle -
Taşlıgüney - Karakurt Kilisesi - Geyiktaş
- Kağızman (72 km)

We start the day with Zivin and Micingirt Castles, on the historical route. We take a lunch break after the visit to Karakurt Church at Karakurt's center. Accompanied by the sights of stone settlements, fairy chimneys and the orchards along Aras Stream, we arrive in the district of Kağızman where we spend the night as the last destination of the trip.





7th Day

Kağızman - Çengilli Church - Deniz Lake - Kozlu - Camuşlu Stone Scriptures - Çaybük - Purut Kaya Settlements - Tunçkaya - Keçivan Castle - Paslı - Kars (72 km)

After Çengilli Church with its impressive look and Deniz Lake located in proximity, we arrive at one of the most important historical assets in Anarolia, Camuşlu Stone Scriptures. We return to the city center after a visit to Purut Stone Settlement in Çukurayva Village and Keçivan Castle in Tunckaya Village at noon.



Kağızman Çengilli Church

KARS EXPEDITION ROUTE MAP



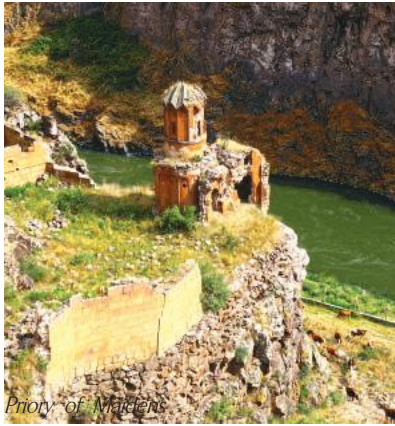
HISTORY TOUR



Ancient City of Ani



Ancient City of Ani

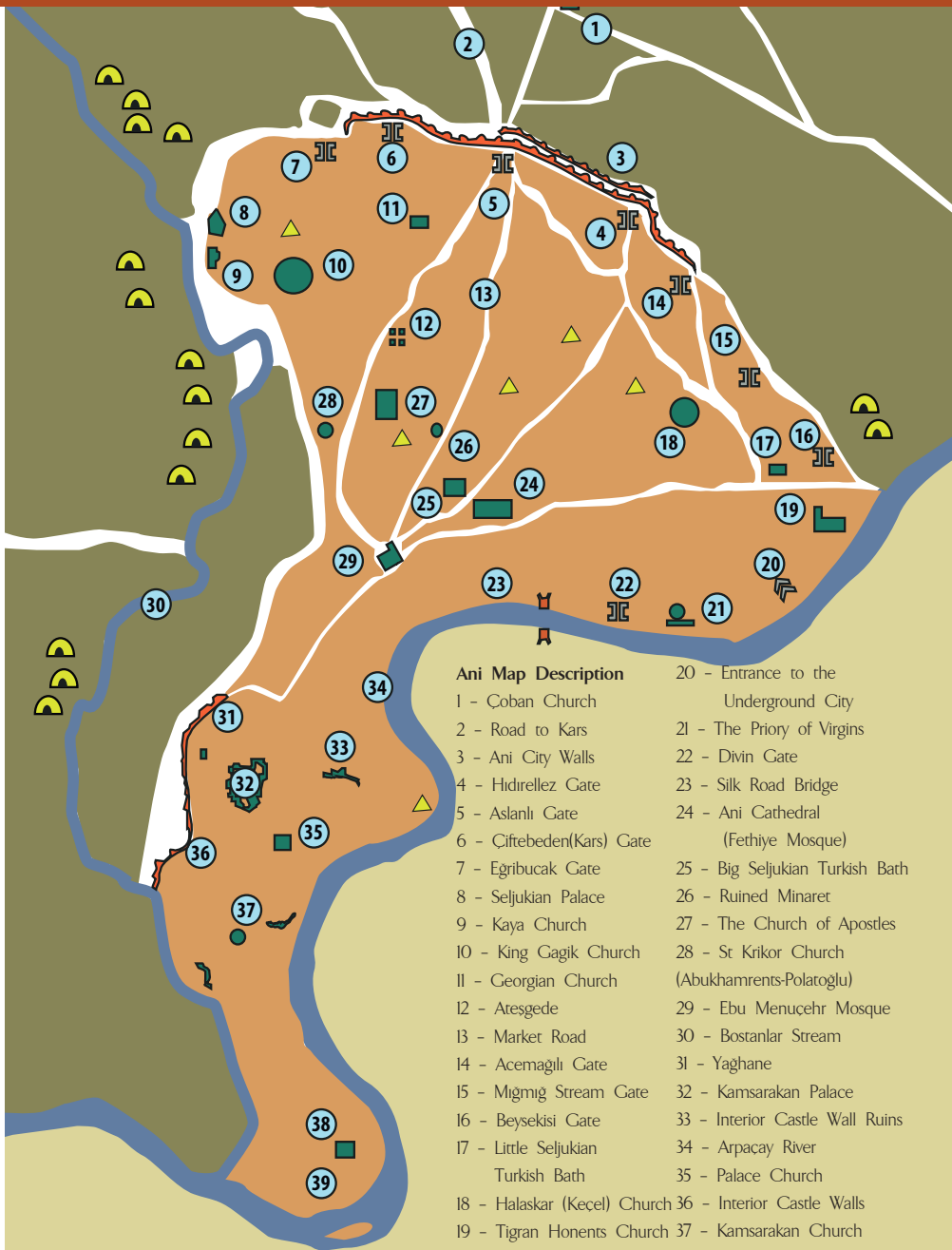


Ani, as one of the biggest and most significant ancient cities in Turkey, lays on the west coast of Arpaçay Valley which constitutes our boundary with Armenia. The archeological site in Ocaklı Village, 41 kilometers away from provincial center, maintained its importance for centuries, due to its location as a destination on Silk Road. This magnificent city, with a 5000 years history revealed during excavations, has hosted several nations. The caves in Bostanlar Stream Valley nearby the city served to human history as a settlement for a very long period of time. One should spend a day to properly travel Ani Ruins, surrounded by about 45 kilometers of city walls. Most significant structures within the site area can be listed as the city walls, Kars Gate, Aslanlı Gate, Hidirellez Gate, Atesgede, Seljukian Palas, King Gagik Church, Ani Cathedral, Abukhamrents Church, Ebu Menucehr Mosque, Tigran Honents Church, Kecel Church, Church of the Maidens, Silk Road Bridge, Interior Castle, Maiden's Castle, Priory of Maidens.



Ancient City of Ani

MAP OF ANCIENT CITY OF ANI



Ani Map Description

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Çoban Church | 20 - Entrance to the Underground City |
| 2 - Road to Kars | 21 - The Priory of Virgins |
| 3 - Ani City Walls | 22 - Divin Gate |
| 4 - Hidirellez Gate | 23 - Silk Road Bridge |
| 5 - Aslanlı Gate | 24 - Ani Cathedral (Fethiye Mosque) |
| 6 - Çiftebeden(Kars) Gate | 25 - Big Seljukian Turkish Bath |
| 7 - Egribucak Gate | 26 - Ruined Minaret |
| 8 - Seljukian Palace | 27 - The Church of Apostles |
| 9 - Kaya Church | 28 - St Krikor Church (Abukhamrents-Polatoglu) |
| 10 - King Gagik Church | 29 - Ebu Meneuehr Mosque |
| 11 - Georgian Church | 30 - Bostanlar Stream |
| 12 - Atesgede | 31 - Yaghane |
| 13 - Market Road | 32 - Kamsarakan Palace |
| 14 - Acemagılı Gate | 33 - Interior Castle Wall Ruins |
| 15 - Mıgıg Stream Gate | 34 - Arpacay River |
| 16 - Beysekisi Gate | 35 - Palace Church |
| 17 - Little Seljukian Turkish Bath | 36 - Interior Castle Walls |
| 18 - Halaskar (Keçel) Church | 37 - Kamsarakan Church (Church with Illustrations) |
| 19 - Tigran Honents Church | 38 - Priory of Maidens (Virgins) |
| | 39 - Maiden's Castle |



Ani City Walls





Zivin Castle

The Route of Castles

Along our tour, we stop by Kars Castle in Kars city center, Kecivan (Tunckale) Castle in district of Kağızman, Artakers and Köroğlu Castles, Zivin, Micingirt and Kızlar (Toprak-kale) Castles in district of Sarkamis, Magazbert Castle in district of Digor and Tignis Castle in district of Akyaka. Our first destination is Kars Castle built in 1579, which we mentioned in the city tour. Castle of Maidens with a little church inside, located nearby Sarkamis, has a full view of Keklik Valley. Zivin and Micingirt Castles on the historical road on Trabzon-Erzurum-Kars-Ani route rise on the escarpments. Micingirt Castle that faces Inkaya Valley was built by the command of Saltuk Sultan Mansur Ergin. There is no information regarding the construction date of Zivin Castle, located on the steep hill on the village known as Süngütaşı, near Karaorgan that is 32 kilometers away from Sarkamis, however it is understood from Urartian scriptures found in the castle's site that the structure was used since ancient times.

Köroğlu (Morpet) Castle in Kötek Village, on Kağızman-Kars main road, is placed on



Kecivan Castle (Tunckaya)

a spot looking down the valley. Keçivan Castle in Tunckaya Village, which is 40 kilometers away from Kağızman district center, is placed on the cliff just above the settlement. There's a church in the structure which was used during Urartian, Seljukian and Ottoman periods. The last castle to visit in Kağızman is the Castle of Artakers in Günindi Village.

Tignis Castle is placed in the district of Akyaka, which is 67 kilometers away from Kars. Standing on the hill behind Kalkankale Village, Tignis is 3 kilometers away from the border. The castle, located in a position facing Karahan Stream, was built in 10th century A.C. The most significant feature of the structure with surviving some parts today is that it was built in the same period with the castle in Ani Ruins.

Magazbert Castle built by Byzantians in the 8th century rests on the west coast of Arpacay Stream. The castle on Ani-Digor road is in Üçbölük Village, 9 kilometers away from Esenkent Village. It is required to take permission from the authorities to visit the castle, which stands within the military zone. Works have been started to open Gemili and Süvari Bastions to visits.



CASTLES ROUTE MAP

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ERZURUM

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The Route of Bastions

Kars, as a border city, has maintained its military and strategic importance in each era. Therefore several bastions were built around the castle, which is regarded as the heart of the settlement, in order to defend the city. The first of the bastions built to withstand Russian and Iranian attacks was built in 1579 with the order of Lala Mustafa Pasha, and it bears the name of Temur Pasha. 46 bastions in total were built between the years 1734-1848 near Kars and only 22 of them survived to this day. These bastions as the significant elements of positional defense can be listed as Karadağ, Gaziler, Gemli, İnönü, Yusuf Paşa, Muhlis

Paşa, Cenup, Fevzi Paşa, Hafız Pasha, Süvari, Kerim Pasha, Kanlı, Şimendifer, Çim, Thomson, Çukur, Çifte Gögüs, Hüseyin Paşa, Zohrab, Dik Veli Paşa, Churchill and Williams bastions.

It is made effort to introduce these historical monuments to the country for the purpose of tourism, part of which remain in the military zone. Karadağ Hill, as the location of most of these bastions, has been designated as archeological site and restoration works have been started to open Karadağ, Arap, Kanlı, Gemli and Süvari bastions for touristic visits. Those who desire can visit the bastions near the castle with the view of Kars city center and Kars Stream.



Kars Bastions

HISTORY TOUR

The Route of Martyrdoms

The heavy loss incurred during the Ottoman-Russian War, which pervaded Iran, Azerbaijan and Blacksea regions in 1914 is referred as "Sankamis Calamity" in the history. Allahuekber Mountains and the mid-winter together determined the result of Battle of Sankamis, which was planned to be a wide encircling manoeuvre in order to destroy the Russian army. Sankamis calamity which cost the lives of ten thousands of soldiers, occurred as a result of the physical conditions of Allahuekber Mountains as a provincial boundary between Kars and Erzurum that spread across a geography 40 kilometers in length and 25 kilometers in width; the perishing cold; insufficient logistic support, miscalculations of the authorities in the command echelon of that period's government and their adventurous behav-

ours. Many martyrdoms were built in both Erzurum and Kars in the memory of this tragic event. These martyrdoms that spread from ridges of Allahuekber Mountains to village and district centers were designed in the form of monumental tombs and statues. Our route intersects with many of the martyrdoms in the region especially the ones in Sankamis district center.

The starting point of the route is the Martyrdom of Allahuekber Mountain on Kars-Erzurum highway. Afterwards we are visiting Hamamlı Village Martyrdom right in the opposite village and then we are turning back to the district center. We are visiting Batı Kışla and Sankamis Martyrdoms in Sankamis neighborhood. Meçul Asker (Unknown Soldier) in İnönü neighborhood and Miller Bahçesi (Garden of the Nation)



Martyrdom in İstasyon neighborhood. The cemeterial area which lies alsoin the Makineli Tüfek (Machine Gun) locality in İstasyon neighborhood draws attention as a historical protected area with its cannon and bastion wreckages and ruins.

Dikenli Tabya (Barbed Bastion), Askerderesi, Turnagöl, Bardız Passage (Şehit-Martyr Halit), Kaynak-Çermik Yayla, Mescitli Village Deliktas locality, Soganlı, Karaugan-Köroğlu Village Çakırbaba, Bozat Village Akbaba, Yağbasan Village and Yayıklı Village Divik (Kırklar) martyrdoms comprise the other stages of our route.

This route, covering the martyrdoms only found within the Sarıkamış district boundaries, does not have a predetermined length. The route does not start and end in specific points. One has to go to and then come

back from specific villages and monuments. Within this context, you can visit all or only a few of abovementioned martyrdoms. Note that some martyrdom is located on plateaus and hard to reach. Surely we do not recommend this culture route in winter months. Also note that "Walks in Commemoration of Sarıkamış Martyrs" are organized in December or January every year.

Ones, who desire to visit all martyrdoms regarding Sarıkamış calamity, can follow the extra route that including Meçhul Asker (Unknown Soldier), Subatan, Derecik, Bozat Village Ağababa, Tek Çam, Şenkaya Ersinek Plateau martyrdoms in Kars city center, and The 3rd Regiment Martyrdom at the altitude of 3150 meters near Erzurum boundary.







Fethiye Mosque (Former Russian Church)



Tigran Honents Church



Small Church of Kozluca

Route of Churches

In Churches Tour, we visit The Church of Twelve Apostles (Kümbet Mosque) in Kars city center, Fethiye Mosque (Alexander Nevski- Russian Military Church), Beşik, Oğuzlu and Yağikesen churches, Yanık Küp, Asağı Sallıpınar and Karakurt churches in Sankamış, Doğruyol Church in Arpaçay, Beskilise (Five Churches), Kozluca, Varlı, Kilittası and Mreni churches, in Digor.

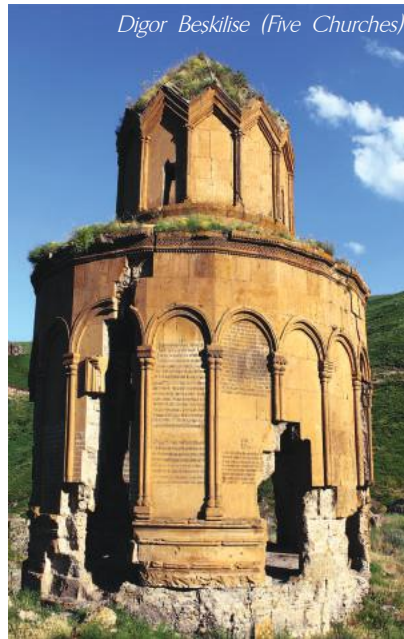
You can encounter with churches and large tombs as the most significant examples of cultural interaction in Anatolia, throughout the provincial boundaries of Kars. The large tombs, as grounded forms of conoid church roofs, constitute the synthesis of diverse cultures in one respect. The Church of Twelve Apostles, right below the Kars Castle is one of the most beautiful examples. We can list the significant structures beside the churches and monasteries within the field of Ani Ruins as Fethiye Mosque (Alexander Nevski-Russian Military Church), Oğuzlu Church built by the Hassan Gunt, Kars governor of the period (890-914) by command of King Sambat, and Kızıl (Red) Church which is also known as Karmir Vank, dating back to 19th century in Yağikesen Village. Both churches can be reached through Başgedikler town. Especially Yağikesen Church is remarkable with its structural integrity that survived until today.

You can visit Kozluca churches, 20 kilometers away from the district center and 15 kilometres from Ani Ruins, once we cross Digor boundaries. Big Church of Kozluca (Bagnayr Monastery) was built with a ba-

silica scheme by face stones in the 10th Century. The church, destroyed by the earthquake in 1936, rises within the village settlement. Small Church of Kozluca, located in the open space behind the mosque, was built in the 9th century. The structure, with a roof shaped as a pointed cone, is one of the exceptional churches that have survived up to present time.

Beskilise (Five Churches) is the nearest church to the district's center, within Digor where historical churches gathered. Only Saint Sarkis Church with scriptures that date back to 1033, has survived among the complex of Five Churches comprising of St Karapet, Virgin Mary, St Stefanos, St Krikor, and St Sarkis. This church with its remarkable architectural structure and stone masonry holds great importance for the Orthodox world. You can also see Varlı Church in Varlı Village, which was known as Zipni Village formerly, on 13 kilometers south of Digor.

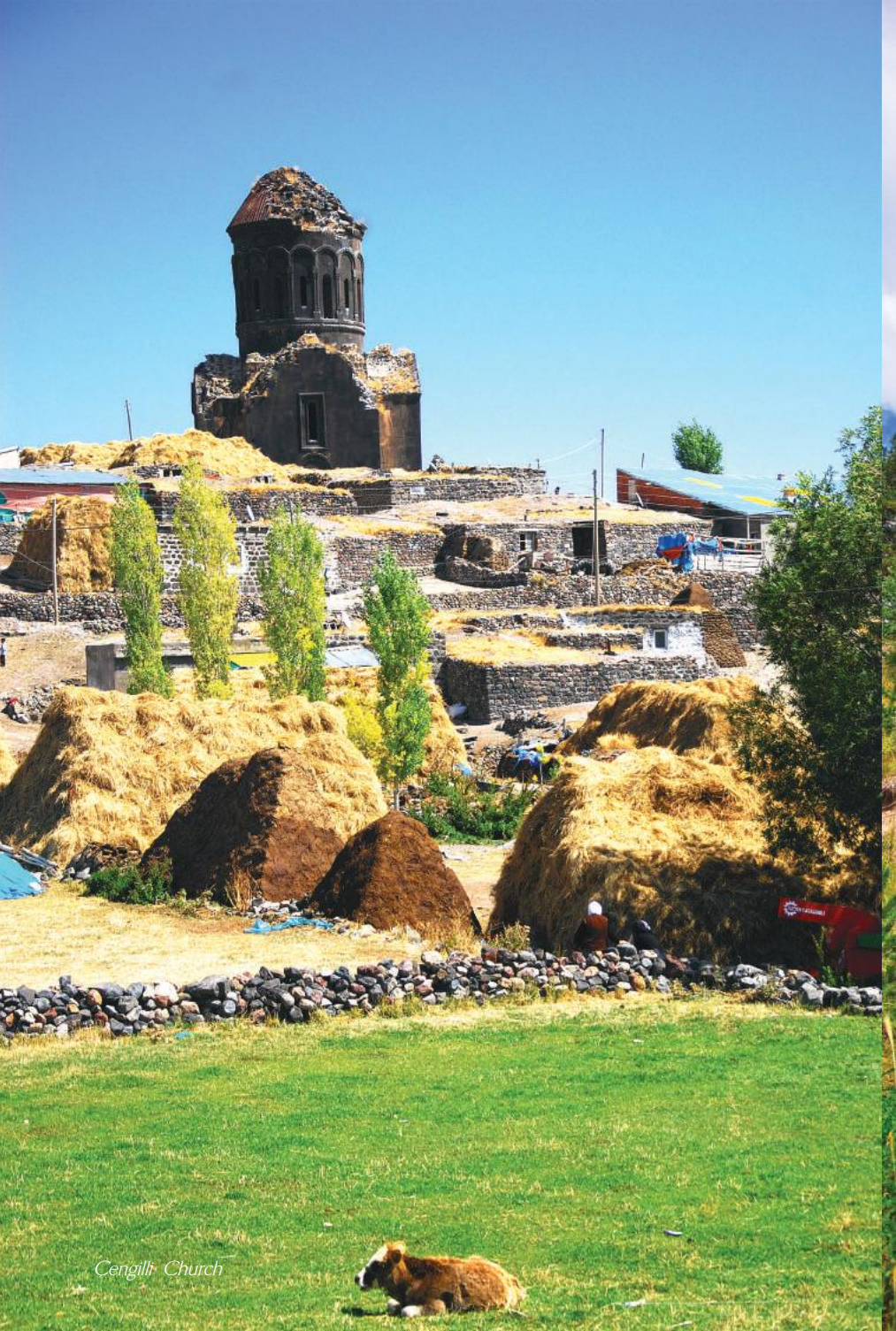
The other two churches within Digor are Kilittasi and Mreni Church, which are 32 and 25 kilometers away from district center, respectively. As we arrive in Kilittasi Village, a church within Arpacar basin comes into view. This structure in fact is a little church remaining within Armenian borders, which is right across. Kilittasi Church, which embodies a holy fountain and the tomb of Pakran, is located on a steep hill right behind the village and can only be reached by walking. Karabağ Mreni Church within Karabağ Village is located in a military area which is 4 kilometers away from village settlement. You can visit this church in Digor that rises in the middle of a solitary place, with permission from military authorities.



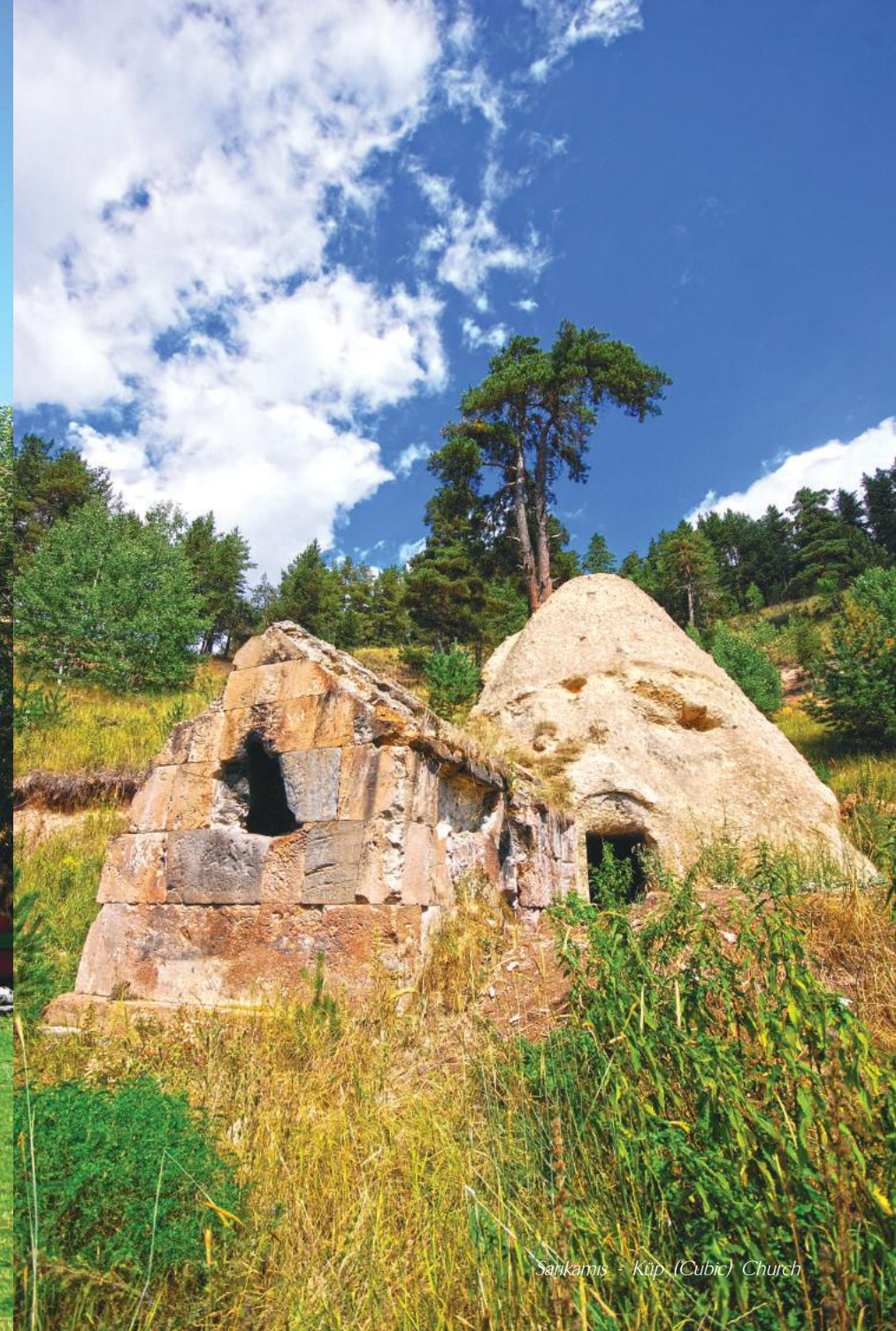
Digor Beskilise (Five Churches)



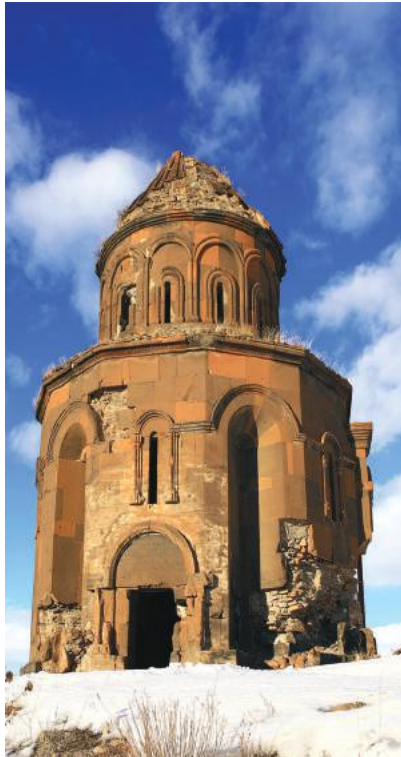
Yagikesen Village Kızıl (Red) Church



Cengilli Church



Sankams - Kupa (Cubic) Church



Our destinations in Sankamis are K p (Cubic) Church and the church located on Susuz Plateau of Karakurt town and surrounded by countless old tombs. Especially K p (Cubic) Church, which is partly carved into rocks and partly built by clay, is remarkable with its interesting architectural form. This historical area can be reached through old Karakurt-Sankamis road. Note that this second well conditioned church in Sankamis after Yanik (Burned) Church is located in Karakurt town.

Undoubtedly we should place a particular importance on Cengilli Church among the churches of Kars. This historical place, solemnly rising right in the center of the village that gave its name to the church, is 28 kilometers away from Kagızman. A scripture that states the church is under the supervision of Georgian Patriarchate is placed on the church. You can also see Alakilise (Sehitemin) Church on Sankamis side and the partly wrecked churches on the route of Hamamlı Village.

Our destination in the last part of route of the churches is Arpacay Dogruyol Church. The building used as a warehouse beside its usage as a mosque, is placed on the coast of Cildir Lake. There are also churches within Kars boundaries which cannot be visited due to their geographical position in military zone. These can be listed as a monastery of 9th century in Homoros ruins from Bagradian period, which is 7 kilometers away from Ani ruins, the structures which are referred as Ghoshavank Churches (Saint Minas and Saint Kevork), and Taylar Church on the North of Homoros.

THE ROUTE OF CHURCHES MAP

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A TRIP TO THE PAST



Susuz Valley - Doxumlu Village



A TRIP TO THE PAST



Borluk Valley

This tour, which covers the monumental scriptures that belong to ancient periods of human history, includes Camuslu, Çallı, Borluk, Susuz Cilavuz, Doyumlu Village and Purut scriptures and stone settlements.

The first destination of the route is Camuslu stone scriptures, 50 kilometers away from Kars city center. The illustrations on the stones, accessible by an earth road from the village with the same name, dates back to Paleolithic era. Human, deer, chevrotain and donkey figures are remarkable among the illustrations placed upon the slopes of a basalt rocky hill. The scriptures can be reached via the instructions on a signboard on the Kars-Kağızman road.



Borluk Valley

Borluk stone illustrations are located in the valley between Azat and Ataköy (Mağaracık) villages, 8 kilometers away from Kars city center. The valley bears the same name with Borluk Village due to the origin of the stream's bed. The monumental artifacts are suspected to come from the Paleolithic era, made by the humans inhabiting in the caves. Borluk stone illustrations which include the figures of mountain goat, horse, wild cattle and deer hordes, spread over the stones on the slopes of the valley. You can wander in the figures, ruined partly by humans, partly by natural conditions, only in



Camuslu Village Scriptures - Kağızman

company with a guide from the village. The cave holes in the valley and on the above bed of Sancay stream are spectacular.

Çallı stone illustrations are found in the plateau of Çallı Village in Kağızman district. You need to walk five kilometers from Çallı Village in order to reach to this area which has a magnificent view of Aras River Valley. The easiest way to access this area is to first arriving in Çallı Plateau by an earth road of six kilometers through Şabanköy Village and then to take a fifteen minutes walk. However you should note that the stone illustrations are terribly destroyed.

Kederlikaya Stream bed that is accessible from the district of Susuz district. Sağlık Ocağı locality will take you to Cilavuz Cave after about two kilometers. We do not recommend you to take a trip to the village that has stone settlements and chapels, in winter months. The stone sciptures and settlements, dating back to Urartian era, can also be seen in Susuz Doyumlu village, 30 kilometers away from the district center. Purut stone settlement, which is reached through Kağızman district, Cukurayva Village, is located on the foothill of a valley. Purut, which is a few kilometers away from the village, is accessible through an earth road.



Cilavuz Cave - Susuz



A TRIP INTO THE NATURE



Bogatepe Village - Kars



A TRIP INTO THE NATURE



Deniz Lake - Kagitman



A TRIP INTO THE NATURE

Kars, as the city of high mountains and plateaus, also has several natural beauties. There are also lakes (Çıldır, Kuyucuk, Aygır, Asboga, Turna, Deniz, Arpaçay Dam), waterfalls (Susuz and Keklik) and valleys (Keklik, İnkaya, Komdere, Borluk, Susuz) within the borders of the city; while bird watching and botanical tours take the sightseers to the magnificent beauties of Kars.

Çıldır, partially located within the boundaries of Kars, is one of the largest lakes of our country. Located at a 60 kilometers distance to the city center, the lake is quite impressive with its frozen appearance in winter. Located at 37 kilometers distance to Kars, Kuyucuk is an important wetland area for birds. Arpaçay Dam Lake, located at a 50 kilometers distance to the city, is at the border of Armenia. Aygır Lake on the Kars-Göle road has a blue smile through grey hills. Deniz Lake, located near Cengilli Village of Kağızman District fascinates the nature lovers with steep mountains and Aras River Valley.

A TRIP INTO THE NATURE

Turna Lake, which is accessible through both Kars-Kagızman and Azat-Verimli-Esenyazi routes, hosts the migratory birds in a high plateau. Asboğa Lake looks forward to being introduced to tourism in near future.

The most significant fall in Kars province is Susuz Fall on the 5th kilometer of Susuz-Ardahan road. This 42 kilometers long fall bearing the district's name pours into the Susuz valley, into which Kederlikaya stream also flows from uplands. There is also a thermal spring on the bed of the valley near the fall (1.5 km). Keklik Fall, 10 kilometers away from Sankamış, pours its expansive waters into a deep valley.

Komdere (10 km), Keklik (16 km) valleys in the district of Sankamış, and Kederlikaya (Susuz) (15 km) valley in Susuz District exhibit a very different aspect of Kars with their verdant texture. Borluk and İnkaya valleys are also among the remarkable tourism regions, not only with their historical sites but also their natural beauties.

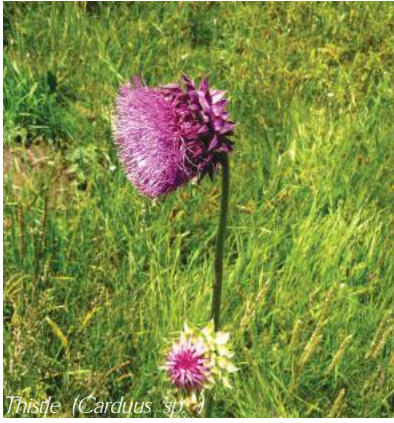


Keklik Waterfall - Sankamış





Calli Plateau - Kâğızman



Thistle (*Cardus* sp.)



Fungus



Rose hip (*Rosa canina*)

Kars Flora and Botanic Tours

There are estimated to be over two thousand flowering plants spread across provincial boundaries of Kars, and that a hundred of them are endemic. No exact number is given because the studies on the flora of Kars are still ongoing. Çıldır Lake, Allahuekber Mountains and Sarikamis Forests within the provincial boundaries are determined as Important Plant Areas (IPA). IPAs are natural or semi-natural areas with very rich plant diversity that include the populations of endangered or rare endemic plant species.

I- Çıldır Lake IPA: The Çıldır Lake IPA, lying on a 8.764-hectare area, involves the oligotrophic lakes within Kars and Ardahan. The most significant one of these lakes that lay on a high plateau in the northeast of Anatolia is Çıldır Lake. Beside Çıldır Lake with its 120 km area, Putka (Gölbaşı) and Çalı lakes are also included in IPA boundaries. The plant species of these lakes which are peculiar to the rich floras of Europe and northern regions of Asia, are indigenous in this area. *Carex limosa*, *Potamogeton alpinus*, *Scholochloa festucacea* and *Sparganium*



Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria* subsp.)

minimum can be listed as examples of the most important ones.

2- Allahuekber Mountains IPA: Allahuekber Mountains IPA is the range of mountains within the boundaries of Sankamis, Selim, Göle, Oltu, Şenkaya districts in Northeast Anatolia Region. It is located between the altitudes of 1800-3120 m. Peak point is Allahuekber Hill (3120 m). IPA has a 25,882 hectares area, where 3216 hectares constitute the forestland. Allahuekber Mountains are included in important plant areas for hosting 4 species endangered in global scale, 5 species endangered in European scale, general habitats with rich plant diversities and endangered natural habitats.

Species endangered in global scale:

Allium subalbidum, *Onobrychis stenotachya* subsp. *Sosnowskyi*, *Onosma nigricaula* and *Senecio integrifolius* subsp. *karsianus*.

Species endangered in European scale:

Astragalus cinereus, *Cirsium lappaceum* subsp. *tenuilobium*, *Doronicum balansae*, *Ferula orientalis* ve *Ligularia sibirica*.



A TRIP INTO THE NATURE



Scabious (Scabiosa sp.)

3- Sarıkamış Forests IPA: The IPA of Sarıkamış Forests, covering an area of 36.864 hectares, is comprised of two parts, being Büyükkumru Mountain and its surrounding, and Süphan, Çıplak and Balıklı Mountains and their surrounding. The IPA is covered with forests, mountain steppes and alpines. It is the only area that yellow pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) spreads at the highest altitude (2900 m) and generates pure yellow pine colonies with optimal formation. Sarıkamış Forests are included in important plant areas for hosting 2 species endangered in global scale, 5 species endangered in European scale, general habitats with rich plant diversities and endangered natural habitats.



Tuma Lake - Kars

Species endangered in global scale:

Hieracium sarykamyschense and *Astragalus eliasianus*.

Species endangered in European scale:

Fritillaria michailovskyi, *Hieracium ovalifrans*, *Lamium galactophyllum*, *Trifolium pannonicum* subsp. *elongatum*, *Verbascum insulare*.

The foothills of Kısır Mountain along Çıldır Lake (Bozyigit Village slopes) and the foothills of Kısır Mountain on Ardahan side (nearby Boğaztepe Village) are the other areas that the plant diversity can be observed. Also at the campus site of Caucasian University, which is very close to the city center, *Allium subalbidum*, *Onosma nigricaulis*, *Tragopogon aureus*, *Iris taochia* and *Rosa psiformis* species can be observed in their natural habitats.



A TRIP INTO THE NATURE

Kars Fauna and the Birdwatching Tours

Laying on the intersection of Caucasian and Iran-Anatolia warm lands, which constitute two of 34 important biological diversity areas in the world, Kars is regarded as one of the most valuable territories in our country with its location, altitude, wetlands, yellow pine forests, pasturelands and its positioning on the route of migratory birds. Beside bird and plant diversity, it is also among important natural areas of our country in terms of big carnivores such as grizzly bear, wolf, fox and bobcat which are ecological indicators and effective species taking place on top of the food chain.

Kars with its hidden paradises including several natural areas offers several options to nature lovers ranging from birds and plants to wolves and insects to observe the wild life.



Red Squirrel



Grizzly



Grey wolf



Red fox



Beaver



Kais Lizard

A TRIP INTO THE NATURE

Birdwatching Areas

Birdwatching is the research, identification and enumeration of the birds within their natural environments. Birdwatchers increase the number of the bird species that are observed visiting different birdwatching areas and provide data for nature protection researches. Behaviours, colors and habitats of the birds are among the factors attracting people to birdwatching. Binoculars, bird book of the land and a notebook are sufficient to start birdwatching.

Hosting 308 of 465 bird species within Turkey, Kars region provides a significant birdwatching opportunity to the fanciers with its important wetlands. Especially the lakes as Cıldır, Kuyucuk, Turna, Çalı and Aygır are among the destinations of the birds. Kars lays on Africa-Eurasia bird migration routes due to its location. The birds stop by in Kars while flying to Eurasia in spring. They come back to Kars'

forests and wetlands and several other lush territories with their nestlings, while they are returning to Africa in autumn. They take shelter, feed in these areas and then carry on their long migration. Some species come to stay permanently in the spring, mate, feed and start off again in the autumn.

In addition to its bird researches and training works within Kars province boundaries, KuzeyDoğa Society manages two of (Aras Valley and Kuyucuk Lake) three actively working bird banding and training centers, bands thousands of birds each year, and enables several natives or foreigners voluntarily work in these stations. KuzeyDoğa team has banded more than 50.000 birds with Turkey bands in these stations up to this date. Some of the banded birds were caught or shot down by the hunters in different areas of the world.



Kuyucuk Lake - Arpacay

Birdwatching Points

1. Kuyucuk Lake Ramsar Field – “was selected as ‘Europe’s Prominent Tourism Paradise’ by European Commission in 2009”

When to go : Between April-October

How to go : On Kars - Akyaka road at 45th kilometer.

Common Bird Species : There have been identified 226 bird species until now on Kuyucuk Lake.

Out of these species, Eurasian Skylark (*Alaudaarvensis*), Common Pochard (*Aythyaferina*), Whiskered Tern (*Chlidoniashybridus*), White-winged Tern (*Chlidoniasleucopterus*), Western-Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Eurasian Coot (*Fulicaatra*), Boğmaklı Toygar (*Melanocoryphacalandra*), Calandra Lark (*Miliariacalandra*), Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motocilla flava*), White Headed Duck (*Oxyuraleucocephala*), Red-necked Grebe (*Podicepsgrisegena*), Black-necked Grebe (*Podicepsnigricollis*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Common Redshank (*Tringatotanus*), Northern Lapwing (*Vanellusvanellus*) species are observed and known to be regularly mating among these species.



Kuyucuk Lake - Arpacay

Protected Status : The Area for Wildlife Development - Ramsar Area - All year hunting reserve.

2. Aygır Lake

When to go : Between April-October

How to go : On Kars-Göle road, 33 km away from Kars and 50 km away from Cıldır Lake.

Protected status : Hunting reserve.

A TRIP INTO THE NATURE

3. Çıldır Lake

When to go : Between April-October

How to go : After 45th kilometer on Kars-Ardahan road.

Common bird species: Blackheaded Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*), Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus icollis*), Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Pale Harrier (*Circus macrourus*), Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*).

Protected status : Hunting reserve.



Çıldır Lake - Arpacay

4. Çalı Lake

When to go : Between April-October.

How to go : Within the provincial boundaries of Kars on Iğdır road.

Common bird species: Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*), Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus icollis*), The Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Rudy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Pale Harrier (*Circus macrourus*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Protected Status : Hunting reserve

5. Sarıkamış Forests

When to go : Between April-October

How to go : 55 km away from Kars, on former Kars-Erzurum road.

(For detailed information, refer to the book of Sarıkamış Walking Tracks)

Common Bird Species: Black Stork (*Ciconianigra*), Black Kite (*Milvumigrans*), Ginereous Vulture (*Aegypiusmonachus*), Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*), Red Hawk (*Buteoru inus*), Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetuspennatus*), Lesser Kestrel (*Falconaumannii*), Common Kestrel (*Falcotinnunculus*), The Grey Partridge (*Perdixperdix*), Common Cuckoo (*Cuculuscanorus*).

Protected Status : Hunting Reserve.



*White-headed Duck
(Oxyura leucocephala)*



*Common Kingfisher
(Alcedo atthis)*



*Ruddy Shelduck
(Tadorna ferruginea)*



Steppe Buzzard (Buteo buteo vulpinus)

6. Turna Lake

When to go : Between April-October.

How to go : On the 43rd km of Kars-Kagızman highway.

Common Bird Species: Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Black-necked Grebe (*Podicepsnigricollis*), Lesser Grebe (*Tachybaptusru icollis*), The Great Crested Grebe (*Podicepscristatus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Eurasian Coot (*Fulicaatra*), Calandra Lark(*Melanocoryphacalandra*), Corn Bunting (*Miliariacalandra*), Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motocilla flava*)

A TRIP INTO THE NATURE

Protected Status : Hunting reserve

7th. Caucasian University Wetland

When to go : Between April-May

How to go : Paşa Çayırı locality in Kars city center. It is accessible by the shuttle services of Caucasian University Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Common Bird Species: Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*), long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*), Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Lesser Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*), Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*), Corn Bunting (*Miliaria calandra*), Yellow Wingtail (*Motocilla flava*)



Yellow Wingtail (Motocilla flava)

Protected Status : Private property of the university.

8. Arpaçay Dam Lake

When to go : between April and October

How to go : It is located at 15 km east of Akyaka district of Kars and 14 km north of Ani. Access via private car is possible.

Common bird species: Sakarmeke (*Fulica atra*), Angit (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Boz Kaz (*Anser anser*).

Protected Status : Hunting reserve. 1st rank Military Zone.

9. Çengilli (Deniz) Lake

When to go : Between April-October

How to go : It is located in the northwest of Kağızman district of Kars at 20 kilometers distance. Accessible by private vehicle.

Common Bird Species: Lesser Grebe (*Tachybaptus icollis*), Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*), Callander Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*), Corn Bunting (*Miliaria calandra*), Yellow Wingtail (*Motocilla flava*), Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*), Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*).

Protected Status : Hunting Reserve.



Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus)

CULTURE TOURS



Bogatepe - Kars





The Route of Kar (Snow)

The events in the Kar (Snow) novel of Orhan Pamuk, who was entitled to take 2006 Nobel Prize in Literature, take place within the city center of Kars. Our route, inspired by this opus, takes its fanciers to a cultural journey among the avenues and buildings in the city center.

Kar (Snow) novel has been one of the factors that contributed to Kars tourism. The City Council of Kars actualized the 'Route of Snow' as a consequence of a work undertaken in 2007. The route covers such locations as Faik Bey, Prof. Dr. Metin Sözen (Karadağ), Halit Paşa, and Şehit Hulusi Aytekin avenues on the east-west axis of Kars, and İsmail Aytemiz (İstasyon), Kazım Paşa, Atatürk (İstiklali Milli), and Ordu avenues that divide these avenues on north-south axis.

Orhan Pamuk lodged in Karabağ Hotel as he stayed in Kars for a long timewhile he was writing Kar. Note that the previous Training Institute and Veterinary Faculty buildings, mentioned in the novel, are now used as Trainin Faculty and Kars Vocational High School affiliated to Caucasion University. Ones who desire to properly travel The Route of Snow that maps the main Axis should also see İnönü Avenue, and Baytarhane Street, Digor Road, Millet Garden, Taşköprü and Dereçi which vertically divide this avenue.



Boğatepe Cheesehouse

Boğatepe village Ecotourism Route

Devastation of the nature, climate changes, environmental pollution, arbitrary usage of agricultural territories, neglecting conventional production forms, decline in efficiency and biodiversity are among the main problems of our time. With the efforts on adapting new processes and improving conventional production forms, Boğatepe Village, where it is dealt with nature and earth in addition to endeavours to understand and interpret its functions as a benchmark for ecotourism activities in Kars. Peynirçevi (Cheesehouse) Exhibition Gallery provides tourism profits to Kars in general and to the village settlement in local, with its production of 13 cheese kinds, medicinal plants, trekking activities, and family boarding house.

The settlement, which was used as the upland of Malakan Village a century ago, took a step towards being a village settlement when Swiss entrepreneur founded a cheese factory here. Boğatepe Village with its gradually increasing importance, once used to be one of the stations of the horsecar line that provided transportation and post transfer between Ardahan-Göle-Kars. The rails of this railroad coming over Göle Okçu- Hostülbent-Kırdamal-Demirkapı-Gülistan Cardaklı Yayla - Kızılmezar, and reaching Kars by Çamlırlu - Çakmak course, which is unserviceable now, facilitated the construction of some of the stalls in the village.

Laying on the route of "Cannonroad" which constitutes the passage way of Russian cannons between Ardahan-Kars-Erzurum, Boğatepe Village has a strategic importance. This old stone floored road, coming from Ardahan side, once used to go down to Sankamış through Varginis-Üçkilise- Sütüce-Yaylaçık-Akdere-Harambatan-Çığırkan- Bozkale. We should



remark that the works as to transforming the "Cannonroad" into a thematic culture road still continue.

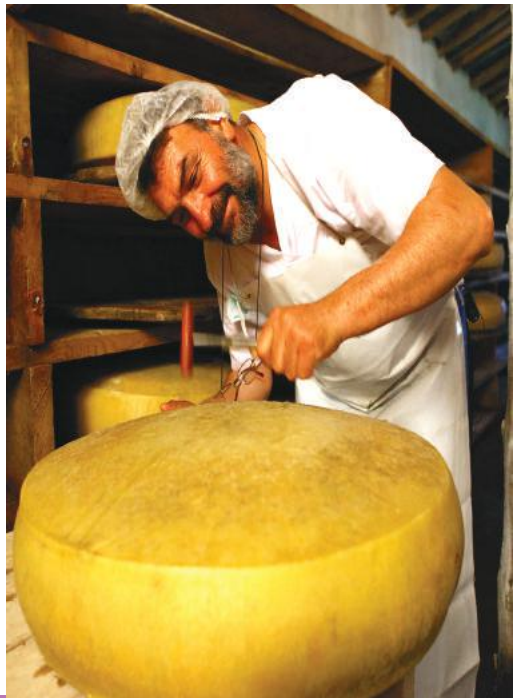
Bogatepe, located 45 kilometers away from Kars, also gave the nearby hill its name. Fresh kasseri, aged kasseri, gruyere, curd, cecil cheese, skin tulum cheese, heriye tulum cheese, Malakan wine cheese, Malakan pickled cheese or tulum (from lamb's tripe), string cheese, kelle cheese, curuk, otlu and canak cheese are among the kind of cheese produced in Bogatepe. You can visit the dairies that product cheese in hygienic conditions, witness the milk's transformation process into cheese. Especially taking the photos of production stages of gruyere, which has almost 5 years of shelf life and is produced in a period as long as 3 months, could be delighting. The production of gruyere which almost becomes a ritual with the processes such as milk filtering, leavening, curd cutting, mixing with ladle, curd slicing with rod, baking, taking the cheese out of caldron, salt-water basin and cold conching, will certainly draw your attention.

You can also take a tour to the Cheese-house, which is a first in Turkey and which is established through restoration of the old factory. This housefounded on the basis of an ecomuseology conception that considers the social, cultural and ecological heritage they preserve not through objects and collections but humans and the environments they live within, is placed on the village square.

The inhabitants of Bogatepe Village surrounded by almost 200 kinds of plant species some of which are endemic also have become competent in the fields of medicinal plants and plant desiccation.



Bogatepe Village



CULTURE TOURS



Medicinal and aromatic herbs are collected and desiccated in storages with all kinds of colour and fragrance, and then are used for medicinal purpose. We should also specify that the nutritional quality and taste of animal products are also improved with the potential of the village on plants.

You can find accommodation facilities in Bogatepe, where ecotourism activities such as trekking, mountain biking, horse riding and botanical observation also take place.



Gruyere Cheese

Malakan Route

Russian originated Malakans are especially known for their stance against war. This community, which opposes the authority of the church and reverends and still try to sustain their lives without any technological device as was in the emerging years of Christianity, was compelled to migrate earlier. Thus, Malakans, who migrated to Kars as well as many other countries, have conveyed their cultural background to these lands. The trails of the Malakan community, which lived in the countryside of Kars, can be seen in many villages.

Being 6 kilometers away from city center, Çakmak Village with old Malakan houses and the milk treats that reflect the traditional culture of the community is the focal point of the tour. You can come across with Malakan settlements that are advanced in milling, cheesemaking and agriculture while wandering in Kars. İncesu, Çamçavuş, Yolboyu (Zaim), Boğazköy (Meli), Susuz (Cilavuz), Zöhrab, Selim, Dikme and Paşacıyın are prominent ones among other Malakan settlements.



Malakan House



Çakmak Village



Dried Goose





Taste Route

Such diversity of Kars that has a rich cultural mosaic where people from several ethnicities dwell is certainly reflected on its cuisine culture. You can come across cafes and restaurants that offer local tastes, while wandering in the streets or districts of the city.

Undoubtedly, the most significant element of Kars cuisine is the goose culture experienced as a ritual. Gaggles that can be seen in almost all parts of the rural area are peculiar to Caucasian tradition. Goose preserved after drying especially in winter months as a consequence of harsh geographic and climatic conditions is an indispensable nutritional source for the region's inhabitants for hundreds of years. Snow fall was waited for butchering



Alisofu Village - Sarkamis

the goose in the times when refrigerating was not possible and then it was stored after salting, and consumed before the spring until the weather got hot.

As a peculiar tradition, the "goose share" comprises the ritual of distribution of some part of butchered geese among relatives and friends.

Beside dried goose, we can list other local tastes of the region as dried nettle soup, strained rice with raisin, nezik, feselli, umac halva, evelik food, piti kebab (bozbas), loaf food, stuffed apple, lentil noodle with potato, soup of butter flour and tomato paste, pisi, gatig food (buttermilk food), kuymak, hengel (Turkish ravioli), hasil and water heurek. Gourmet travellers can direct their requests and questions to Hotels and Restaurants Association of Kars (KARSOD).



TREKKING ACTIVITIES



Borluk Valley - Kars



TREKKING ACTIVITIES

You can enjoy going trekking in spring and summer months in Kars region. Especially deep valleys and verdant yellow pine forests distinguished with their visual beauties offer rich options to nature lovers. Let's remind that Sankamış walking tracks are identified with international signs and the routes in other regions with only GPS coordinates. You can obtain GPS data of all routes on www.sarikamistrekking.com website.



1- Azat-Ataköy (Borluk Valley) (6 km)

Borluk Valley lying along the stream bed between Azat and Ataköy settlements draws attention with stone scriptures and illustrations along with its natural beauty. This hiking route is an ideal option especially for dwellers in Kars for their weekend refuges.

2- Keçili-Doyumlu (8 km)

Starting from the school in the village center, this route leads down to the valley base through Old Keçili. Meanwhile we come across the sight of the curving stream within the valley and Kısır Mountain right across. Going down to the valley's bed, we trek on a long course until Doyumlu Village.



Yellow pine Forests - Sarikamis

3- Keçili-Susuz Valley-Old Keçili-Keçili (9 km)

This is a medium length track which starts from the village square, goes down to Susuz Valley through a deep valley bed, and then goes up to the starting point through old village settlement.

4- Keçili-Susuz Fall (12 km)

This route with first 4 kilometers following a narrow stream bed is a little challenging. But once you get down to Susuz Valley, you will come across with amazing sights which will unwind you. After Geyik Bed, Kaz (Goose) Lake and thermal spring localities the magnificent sight of Susuz Fall will welcome the visitors in the last part of the route.

5- Gölbaşı Upland-Doyumlu Upland-Doyumlu Village (11 km)

This route nearby Bogatepe Village starts at Gölbaşı Upland. The hiking route on the foothills of Bogatepe Mountain passes by two little lake and reaches to Doymumlu Upland. We carry on hiking behind upland houses. Gradually contracting valley offers two options to the visitors. If you wish, you can walk into the valley and reach to Doymumlu Village through the bed of Susuz Valley. The ones who wish to trek more easily can head for the earth road on the right and reach to Doymumlu Village through a scenic course.

6- Doymumlu-Susuz (Susuz Valley) (15 km)

This is a delightful trip that starts from Doymumlu Village and ends in Susuz district, passing through the whole valley. Anyone with a good physical condition can try this road that has no difficulty.



TREKKING ACTIVITIES

7- Sarıkamış Trekking Routes

Sarıkamış walking tracks comprise of a course of 256 kilometers on 21 different routes. Any nature lover can trek on the tracks passing through Keklik, Komdere and İnkaya valleys, accompanied by the yellow pine forest texture near Sarıkamış. The risk of getting lost is almost none on identical tracks which are identified with red-white signs on every 50 meters on pathways and every 200 meters on earth roads. You may find the GPS coordinates of the tracks which are guided by the signboards on crossroad points in www.sarikamistrekking.com website. Also detailed maps in the supplement of the guide book, which can be obtained via posting an e-mail to info@sarikamistrekking.com, can contribute to the planning of your activity.

Short Routes;

- 1: Hamamlı Kızkalesi-Castle of Maidens (5 km)
- 2: Acısu-Turna Lake-Main road (5 km)
- 3: Kızılçubuk-Sarıkamış (7 km)
- 4: Sarıkamış-Katerina Hunting Lodge (8 km)
- 5: Zirve(Peak)-Hotels (8 km)
- 6: Hotels-Katerina Hunting Lodge (9 km)
- 7: Hamamlı-Keklik Valley (9 km)
- 8: Camyaz-İnkaya (9 km)
- 9: Zirve (Peak) -Karanlıkdere-Hotels (10 km)
- 10: Sarıkamış-Karanlıkdere-Zirve (Peak) (10 km)
- 11: Komdere Valley (10 km)
- 12: Hotels-Soğuksu-Castle of Maidens (10 km)
- 13: Hamamlı Martyrdom-Şehitemin Upland (10 km)
- 14: Kızılçubuk-Martyrdom-Sarıkamış (10 km)
- 15: Zirve (Peak) -Şırşır-Soğuksu-Hotels (12 km)
- 16: Zirve (Peak) -Hotels-Sarıkamış (12 km)
- 17: Castle of Maidens - Belencik Bridge (14 km)
- 18: Keklik Valley-Aras River (16 km)
- 19: Komdere-İmamkolu-Karakurt (18 km)

Long Routes;

- 1: Hotels-Castle of Maidens-Keklik Valley-Çürüktaş-Hamamlı Village- Şehitemin Upland (32 km)
- 2: Hunting Lodge-Hotels-Zirve (Peak) -Şırşır-Castle of Maidens-Keklik Valley-Belencik Bridge (32 km)



AV KIZKALESI
Çarşıbaşı

ZİRVE
10 km

KIZKALESI
Çarşıbaşı

CYCLING ROUTES





Kederli Stream - Susuz

Track 1:

Kars City Center-Çamçavuş (14 km)

The whole route starting before Kümbet Mosque follows a straight even line. After passing Taşköprü, you will cycle taking Kars stream on your right and reach to Çamçavuş through Boğazköy.

Track 2:

Sankamış Hotels-Karanlıkdere-Katerina Hunting Lodge-Sankamış Hotels (18 km)

Following a wide circle, this cycling track follows the forest course until Katerina Hunting Lodge. The route then goes through the district center of Sankamış and reaches to hotels region. Let's remind that two parts of Hotels-Karanlıkdere and Karanlıkdere Katerina Hunting Lodge are on a course that goes uphill. Little resting breaks taken after the slopes may motivate you.

Track 3:

Sankamış-Hotels-Bayraktepe-Küp (Cubic) Church-Katerina Hunting Lodge-Sankamış (25 km)

This uneven track with too many uphill and downhill that will tire your muscles starts from district center. You will complete the course between Sankamış-Bayraktepe with a tiring climb. It will be a little exhausting due to the slope, though you will receive your award. You can take a breath on the peak point and take a photo of magnificent scene that greets you. The tour then goes downhill and passing historical sites reaches to Sankamış through the forest road.

Track 4:

Sankamış Hotels-Hamamlı Village-Şehitlik (Martyrdom)-Keklik Valley-Soğuksu-Sankamış Hotels (28 km)

This cycling excursion runs in an oxygenic ambience through yellow pine forests. Especially Keklik Valley part of the route goes through intense tree odors. First part of the starting point of the track and between Keklik Valley-Highway goes uphill. You can come across fountains on the trackside during the course. You should maintain regular fluid intake during cycling.

Track 5:

Sankamış-Katerina Hunting Lodge-Komdere-Küp (Cubic) Church-İmamkomu-Karakurt (29 km)

This cycling route, which was used as the old market route of Karakurt town not so long ago but 20-30 years earlier, provides visitors an enjoyable journey. You will cycle in a track with even or mostly downhill roads almost with no tiring slopes. Along this tour which goes through the forestland, Cubic Church, Komdere stone settlements and fairy chimneys exhibit the natural and historical beauties of the route.



CYCLING ROUTES

Track 6:

Sarıkamış Martyrdom-Asboğa Lake-Çatak-Kızılçubuk-Sarıkamış (31 km)

That part of the route between Sarıkamış and Martyrdom which is blended with historical and natural beauties is asphalt road. Afterwards we depart from Kars-Erzurum road and reach to Asboğa Lake.

Track 7:

Kars-Çakmak-Çamurlu-Ortalar-Kayadibi-Gölbaşı-Aygır Lake-Boğatepe Village (37 km)

The route, composed of earth roads until Aygır Lake, climbs from 1800 meters altitude to 2300 meters. Although it is a short track, let's remind that you will cycle in high altitudes, so don't forget to choose your equipments accordingly.

Track 8:

Boğatepe Village-Aygır Lake-Kuyucuk Lake-Ani Ruins (55 km)

This track, which is made of completely asphalt, includes a short slope before arriving in Boğatepe passageway. Then we start going down without cycling till Susuz district. We turn left from Kars-Ani crossroad and complete this activity after following an even track.

Track 9:

Karakurt-Kağızman (66 km)

This cycling route that follows Aras River Valley goes through the villages covered with orchards. You cycle on a completely even road with guidance of the river bed on your left. The fairy chimneys and stone settlements are among the historical sites of this track.

Track 10:

Kars-Azat-Verimli-Esenyazi-Turna Lake-Şabanköy-Kağızman (89 km)

Going through the farms, we follow a relatively even track in the first part of the route before arriving in Şabanköy. After this point, going down to Kağızman-Kars asphalt road without cycling, you reach to Kağızman beside Aras River. The most beautiful surprise of the route is Turna Lake.

Track 11:

Sarıkamış-Handere-Zivin Castle-Micingirt Castle-Karakurt-Sarıkamış (106 km)

This is a wonderful route, generally following asphalt village roads and allowing you to explore the historical and natural beauties of Sarıkamış. Although it does not include so many slopes, cycling track should be tried by the ones with good physical condition due to its length. After visiting Zivin Castle which is reached through asphalt road, we return 3 kilometers back by the route we came and arrive in Altınbulak Village through Karaorgan. This part of the route is earth road. The course, which shifts back to asphalt road on Kars-Erzurum highway, returns to Sarıkamış through the region of hotels. The track can be scheduled as a 2- day activity. This cycling route may be slightly long, but you will admit that it is worth after considering the beauties you saw.



JEEP SAFARI-SCENIC VEHICLE ROAD





JEEP SAFARI-SCENIC VEHICLE ROAD

Track 1:

Sankamış-Asboğa Lake-Çatak-Kızılçubuk-Divik Upland-Çataldere-Sankamış (42 km)

The tour following the old Kars road in the first part reaches to Çatak Village through Asboğa Lake which is likely to be an ecotourism center. The track turning into earth road in this point makes way towards uplands. The scenic vehicle road stops by some of the uplands like Divik, Yenigazi, Yolgeçmez, Yağbasan and Sankamış and then arrives back to Sankamış passing nearby Dikenli Tabya (Wired Bastion) Martyrdom.

Track 2:

Kars-Azat-Verimli-Esenyazi-Turna Lake-Şabanköy-Çallı Upland (62 km)

The road between starting point and Azat Village is asphalt. The road shifts to earth road after passing Borluk Valley. Turna Lake laying on a high plateau is an ideal camping site. The track of Şabanköy-Çallı upland may be risky in rainy weathers. A landscape, which is worth your weariness, will greet you once you arrive at upland. You will be watching Aras Valley, Kağızman, orchards and steep mountain chains on a cliff's edge.

Track 3:

Sankamış-Çatak-Kızılçubuk-Divik Upland-Selim Upland- Karahamza Upland- Handere Road-Sankamış (66 km)

This is a stunning road climbing to almost 3000 meters and passing through lakes, martyrdoms and uplands. Almost all parts of the road comprise of earth roads except



Selim District - Kars

Sarıkamış-Çatak and Handere Road-Sarıkamış parts. This track recommended only for summer and autumn months also exhibits examples from interesting details of the local culture.

Track 4:

Sarıkamış-Hamamlı-Şehitemin-Odalar-Çengilli-Denizgözü-Çiçekli-Kalebaşı-Karakurt (84 km)

The part of the route consisting of earth village roads till Denizgözü village goes through forrestlands between Hamamlı-Şehitemin part. Then we pass by the uplands and villages on the foothills of Aladağ one by one and reach to Çengilli Church. Afterwards we go down to Kağızman-Karakurt road. Following the road with company of Aras River on the opposite of flow direction, you can take the photos of fairy chimney formations, stone settlements and stone churches that you come across.

Track 5:

Sarıkamış-Handere-Zivin Castle-Altınbulak-Micingirt Castle-Karakurt-Aras River-Kağızman- Paslı-Selim (236 km)

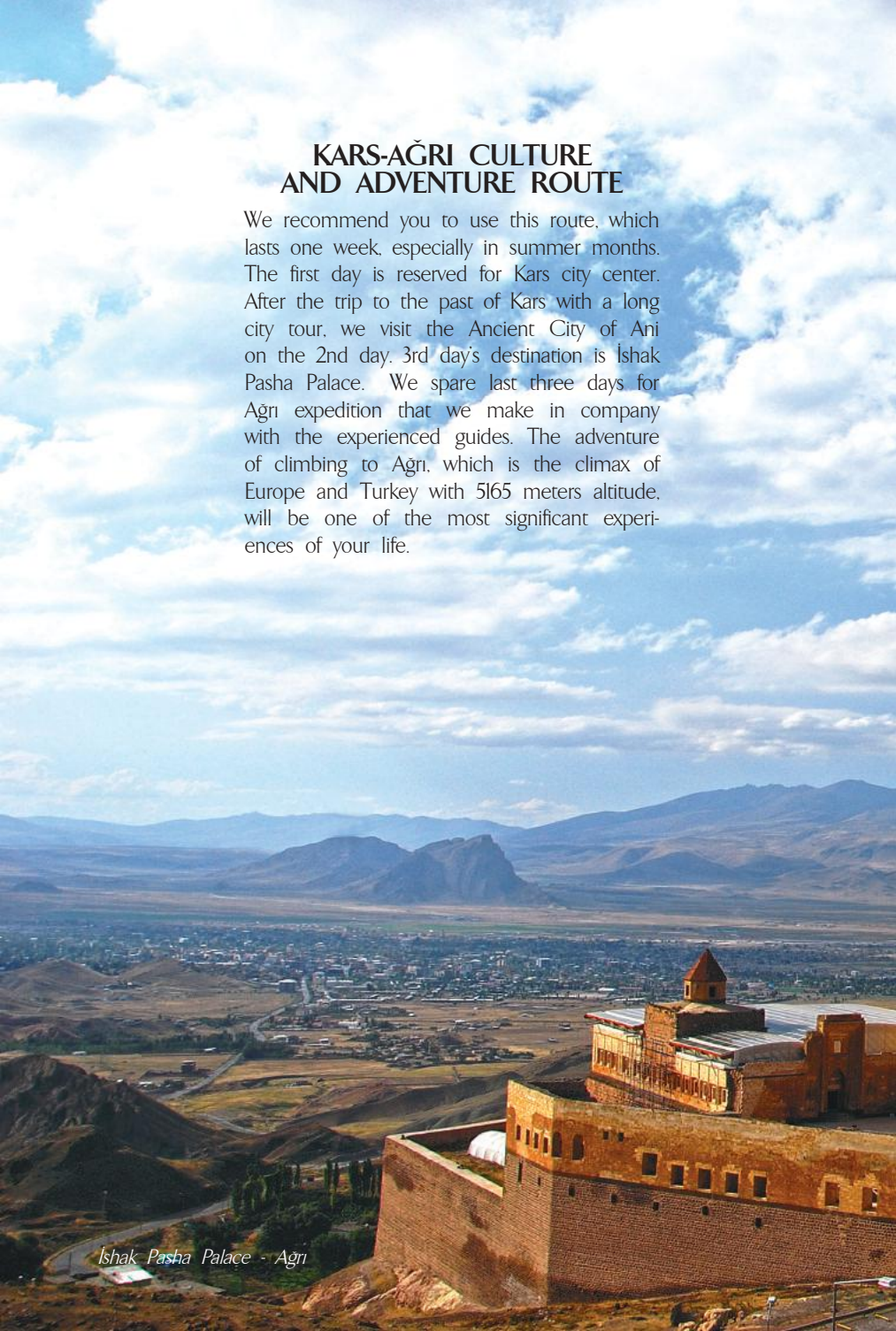
The first destination of the route is Zivin Castle near Karaorgan town located on an former Erzurum road. Afterwards we visit Micingirt Castle coming through Altınbulak. The asphalt road that lays parallel to Aras River between Karakurt-Kağızman exhibits a different beauty at almost every kilometer. In the fruit storage district of Kağızman that we reach after a route with too many bends, we pass by Aras River and head to north. The route that climbs the valley with sharp bends ends in Selim district after passing through Paslı town.



KARS-AĞRI CULTURE AND ADVENTURE ROUTE

We recommend you to use this route, which lasts one week, especially in summer months. The first day is reserved for Kars city center. After the trip to the past of Kars with a long city tour, we visit the Ancient City of Ani on the 2nd day. 3rd day's destination is İshak Pasha Palace. We spare last three days for Ağrı expedition that we make in company with the experienced guides. The adventure of climbing to Ağrı, which is the climax of Europe and Turkey with 5165 meters altitude, will be one of the most significant experiences of your life.

İshak Pasha Palace - Ağrı





KARS-ARDAHAN CULTURE AND NATURE JOURNEY

After Kars city center and Ani Ruins tours, we pass beyond Ardahan boundary and first visit Çıldır Lake. The fish feast at the hovel restaurants on the shore represents the taste destination of this tour. After the Şeytan (Devil) Castle that faces a steep valley, we visit the castle located within Ardahan center. Don't forget to buy Damal dolls at the end of the tour, which is the most important souvenir of the region.



WINTER TOURISM



The most important winter activity in Kars province is certainly the skiing activities that you can do at Sarkamış Ski Center. Sarkamış Ski Center, located at the foothills of 2634 meters of Bayrakepe (Cibiltepe) Hill, serves ski lovers with its long ski-run, qualified accommodation facilities, natural yellow pine forrests that prevent avalanche hazard, and coarse-grained crystal snow quality which is peculiar to Alps and this region only.

Transportation to 9 different tracks nearby the resting facilities is provided via chairlifts with a capacity of 2400 people per hour. These computer controlled chairlifts with bottom heating can carry 4 people at each compartment and convey visitors to the peak point of Bayrakepe climbing in the company of yellow pine forests in two stages where you can enjoy a magnificent view. Cafes serve to the ones who desire to take a breath and warm up with something hot at some tracks.



The second skiing facility of Sarkamış District is Osman Yüce Ski and Camp Training Directorate near Çamurlu on former Erzurum road. The facility, named after our national skier, who died in a traffic accident in 1967, is at 2100 meters altitude and has a 960 meters track, beside its charlift which reaches to the peak in five minutes. You can embark on adventures such as ski, sleigh, snowboard, hiking with snowshoes, ice skate, full moon ski, night-walk with cresset, and fishing on frozen lakes on the snow that starts to fall as of November. Fishing and horse-sleigh trips on the frozen surface of Çıldır Lake can also be listed among popular activities.





KARS CITY CENTER

Grand city tour, Kars Castle, bastions, Kümbet Mosque, Fethiye Mosque, old Russian buildings, Yağikesen Church, Oğuzlu Church, Bogatepe Ecotourism Village, Çakmak Village Malakan Museum, Turna Lake, Çalı Lake.



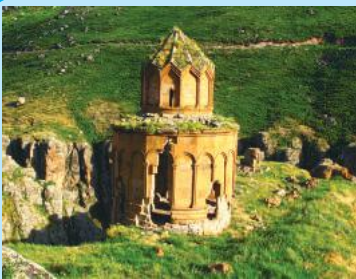
AKYAKA

Ani Ruins, Tignis Castle, Arpaçay Dam Reservoir, Kars Stream Valley.



ARPAÇAY

Tasköprü Urartian Scripture, Çıldır Lake, Gülyüzü Church, Doğruyol Church, Kuyucuk Lake, Kars Stream Valley.



DİĞOR

Beskilise, Magazbert Castle, Kozluca churches, Karabağ Mreni Church, Kilittası Church, Varlı Mosque (Church)

KAĞIZMAN

Cengilli Church, Camuslu stone illustrations, Tunckaya-Keçivan Castle, Artakers Castle, K rođlu Castle,  ukuraya Purut stone settlement, Deniz Lake, Aras River Valley,  alli Upland.



SUSUZ

Susuz Fall, Susuz Valley, Susuz Thermal Spring, Cilavuz Cave, Aygır Lale, Doyumlu archeological site.



SARIKAMIŐ

Katerina's Hunting Lodge, Yanık (Burned) Church, Karakurt Church, K p (Cubic) Church, Castle of Maidens, Micingirt Castle, Zivin Castle, SankamiŐ martyrdoms, Sarıcam (Yellow pine) forests, Keklik Valley, Komdere Valley, Inkaya Valley, Asboga G l .





We can recommend carpets and rugs, obsidian jewelries, honey and cheese kinds as souvenirs and local products.

The main reason for the prominence of carpet and rug weaving in the region is stockbreeding's importance as being the mainstay of the population. Figures like madallion, plant, butterfly and eyebead as well as geometric designs draw attention on the carpets and rugs that are woven in the house and course looms in Kars city center. The Caucasian carpet, which emerged as a consequence of the interaction that lasted between Lezg, Cossach, Azerbaijani, Georgian and Armenian cultures for hundreds of years, has earned a reputation in international markets. Kars carpets woven employing diverse weaving techniques such as geven, zili, sumak, kilim, cecim and cigi maintain the cultural traces between past and present with traditional looms. Prevalence of stockbreeding and transhumance cultures stands out in dairy products, especially cheese varieties. You can find several cheese and honey kinds in the stores in Kars market places.

Another souvenir product peculiar to Kars is the obsidian, which is acquired from the deposits at Keklik Stream Valley located between Sehitemin Village and Mescitli Village in Sarikamis. This valuable mineral which is available in green and black colors in the nature gives life to jewelries and ornaments.







Distance of some of the provinces to Kars city center;

Istanbul : 1424 km.,
Ankara : 1076 km.,
İzmir : 1655 km.,
Erzurum : 202 km.,
Trabzon : 436 km.

Distance of the districts to Kars city center;

Sarıkaya : 55 km.
Ani : 41 km.
Akyaka : 63 km.
Susuz : 26 km.
Arpaçay : 41 km.
Kağızman : 71 km.
Digor : 44 km.
Selim : 32 km.

Train

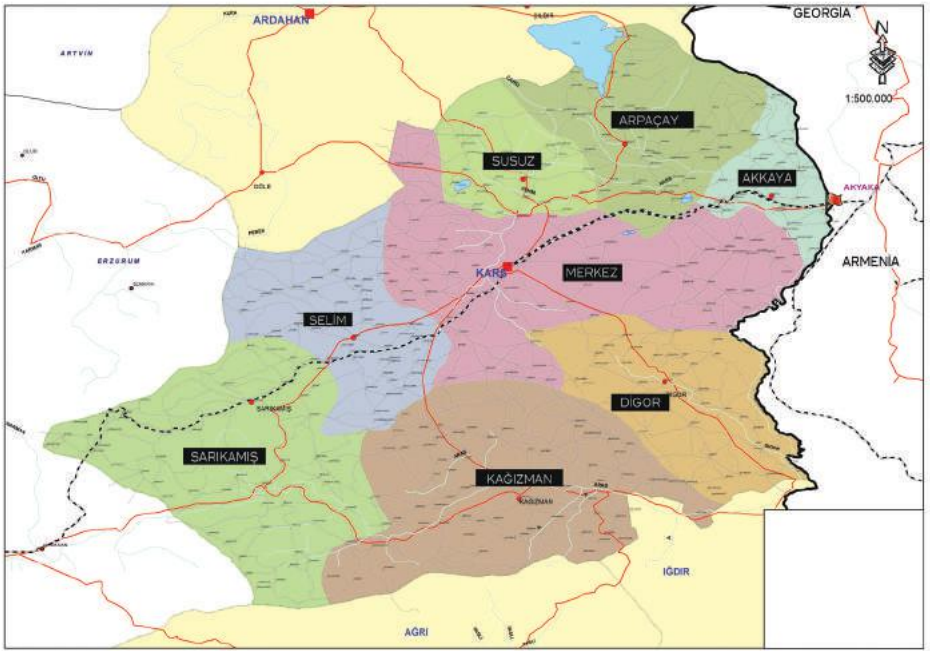
Orient Express departs from Ankara at 1830 to Kars every day. For returning from Kars to Ankara, departure time of the train is 2355. Suburban train services are available between Kars-Akyaka (06.00-16.00), Akyaka-Kars (07.30-17.30) for the ones who prefer local train travel.

Bus Companies

Doğu Kars : 0090 474 2126161
Serhat Kars : 0090 474 2127458
Turgut Reis : 0090 474 2120842

Air Transportation

Kars Airport is 8 kilometers away from provincial center. Various firms organize daily flights to Istanbul, Ankara and twice a week to Izmir in both directions.



Kar's Hotel (with Private Certification)

Phone : 0090 474 2121616
website : www.karsotel.com

Simer Hotel (4 *)

Phone : 0090 474 2127241
Fax : 0090 474 2120168
e-mail : kars@simerhotel.com
website : www.simerhotel.com

Grand Ani (4*)

Phone : 0090 474 2237500
Fax : 0090 474 2238888
e-mail : info@grandani.com.tr
website : www.grandani.com.tr

Hotel Karabağ (3*)

Phone : 0090 474 2123480 - 2129304-05-06
Fax : 0090 474 2233089
e-mail : hotel.karabag@web.de
Website : www.hotel-karabag.com

Hotel Güngören

Phone : 0090 474 2126767
Fax : 0090 474 2125630
e-mail : info@gungorenhotel.com
website : www.gungorenhotel.com

Hotel Temel 1 & 2

Phone : 0090 474 2231376
Fax : 0090 474 2231287
e-mail : oteltemel@mynet.com

Caucasian University Prof. Dr. Nihat Bayşu Guesthouse

Phone : 0090 474 2426835
Fax : 0090 474 2426847
e-mail : konukeyi@kafkas.edu.tr

Büyük Kale Hotel

Phone : 0090 474 2126444
Fax : 0090 474 2125277
e-mail : info@buyukkalehotel.com
Website : www.buyukkalehotel.com

Kars Teacher's Lodge

Phone : 0090 474 2120049
Fax : 0090 474 2127312
Website : www.karsogretmenevi.com

DSI Guesthouse

Phone : 0090 474 2125804

Sankamis

Sankamis Toprak Hotel (5*)

Phone : 0090 474 4134111
Fax : 0090 474 4137970
e-mail : salessarikamishotel@toprak.com.tr
website : www.toprakhotels.com

Hotel Sankamis Dolina (4*)

Phone : 0474 4136666
Fax : 0474 4136000
E-Mail : info@dolinasarikamisotel.com
Website : www.dolinasarikamisotel.com

Camkar Hotel (3*)

Phone : 0090 474 4135259 - 4136565 - 4134444
Fax : 0090 474 4136242
e-mail : camkarotel@gmail.com
website : www.camkarotel.com

Kar Hotel (3*)

Phone : 0090 474 4135152
Fax : 0090 474 4135051
e-mail : sarikamiskarotel2007@hotmail.com
website : www.sarikamiskarotel.com

Bildik Hotel (3*)

Phone : 0090 474 4137676
Fax : 0090 474 4137651
e-mail : info@bildikotel.com
website : www.bildikotel.com

Hotel Aras

Phone : 0090 474 4138080
Fax : 0090 474 4138080
e-mail : info@sarikamishotelaras.com
website : www.sarikamishotelaras.com

ACCOMMODATION

Sarıkamış Anatolian Hotel Management and Tourism Vocational High School Practice Hotel

Tel : 0090 474 4137081

Faks : 0090 474 4134604

Alpina Apart Lodgings

Phone : 0090 474 4137383

Fax : 0090 474 4137383

e-mail : info@alpinakonaklari.com

Website : www.alpinakonaklari.com

Arpaçay

Arpaçay Teacher's Lodge

Phone : 0090 474 2812068

Digor

Digor Teacher's Lodge

Phone : 0090 474 3112102

Kağızman

Kağızman Teacher's Lodge

Phone : 0090 474 3512235

Selim

Selim Celal Aras Teacher's Lodge

Phone : 0090 474 4613388

Fax : 0090 474 4612418

e-mail : selimcelalarasogretmenevi@hotmail.com

Susuz

Susuz 75. Yıl Öğretmenevi (75th Year Teacher's Lodge)

Phone : 0090 474 5115423

CAMPING AREAS

Boğatepe Village, Susuz Valley, Keklik Valley, Komdere Valley, Aygır Lake, Kuyucuk Lake, Turna Lake, Çıldır Lake, Kars Stream Municipal Picnic Area and Sarıkamış Sogucak Picnic Area, are among the places that you can camp in the region.

CAR RENTAL AND IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CAR RENTAL

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Akbulut Rent a Car | Phone : 0090 474 2122473 |
| Baran Rent a Car | Phone : 0090 545 2118183 |
| Burcum Automotive | Phone : 0090 474 2125141 |
| Dođaner Rent a Car | Phone : 0090 474 2135013 |
| Eksper Rent a Car | Phone : 0090 474 2127080 |
| Hazal Automotive | Phone : 0090 474 2125788 www.karsrentacar.com.tr |
| Kars Sefa Rent a Car | Phone : 0090 474 2121720 |
| Öz Sema Automotive | Phone : 0090 474 2120818 - 2322773 www.semaotomotiv.com semaotomotiv@hotmail.com |
| Toraman Rent a Car | Phone : 0090 474 2128044 |
| Yavuz Automotive | Phone : 0090 474 4134474 |

Emergency Numbers

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Police | : 155 |
| Military Police | : 156 |
| Emergency Service | : 112 |
| Forest Fire | : 177 |

Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| Phone | : 0090 474 2122179 - 2126864 |
| Website | : www.karskulturturizm.gov.tr |

Tourist Information Office

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| Phone | : 0090 474 2126817 |
|-------|--------------------|

Serhat Development Agency

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| Phone | : 0090 474 212 52 00 |
| Fax | : 0090 474 2125204 |
| Website: | : www.serka.gov.tr |

| | |
|--|--|
| GPS coordinates and information | : www.sarikamistrekking.com info@sarikamistrekking.com |
| Zakir AKIN (Sarikamis) | : 0090 541 2103175 zakir-akin@hotmail.com |
| İshak ALASERHAT (Sarikamis) | : 0090 554 7684793 akademik_olgu@hotmail.com |
| KuzeyDoğa Society | : www.kuzeydoga.org emrah@kuzeydoga.org |
| Efkan Zariç (Susuz Valley) | : 0090 505 7683604 |
| Gökhan Zariç (Susuz Valley) | : 0090 546 8724663 |
| İlhan Koculu (Bogatepe Village) | : 0090 532 5016213 www.peynirmuzesi.org |
| Association of Hotels and Restaurants of Kars (KARSOD) | : 0090 474 223 53 41 www.karsod.org.tr |

REFERENCES

- 1- Kars Province Cultural Inventory 2009
- 2- T.R. Ministry of Culture and Tourism Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, Kars Province Sarikamis Martyrdoms, 2005
- 3- Kars City Guide, City Council 2007
- 4- North Nature Society Archive
- 5- T.R. Serhat Development Agency TRA2 2010-2013 Regional Plan

