



# AGRI





### **AĞRI: ON THE PEAKS OF TURKEY**

Ağrı is a city, where good-humored and hospitable people live, in spite of its harsh geography. Hosting the rich legacy of Anatolian cultural heritage, the city is also considered as the roof of Turkey. It is the dream of mountaineers with its charming mountains particularly Mount Ararat which is rising to sky and its peaks ever covered in snow. Mount Ararat mentioned in the bible is ranked among the “highest peaks of the world”.



Besides having Turkey's the highest mountain with a height of 5137 meters, Ağrı (even the city is located at 1640 meters altitude), has dozens of summits rising above 3000 meters. In the list of Turkey's highest peaks, Ağrı is ranked on quite top places (with its three mountains ranked in the top 10 and five mountains ranked in the top 50). The most important elevations of the city are Mount Ararat (5137 m), Süphan (4058 m, its second summit with 4054 m. is located in the boundaries of the district of Patnos, Ağrı ), Little Ararat (3896 m), Tendürek (3533 m), Mount Köse (3433 m), Mount Aşağı (3274 m), Aladağ (3250 m), Kara Dağ (Mount Black) (3243 m) and Mount Tizli (3200 m). A considerable part of these summits, which appeal the mountaineers, is suitable for touristic climbs.

The most important water basins of the region include Murat, Eleşkirt, Güzeldere, Karasu, Bağdıran, İncesu, Malhas, Gürlevik, Kesik, Sarısu and Lake Balık streams. The noteworthy lakes of the city are Balık, Kurtkapan, Şeyh, Gölyüzü, Saz lakes as well as small glacial lakes lying on Aladağ.



## LAKE BALIK

Located 56 km away from the city center and within the boundaries of the districts of Doğubayazıt and Taşlıçay, Balık, is the biggest lake in Ağrı. Lying at an elevation of 2250 meters, the dammed lake has 34 km<sup>2</sup> areas and constitutes the biggest lake at this elevation in Turkey. The depth of the lake exceeds 100 meters. From the lake that creates a charming atmosphere with its blue surface; you can take the photo of Mount Ararat at clear weathers.







## HISTORY

Ağrı, “the land of ancient civilizations “is very rich in historical legacy due to being on the transition route on Central Asia and Anatolian peninsula. İshak Pasha Palace, shining in the middle of a steppe as a precious jewelry, is the very significant detail with its both architecture and the visuality. Especially the castles, tombs and scriptures, which were built in Urartian period, as well as the churches dating back to late period, constitute the cultural identity of the city. Those who wish to make a journey through the historical background of Ağrı may visit the magnificent artifacts such as Urartian water channels, Pazı Castle in the city center, Diyadin and Tokluca Castles in the district of Diyadin as well as Meya Rock Settlement; İshak Pasha Palace located in the district of Doğubayazıt; Ahmed-i Hani Tomb, Shrine; Kan (Doğubayazıt) Castle; Toprakkale Barrow and Mosque in the district of Eleşkirt; Cupola, Soşik Castle, Beklemez Underground Church, Karlıca Maiden and Havaran Castles in the district of Hamur; Anzavur Castle and Giriktepe Barrow in the district of Patnos; Karagöz Church as well as Zencir and Kan castles in the district of Tutak.



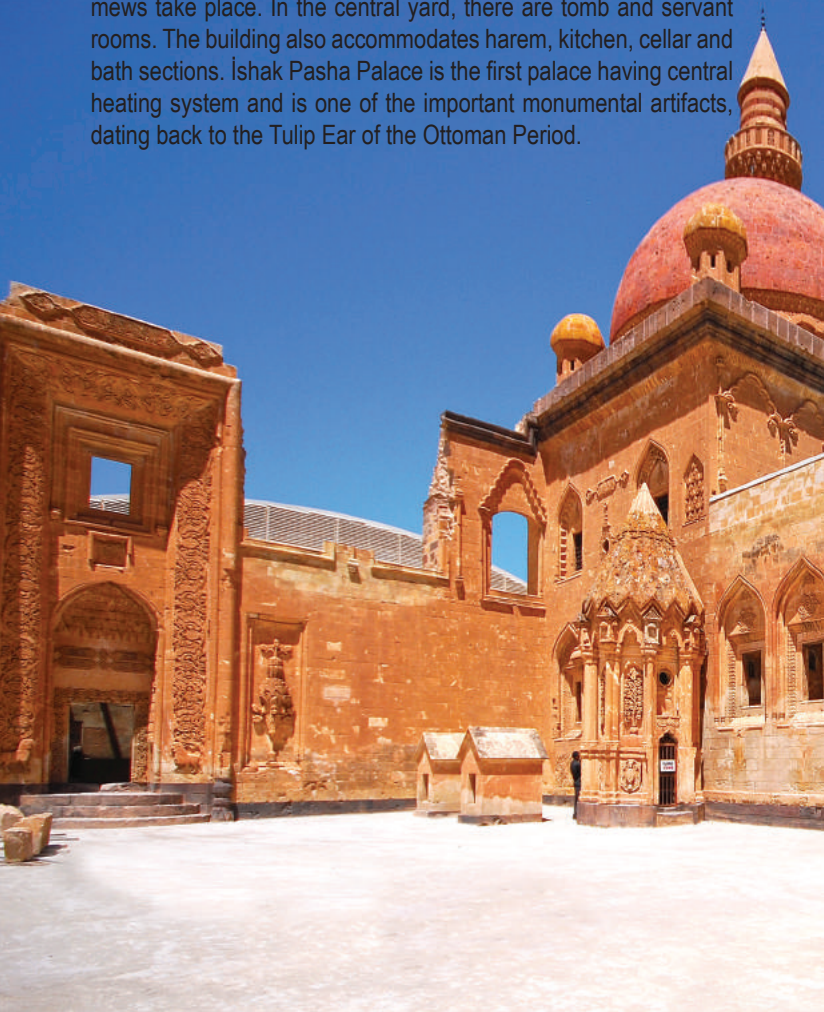




## ISHAK PASHA PALACE

Undoubtedly Mount Ararat and İshak Pasha Palace together constitute the most famous tourism values of Ağrı. The building, standing out with its splendid architecture, represents one of the most distinguished examples of Anatolian cultural heritage. The palace, rising on the steep and wild rocks is like a jewelry shining in the middle of a steppe. The colorful stones used in the construction of the building bring about a different aesthetics.

Governor of Doğubayazıt Sanjak, Çolak Abdi Pasha started the construction of Palace in 1685 and it is completed in 1784 by İshak Pasha. The place like a miniature of İstanbul Topkapı Palace. Its spectacular gate, reminding of Seljukian architecture, is covered with ornamentations and decorations. With its buildings designed in the shape of U and two courtyards, it has a unique plan. In the entrance section, fountain, watchmen and guard rooms, dungeon and mews take place. In the central yard, there are tomb and servant rooms. The building also accommodates harem, kitchen, cellar and bath sections. İshak Pasha Palace is the first palace having central heating system and is one of the important monumental artifacts, dating back to the Tulip Ear of the Ottoman Period.









## **MOUNT ARARAT**

Ağrı, called as Eğri Dağ by Ancient Turks, as Küh-i Nuh by Persians, as Cebelül Haris (Great Ararat) by Arabs, as Masik by Armenians and as Ararat by Western communities, is the highest mountain of Europe and Turkey with its 5137 meter height. It is easily seen from miles away between İğdır plain on the North and Doğubayazıt plain on the south. Its brother Little Ararat at an elevation of 3896 meters lies on its east side. These two cones, rising on a common base until 2500 meters, are separated by approximately 14-km-long Serdarbulak Passageway (2687 m). Lots of uplands are located on this old caravan route passageway.

Mount Ararat also hosts the biggest glacier of Turkey. The formation on top is a typical cap glacier. The glacier, descending down to 3500 meters at some places, transforms into valley glacier after 4500 meters. Centuries after famous traveler Marco Polo described that “no one can climb there ever” in the face of the magnificence of the mountain, Frederik Von Parat climbed on October 9th, 1829 and Dr. Bozkurt Ergör, a former president of Mountaineering Federation, was the first Turkish mountaineer climbing to the summit of Ararat. Mount Ararat still hosts climbing lovers and gives them a chance to look to the world from roof.







## **MOUNT TENDÜREK**

Tendürek, which is an extinct volcano, is located on the southern east of Ağrı. Tendürek, lying between the districts of Doğubayazıt and Taşlıçay, has a lava flow which is hard to come by. The mountain's lava flow on the southern part, which reaches up to the district of Van province, presents great visual beauties. The molten scum, spreading over miles throughout the valley and taking interesting shapes, constitute one of the attractive features of the region.







## AĞRI TREKKING AND CLIMBING ROUTES

The mountains in Turkey with different geomorphologic and tectonic structure, which are located at various altitudes, provide amazing opportunities both for winter tourism and mountain trekking. With their diverse flora and rich wildlife, these high summits also serve as important climbing locations for those, who like mountaineering.

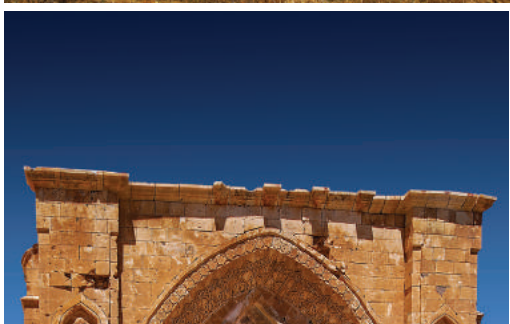
Mount Ararat attracts adrenaline junkies because of being a volcanic mountain with a permanently snow and ice capped summit all around year and hosting the biggest glacier of Turkey and its geological structure formed as a result of lava eruption, and Noah's Ark legend mentioned in bible.

Climbing to Mount Ararat should be considered in two categories: summer and winter climbing. Because the conditions of the mountain in the summer and winter differ greatly. Contrary to general view, Mount Ararat is an easy mountain to climb in summer. Physically-fit every one, without any serious health problem, can easily climb to the Mount Ararat in summer months with a local guide. In other words, it is not a must to be a mountaineer to climb to Mount Ararat in summer months.

No matter whatever the conditions are, never leave the classic route directed by your guide or GPS data. You can get further information on climbing routes for Mount Ararat and GPS coordinates at [www.agritrekking.com](http://www.agritrekking.com).







## **THERMAL SPRINGS**

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







## **WHAT IS LOCATED WHERE?**

### **Centre of Ağrı**

Pazı (Eyüp Pasha) Castle, Yazıcı Dam Lake, Yolluyazı (Dambat) Thermal Spring

### **Diyadin**

Yılanlı, Davut and Köprü thermal springs, Diyadin and Tokluca castles, Meya Rock Settlement, Aladağ uplands, Aladağ glacier lakes

### **Doğubayazıt**

İshak Pasha Palace, Ahmed-i Hani Dome, Kan (Doğubayazıt) Castle, Great Ararat, Little Ararat, Meteor Hollow (Sarıçavuş village), Glacier Cave (Hallaç village), Lake Balık (Suluçem village), Göl-yüzü and Saz lakes, Tendürek Crater Lake, Buzhane Cave (Üzen-gili village), Noah's Ark, Karnıyarık Hill Crater Hollow, Tendürek lava flow, Alaca Bridge

### **Eleşkirt**

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

### **Hamur**

Kümbet (Tomb) , Şoşık Castle, Beklemez Underground Church, Karlıca Maiden Castle, Havaran Castle Karlıca healing water

### **Patnos**

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

### **Taşlıçay**

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

### **Tutak**

Karagöz Church, Atabindi Urartian scriptures, Zencir and Kan castles









### **WHAT TO BUY?**

You can take handicraft products that reflect the cultural identity of Ağrı as gift for your beloved ones. We suggest local handicraft products as souvenir items for those visiting Ağrı. In hand woven carpet and rug patterns, especially in silk carpets, the details reflecting the cultural texture of the region are remarkable. Mohair socks and gloves, which are knitted with yarns that are spun more thickly than wool, are eye catching. In addition to self-colored pull-overs, socks and saddlebags, which are knitted with local sheep wool, you can also find unique ones ornamented with traditional patterns. Additionally you can buy felt products, which is a handicraft that developed depending on the animal husbandry.

Bags, baskets and tea trays manufactured from the wheat and rye stem as well as üzerlik (a handicraft hung on the wall for protection from evil eye), which is produced stringing üzerlik (harmal) grains on the yarn and shaping them geometrically or amulet is other handicraft product that is peculiar to the region. As Üzerlik is considered as an item that protects from evil eye as blue bead, it ornaments the walls of the homes.





## **DON'T RETURN WITHOUT**

- walking on the icy surface of Lake Balık in winter
- looking through the architectural details of İshak Pasha palace
- visiting Urartian water channels and dams in the region
- witnessing the miracle formed by Tendürek lava flow, which is one of the best examples on the earth
- climbing to Mount Ararat, the highest peak of Turkey.
- taking the photo of Van Lake from the peak of Mount Süphan, the 4th highest mountain of Turkey





## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION

Ağrı Airport is located at a 5 km distance to the city centre on the district road of Hamur. Most of the accommodation facilities are available in the Centre of Ağrı and the district of Doğubayazıt, but there are also accommodation facilities at different standards in the centre of district.

## GUIDE BOOK

You can access to GPS data and other necessary information such as travelling agency, accommodation facilities, car rental at [www.agritrekking.com](http://www.agritrekking.com). You can obtain the guide book, distributed free of charge , at [info@agritrekking.com](mailto:info@agritrekking.com)





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