



KAYSERİ HIKING ROUTES and TOURISM EXPLORATION GUIDE



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Clock Tower, Kocasinan, Melikgazi



Cevril Church, Kocasinan



Mimar Sinan House, Ağırnas/Melikgazi



Bayramhacı Rock Settlement, Kocasinan





Chimney Rock, Soğanlı-Yeşilhisar





THE CAPITAL OF CAPPADOCIA

KAYSERİ

One of the largest cities of Central Anatolia, Kayseri is located in a geography to which Kızılırmak and Zamanti rivers give life. The first settlement of Kayseri, which was located at the intersection of the main trade routes down the ages, was set up on the piedmonts of Mount Erciyes. At the junction of the routes that go to Assyria in the south, Hattusa in the north, Ephesus over Ankara in the west and Northeast Anatolia in the east, the city was once called Mazaka. The settlement area, which spread towards the lowland from the heights over time, was built between Karasu (Sarımsaklı) and Delisu basins. Kayseri, which became famous for its fast horses raised in its studfarms

in the ancient period, had been a place where many people settled.

The major mountains of the province are Aladağlar in the southwest, Binboğalar in the southeast, and Soğanlı Mountains in the south, which are the continuation of Toros mountain range. Speaking of mountains, we need to mention Mount Erciyes separately, which rises right behind the city center with its gigantic size. The highest mountain of Central Anatolia and Kayseri, Erciyes will come into view with its paramount appearance wherever you go in the city. The highest summits of Kayseri, which hosts many peaks between 1500 and 3000 meters, are Erciyes (3917 m), Mount Kızılyar



Erciyes from Şeker Lake, Kocasinan

(3654 m), Mount Aşı (3525 m), Mount Dirsek (3456 m), Mount Mamerdeğın (3407 m), Mount Ortakaya (3406 m), Mount Harmancık (3374 m), Mount Kırçılı Seki (3357 m), Torasan Mountain (3141 m), Mount Tekelik (3112 m), Mount Keçiyarığı (3111 m), Beydağı (3075 m), Dumanlı Mountain (3024 m), Akdağ (2997 m), Mount Kelpınar (2928 m), Mount Eğrikuzey (2926 m), Kartal Mountain Mount Aygörmez (2878 m), Binboğa (2856 m), Mount Kartalpınarı (2854 m), Sütönduran (2797 m), Mount Dikkartın (2760 m), Soğanlı (2744 m), Bakırdağ (2721 m), Koçdağ (2628 m), Mount Kızılkaya (2563 m), Menteş (2576 m) and Üçtepeler (2551 m).

ERCIYES

Depicted with an image of spraying flames out of its cone on the coins belonging to the ancient Mazaka city, Erciyes is in fact an extinct volcano. Erciyes, which Strabon, one of the famous writers of the ancient period, mentioned as “the highest of the mountains” in his work, Geographica, carries the title of Turkey’s 5th highest summit. The mountain, called Argaios in the ancient period, is situated in 25 kilometers southwest of the city.

Continuing its activity since neogene (Miocene-Lower Pliocene) period, Erciyes is classified as “an old stratovolcano” by the scientists. It is thought that this old volcano, which had been active starting from the middle of Period III and erupting lava and tuff, started its activity around 30 million years ago. Erciyes’s current main volcano cone was formed in the huge graben that was opened when the volcano base came apart as a result of the inner pressure during the eruption of andesite lava. The lava, tuff, cinder and volcano gravel that came out during the eruption activity spread to a distance of about 100 kilometers and formed the current structure of the hills and plains around Mount Erciyes. Apart from the main mass, there are two



Mount Erciyes from Sultan Marshes, Yeşilhisar

more volcanic formations in the region named Ali Mountain (1871 m) and Yılanlıdağ (1640 m). In the eastern direction, 2700-meter Koç Mountain rises.

It is thought that the ashes that came out of Erciyes were carried kilometers away by the wind and formed the fairy chimneys in the Cappadocia region. In the north of Erciyes, whose high parts are covered with snow every season, one of the most important glaciers of our country lies. The surroundings of Erciyes, which we can call “an ecological island”, are covered with forests, moors, alpine meadows, rocky slopes, cone peaks and glaciers. Covering an area of around 18 kilometers in diameter and 1100 square kilometers, Erciyes has the status of both Key Plant Area (KPA) and Key Bird Area (KBA).



Erciyes from Tekir Plateau, Melikgazi



Moon Rising on Mount Erciyes-Atıl Ulaş CÜCE



Mount Erciyes from Talas, Talas



Karagöl, Yıldız, Büyükgöl, Hastahocanın, Camız, Çöl, Sarıgöl, Soysallı, Yay and Tuzla are the natural lakes of the province. Ağcaşar, Akköy, Bahçelik, Kovalı, Sarımsaklı, Selkapanı and Yamula dam lakes, as well as Uzunkuyu, Efkere, Engir, İncesu, Karakuyu, Şıhlı, Tekir and Zincidere ponds are the artificial lakes that were formed with the purpose of irrigation.

The most important tributaries of Kayseri are Kızılırmak and Zamantı rivers. The 128-kilometer part of Kızılırmak, which was called Halys in the ancient period and which is the longest tributary of our country with its 1355-kilometer length, is within the provincial borders. On the other hand, Zamantı, which rises in Şerefiye village of Pınarbaşı district and joins Seyhan River with a flow of 308 kilometers, rambles within deep valleys. Having a length of 250 kilometers within the borders of Kayseri, Zamantı confluences small creeks such as Boran, Çermişek, Kuş, Tahtacak, Bercan, Tahtalmezar, Kuru and Alagöz. During its journey, it forms two travertine bridge formations (the tributary's passing under a ground covered with vegetation at a point where the valley narrows down) between Çamlıca and Yeşilköy. At this point, there is a waterfall that comes out of four different sources. Unfortunately, one of the travertine

bridge formations was flooded under the dam that has been recently constructed. Rising from a cave near Delialıuşağı village, Göksu Waterfall is mixed up in the river waters, creating a magnificent view. Zamantı, which leaves Kayseri borders in Kapuzbaşı village and enters Adana, continues its exuberant flow up to Seyhan. Among the other significant rivers of the province are Değirmendere, Kestuvan, Deli, Sarımsaklı and Sarız.

Natural beauties of Kayseri, waterfalls can be seen within the borders of Yahyalı district. Kapuzbaşı, Yeşilköy and Derebağ waterfalls are among the details that highlight the beauties of this magnificent geography. The waterfall which is the namesake of Yeşilköy settlement is at Ziyaret location, which is 3 kilometers to the village. The waterfall, which flows from about 10 meters high, rises from four separate points including the main branch and glides towards Zamantı River. Derebağ Waterfall, located in the south of Derebağ village, which is 10 kilometers to Yahyalı district, is a 15-meter-high waterfall that rises from the depths of Mount Kale and that comes into the sunlight in two caves. The set of waterfalls that are located in Kapuzbaşı village, which is 76 kilometers away from Yahyalı district, flows from rocky slopes into Aksu and Aladağ creeks and joins Zamantı River.



Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls, whose heights vary between 30 and 70 meters, proudly carry the title of “Turkey’s waterfalls with the highest flow rate”.

Apart from the moors that cover high parts, Develi, Sarımsaklı, Karasaz and Palas plains are located in the middle part of Kayseri. The plateaus of the province are scattered on the piedmonts of Aladağlar and Soğanlı Mountains. Particularly, Gökoluk, Suna, Kursiyan and Gücük plateaus in Yahyalı district are among the must-see locations with their natural beauties. The general flora is composed of herbaceous plants seen on moors, and forests that spread especially to the southern region. The forests that spread to Toros Mountains, which surround the south of the province, enclose certain parts of Tomarza, Yahyalı and Develi districts. The dense forested lands are under the domination of juniper, larch, Turkish pine, scotch pine, fir, spruce, cedar and oak trees. While the piedmonts are usually covered with farm land and gardens, there are alpine meadows on the high parts. Among the animal species that comprise the wild life are the mountain goat, wolf, coyote, hare, wild boar, reptiles, bird species, as well as fish species such as the trout, catfish, carp and pike, which are seen in big tributaries.



Soysallı Lake, Develi

The most important biodiversity area of Kayseri is Aladağlar National Park. The national park, which is within a 55.065-hectare area including Adana-Niğde-Kayseri provincial borders, stretches around the Aladağlar mass that forms the southern wing of Toros Mountains. Forests, mountains, valleys, deep canyons, stream beds, glacial lakes, waterfalls and caves constitute the resource value of the area, which gained the national park status in 1995. Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls, Hacer Forest and Yedigöller Plateau are among the places that must be seen. Sultan Marshes National Park is also a natural value of the province that should be protected.

Kızılırmak, Kocasinan



Oak Forests on the Feet of Erciyes, Hacılar



Ağzıgüzel Rock Tombs, Ayşepınar-Develi



HISTORY

Kayseri, on almost every corner of which you can come across a historical location, is one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia. Extant historical structures from its 6 thousand-year-history, such as ruins, rock-cut reliefs, citadels, churches, mosques, cupolas, shrines and madrasahs as well as 60 tumulus, 56 burial mounds, 20 underground cities and 19 rock settlements, are among the best proof of this. One of the touchstones of the history of humanity, the city reminds of an open air museum with the pieces left from the dominations of Assyria, Hittite, Phrygia, Kimmeria, Med, Persia, Kingdom of Cappadocia, Rome, Byzantine, Abbasid, Seljuk, Danishmend, Mongol, Eretna, Karaman, Beylic of Dulkadir and Ottoman.

Kültepe, which has the characteristic of being the memory that carries the magnificent history of the province to today, is known for the 4 thousand-year-old Assyrian tablets that have survived until today. Kültepe, known as Karahöyük (Karaev) in the region, lived its brightest period during the Hittite Empire when it was the capital city called 'Neşa'.

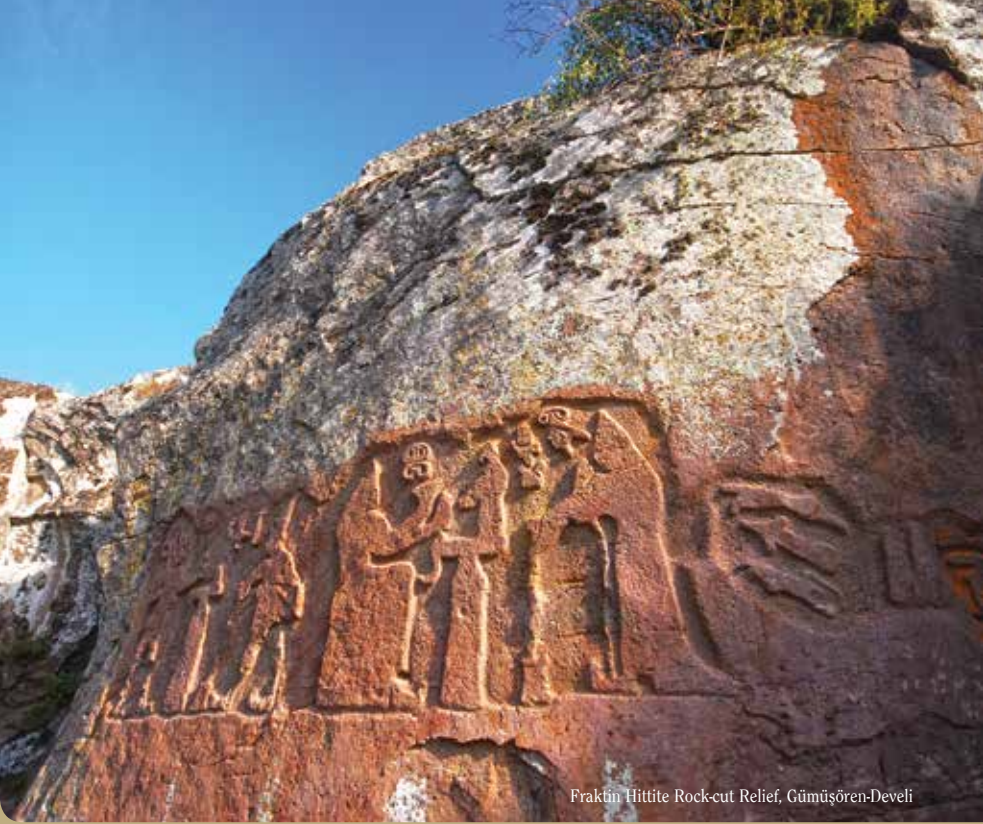
Entering into the domination of Rome later on, Kayseri is described as "the biggest and most beautiful city of Cappadocia" in the ancient sources of that period. During the reign of Arkhelaos, the Cappadocian king, it



takes the name "Kaisareia" in honor of Augustus, the Roman Emperor. Being one of the most important centers of Christianity at the beginning of the 4th century A.D., the city enters into a reconstruction process thanks to Basil of Caesarea. This period refers to a time slice when ecclesiastical living spaces such as hermitages, chapels, underground cities, rock churches, monasteries and basilicas appear. Particularly, Yeşilhisar, İncesu, Develi, Kocasinan and Melikgazi districts are the settlement areas where works of the Christianity period can be widely seen. Kayseri, which had its fair share of Arabic raids that were all over Anatolia after the Byzantine domination, was terribly destroyed. After this dark period, the city comes under the domination of Seljuks, which means Turks, in 1071. The region, where Anatolian Beylics reigned for a period, was added to the lands of the Ottoman Empire as a result of the conquest excursions of Fatih the Conqueror.



From the Archeological Museum, Melikgazi



Fraktin Hitite Rock-cut Relief, Gümüřören-Develi



Gevher Nesibe Hatun Madrasah, Kocasinan



Hızır İlyas Manoir House, Kocasinin



Clock Tower, Kocasinan



Çevril Rock Church, Kocasinan



Döner Cupola, Melikgazi



Aya Todorı Church, Germir-Melikgazi

KAYSERİ CITY TOUR



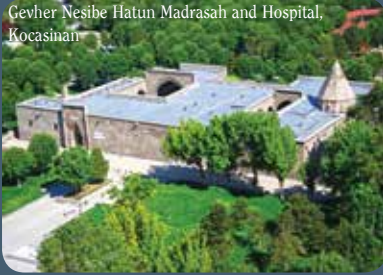
Cumhuriyet Square and Kayseri Citadel, Kocasinan-Melikgazi

The tour, which will be taken to witness the historical legacy in Kayseri city center, is composed of two parts as long and short. Predominantly including Seljukian and Ottoman structures, the tour also enables us to see examples of civil architecture indigenous to Cappadocia region, along with some churches and monumental tomb structures from the Roman and Byzantine periods. The short tour, determined by the Metropolitan Municipality within the scope of “Cultural Route”, includes the historical structures around the citadel walls. The long tour, which will take you on a journey to the past, will offer a pleasurable adventure in the historical locations in the city center.



Kayseri Long City Tour

Gevher Nesibe Hatun Madrasah and Hospital,
Kocasinan



The 6-kilometer “Long Tour” starts at **Mimar Sinan Park**, one of the green spaces of the city. The first location of our tour is **Gevher Nesibe Hatun Madrasah and Hospital**, which was one of the first medical centers in Anatolia and used as Seljukian Civilization Museum in our day. The hospital, where mental patients were treated by means of water and music, is an important center in the sense of having applied advanced treatment methods. Your next stop is **Gevher Nesibe Sultan Fountain and Avgunlu Madrasah** right next to it. Currently serving as a bookshop, Avgunlu is one of 13th-century Seljukian works. Let us remind you that on the northern corner of Mimar Sinan Park are **Kalaycıoğlu Mosque, Hacı Kılıç Mosque and Madrasah**. In addition, **Hasbek Kadı Cupola** is located in the west of the park.

Now go southward from Mimar Sinan



Gevher Nesibe Fountain and Avgunlu Madrasah,
Kocasinan

Park and walk to the courtyard of **Kurşunlu Mosque**. One of Mimar Sinan’s works of mastership (born in Taşören-Ağırnas), the mosque was built in 1573. Now you are in **Cumhuriyet Square**, which is considered as the heart of the city and from the middle of which **Sivas Street** passes. When you walk for 250 meters eastward, you will come across **Sahabiye Madrasah and Fountain** on the corner where **Ahmet Paşa Street** and **İstasyon Street** intersect. The place was built by one of Seljukian viziers, **Sahip Ata Fahreddin Ali**, in 1267. Right behind the structure, you can photograph one of the biggest **Roman Monumental Tombs of Anatolian Peninsula**.



Roman Tomb, Kocasinan



Bürüngüz Mosque, Melikgazi

Now, by using the pedestrian crossing and the underground bazaar, move onto the southern part of Cumhuriyet Square, where there are Kayseri citadel walls and the clock tower. One of the clock tower examples that spread to entire Anatolia during the period of Abdülhamit II, **Kayseri Clock Tower** is one of the structures that decorate the square together with the **Atatürk Statue**. A muvakkithane (clock room) rises next to the tower that was built by Tavlusunlu Salih Usta in 1906. Right behind the tower, where you will see the northern citadel walls, is **Kayseri Citadel**. Built during the reign of Gordianus III, the Roman Empire, in 3 B.C., the citadel is comprised of two parts as inner and outer. You can continue your tour around the citadel walls, whose extant parts have been repaired.

You will reach Sivas Street again under the guidance of the citadel walls after passing through **Kapalıçarşı** and **Bürüğüz Mosque**, which was built instead of the **İki Kapılı Mescid** that came down. At this point, you will turn left and come to the front of **Pamuk Inn**, located at the right hand side of Ulus Street. Then, you will reach the place where **Raşit Efendi Library**, **Melik Mehmet Gazi Shrine** and **Ulu Mosque** are located. The house of prayer, which was built by Melik Mehmet Gazi, a Danishmend Bey, is also called **Cami-i Kebir**.

Hatuniye Madrasah, which you will reach by using Ulu Cami Street, currently serves as a business center.

It was built by Melik Nasırüddin Mehmed Bey in 1431 in accordance with the classical Seljukian architecture. Now, enter Karakuş Street by crossing İnönü Boulevard. In place of the new business center that you see on your right, **Körükçü Inn** used to be located. Later on, you reach Şehit Miralay Nazım Bey Boulevard by turning left from Yunus Emre Boulevard, which is in front of you. **Tavukçu Neighborhood**, where old mansions are located, is one of the most interesting parts of the tour. The settlement area right behind **Setenönü Turkish Hammam** is adorned with the examples of civil architecture that reminds the old photographs of the city. You can take a short trip to the history of the city among the mansions, such as **Kuyumcuoğlu**, **Bezircioğlu**, **Gazioğlu** and **Çayırağası**, in this area, which has been landscaped by the Metropolitan Municipality. Let us remind you that in the southwest of the neighborhood, **Ayaccaklı Mosque**, **Büyük Fountain** and **Surp Krikor Lusavoriç Armenian Church** are located.

Surp Krikor Lusavoriç Armenian Church, Melikgazi



Kayseri High School, Melikgazi





Çalka House, Melikgazi



Yoğunburç, Melikgazi



From the Archeological Museum, Melikgazi

After photographing the structures on Setenönü Street and side streets, go to İnönü Boulevard again. You proceed to the right when Hatıroğlu Mosque is on your left. After passing by Kayseri High School, which is a stone building, you can visit Selahattin Turkish Hammam along with Lale Mosque and Cupola by entering the street on the right.

When you go back to İnönü Boulevard once more, Çalka House and Taşçıoğlu House, which are used as the Directorate of Reliefs and Monuments building, will come into

view. Right across the structures that display a rich architectural tradition in their fine details, Meryem Ana (Mother Mary) Church is located. Your route will continue eastwards. At this point, İnönü Boulevard goes into division as Yoğunburç and Lalezade streets. By carefully crossing Lalezade Street, where the traffic is busy, walk towards Yoğunburç Street. While the historical building used by the Martyr's Family's Association is on your right, one of the important bastions of Kayseri Citadel, Yoğunburç and citadel walls will appear on the left side. Then you will pass through bus stops and arrive at the front of Han Mosque. In the south of the structure in Seyyid Burhaneddin Boulevard rises Emir Cemaleddin Tanrıvermiş Cupola, built in 1188.

Now the tour route will proceed southward from Seyyid Burhaneddin Boulevard for a time. Your next stop is Ahi Evran Zawiyah, which serves as the Museum of Merchants and Craftsmen. A little ahead, Döner Cupola rises in the green area in the middle of the street with all its magnificence. The monumental structure, which was built for Princess Şah Cihan Hatun in the 13th century, stands out with its ornaments and adornments. A little ahead of the cupola, you can see Emir Ali Shrine and Şehitler Monument.

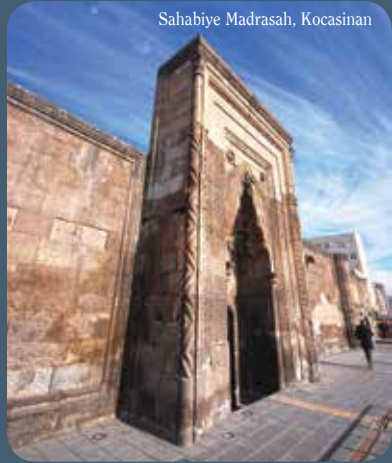
At this point of the long tour, cross the street and enter through the door of Kayseri Technical and Industrial Vocational High School. Sırçalı Cupola, which is behind the tall buildings, is one of the rare examples among its kind in Anatolia with its cylindrical roof.

After photographing the historical

structure, go back to Seyyid Burhaneddin Boulevard and start walking on the right hand side of the road this time toward the direction you came from (north). You will first go to Seyyid Burhaneddin Mosque and then to Seyyid Burhaneddin Graveyard. If you follow the walk way among the gravestones that rise in the lush area, you can reach Seyyid Burhaneddin Shrine and the Old Archeological Museum. (In 2014, when this book was printed, Archeological Museum serves on Mustafa Kemal Paşa Boulevard. With the project of Metropolitan Municipality, the museum will move to Kaleiçi in 2015.) Those who visit the museum, where artifacts obtained from many historical locations and ruins within the provincial borders are displayed, will get some general information about Kayseri.

Now, walk back to Seyyid Burhaneddin Boulevard once again and head towards north. In a little while, you will come across the citadel walls and Yoğunburç on the left side of the road, as well as Alaca Cupola in the central refuge. When you keep on walking from the street to Cumhuriyet Square, the route will turn right from Tavlusun Geçidi Street and take you to the front of Seraceddin Madrasah. Currently used as a bookshop, the structure was built by Kayseri Ameer Seraceddin Lala Bedr in 1238. The Long City Tour heads toward Hunat Hatun Islamic Social Complex after stopping by Kutlu Hatun Cupola, built in 1349. The historical complex, which faces Seyyid Burhaneddin Boulevard, is composed of a mosque, a madrasah, a cupola and a Turkish hammam.

Sahabiye Madrasah, Kocasinan



Hunat Hatun Mosque and Cupola, Melikgazi



Sırçalı Cupola, Melikgazi



Döner Cupola, Melikgazi





Atatürk's House and Museum, Melikgazi



Ok Bastion, Melikgazi



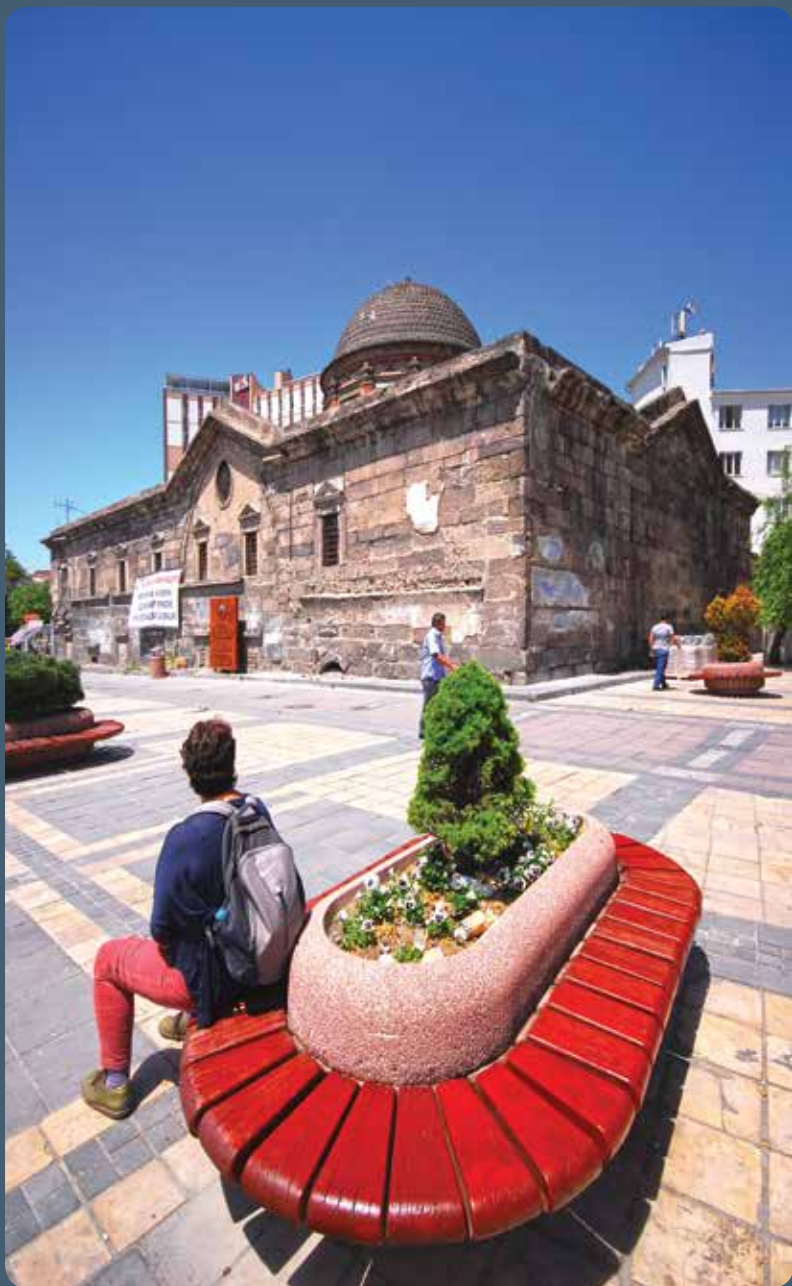
From the Archeological Museum



Zeynel Abidin Shrine, Melikgazi

After the Islamic social complex, which was built by Hunat Hatun, wife of Alaattin Keykubat, in 1238, you visit Zeynel Abidin Shrine and Ok Bastion. When you have a look at the map you have, you will notice that you have drawn a large circle and come back to Cumhuriyet Square again. Now proceed towards the citadel walls, cross the street and enter Kayseri Citadel by using one of the gates facing the square.

Continue your city tour after a tea break you will take in Kaleiçi, which remains in the old city texture. By following Çevik Street, reach the mansion that was built by İmamzade Raşit Ağa in the 19th century and used as Atatürk's House and Museum today. Atatürk, who visited Kayseri on December 19, 1919, was hosted in this house. Güpgüpoğlu Mansion, which serves as the Ethnographic Museum today, is next. Your tour, which includes visits to Meryem Ana Church, Emir Sultan Shrine and Şeyh Tennuri Mosque in the last part of the route, reaches Kapalıçarşı by passing through Turan Street. In this bazaar, which is known as the oldest grand bazaar of our country, along with the ones in İstanbul and Bursa, you can buy various souvenirs that will remind you of Kayseri.



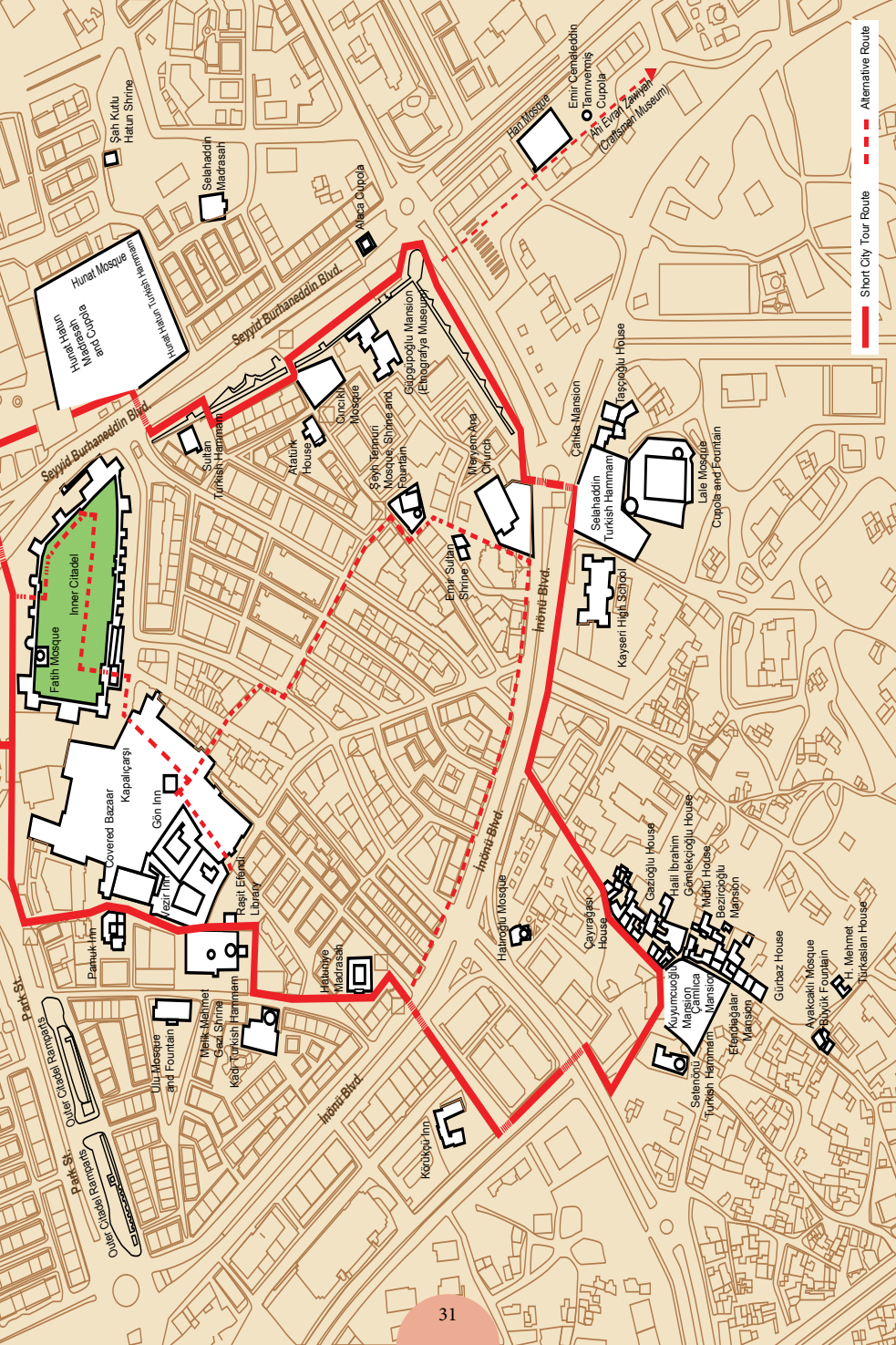
Meryem Ana Church, Melikgazi

Kayseri Long City Tour

- 1- Gevher Nesibe Hatun Madrasah
- 2- Avcunlu Madrasah
- 3- Kurşunlu Mosque
- 4- Sahabiye Madrasah
- 5- Roman Tomb
- 6- Clock Tower
- 7- Bürüngüz Mosque
- 8- Pamuk Inn
- 9- Ulu Mosque
- 10- Raşit Efendi Library
- 11- Melik Mehmet Gazi Shrine
- 12- Kadı Turkish Hammam
- 13- Hatuniye Madrasah
- 14- Körükçü Inn
- 15- Setenönü Turkish Hammam
- 16- Kuyumcuoğlu Mansion
- 17- Çayırağası Mansion
- 18- Kayseri High School
- 19- Selahattin Turkish Hammam
- 20- Lale Mosque and Cupola
- 21- Çalıka Mansion
- 22- Taşçıoğlu House
- 23- Tosuntaş Mosque
- 24- Han Mosque and Cupola
- 25- Ahi Evran Craftsmen Museum
- 26- Döner Cupola
- 27- Emir Ali Shrine
- 28- Şehitler Park
- 29- Sırçalı Cupola
- 30- Seyyid Burhaneddin Shrine and Graveyard
- 31- Historical Fountain
- 32- Alaca Cupola
- 33- Seracettin Madrasah
- 34- Şah Kutlu Hatun Cupola
- 35- Hunat Hatun Mosque and Madrasah
- 36- Zeynel Abidin Shrine
- 37- Ok Bastion

- 38- New Archeological Museum
- 39- Atatürk's House
- 40- Güpçüoğlu Mansion-Etnographic Museum
- 41- Meryem Ana Church
- 42- Emir Sultan Shrine
- 43- Şeyh Tennuri Mosque and Cupola
- 44- Kapalıçarşı-Covered Bazaar





Short City Tour Route

Alternative Route



Ali Saip Paşa Street, Talas



Talas City Tour



Old Gendarme Building, Talas

Both a holiday resort famous for its vineyards and gardens and a historical settlement hosting different civilizations for centuries, Talas is only 7 kilometers away from the city center. You must definitely explore the 5-kilometer “Talas City Tour” not to miss a series of details within the district borders.

Your Talas tour starts at the northern end of Ali Saip Paşa Street. The first historical location is the building dating back to the 19th century and called **Jandarma Mansion**. After visiting **Kiçiköy Aşağı Mosque** right next to it, you enter Ali Saip Paşa



Ottoman Tughra, Talas

Street and head to the left. The most important structures of the street, both sides of which are decorated with the visuality of indigenous stone buildings, are **Kiçiköy Underground City**, **Tol Church**, **Kız Mektebi (Girls School)**, **Cihannumali Mansion**, **Eryılmazlar House**, **Yamaklar House**, **Yücel Çakmaklı Movie Workshop**, **Bülbül Hafız Mansion** and **Ali Saip Paşa Mosque**. You must photograph the Ottoman coat of arms on the door of the mosque, which was built by Seraskier Ali Saip Paşa in 1888.

The historical street opens to **Gölbaşı Square**. At this point, you can visit **Ali Saip Paşa**, **Aksoylar** and **Samur Mansions** as well as other historical structures. Now take Erhan Street across and proceed. Again, by walking in company with the historical buildings that reflect the old city texture, you will reach Harman Square. Among the most important works that you can see in

Ali Saip Paşa Mansion, Talas



Harman Square are Rüştiye Mektebi (Ottoman Junior High School), which serves as the District Public Library, Cemil Baba Graveyard and Shrine, Harman Mosque and Okutan Mansion, which dates back to the 18th century. You can take a tea break in Okutan Mansion, which also serves as a restaurant.

When you start walking again, head towards Kazım Paşa Street. Turn right at the mosque after exploring the details of magnificent structures such as Han Mosque and Sübyan Mektebi (Infants' School), Ali Saip Paşa Turkish Hammam and General Trikopis House. In this area, where work for urban renewal continues, you will see Aynalı Church and Hacı Ahmet Efendi Fountain. Now turn left and keep on walking on an old narrow alley. In this part of the city which used to be the center of business life, there were workshops belonging to various fields of occupation. After walking for about 200 meters, you can see the rundown handicraft workshops such as ironsmith, silversmith, blacksmith and saddler.

As you ascend on Karaman Bayırı, the Aşağı (Lower) Talas part of the settlement will come into view with all its details. The first historical location of Yukarı Neighborhood, which you will reach at the end of the slope, is Kuyumcular Bazaar. Then, take the main road over Düzyol Street. You will see the public housing of the Old American Hospital and American College right across you. Turn left at this point and enter Kayabaşı Street. Alaybey and Feyzioglu Mansions along with Devir Manor, which watch the entire Talas settlement from a high observation terrace, are among the most special locations of Yukarı Neighborhood.



Okutan Mansion, Talas



Civil Architecture Example in Yukarı Neighborhood, Talas

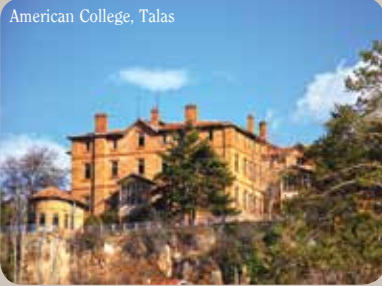


Aynalı Church, Talas

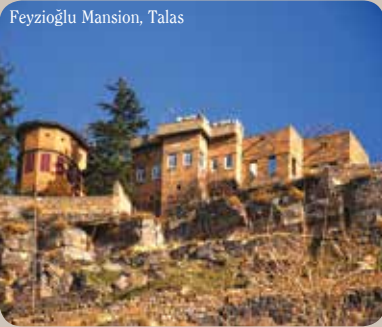
Kuyumcular Bazaar, Talas



American College, Talas



Feyzioğlu Mansion, Talas



Devir Manor, Talas



Take the pathway by turning left at the Old Teacher's Lodge (Eski Öğretmenevi), which you will see at the end of the street. This time, you can photograph the city texture under your feet from a different perspective. Proceed toward **Yaman Dede Mosque (Greek Panaya Church)**, which will impress you with its spectacular architecture. Built by Metropolitan İonnis in 1886, the church was started to be used as a mosque after the population exchange in 1925. You can see **Rıfat Parlak and Karakullukçu mansions** on the upper street. Muammer Bey Street, which you will reach after that, will take you to **Yaman Dede Mansion**, serving as a cultural house and ethnographic museum. You can take a coffee break here and find the chance to record in your memory all the details of the historical area that you have visited.

In the last part of the route, you enter **Hükümet Street**, right below the mansion, and start walking towards **Aşağı Talas. Gömeçler Mansion, Tablakaya Mosque, Salih Ağa Fountain** and the **Old Municipality Building**, which you will see in **Tablakaya Neighborhood**, will be the last historical locations of the city tour. Remember to add **Talas Underground City** to the end of your tour. After the tour of historical places that impresses the visitors with its narrow tunnels, cistern, church and linseed oil mill, those who have time can enjoy paragliding from **Ali Mountain** on the condition that they arrange it in advance.



Yaman Dede Church Mosque, Talas



Salih Ağa Fountain, Talas



Gömeçler Mansion, Talas

Talas City Tour

- 1- Gendarme Building
- 2- Aşağı Mosque
- 3- Cihannumalı Mansion
- 4- Kız Mektebi (Girls School)
- 5- Eryılmazlar House
- 6- Tol Church
- 7- Yücel Çakmaklı Movie Workshop
- 8- Yamaklar House
- 9- Bülbül Hafız Mansion
- 10- Ali Saip Paşa Mosque
- 11- Eriyebilirler House
- 12- Kiçiköy Underground City
- 13- Silver Workshop
- 14- Gölbaşı Square
- 15- Ali Saip Paşa Mansion
- 16- Samur Mansion
- 17- Kazım Paşa Street
- 18- Cemil Baba Shrine
- 19- Harman Square
- 20- Okutan Mansion
- 21- Rüştiye Mektebi (Ottoman Junior High School)
- 22- Harman Mosque
- 23- Atasoylar Mansion
- 24- Ali Saip Paşa Turkish Hammam
- 25- Han Mosque
- 26- Museum (Church)
- 27- Hacı Ahmet Ağa Fountain
- 28- Karaman Bayırı
- 29- Seyrani Street
- 30- Kuyumcular Bazaar
- 31- Old American Hospital
- 32- Kayabaşı Street
- 33- Aynalı Church
- 34- Devir Manor
- 35- Feyzioğlu Mansion
- 36- Alaybey Mansion
- 37- Old Teacher's Lodge
- 38- Yaman Dede Mosque
- 39- Rifat Parlak Mansion
- 40- Karakullukçu Mansion
- 41- Muammer Bey Street
- 42- Yaman Dede Cultural Center
- 43- Hükümet Street
- 44- Gömeçler Mansion
- 45- Tablakaya Mosque
- 46- Salih Ağa Fountain
- 47- Old Municipality Building

Kiçiköy Neighborhood

3



Ali Saip Paşa St.

2

1

4

Allintepe 1. St.

6



5

7

8



9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Gönce St.

Gölbaşı Square

Mezarlık St.

Yonca St.

Karaman Paşa St.

Müsteşar St.

Yunus Emre St.

Yonca St.

Ehvan St.

Okutan St.

Harman Square



Ali Dağı Underground



Ağırnas Sightseeing Tour

The birth place of Mimar Sinan, who is world-renowned with his works, Ağırnas is about 18 kilometers to Kayseri city center. The settlement is also famous for its fabrics known as 'Ağırnas Boğası'. The city tour that we will recommend starts from Minar Sinan Park at the entrance of Ağırnas. First, proceed to the west and walk among the houses that decorate the narrow streets and display the most beautiful examples of local architecture. Soon, you will reach the front of the house where Master Sinan was born. Çayırharman Street will take you to Çayırharman Square in a short while. You will reach the main road after you pass by the historical fountain that you will see here. There will be another fountain on your left, and Mimar Sinan Public Library building on your right. Turn right at the first street that you will see. Walk along the street where Agıos Prokopios Church and the mansions are located. The 2,5-kilometer city tour will draw a large circle and end up at the starting point. Now you can complete your tour by entering Ağırnas Underground City on your left. Let us remind you that there are rock settlements along the valley formed by Deresuyu Creek, which runs through Ağırnas.

Mimar Sinan Public Library, Ağırnas/Melikgazi



Mimar Sinan House, Ağırnas/Melikgazi



Agıos Prokopios Church, Ağırnas/Melikgazi



Çerkezoğlu Mustafa Bey Mansion, Ağırnas/Melikgazi





- 1- Mimar Sinan Park
- 2- Mimar Sinan House
- 3- Çayırharman Street
- 4- Sinan Fountain
- 5- Mimar Sinan Public Library
- 6- Ağa Pınarı Fountain
- 7- Karagöz Fountain
- 8- Ağıos Prokopios Church
- 9- Çerkezoğlu Mustafa Bey Mansion
- 10- Ağırnas Underground City

Ağırnas Sightseeing Tour

HISTORY TOURS

In the historical locations within Kayseri borders, you can explore the history of the city with the tours whose details we have conveyed below. When you take the tours, we suggest that you notify the mukhtar unit in the settlements and take with you someone who knows the region.



Kültepe (Karum-Kaniş)

The first excavation in Kültepe ruins, which is located 22 kilometers to the northeast of the city center, was made by the French in 1839. The ancient site, where the first settlement refers to the Late Bronze Age (3000-2000 B.C.), was called “Karum” by Assyrians, who established large trade colonies. The oldest trade center of Anatolia, Kültepe is very significant in the sense that the first written sources in Anatolia were found and that many written documents which shed light on the history of Assyrian colonies came to hand. Approximately 25 thousand commercial and personal letters in a terracota envelope known as “Cappadocian Tablets” were clay

tablets written in the Assyrian dialect and cuneiform script. After you tour the ruins, where excavations still continue, we recommend that you see the tablets in Kayseri Archeological Museum and Ankara Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. This way, the real place of Kültepe in the history of humanity will stick in your mind. To reach Kültepe, you should follow Kayseri-Sivas road and turn right at the sign at the 22nd kilometer that directs you to Karahöyük village. After visiting Kültepe, you can photograph the old houses in Karahöyük settlement.



Kültepe, Kocasinan-Fikri KULAKOGLU

Erdemli Valley, Yeşilhisar



Saklı Church, Soğanlı/ Yeşilhisar



Kubbeli Church, Soğanlı/ Yeşilhisar



Geyikli Church, Soğanlı/ Yeşilhisar



Soğanlı Valley

One of the historical locations that decorate Kayseri's tourism showcase, Soğanlı Valley is famous for its interesting structure, as well as its churches, which are very important for Christendom. Located in the east of Cappadocia region and in the southwest of Kayseri city center, Soğanlı is 10 kilometers to Yeşilhisar district.

Cappadocia region, where interesting land forms were shaped as a result of cooling of the lava and ashes that erupted from Erciyes and Hasan Mountain volcanoes millions of years ago, is known for deep tuff valleys, fairy chimneys and rock settlements that were a home for humanity. An important part of Cappadocia, Soğanlı Valley is a major tourism center with all these qualities. In the valley, which extends from Akköy Dam Lake, there were once around two hundred churches. Of these historical locations, some of which have frescoes, particularly Geyikli, Tahtalı (Santa Barbara), Kubbeli, Saklı, Yılanlı, Karabaş, Tokalı and Balık churches can be visited.



Soğanlı Valley, Yeşilhisar

At the entrance of Soğanlı ruins, there are three restaurants and two boarding houses. As in many regions, you can find rag dolls that reflect the local culture in Soğanlı.

We strongly recommend those who visit Soğanlı Valley to stop by Erdemli village, which is 10 kilometers away from Yeşilhisar district. Tek Nefli Arkaik, St. Nikolaos, Kırk Martir, Ayı, Mikhael, Oniki Havari, St. Eustathios and Saray churches along with Haralam Monastery, which are scattered on the slopes of a lush and narrow valley, are among the places that are worth seeing. In addition, you can photograph Kayaönür rock settlements, located 1 kilometer

south of Erdemli village, and Kesteliç rock settlements in Gülbayır village, located 2 kilometers north of Erdemli village.

Another historical location of Soğanlı Valley is Güzelöz village, which is 18 kilometers to Yeşilhisar district. In the valley, situated between Başköy and Güzelöz, churches and rock churches such as Haç, Mistikan, St. Basileus, Ortaköy St. Georgios, Panagia, Mikhael, St. Stratilates, St. Eustathios and Ortaköy St. Barbara, can be seen. You must visit the partly deserted historical houses, especially in Başköy (Ortaköy) settlement.





Map of Soğanlı

General Map of Soğanlı-Erdemli



Kestelic

Çiftbayır

Kavaklıköy

Ürgüp Road

Derbentbaşı

Derinkuyu Road

Erdemli

İkikuyu

Karadüür

Başköy

Başköy Monastery

Gizelöz

Keşlik

Kaleköy

Akköy

Soğanlı

Kayseri - Niğde Road

Yeşilhisar

Suifan Marshes Road

Akköy Dam Lake

Route of Citadels

The region is located on important routes used especially for military and commercial purposes due to its geopolitical structure. In order to keep all these routes under control and maintain security, many historical citadels were built within the provincial borders. Of all the citadels, most of which are defeated by time, those you can see are mentioned below.

The first stop of our route is Kayseri Citadel, which dates back to the 3rd century B.C. Resembling an uneven octagon, the citadel is composed of an inner citadel in the middle of two outer citadels. Entered into from the gates called Sivas, Kiçi, Boyacı, Meydan, At Pazarı and Yeni, the citadel is situated at the heart of the city center. After touring the ramparts and bastions, you can do shopping in the bazaar located in the citadel. In the city, you can also see Taşlıburun ramparts at Beştepeler location on Hacılar road.

Zamantı (Melikgazi) Citadel in Melikgazi village of Pınarbaşı district is the leading citadel among the impressive citadels within Kayseri provincial borders. Built in a region dominating Zamantı basin, the citadel was used in order to defend the old Kayseri-Malatya and Kayseri-Maraş route. The structure, most of whose

ramparts are still standing, resembles an eagle's nest due to its three sides being cliffs.

Develi Citadel, which is around 50 kilometers to Kayseri, rises in Yukarı Neighborhood, located in the southwest of Develi district. From the citadel, which was built on a hill that is easy to defend, only two bastions and some rampart walls have survived until today. Although there were citadels in Tombak, Kaleköy, Yeniköy and Şahmelik settlements of Develi, there are no remnants to see in these areas.

The citadels that have been used since the ancient period on the route of Kayseri-Yahyalı-Çamlıca (Faraşa)-Ulupınar (Barazama)-Aladağ (Karsantı)-Adana are within Yahyalı district borders. You can see the remnants of Kavak and Aşırılık citadels on the Yahyalı-Kapuzbaşı main road. You need to reach Çamlıca village in order to tour Faraşa Citadel, built on a rock mass. The small citadel, which watches a lush valley through which Zamantı River flows, is relatively in good condition.

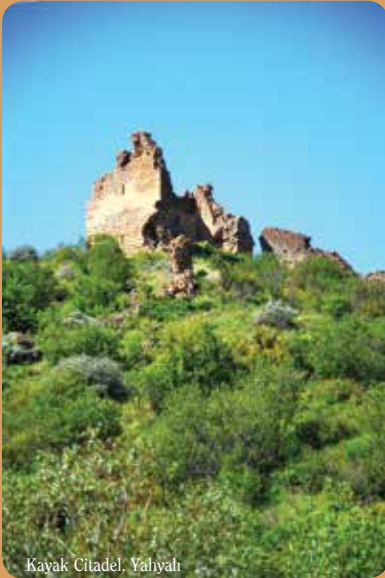
The other citadels in Kayseri borders in totally rundown condition are as follows: Akkışla Citadel, which keeps the old caravan road and which is in the northeast of Akkışla district, 85 kilometers to the city center; Zengibar Citadel, which can be seen from afar because it was built on a 1600-meter-high rock hill in Yeşilhisar district, 65 kilometers to the city center; and Zırha Citadel, which rises between Özvatan and Amarat settlement of Kocasinan, again 65 kilometers to the city center.



Zamanlı (Melikgazi) Citadel, Pınarbaşı



Develi Citadel, Develi



Kayak Citadel, Yahyalı



Bostanlı Citadel, Yahyalı

Hittite Route

Hittites, who were the only rulers of Anatolian geography for a period, left significant works that illuminated the ancient period in many historical places within Kayseri provincial borders. Particularly, Fraktin (in Gümüşören village) and Taşçı rock reliefs in Develi; İmamkulu rock relief in Tomarza and Hisarcık rock relief in Melikgazi (unfortunately, this relief was coated with plaster); Kululu settlement, which was the capital city of Tabal, Late Hittite Community of States, in Akkişla district; Karakuyu settlement in Pınarbaşı district; Çiftlik settlement in Sarıoğlan district and Karapınar in Erkilet town are important locations with regards to Hittite civilization.

According to archeologists, many routes were used to go down to the south of Anatolia from the Hittite capital city Çorum-Boğazkale Hattuşa and Kayseri Kültepe settlements. The route we recommend includes the rock reliefs on one of these routes. Departing from Develi district, you can visit Fraktin in Gümüşören village; Taşçı, at the waterside of Homurlu Creek in Taşçı village; Gezbeli (about 500 meters of which is in Adana border) on Saraycık-Saimbeyli road and İmamkulu Hittite rock reliefs in İmamkulu village of Tomarza district. Let us mention that the ones except Taşçı are in good condition.



Gezbeli Rock-cut Relief, Adana



Fraktin Rock-cut Relief, Gümüşören/Develi



Imamkulu Rock-cut Relief, Tomarza



Kopic Mausoleum, Pelahije



Route of Rock Tombs and Mausoleums

You need to plan this tour, during which you will visit mausoleums and rock tombs in interesting forms, dating especially back to the Roman period, as at least two days. Your sights will be Sıtma Pınarı Roman pool and the mausoleum in Keçiç village (We did not include Dört Pencere rocktomb in our tour since it is quite hard to access) in Felahiye district center; Panlı mausoleum in Panlı village of Pınarbaşı district; the mausoleum in Örenşehir Neighborhood of İncesu district; Ayvazhacı, Ayşepınar-Ağzıgüzel, Hoşça and Yeniköy Çifte Mağara rock tombs in Develi district; Dikme, Taşhan, Karaköy and Ayvan rock tombs in Yahyalı district; İkikuyu rock tombs in Erdemli village of Yeşilhisar district.



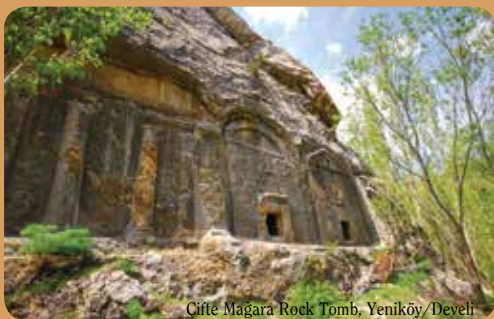
Örenşehir Mausoleum, İncesu



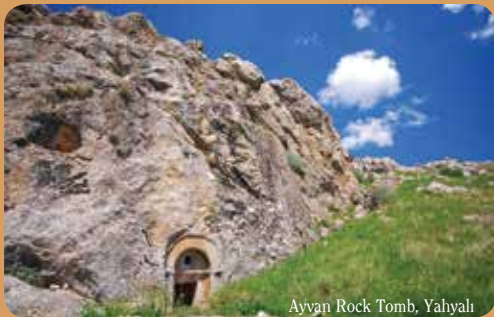
Ağzıgüzel Rock Tombs, Develi



Kömer Sarcophagi, Tomarza



Çifte Mağara Rock Tomb, Yeniköy/Develi



Ayvan Rock Tomb, Yahyalı

Route of Underground Cities

Sanctuary and shelter have been the most important needs for humanity since the ancient ages. Ancient people, who built underground cities in order to get protected from wars and wild animals and to live in a safe area, chose regions where there were processable rocks for this purpose. Some of the underground cities, spread especially over Cappadocia region, were big enough to harbor thousands of people. The floors of the underground city which was entered from a narrow door, indistinct from the outside, were connected to each other with narrow corridors with steps. There were sections such as storerooms, kitchens, living rooms, cisterns, ventilation pipes and prayer rooms.

The underground cities located in the surroundings of Kayseri are different in many aspects from the underground cities in Nevşehir. The most important difference is that the underground cities around Kayseri are smaller in comparison with the ones in Nevşehir. From the structural point of view, it can be said that these underground cities were built to protect the locals from short term raids rather than to protect the populace in the long term.

Another important difference is that a good part of these defense structures were built in rock walls. Unlike Nevşehir-Göreme underground cities,

which were dug deeply on the plain, at least a part of underground cities around Kayseri was dug in the rock walls and is connected to big rooms with windows that open to valleys. (Obruk Cave Research Group)

An important part of Cappadocia, Kayseri hosts more than 20 known underground cities today. The work done for the detecting, land surveying, mapping, registering and cleaning of the underground cities so that they can be opened to tourism, which was started with the collaboration of the Metropolitan Municipality, Çekül Foundation and Obruk Cave Research Group, had been continuing at the time this book was published.

We can list the underground cities that have been detected so far and recorded in the inventory as follows:

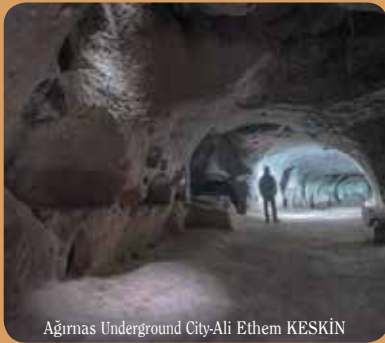
- Ağırnas, Ağırnas Mimar Sinan House (below it), Ağırnas Subaşı Neighborhood, Çatalın (western slope of Değirmendere Valley Gesi-Kayabağ village), Penzikli (eastern slope of Değirmendere Valley), Hisarcık-Kırlangıç Valley (Tekir Plateau-Seyfe Creek Valley), Ötedere Valley 1 and 2 (Gesi), Belağası (Gesi) in Melikgazi district
- İsbıdın (Pazarören) in Pınarbaşı district
- Ali Dağı, Ali Saip Paşa, Zincidere, Reşadiye-Karaağaç in Talas district
- Tomarza and Emiruşağı in Tomarza district
- Doğanlı (Gördeles)-Kırkmerdiven, Güzelöz in Yeşilhisar district
- Gazi town in Develi district.

Let us mention that only Talas-Ali Dağı and Melikgazi-Ağırnas underground cities are open for visit today. In the near future, many underground cities will have been brought in tourism when the processes of cleaning and registering are completed.

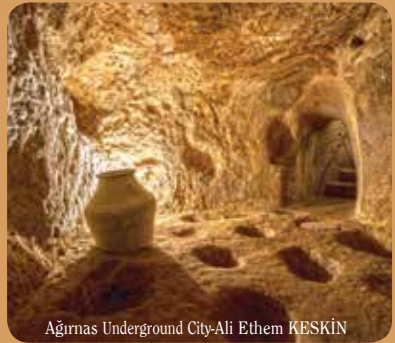


Ali Dağı Underground City, Talas-Ali Ethem KESKİN

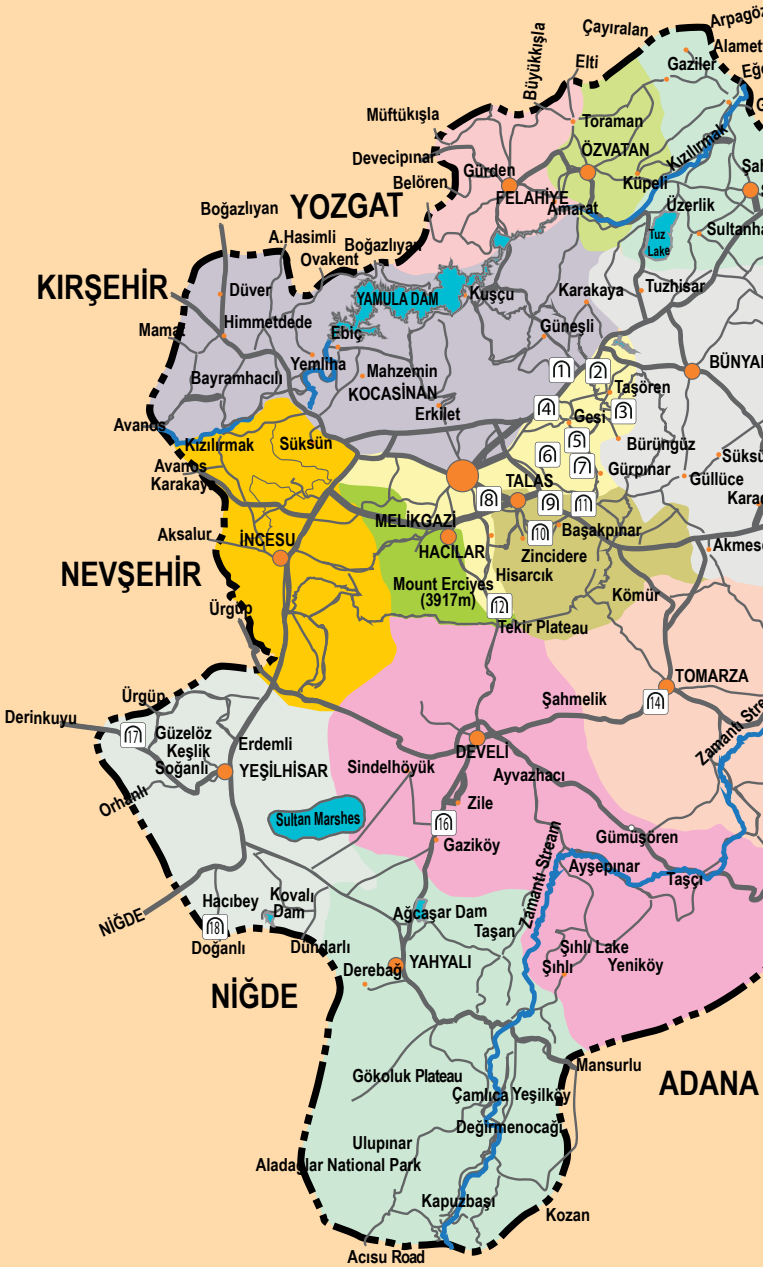
Karaönür Rock Settlement, Erdemli/Soğanlı



Ağırnas Underground City-Ali Ethem KESKİN



Ağırnas Underground City-Ali Ethem KESKİN



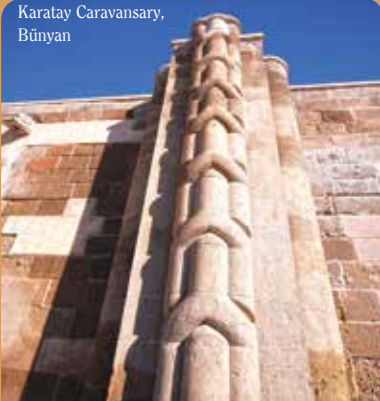
Silk Road Route

Once used in the transporting of products such as silk, spices, honey, glass, ivory, precious stones, fur, grain and oil with caravans from China over Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran via İstanbul to Europe, the historical route is called Silk Road. Although there are various disclosures about the route today, China, Pamir Plateau, Afghanistan, Iran, Gaziantep, Antakya Harbor and Italy constitute the backbone of the main route. As the interstate affairs and trade developed, new courses were added to the main route. According to the study carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Çekül Foundation, the routes used on the Anatolia line of the Silk Road were as follows:

- Trabzon-Gümüşhane-Erzurum-Sivas-Tokat-Amasya-Kastamonu-Adapazarı-İzmit-İstanbul-Edirne
- Mardin-Diyarbakır-Adıyaman-Malatya-Kahramanmaraş-Kayseri-Nevşehir-Aksaray-Konya-Isparta-Denizli-Antalya
- Erzurum-Malatya-Kayseri-Ankara-Bilecik-Bursa-İznik-Izmit-Istanbul



Karatay Caravansary,
Bünyan





Sultanhanı Caravansary, Bünyan



The road, which connected the continents of Asia and Europe in the commercial and cultural sense, was proceeding at first in the valleys where water was abundant. Then, inns and caravansaries that were set up in rural areas and that resembled citadels with their thick walls were built in order to provide security. In the inns and caravansaries, which also provided horseshoer, doctor and veterinarian services in addition to rooms, stables, store rooms, mosques, Turkish baths and fountains, all travelers could stay for three nights for free regardless of religion, language and race. The three of about two hundred inns and caravansaries built in Anatolia, especially in the Seljukian period, are within Kayseri borders.

Kara Mustafa Paşa Caravansary in İncesu district, Sultanhanı and Karatay caravansaries in Bünyan district were the resting areas on the Silk Road. Built between 1232 and 1236 during the period of Alaaddin Keykubad I, Sultanhanı was a part of the Kayseri-Sivas-Erzincan-Erzurum-Ağrı-Iğdır (Harmandöven) line. Karatay Caravansary, built on the Silk Road in 1240 by Atabey Emir Celaleddin Karatay, one of Seljukian viziers, gave service on the Kayseri-Maraş-Malatya-Gaziantep route. Sultanhanı can be seen in Sultanhanı village and Karatay in Karadayı village. The caravansary you can visit in İncesu district center was built in the period of Merzifonlu Kara Mustafa Paşa, one of the Ottoman viziers. The historical structure was built at the junction point of Adana and Nevşehir (Saruhan) routes. You can see all three caravansaries in two days by staying the night at Kayseri district center. In the meanwhile, let us remind you that there is the wreckage of İspile Inn in the Başakpınar settlement of Talas district.

Kara Mustafa Paşa Caravansary, İncesu

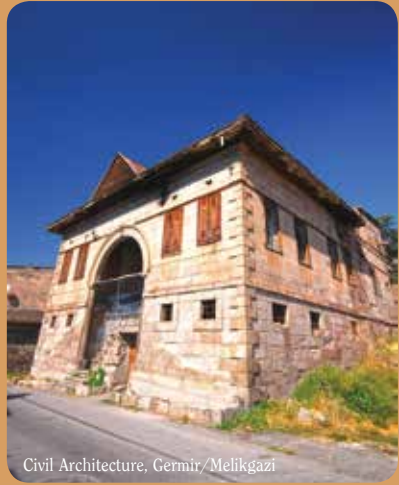
Germir-Tavlusun Route

These two historical settlements within Melikgazi district borders once hosted rich merchants with its magnificent mansions. Germir and Tavlusun, which are important tourism centers with their churches, indigenous historical houses, inlaid wooden doors, oriel windows and arch bridges that display the beauty of the past, are located at the end of Derevenk Valley.

Germir (Kermiria-Kermirion) is also known as the village of the mother of Elia Kazan, a famous American film director. In one of the scenes of the movie “America America”, the director shows those who go to bring snow from Erciyes by donkey carriage. In addition to rock settlements and mansions, you can also visit Aya Todori, Surp Stephanos, Panaya churches and the historical stone arch bridge called Konaklar in Germir.

Located in the south of Germir, Tavlusun is the second stage of the route with its linseed oil mill, where linseed oil used in illuminating, painting and cooking was produced, and its churches. You can also see Yukarı Tavlusun and Maraş Şosesi stone arch bridges in the settlement.

Access to Germir and Tavlusun, which are 8 kilometers to the city center, is via Kayseri-Pınarbaşı highway.



Civil Architecture, Germir/Melikgazi



Surp Toros Armenian Church, Tavlusun/Melikgazi



Square, Germir/Melikgazi





Agios Prokopios Church, Ağırnas/Melikgazi

Located 13 kilometers northeast of Kayseri city center, Gesi is at the back of our minds with its folk song. Spread over intersecting valleys through which Deri, Darsiyak and Salkuma creeks flow, Gesi is an important tourism center with its rock settlements, rock churches, underground cities, monasteries, historical mosques, stone arch bridges, stone houses that reflect the local architecture and pigeon houses.

Once being a trade center, the region reflects the common culture of Armenian, Greek and Turkish societies, who have lived together for centuries. Mentioned as Giscissa in the ancient sources, Gesi was called Gassi during the Beylic of Danishmend. Gesi region is comprised of Ağırnas (Taşören), Bahçeli (Efkere), Kayabağ (Darsiyak), Gürpınar (Salkuma), Özlüce (Vekse), Yeşilyurt (Mancusun),

Gesi Route

Bağpınar (Isbırdın), Güzelköy (Nize) and Büyükbürüngüz settlements along with Gesi village. Gesi, where forging and silk farming are carried out, and where commodities such as Ağırnas cambric and linseed oil are manufactured, is in the must-see list of Kayseri.

Among the details of the route are; the historical houses in Gesi that were made of block stones; Yanartaş Greek Church, which belongs to the 19th century, in Kayabağ village; pigeon houses and arch bridges in Güzelköy that are considered as cultural monuments; the church and the underground city in Bahçeli village; the century-old mosques in Büyükbürüngüz village.



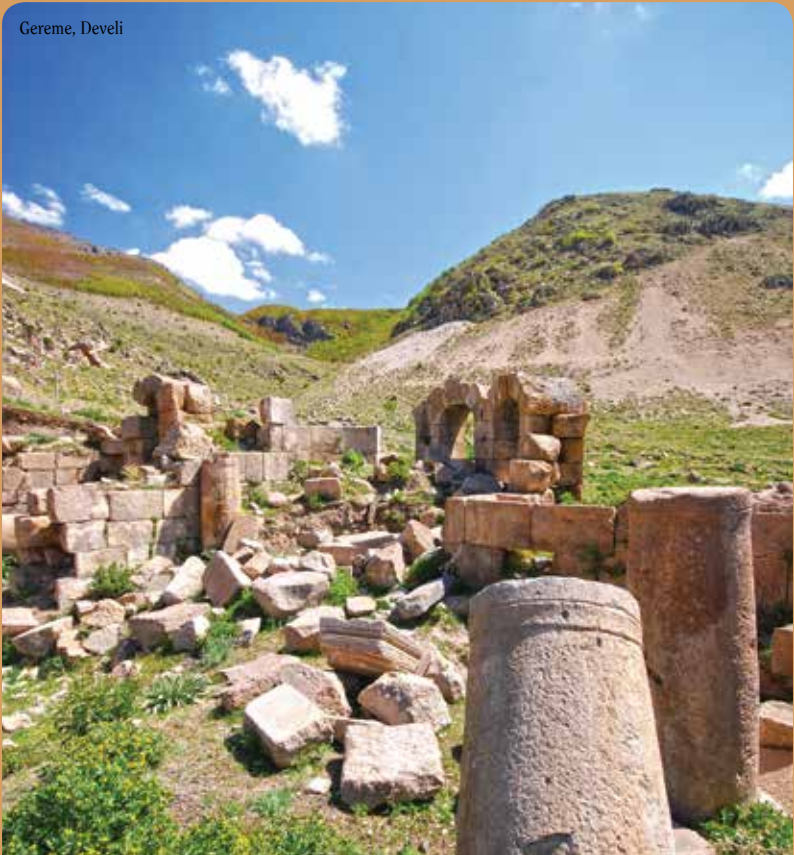
Belağası, Gesi/Melikgazi

Gereme Route

Access to Gereme ruins, located about 12 kilometers to Develi district, is via the dirt road that goes from Soysallı village. Gereme, which is located on the northern piedmont of Mount Erciyes and whose old name was Spistra, was once one of the important religious centers for Christians.

The remnants of the ancient settlement, located on a high area surrounded by Kilise, Yamaç, Gök and Kartın hills, date back to the Byzantine period. In the area, where land surveying is carried out, you can see the remnants of two churches, columns, arched structures and aqueducts that are scattered around.

Gereme, Develi



The first stop of the route of historical bridges, Şahruh Bridge is in Karaözü village, which is 10 kilometers away from Sarioğlan district. Built by Şahruh Bey, Dulkadiroğlu Alaüddüve Bozkurt Bey's son, was designed to have 8 arches. Tekgöz Bridge, which is in the boundaries of Beydeğirmeni village of Kocasinan district, was built by Hacı Ali Şir Bin Hüseyin of Kayseri in 1202, in the period of Sultan Rükneddin Süleyman Şah II. Once used for transportation between Kırşehir and Kayseri, the bridge has two arches and is 120 meters long. Let us mention that both bridges are over Kızılırmak. The other small bridges on the route are as follows:

- In Kocasinan district: Höbek 1 and 2 bridges (at the entrance and exit of the village, on the same creek), Gömeç Bridge

- In Melikgazi district: Germir Konaklar, Tavlusun Maraş Şosesi, Tavlusun Yukarı Mahalle, Subaşı (at the entrance of the village), Aşağı and Yukarı (both in the village center), Güzelköy 1 and 2 bridges

- In Talas district: Deliçay (on the Ali Mountain road, cemented), Endürlük Karasu (in Endürlük settlement, but lost its texture as a result of the stream remediation process), Süt (Tekir Plateau) and Kuruköprü (at the village center) bridges

- In Bünyan district: Yuvadere (at the entrance of the district) and Üçtepeler (at Pınarbaşı location of Bünyan Creek) bridges

- In Yeşilhisar district: Güzelöz Avla Bridge

- In Yahyalı district: Emin Kadı (at the entrance of the of Aksu Canyon of Ulupınar village) and Büyükçakır bridges

Route of Historical Bridges



Aşağı Bağpınar Bridge, Melikgazi

Şahruh Bridge, Sanoğlan



Yukan Bağınar Bridge, Melikgazi



Tavlusun Bridge, Melikgazi



Süt Bridge, Tekir Plateau/Melikgazi



Höbek Bridge, Kocasinan



Üctepeler Bridge, Bünyan



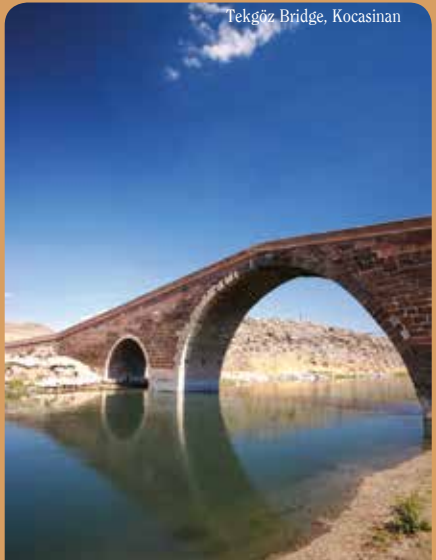
Germir Konaklar Bridge, Melikgazi



Cömeç Bridge, Kocasinan



Güzelköy 1 Bridge, Melikgazi



Tekgöz Bridge, Kocasinan

Route of Cupolas

In the thousand-year burial rituals of the history of humanity, mausoleums occupy an important place. The bodies of persons, especially of administrators and aristocrats in the society, were eternalized with mausoleums. Roman mausoleums, Seljukian cupolas and Ottoman shrines are the best examples of mausoleums.

Interpreted as the reflection of the tent tradition that had an important place in the nomadic life of Central Asia, or as the landed form of the church roof as a result of the cultural interaction, cupolas are among the original examples of Turkish architecture. Designed as independent structures at the beginning, cupolas, in time, were built in madrasah and mosque complexes, based on their plans. Their most distinct feature is their cone shaped roofs with a cylindrical or polyangular body rising on a brick or stone square platform. There is a prayer room where a symbolic coffin is on the upper floor, and the real tomb of the dead is on downstairs. The main masses of cupolas can be in the shape of a polygon prism or a cylinder. The polygonal architectural style is sometimes octagonal, decagonal, dodecagonal or circular.

Çifte Cupola, Melikgazi



Sırçalı Cupola, Melikgazi



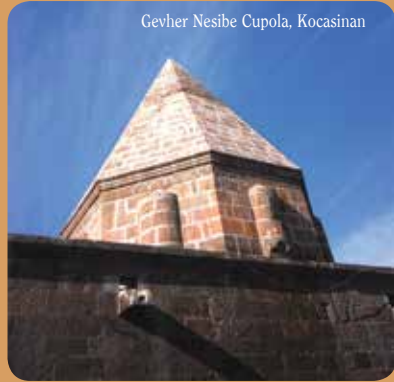
Lale Cupola, Melikgazi



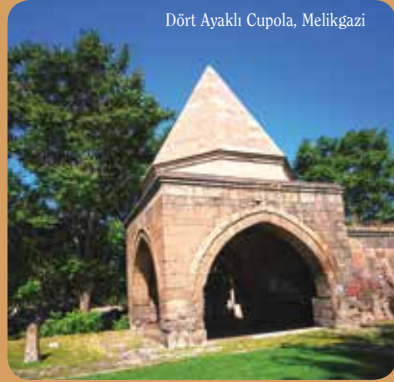
It is possible to see cupolas, which were replaced by shrines in the Ottoman period starting from the 14th century, in Kayseri and Ahlat district of Bitlis the most. We should mention that there are 19 cupolas in Kayseri city center, and 25 cupolas within the provincial borders. These spectacular works of art, among which there exists Döner Cupola, which has adornments such as lions with wings, a janus-headed eagle crest, geometrical shapes and plant patterns, palm branches, bird and lion heads takes place, can be seen in the districts of Kayseri. In addition to the cupolas, most of which are scattered in Kocasinan and Melikgazi districts, you can visit Melikgazi and Garip cupolas in Pınarbaşı district and Dev Ali Cupola in Develi district.

In the 11-kilometer mapped route of cupolas in the city center, Çifte Cupola (Melike Adile) on Sivas Boulevard and Dört Ayaklı Cupola on Kartal Boulevard are at the furthest points. Those who wish can go to these two cupolas by car. The starting point of the route is Ali Cafer Cupola on Şehit Üst. Mustafa Şimşek Boulevard. Now by walking westward, you first visit Şah Kutlu Hatun Cupola, which rises in the middle of the parking lot on Mollacioğlu Street and then Hunat Hatun Cupola on Seyyid Burhaneddin Street. Then, head northward and cross the street in Cumhuriyet Square. You will notice Hacı Çavlı Cupola on Buyurgan Street of Cürçürler Neighborhood. After photographing the cupola, walk westward again. You can see İkiz Cupola 1 on Yıldırım Street of Sahabiye Neighborhood and İkiz Cupola 2 on Kanal Street, 150 meters ahead.

Gevher Nesibe Cupola, Kocasinan



Dört Ayaklı Cupola, Melikgazi



İkiz Cupola 1, Kocasinan



Hasbek Cupola,
Kocasinan



Lala Muslihiddin Cupola, Melikgazi



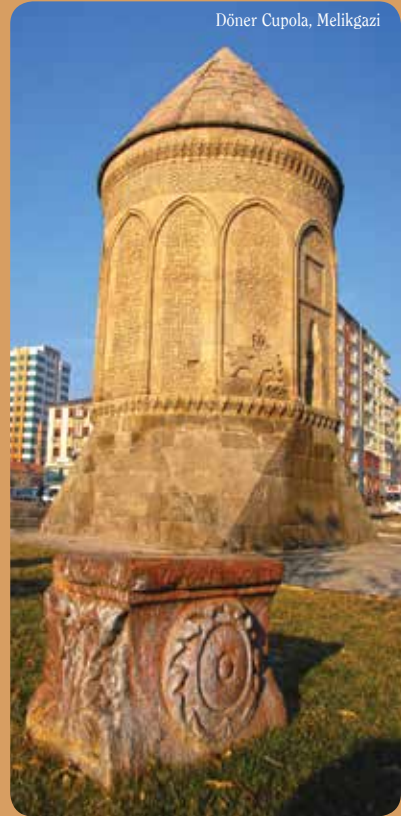
Pass by the two cupolas, which try to continue their existence between high-rise buildings, and reach İstasyon Street. At this point, you will cross the street carefully and reach Gevher Nesibe Hatun Cupola, rising in the greens in Mimar Sinan Park in Sahabiye Neighborhood. Right next to it, you can notice the pointy cone of Şifalı (Avgunlu) Cupola. Hasbek (Hacı Mesut Gülzar) Cupola on Hastahane Street, which is in the west of the park, has lost its historical texture a little with its renovated body.

At this point of your tour, go toward southeast and walk back to Cumhuriyet Square again. Proceed in the direction of the Clock Tower and Atatürk Statue, cross the street, enter into the citadel and head southward this time. Turan Street, which is across Kömürçüler Bazaar, will take you to the front of Şeyh Tennuri Cupola. On Çevik Street, right behind this magnificent structure, you will find Emir Sultan Cupola. The street between two historical mansions will take you to the door of Lala Muslihiddin Cupola, which rises in Lala Muslihiddin Mosque. Now, go back to İnönü Boulevard and walk eastward (to the right). Soon, you will see Alaca Cupola in the central refuge of Seyyid Burhaneddin Street, where there is Yoğunburç, the most beautiful structure of Kayseri Citadel. Turn right and keep on walking southward. You can see Emir Cemaleddin Tanrıvermiş Cupola in the garden of Han Mosque on your right. When you set off again, walk southward on Seyyid Burhaneddin Street. Soon, you will arrive at Döner (Şah Cihan Hatun) Cupola, the most

magnificent of Kayseri cupolas, in the wide area in the central refuge. While watching the details on the body of the structure, you will be fascinated by the ingeniousness of the workmanship. For Sırçalı Cupola, located in the southeast of Döner Cupola, you need to cross the street and enter the garden of the Vocational High School. Different from its counterparts with its roof, this unique work of art is in an area with a view of Mount Erciyes. To see Köşk (Sülü Paşa) Cupola, the last cupola of the route, you need to cross Mustafa Kemal Paşa Boulevard, in front of the school, and walk eastward. You can get all the information about the cupolas you have seen from the website of Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality or the Provincial Culture Directorate.

You can also visit some shrines in the city center such as Beşparmak, Babük Bey, Emir Şahap, Emirzade Mehmed, Emir Erdoğan, Emir Ali, Suya Kanmış Hatun, Battal, Mehmet Gazi and Seyyid Burhaneddin.

Döner Cupola, Melikgazi



Alaca Cupola, Melikgazi





Route of Cupolas



Garip Shrine, Pınarbaşı

CULTURE TOURS

Religious Tourism Route

Kara Mustafa Paşa Mosque, İncesu



The details of our tour recommendation that includes Islamic works such as mosques and shrines in the Seljukian and Ottoman periods are as follows:

- Akkişla district: Gömürgen Mosque
- Bünyan district: Ulucami, Tuzhisar Eski and Karacaören (Agios Georgios Greek Church) mosques; Seyit Halil and Abdurrahman Gazi shrines
- Develi district: Fatih, Ulu (Sivasi Hatun), Everek and Dedeman (Çay) mosques; Seyyid Şerif, Hızır İlyas and Dev Ali shrines
- Felahiye district: Beyler Mosque
- İncesu district: Bulgurcu and Kara Mustafa Paşa mosques; Emir Çoban and Omuzu Güçlü shrines; Süksün Open-air Prayer Place
- Kocasinan district: Hasbek, Kalaycıoğlu, Hacı Kılıç, Kurşunlu, Battal, Çandır, Erkilet Nişancı Mehmet Paşa, Mahpeyker Hatice Hatun (Barsama), Hasbekitçi, Bayramhacı, Yazır, Molla and Taşhan mosques; Hasbek, Gevher Nesibe Hatun, Şifalı (Avgunlu), Hacıp Çavlı and İkiz cupolas; Beşparmak, Ulu (Alev) Hatun (Şadgeldi), Şeyh Seyfullah and Baldöken shrines
- Melikgazi district: Melik Aslan, Güllük, Orta, Tavlusun Yukarı Mahalle, Fatih (Kale), Ali Hoca, Yanıkoğlu-Şıh (Şeyh), İsa Kümbet, Lale (Lala Muslihiddin), Hunat, Han, Cıncıklı, Ulu (Cami-i Kebir), Aşağı Mahalle, Hatroğlu, Alaüddevle, Mütevelli and Ali Daniş mosques; Döner, Ali Cafer, Köşk, Han, Sırçalı, Çifte, Şeyh Tennuri, Lala Paşa, Dört Ayaklı and Alaca cupolas; Emir Sultan, Zeynel Abidin, Mahperi (Hunat Hatun), Emir Şahap, Seyyid Burhaneddin, Suya Kanmış Hatun,

Emir Erdoğan, Mehmet Zengi, Haydar Bey and Melik Mehmet Gazi shrines

• Özvatan district: Taşlık Mosque (Agios Georgios Church)

• Pınarbaşı district Mehmet Ali Bey and Yeni mosques; Süleyman Şah (Garip) and Melikgazi cupolas; Seyit Halil and Sancaktar shrines

• Sarıoğlan district: Ulu, Palas Ulu and Güzelyazı mosques; Seyit Halil Kerametlin Shrine

• Talas district: Yaman Dede, Yukarı Mahalle Direkli, Aşağı Mahalle, Seyit Hamit, Reşadiye and Han mosques; Esmahatun and Mikdat Dede shrines; Harman Mosque, Ali Saip Paşa Mosque and Salih Ağa fountains

• Yahyalı district: Ulu Mosque; Yahya Gazi and Seyit Ali shrines

• Yeşilhisar district: Ulu, Güzelöz, Eski, İdris, Keşlik, Başköy and Hamza Paşa mosques as well as Köşk Dervish Lodge can be visited.

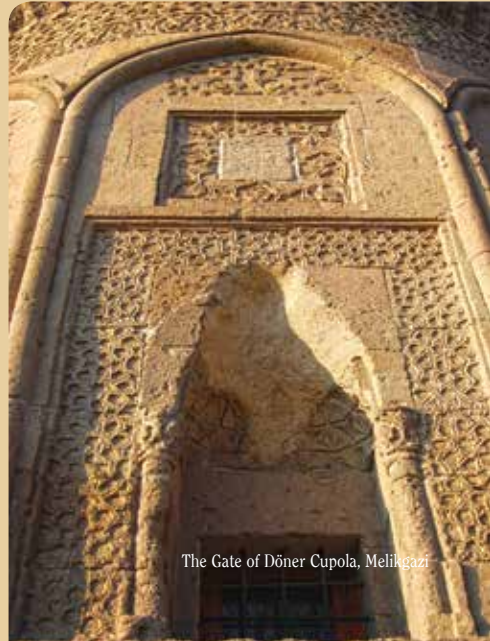
You can have all the information about the historical locations on the route from the website of Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality or the Provincial Culture Directorate.



Nişancı Mehmet Paşa Mosque, Erkiilet/Kocasinan



Süksün Open-air Prayer Place, İncesu



The Gate of Döner Cupola, Melikgazi



Pigeon House in Nişancı Mehmet Paşa Mosque, Erkiilet/Kocasinan

CULTURE TOURS

Kayseri Houses

Kayseri houses, in which wood and stone were used together, were usually built as one or two (rarely three) stories. In the rooms, an arched and vaulted structure is dominant. The material of both the courtyard and the doors is wood. The upper parts of the doors, designed in the shape of an arch, were ornamented with ivy and rosette motifs. The space between the corbels between the floors are adorned with motifs of rosettes, stars, hand fans, spinning tops and plants, usually in one line and sometimes two or three lines. The windows are in twos or threes and are ornamented with stylized plant motifs. Two types of windows, guillotine and casement, can be seen. The windows are sometimes protected by outward iron bars. There is a small window (skylight)



that provides ventilation between the main windows and the attic, and filtration of light to the ceiling.

In addition to a large number of rooms, there are parts such as kitchen, storeroom, floor furnace, pantry and winery in the houses. On the alcoves in the guest houses, there are colored adornments on plaster. A stone fireplace, stairs, decorative alcoves, diwans, local carpets and pottery are among the indispensable elements of decoration.



Traditional houses of both Cappadocia and Kayseri, display an impressive sight with the elegance of the stone material that covers the exteriors. The easily processable stone, which is the characteristic of the region, contacts the air after extracted from quarries and turns into a very durable construction material. The stone material that is used especially on facades is placed in a flat, clean and symmetrical way so that the joints can hardly be seen. Cantilevers on the second floor give an esthetical view to the structure. The cantilevers settled on stone corbels or wooden beams add to the visibility of the square or cube-planned Kayseri houses. Entrance doors decorated with columns and arches are ornate. Door knockers of the 19th-century houses were designed in forms such as a lion, a statue-headed eagle, a woman's hand with a ring on her finger and a human head. The most important part of the house, the hall constitutes the center of the house with its doors that open to all the rooms. The other parts of the house are the haremlik, which is the part of the house for the family; the selamlık, which is the part of the house reserved for men; and the storeroom, where food is stored, under the hall, which gives access to the kitchen area called tokana. Furnaces placed in the middle of the hall heat the house in the winter. Some houses are heated with stoves called puhayri. Of the details of the rooms that come to the forefront, ceilings have an important place. Ceilings, which reflect the economic status of the owner, are in the style of inlaid wood, ceiling rose or ornamental and colorfully designed using 'çıtakar' technique. Alcoves, shelves and built-in closets are among the indispensable accessories of the rooms.



Tavukçu Neighborhood, Melikgazi

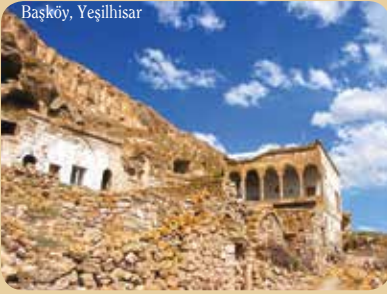


Himmetdede, Kocasinan



Bayramlıacı, Kocasinan

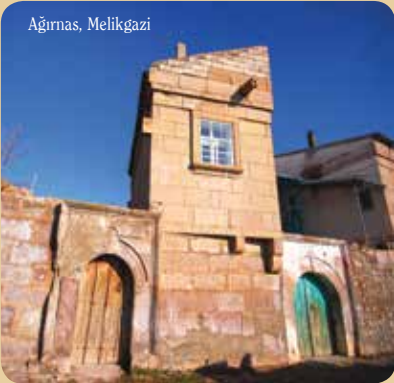
Başköy, Yeşilhisar



Germir, Melikgazi



Ağırnas, Melikgazi



The buildings are usually earth-sheltered. On the top layer, salt is added to the clay and straw plaster in order to prevent the earth from drying and cracking. This way, moisture does not leak below. In the past, stone gutters called 'çörten' (gargoyle) with adornments on them were used for the rain water drainage. Particularly in Christian houses, gargoyles with animal head figures can be seen. Buckets tied to the chains hanging from the stone gutters were used for collecting rain water.

You can see the richest architectural examples of Kayseri houses in Setönü and Tavukçu settlements in the city center; Bayramhacı, Erkilet, Akın and Kızık settlements in Kocasinan district; Gesi, Kayabağ, Bahçeli, Güzelköy, Bağpınar, Özlüce, Ağırnas, Gürpınar, Büyükbürüngüz, Tavlusun and Germir settlements in Melikgazi district; Güzelöz, Kavak and Başköy settlements in Yeşilhisar, as well as in Talas and İncesu districts.

Başköy, Yeşilhisar





Başköy, Yeşilhisar



Kavusu House, Melikgazi



Güzelköy, Gesi/Melikgazi



Güzelöz, Yeşilhisar



Başköy, Yeşilhisar



Talas

CULTURE TOURS

Kapalıçarşı (Covered Bazaar) Tour

One of the three oldest grand bazaars of Turkey, along with İstanbul and Bursa, Kayseri Covered Bazaar is located at the main center, where the heart of the city beats. The bazaar, in which all sorts of goods from dry goods to souvenirs are sold, is one of the colorful locations of Kayseri that must be visited.

The only structure that has an inscription in the Covered Bazaar, which is located in the old historical texture in the inner citadel part of Kayseri Citadel, is Hacı Efendi Bazaar, which was built in 1844. Situated on two streets that lie parallel to each other on the north-south and east-west axes, the Covered Bazaar is divided into parts such as Weavers, Hacı Efendi, Pastry Makers, Cavalryman Bazaar, Shearers, Tailors, Stampers, Tanners, Furriers, Tar Sellers, Rope Makers and Junk Bazaar.

The Bedesten, rising right next to the Covered Bazaar, was built in 1497 by Mustafa Bey, the Kayseri Ameer of the Beyazıt II period. There are many shops in the square-planned and four-door historical building. Vezir Inn, in which there are mostly variety stores, is a cultural legacy from the time of Grand Vizier Nevşehirli Damat İbrahim Paşa. Built in 1727 in the area between Ulu Mosque and the Bedesten, the two-story building was made of cut stone. The last component of the bazaar tour is Pamuk Inn, located outside the Inner Citadel. Also called Kapan or Pembe Inn, Pamuk Inn is still used despite its run-down appearance.

Pamuk Inn, Melikgazi



Kapalıçarşı, Melikgazi

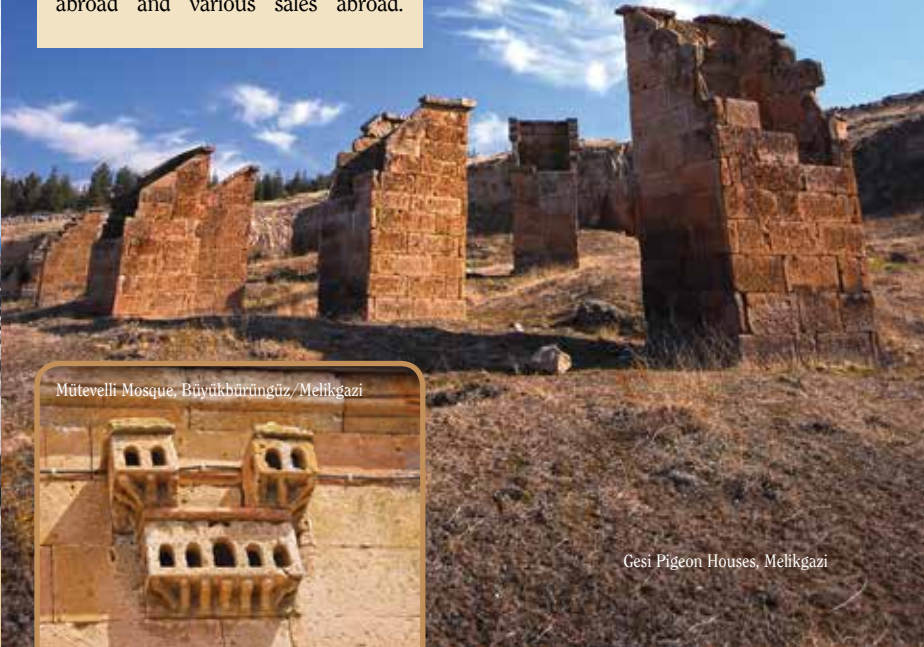


The carved rock and tower type pigeon houses, the examples of which we see only in Cappadocia region in our country, are a research subject in themselves with their architectural features and adornments, apart from their purpose of construction. We see Cappadocian pigeon houses as structures that were built in the past based on the use of pigeon droppings in the agricultural production of the farmers in the region. The fertilizers obtained from pigeon houses are known to have been used generally in vineyards and in the production of dye in Kayseri region.

Humans, who discovered that pigeon fertilizer is very useful for plants, have kept wild pigeons for their droppings since the old times. Pigeon droppings contain 25% of organic substance, 2% of nitrogen and 1% of phosphoric acid. In the Ottoman period, pigeon fertilizer, called 'koğa', was an important export product. In the Ottoman state archives, there are documents regarding the fertilizer demands from abroad and various sales abroad.

CULTURE TOURS

Pigeon Houses Route



Mütevelli Mosque, Büyükbürüngüz/Melikgazi



Gesi Pigeon Houses, Melikgazi

In wild pigeon keeping, there was a need for special structures for the regular collection and accumulation of the droppings. These structures are carved rock pigeon houses in Cappadocia, tower type structures that were bonded with stone in Gesi vineyards and rampart-like pigeon houses made of adobe in Diyarbakır.

Most of the pigeon houses in Cappadocia are in the form of cubbies carved in rocks. In Kayseri region; however, we see house-like structures usually made of cut stone. The dye plant that was exported from İzmir harbor every year during the Ottoman period and that was used in the dye production was grown intensively in Kayseri. We know that in the production of dye that was spread especially around Gesi settlement, pigeon fertilizer was used. Although there are different examples of the tower type pigeon houses abroad, it can be said that the ones in Gesi vineyards are unique in the world with their underground cubbies carved in rock and other authentic architectural details.

The tower type pigeon houses called 'bastion' are composed of three main parts. The first part, which is under the dirt ground is the "pigeon room". This place is the size of a normal room in a house and is carved in rock. On the walls of the pigeon room, there are alcoves that pigeons use as nests. On the ceiling of the room, there is a hole of about one meter in diameter so that pigeons can fly in and out of the room. Since the pigeon room is underground, it can not be seen from outside. Pigeon droppings are accumulated on the floor of this room.

The second part of the pigeon house is the "tower". The tower is right above the pigeon room and it was built in a way to surround the hole on the ceiling. Made of bonded cut stone, the tower is square or round shaped. Its width is usually 2-3 meters and height is about 3-4 meters from the ground. This height reaches 7-8 meters from the floor of the room. The tower is hypethral. The stones at the top are cobbled horizontally, forming a gradual structure, which makes it easy for the birds to land. Pigeons enter from the hollow and fly down to the room below. In the underground pigeon room, surrounded by a rampart that reminds of a citadel bastion, we can say that pigeons are really under protection.

The third part of the pigeon house is the "tunnel". The human entrance to the pigeon room is via a tunnel opened from the underground. The tunnel is 5-10 meters long and wide enough for a person to fit in. The tunnel opens outside with an indistinct door or a stone cover. The owner of the pigeon house enters from this door in certain times of the year and collects the droppings that accumulated on the floor.

The pigeon houses on both sides of Derindere Valley, Gesi, are usually located in the direction of east-west, in a way that their openings face the valley. Thanks to this system, which gets the morning and the evening sun, pigeons are not affected by the cold. It is known that, in the past, people made use of the meat of pigeons, besides their droppings. Particularly, before pigeon nestlings started to grow up and fly; in other words, before their meat was hardened, they were used in cooking dishes.



As a matter of fact, the most delicious of Kayseri dumplings, which is one of the most important dishes of the region, was made of the meat of pigeon nestlings that was minced with a meat cleaver without being boned.

Today, pigeon houses continue their existence as only nostalgic monuments due to such reasons as migration to the big cities, widely used artificial fertilizers and intoxication of pigeons because of the use of pesticides. For Kayseri Pigeon Houses Route, we recommend that you visit Kayabağ and Güzelköy settlements in Gesi, as well as Soğanlı, Erdemli, Güzelöz and Keşlik settlements in Yeşilhisar district.¹



Gesi Kayabağ Pigeon Houses, Melikgazi

¹Pigeon Houses Route part was prepared with the contribution of Yavuz İŞÇEN.

A JOURNEY TO NATURE

Kapuzbaşı Üçkızkardeş Waterfalls, Yahyalı



Route Of Waterfalls

Carrying the title of “Turkey’s waterfalls with the highest flow rate”, Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls are located in Yahyalı district. There are also Derebağ and Yeşilköy waterfalls within the settlement boundaries.

Nature lovers who hike the Niğde-Çamardı-Ulupınar course of Aladağlar, which contains the most pleasurable hiking routes of Turkey, finish their activity in Kapuzbaşı. Those who tread the tough pathways of glacial lakes and rocky summits, suddenly forget about the sweet tiredness that they had for days in front of the waterfall.

Within the boundaries of Aladağlar National Park, Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls are located on Aksu and Aladağ creeks, formed as a result of the melting of snow and glaciers on the heights.

Welling out with an incredible pressure from the monolithic rock surface of Ensenin Hill in the region of Hacer Forests, which is at an altitude of about two thousand meters, these waterfalls outcrop from seven separate points called Adsız, Küçük Elif, Büyük Elif, Üçkızkardeş and Güney. The two different creeks join at the point where the waterfalls fall, meet Zamantı River down below and flow into Seyhan River in Çukurova region.

The surroundings of the waterfall, in which red-spotted trouts live, are arranged to have picnic areas, bungalows, hiking trails and a parking lot. The route of waterfalls, which starts from Kayseri (Kayseri-Erciyes-Develi-Yahyalı) is about 148 kilometers.

Located on Zamantı River, which runs through Yeşilköy settlement near Yahyalı district, the waterfall is the namesake of the village. Coming out of four different sources, waters fall into the river, creating a waterfall similar to Kurşunlu Waterfall in Antalya. Derebağ Waterfall, which is 10 kilometers to the district, falls from about 15 meters. The area, whose landscape design was made by the Directorate of Forestry and Water Affairs, has been brought in tourism.

Yeşilköy Waterfall, Yahyalı





Derebağ Waterfall, Yahyalı

Route Of Lakes

Without question, the star of the route of natural and dam lakes that constitute the natural beauties of the province is Yamula Dam Lake. The must-see part of the 70-kilometer lagoon, which lies to Kocasinan and Felahiye districts, is the Kuşçu-Çevril-Emmiler coastal route. Tuz Lake in Sarıoğlan district is interesting with its color and salt pyramids that are extracted in the summer months. The addresses we will recommend to those who like tranquility and camping are Sarımsaklı Pond in Bünyan district and Şıhlı Pond in Develi district.

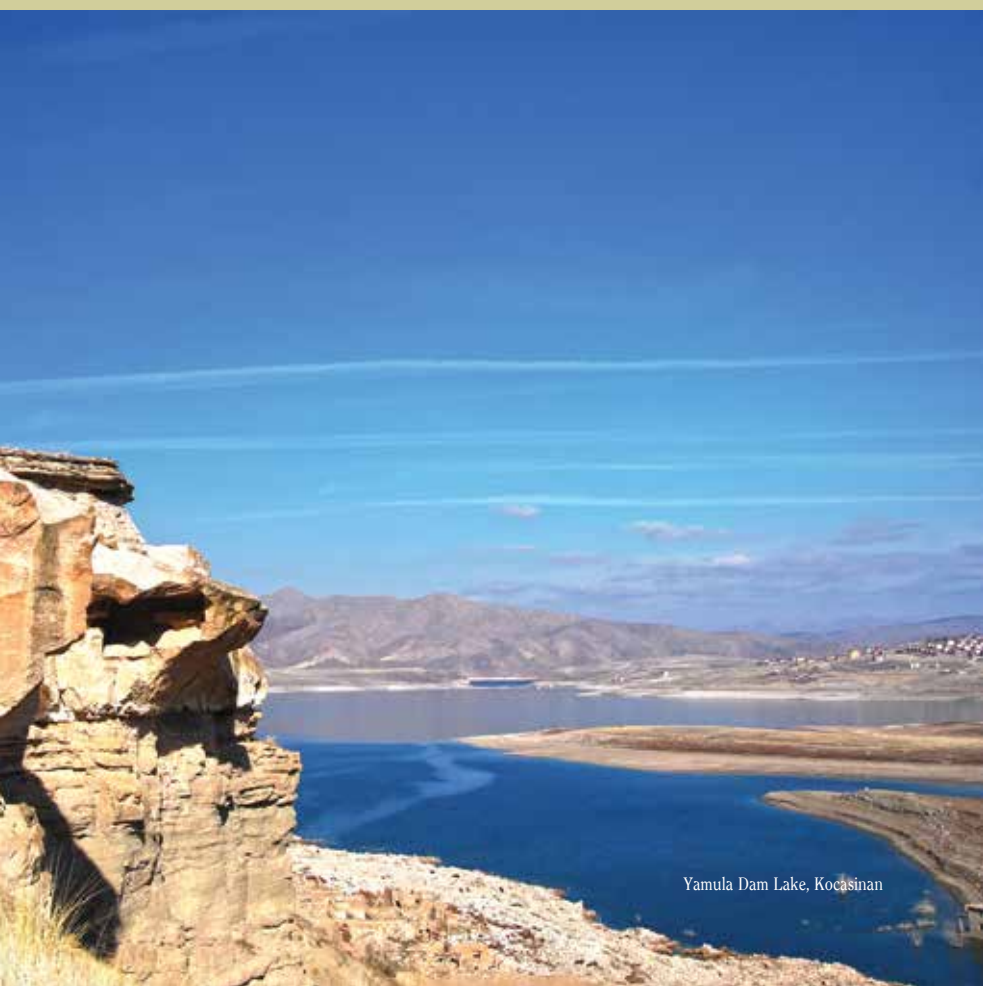
Giving extraordinary photographs in the vast moor up to the horizon line, Ağcaşar Dam Lake in Yahyalı district and Bahçelik Reservoir in Pınarbaşı district must be visited. Those who count on their vehicles can visit Sarıgöl in the west of Erciyes, by proceeding on the dirt road that starts at Kum Deposu location of Hacılar district.

According to the map of National Parks Kayseri Branch Office, it is only possible to reach Yıldız, Karagöl and Büyük Lake, which are in the provincial borders, with a hiking activity in Aladağlar.





Hastahocanın Lake, Yedigöller/Yahyalı



Yamula Dam Lake, Kocasinan

FLORA OF KAYSERİ and BOTANICAL TOURS

Kayseri province is located at a point that hosts diverse habitats in Central Anatolia which is in the Iran-Turan plant geography. When the plant cover (flora) studies carried out in the region is evaluated in general terms, 119 plant families, 618 kinds of plants (genus) and 2260 plant species and subspecies (taxon) belonging to them have been detected. These species include sword ferns and flowering plants.

Around 32% of the plants that show spread within the provincial borders are included in Iran-Turan plant geography. While 532 of the plant species that show spread in Kayseri are endemic to Turkey, across the world, 12 of them show spread only within Kayseri provincial borders. If the natural spread range of a plant species is only in a certain area (or in a confined space), that plant is considered as an endemic species.

Of the plant species that grow in Kayseri, there are 75 crop plants and 25 exotic (coming from abroad) species. 8 of these plants were named after Kayseri: *Silene caesarea* (Kayseri catchfly), *Vicia caesarea* (Kayseri vetch), *Cousinia caesarea* (Kayseri thistle), *Sideritis caesarea* (Kayseri sage), *Nepeta caesarea* (Kayseri catnip), *Acantholimon caesareum* (Kayseri prickly thrift), *Puccinellia*



Common salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*)



Pheasant's eye (*Adonis flammea*)



Water lily (*Nymphaea alba*)



The Daisy Family, (*Asteraceae*)



Daisy (*Anthemis* sp.)



Yellow flax (*Linum mucronatum*)



The Pink Family (*Caryophyllaceae*)



The Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)



Kaya emceği (*Onosma alborosea*)-Mehtap ÖZTEKİN



bulbosa subsp. *caesarea* (Kayseri grass) and *Paronychia kayseriana* (Kayseri white nailwort).

Rising in the south of Kayseri city center and attracting attention with its spectacular beauty in the Central Anatolian Plateau, Mount Erciyes hosts the plant diversity in the region. As a result of the work done in recent years, 1170 plant species on Mount Erciyes have been ascertained. 194 of these species are among the endemic plant species of Turkey. 10 of these endemic species are plant species that can only grow on Mount Erciyes in the world. In addition, 36 crop plants have been located.

The endemic plants that are named after Mount Erciyes and grow only on this mountain are as follows: *Silene erciyesdaghensis* (Mount Erciyes catchfly), *Silene argaea* (Erciyes bladder campion), *Herniaria argaea* (Erciyes rupturewort), *Astragalus argaeus* (Erciyes wild liquorice), *Onobrychis argaea* (Erciyes trefoil), *Vicia canescens* subsp. *argaea* (Erciyes vetch), *Potentilla argaea* (Erciyes silver fern), *Heracleum argaeum* (Erciyes hogweed), *Senecio hypochionaeus* var. *argaea* (Erciyes ragweed), *Anthemis cretica* subsp. *argaea* (Erciyes daisy), *Hieracium argaeum* (Erciyes primrose), *Campanula argaea* (Erciyes bellflower), *Thymus argaeus* (Erciyes oregano), *Helictotrichon argaeum* (Erciyes blue oat grass), *Veronica erciyasdagi* (Erciyes germander speedwell), *Festuca woronowii* subsp. *argaea* (Erciyes bluegrass), *Bellardiochloa argaea* (Erciyes white horehound).

Mount Erciyes (KPA-Key Plant Area No 97) and Sultan Marshes (KPA No 98) are within Kayseri provincial borders. These areas are only two of the 144 KPAs in our country.

Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)

Turkey's rich natural habitats, which display an extraordinary plantal diversity, are very important in terms of the protection of plants. On the other hand, this richness is basically under the threat of the climate change and thus drought. Therefore, in the past 20 years, protection work that concentrates on the endemic plant species under threat has been carried out in our country. KPA work is one of the first steps taken with the purpose of taking rich plant areas under preservation.

According to the KPA criteria, on Mount Erciyes, there are 6 plant taxons under threat on a global scale, 30 plant taxons under threat across Europe and 6 rare plant taxons under threat on a national scale. In Sultan Marshes, there are 10 plant taxons under threat on a global scale, 7 plant taxons under threat across Europe and 2 rare plant taxons in a national scale. While Sultan Marshes was evaluated as a "Nature Reserve Area" in the 90s according to the international bird diversity criteria, it is now qualified as a national park after it encountered the deterioration of the habitat due to drought and overirrigation in recent years. In the area, there are approximately 404 plant species, 34 of which are endemic to Turkey. It is a very rich habitat with regards to halophyte plateau plant communities.

The plant taxons that have the KPA criteria: *Allium sieheanum* (Boncuk sarımsak), *Lepidium cartilagineum* subsp. *caespitosum* (Pepperwort), *Limonium anatolicum* (Rock madwort), *Limonium iconicum* (Konya madwort), *Limonium lilacinum* (Çorak lavantası), *Onosma halophila* (Acı

emcek), *Petrosimonia nigdeensis* (Kuruacı), *Scorzonera hieraciifolia* (Cıbil tekesakalı), *Sphaerophysa kotschyana* (Hürmüzotu), *Verbascum helianthemoides* (Çorak sıgırkuyruğu), *Achillea sieheana* (Develi yarrow), *Anthemis fimbriata* (Saçaklı papatya), *Cyathobasis fruticulosa* (Onşerefe), *Elymus flaccidifolius* (Bataklik cıcorası), *Puccinellia bulbosa* subsp. *caesarea* (Özge tuzçımı), *Rhamnus hirtella* (Has cehri), *Salsola stenoptera* (Bodur soda), *Salsola kali* (Döngele), and *Salsola nitraria* (Sodaotu).

The important destinations that we will recommend to botanical tour fanciers are Mount Erciyes with 1216 plant taxons, 189 of which are endemic (12 of which are only indigenous to Erciyes); Ali Mountain with 455 plant taxons, 84 of which are endemic; Yılanlı Mountain with 410 plant taxons, 57 of which are endemic; Sultan Marshes with 465 plant taxons, 48 of which are endemic, and Aladağlar region with 944 plant taxons, 145 of which are endemic.²

²Kayseri Flora and Botanical Tours part was prepared by Mehtap ÖZTEKİN, botanist.

Mushroom





Iris (*Iris schachtii*)
Mehtap ÖZTEKİN



Field bindweed (*Convolvulus sp.*)



Tulip (*Tulipa sp.*)



Crocus (*Crocus sp.*)



Nutgrass (*Typha angustifolia*)



Tassel Hyacinth (*Muscari sp.*)



Deadnettle (*Lamium orientale*)



Iris (*Iris sp.*)

Wetlands, the most productive ecosystems of the world, have biodiversity that ensures the continuity of countless plant and animal species. Here are the routes of birdwatching tours that we will recommend in the wetlands, which are the gifts of nature to Kayseri:

Fauna Of Kayseri and Birdwatching Areas

Sultan Marshes, Ovaçiftlik/Yeşilhisar



Sultan Marshes

Sultan Marshes is like an oasis next to the piedmonts of majestic Mount Erciyes, in the middle of the Central Anatolian moor lying as far as the eye can reach. What makes it unique is not only its being one of the important lakes on the thousand-kilometer migration route of birds, but also its ability to present both fresh and salty water ecosystems together at an altitude of 1.000 meters. This diversity caused the Ottoman Sultans to visit the region often as a hunting ground and Sultan Marshes to take its name, which is used today.

Sultan Marshes, which we can define as a place unparalleled with its rich flora and fauna diversity and a giant open-air laboratory, is visited every year by thousands of nature lovers, birdwatchers, scientists and researchers. In the Ovaçiftlik region of this original geography, which can be reached in such a short time as an hour from Kayseri Airport or the city center, there is a 1,6-kilometer wooden track, as well as a visitor center and birdwatching sheds. In addition, the boarding houses in the village serve as accommodation facilities and restaurants.

Sutan Marshes, comprised of Eğrigöl, Sarpgöl, Yay, Çöl and Camız lakes, is

located at the intersection point of two main migration routes of European, Asian and African birds. Approximately 301 migratory and local bird species stop by this area in the middle of a vast steppe twice every year. In other words, 20% of the 72 endangered bird species in the world dwell in these marshes, where fresh and salty water ecosystems exist together, and at the lakes around them.

At least 85 of these bird species live and reproduce in these marshes all year long. The only natural area where the crane (*Grus grus*), flamingo (*Phoenicopterus*), squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) and spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) in Europe incubate all together, Sultan Marshes is also one of the most important reproduction areas in our country for the endangered pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and marbled teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*).

Other important bird species that incubate in the region are the woodpecker, snowy plover, sand grouse, kingfisher, heron, collared pratincole, white pelican, bearded tit, whiskered tern, greylag goose, gadwall, greater sand plover, teal, glossy ibis, garganey, heldiver, common swift, pochard, european roller, cuckoo, gull-billed tern, pigeon, hoopoe, slender-billed gull, pipit, cetti's warbler, black-headed gull, spoonbill, goose, pied avocet, swallow, redshank, eurasian thick-knee, little bittern, collared dove, wheatear, wag-tail, little tern, red-crested pochard, spur-winged plover, butcher bird, ferruginous pochard, stork, common coot, common magpie, marsh warbler, marsh harrier, sparrow, starling, common tern, mud hen, skylark, ringed



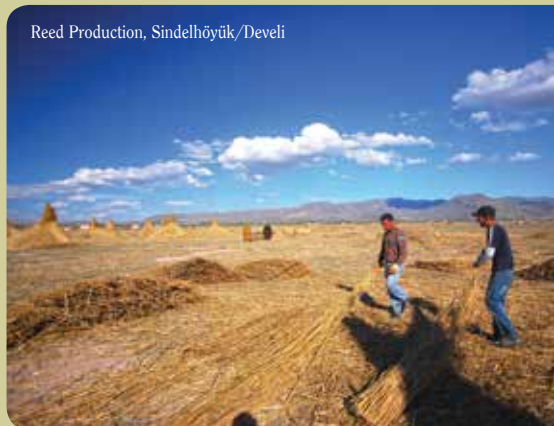
Birdwatching Platform



Eğrigöl and Birdwatching Platform



Reed Production, Sindelhöyük/Develi



Birdwatching Platform



plover, mallard and black-winged stilt.

This world-renowned region hosts different flora and fauna communities, apart from bird species. Today, there are 428 plant species in total, including the endemic species, 48 of which grow only in this region. European white water lilies (*Nymphaea alba*) that you often see during the boat tours in the lake are perhaps the most beautiful of all. 21 mammals, including the lesser mole (*Nannospalax leucodon*) and European skunk (*Vornela peregusna*), 7 different fish along with *Phoxinellus anatolicus*, which is listed under the threatened species in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 3 frog and 10 reptile species are seen in the area. Of these species, the European tree frog (*Hyla arborea*), green toad (*Bufo viridis*) and European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*) are animals whose numbers are decreasing across the world. Among the other animals that you can come across in the region are the jade, ground squirrel, wolf, fox, weasel, marsh turtle, european pond turtle, crane, carp and ringed snake.

Astable and floating reeds are cut, dried and exported to Europe. Kepir Marshes and Soysallı Lake, near the region, are among the places that must be seen. Those who run the boarding house in Ovaçiftlik organize a 75-kilometer jeep safari tour around Sultan Marshes. In addition, you must take a boat tour, which starts from Ovaçiftlik and opens to the lakes through the reeds.³

³Sultan Marshes part was prepared with the contribution of Mustafa Kürşad TURGUT.

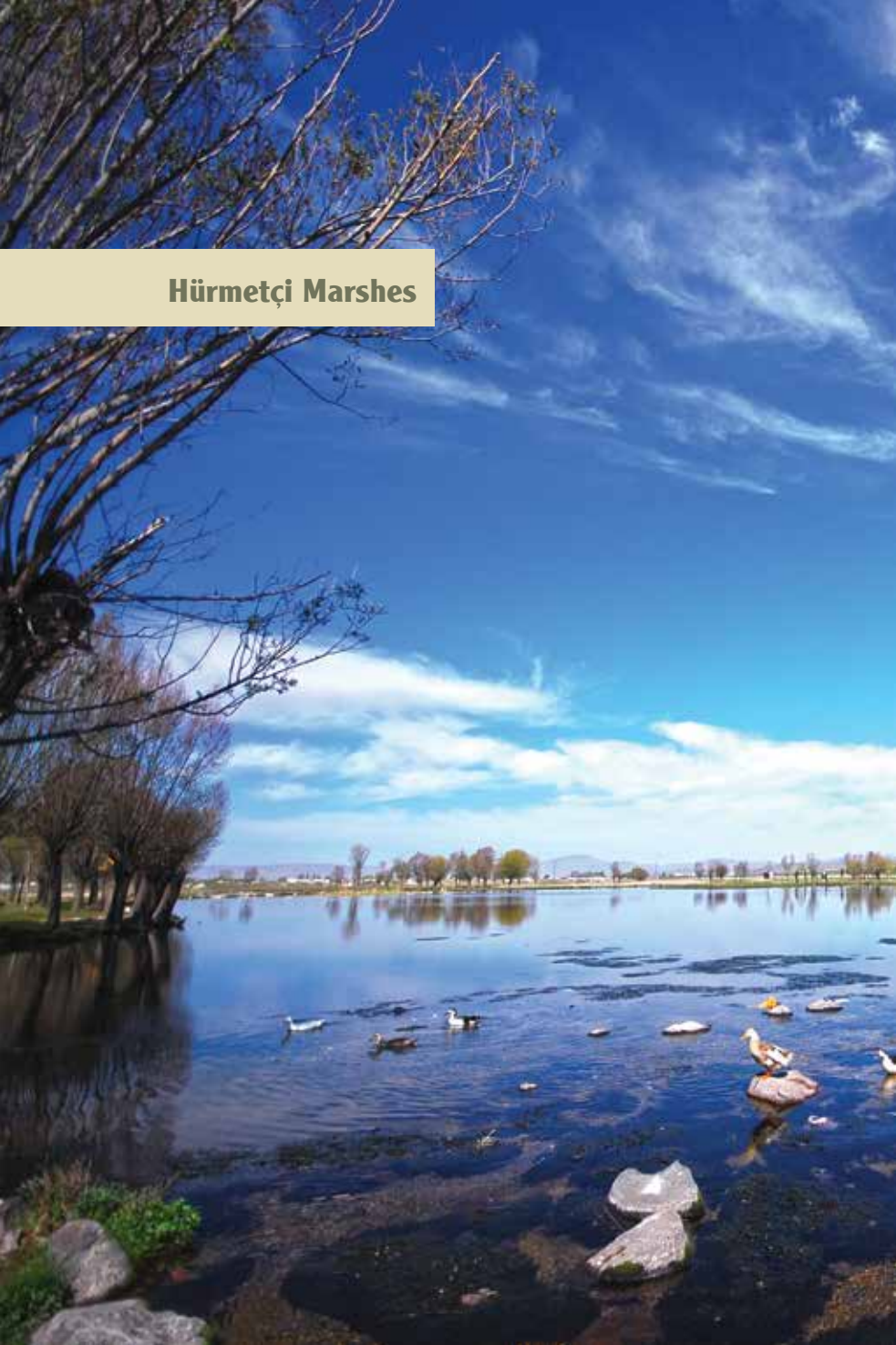




Sultan Marshes and the Ramsar Area



Hürmetçi Marshes



Filled with water with the first rain of the season, Hürmetçi Marshes (Karasaz) wetland is located 13 kilometers southwest of the city center. The ecosystem, which remains within the borders of Hacilar and İncesu districts, was declared an internationally important wetland in 2004 since it meets one of the 9 Ramsar criteria. At an altitude of approximately 1073 meters, Hürmetçi Marshes is on the migratory route that passes from Europe, Asia and Africa.

In the marshes, which is important in terms of both recreation and wild life, you have the opportunity to watch bird species such as the great white egret, grey heron, tundra swan, whooper swan, ruddy shelduck, common shelduck, mallard, pintail, moorhen, common coot, marsh harrier, black-winged stilt, little bittern, spoonbill, white stork, starling, swallow, crested lark, European hoopoe, European bee eater, white wagtail, kingfisher, sparrow and magpie.



Soysalli Lake, Develi

Mount Erciyes

You can find the chance to observe 173 bird species around Mount Erciyes. Among these, the syrian woodpecker, whitethroat, ruddy shelduck, lanner falcon, calandra lark, short-toed lark, nightingale, wren, grey wagtail, common swift, tree pipit, oscine bird, black-headed bunting, red-fronted serin, blackbird, snow finch, golden eagle, common kestrel, linnet, pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax, long-legged buzzard, shore lark, wheatear, lesser whitethroat, mistletoe thrush, golden oriole, yellow wagtail, radde's accentor, skylark, rock thrush, great spotted cuckoo, corn bunting and seker falcon are the most common species. Bustard, crane, black stork, ruddy shelduck, spoonbill, whiskered tern, spur-winged plover and sociable plover, which are among the threatened species, can be seen in the migration period.

In the meantime, we should mention that Mount Erciyes hosts 86 different species of butterflies, 14 of which are under threat in Europe. In your tour in the area, which shelters species that are attuned to three thousand meters, you can often come across ground squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks.

Among the other birdwatching areas of Kayseri province are Kızılırmak and Zamanti River basins.



Sultan Marshes National Park Birdwatching Area, Yeşilhisar

Plover-Köksal KAYHAN



Hoopoe-Mustafa Kürşat TURGUT



Sanderling-Mustafa Kürşat TURGUT



Squacco Heron-Köksal KAYHAN



Purple Heron-Köksal KAYHAN

HIKING ROUTES





The part of Aladağlar National Park within the borders of Yahyalı district, Soğanlı Valley of Yeşilhisar district and the surroundings of Mount Erciyes constitute the main line of the Kayseri Hiking Routes work. The dynamism of tourism and the existence of facilities in these regions are the main reasons why the routes have been shifted to these regions in the first plan. Mountaineering and hiking clubs and travel agencies that are active in the province carry out their weekend and hiking activities in several regions. This publication, which is a guide book about the outdoor activities (especially hiking) and cultural routes of Kayseri, set off with the goal of stimulating the existing tourism potential in the region. Therefore, we have covered Aladağ National Park, Soğanlı Valley, Mount Erciyes and parts near Kayseri city center, which are considered important tourism regions, rather than covering all the hiking routes in Kayseri. Without question, the increase of local awareness and the development of tourism will result in the diversity of hiking routes in time.

The first part of Kayseri hiking routes has been formed in Aladağlar National Park (Yahyalı district). The national park spreading into Kayseri, Niğde and Adana, is a hiking destination that nature lovers particularly prefer. It is one of the most important features of Aladağlar that, in the vicinity, there are more than 50 summits over 3500 meters, as well as four summits exceeding 3700 meters. We have specified the hiking tracks that extend to Aladağlar from the villages and plateaus of Yahyalı district, besides the route of "Classical Aladağlar Trans Pass", which everyone can try. In addition, we have covered the old migration routes

that some villages use to go to the outdoor market in Yahyalı district. Professional mountain climbers can try different summit climbs, especially Kızılkaya (3766 m) and Demirkazık (3756 m).

Around Erciyes, the fifth highest mountain of Turkey, we have formed a tough route, which draws a large circle around the mountain by adding on the hiking routes prepared by the Metropolitan Municipality Erciyes Inc. Moreover, in order for Erciyes hotels to be the center of appeal in the summer, we have prepared routes in the vicinity of Tekir Plateau. Summit climbs have been added to the hiking routes for mountain climbers. In Soğanlı Valley, which is an open-air museum with its geographical and archeological features, hiking routes stretch on the Derbentbaş-Başköy-Güzelöz-Avla Canyon-Soğanlı-Akköy Dam Lake-Keşlik-Erdemli line.

Apart from these regions, Derevenk Valley, Kızılırmak Basin and the region between Bünyan and Gesi have been given priority because of their proximity to the city center. Those who plan a hiking activity in Kayseri city center and its vicinity can make use of the book "Sport for Life-Nature Hiking Routes (by Halim Demir Hidayetoğlu)", which was published by Metropolitan Municipality Publications.

Since the hiking routes are within the boundaries of the national park and Metropolitan Municipality, there is no marking on the tracks. The courses have been equipped with the guidance signboards, GPS coordinates have been specified and mapping has been completed. You can get the GPS data from www.trekkinginkayseri.com.





IMPORTANT WARNINGS FOR HIKERS



Ayla Canyon, Soğanlı / Yeşilhisar

- Never consider setting off alone when you plan your hiking activity. Make sure you take with you a guide who knows the region or a guide who is trained by Kaçkar Regional Directorate of National Parks. You can also make use of the travel agencies certified by TÜRSAB (Association of Turkish Travel Agencies).

- Before you hike the track you have chosen, check whether it is suitable for your performance. Do not take risks. Consult people who are familiar with the region when deciding on your route.

- Those who want to hike within Aladağlar National Park, have to get permission from the authorities.

- Aladağlar and Erciyes hiking tracks are suggested only for professional and experienced nature lovers, especially in the winter months. Remember that weather conditions are variable in these regions even in the summer months due to the altitude.

- Your cell phone might be out of coverage in Aladağlar and some parts of Yahyalı district. Do some detailed research about your trip before you set off.

- Make sure you have a compass, a GPS, a map and a poncho with you.

- Since stockbreeding is widespread in the region, you should beware of shepherd dogs, especially in areas where herds graze.

- Make sure to have a trash bag with you and certainly take back all your trash. Remember that the more respectful we are to the nature and the less we disturb its rhythm, the more boons it will give us generously.

- Kayseri province is a very rich region in terms of historical locations. Take pains not to damage archeological areas in the tracks of Gesi, Derevenk and especially Soğanlı Valley. Warn those around you about protecting historical areas, which are the legacy of humanity.

Difficulty Level (1):

Hiking inclination, rising and elevation are very little. Wide pathways. It includes a 2-hour activity. It is suitable for beginners.

Difficulty Level (2):

Hiking inclination is little. It includes rises that do not exceed 300 meters in total. The difference is its duration. It does not exceed 3,5 hours. It is recommended for everyone who have participated in easy hiking.

Difficulty Level (3):

Hiking inclination increases. There are rises that do not exceed 500 meters. You may need to travel on narrower pathways, sometimes dense forest lands and rocky slopes. Wet passages increase. The total hiking duration is about 5 hours. It is suitable for everyone with high condition and hiking experience.

Difficulty Level (4):

Hiking inclination starts to increase. Rises amount to 700 meters. Pathways are quite rough and nonexistent in some places. You travel on a more rocky and scree ground. The duration of the hiking is about 6,5 hours. It is suitable for athletic persons in good shape.

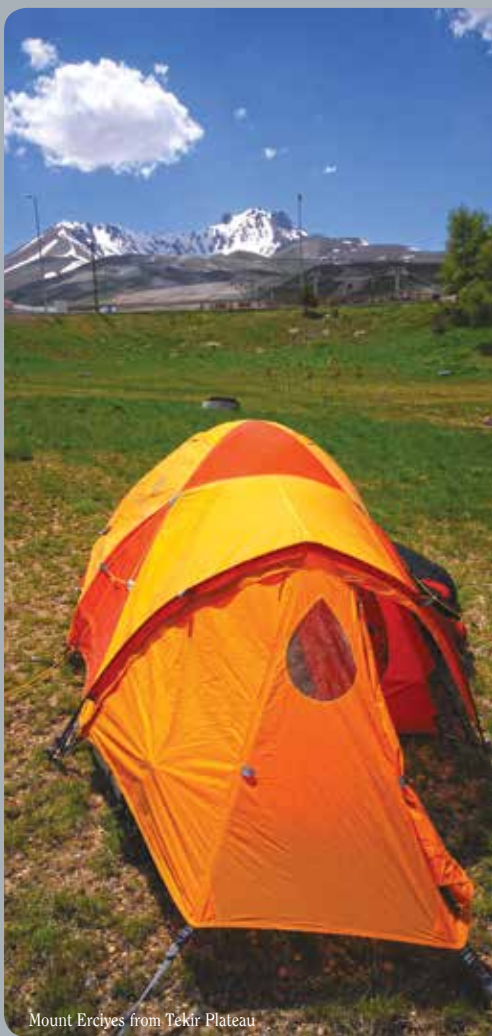
Difficulty Level (5):

Hiking inclination is now more and challenging. Rises start to exceed 1000 meters. You travel on rough and rocky land without pathways. Forested areas are quite tough. There are also wet passages. The guide needs to be experienced. The duration of the hike amounts to 8 hours. Although this difficulty level does not contain any technical climbs, it is suitable for athletic and experienced hikers in good shape.

Difficulty Level (6):

This difficulty level contains hikes with a lot of inclination, which has many rises and declines that can amount to 1500 meters and proceeds in rough land conditions. You can stop over and set up a camp. The duration is 8 hours or more. It requires experience, attention, good condition, expertise and discipline.

DIFFICULTY LEVELS OF HIKING



Mount Erciyes from Tekir Plateau

Route 1
Talas Underground City-
Ali Mountain (3 km)

Difficulty Level:3

HIKING ROUTES
IN AND AROUND
KAYSERİ CITY CENTER

Ali Mountain, one of the two highest points in the city center after Mount Erciyes, is located at an elevation of 1869 meters. The mountain, which is also the paragliding take-off point, is a natural observation terrace with its view dominating the city center. The route we will recommend starts in front of Talas Underground City. Cross the asphalt road and enter the dirt road that lies westward of the picnic area. Continuing through plantations in patches, the road will turn to southeast after a hairpin turn. The dirt road will end at a dense plantation and you will keep ascending under the guidance of a pathway. When you reach Tekçakıl Hill, the route will be connected with the dirt road that goes to the summit. After this point, you can reach the peak point of Yediçakıl Hill, where transmitter towers arise, by following the road that circles the hill.



Talas from the Underground City on Ali Mountain

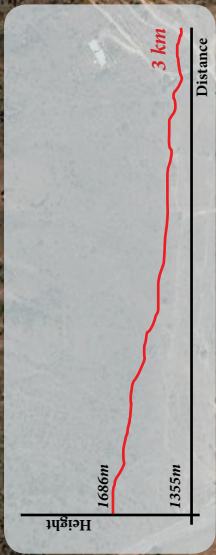


Ali Mountain Summit

Paragliding Take-off Area

Picnic Area

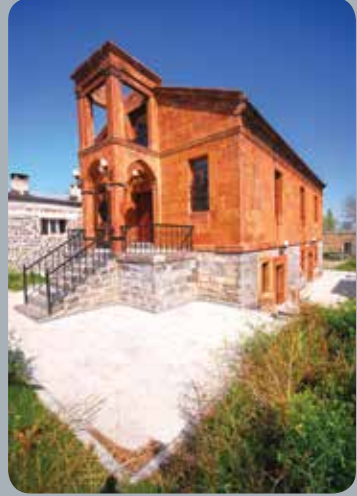
Talas Underground City



Route 2 **Alaayır-Zincidere** **Church (8 km)**

Difficulty Level:2

The hiking route we will recommend is also a bicycle route. The track starts at Alaayır location of the rough dirt road between Tekir Pond and Zincidere. In this area, there is a scenery point where you can watch Kayseri city center and Mount Erciyes. Let us remind you that the right side of the road is a military zone. At the end of your hike, you can visit Zincidere Church. Those who seek an alternative can finish the route at City Forest by heading towards the dirt road on the left in the last part.



Zincidere Church, Talas



Ali Mountain Underground City, Talas-Bilgin YAZLIK



Zincidere

Kıranardı

Alaçayır

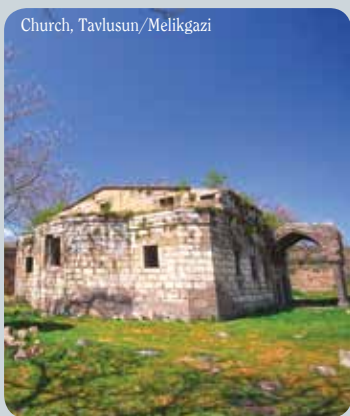
Tekir Plateau Road



Route 3
Derevenk Valley
(Tavlusun-Germir)
(13 km)

Difficulty Level:2

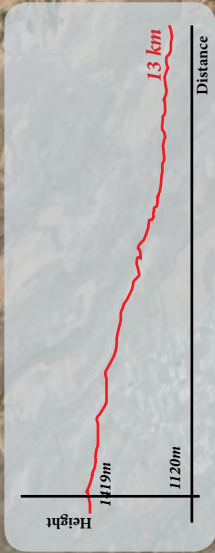
Church, Tavlusun/Melikgazi



Derevenk Valley, very much liked by nature lovers of Kayseri, is one of the indispensable addresses of weekend hikes. Within the borders of Melikgazi and Talas districts, the valley passes historical areas such as Tavlusun and Germir. You can either follow the track through the valley or walk on the pathways above the valley that are used by the horse farms in the area. You should particularly visit the church and the historical houses in Germir. Those who want to enter the valley can choose the old Malatya road between Talas and Başakpınar as the starting point. Another option is the stage that starts in Reşadiye and that is connected to the main valley in 3,5 kilometers.



Küllepe Ruin, Kocasinan



Germir

Tavlusun

Reşadiye

Derevenk Valley Entrance

Talas

Ali Mountain

Route 4 Büyükçayır-Bünyan Power Plant (7 km)

Difficulty Level:2

Famous for its hand made carpets, Bünyan is 30 kilometers to Kayseri city center. Your hiking activity starts at Büyükçayır location outside the settlement. After the tea break that you will take at the trout facility, you set off. The first part of the route is a dirt road up to Yuvadere historical stone arch bridge. After the two-arched bridge, you enter the pathway, taking the streambed on our left. The trip along the streamside continues with short descents and ascents. After entering a narrow valley at a rocky part, the streambed reaches Doğanlar Neighborhood. The route, which reunites with the dirt road again, leaves the settlement area after stopping by the watermill. By entering the pathway that goes left, you start following the streambed on your right again. Passing right below the rock settlement in Kayabaşı, the track reaches Bünyan district center where there is an old power plant. You can take a break in the Municipality facilities across the power plant or at the trout facility a little ahead.



Büyükçayır, Bünyan



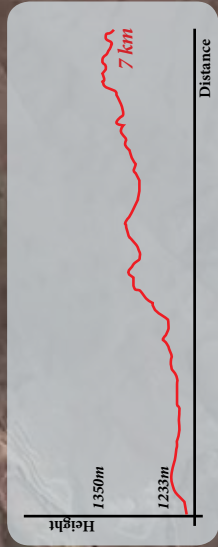
Bünyan

Power Plant



Yuvadere

Buyukçayir



Route 5 Bünyan Power Plant- Pınarbaşı (7 km)

Difficulty Level:2

Kayabaşı Rock Settlement, Bünyan



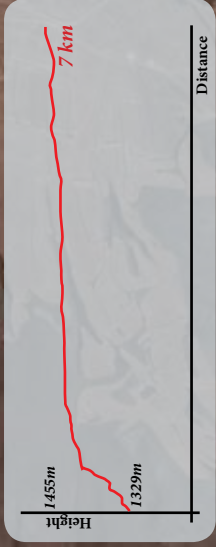
The hiking festival, which has been organized in winter months by the Society of Bünyan Associates in recent years, ends with the traditional swimming activity done at the Pınarbaşı water spring at the end of the route. Starting at the entrance of the historical power plant, the track follows the dirt road for about 200 meters and enters the pathway on the left. When the pathway, which has small bends, passes the rock settlement in Kayabaşı, you climb old stone stairs. From the point you have reached, you can watch the view of Bünyan district and Sarımsaklı Dam Lake.

Now enter the dirt road, go left and walk among the houses. When you get close to the historical hammam, enter the first street that turns right. The stairs you come across will take you to Küçük Havuz (Pool), where the waters of Sarımsaklı Creek collect. Walk for a while along the right side of the creek, in the area where there are fruit gardens. Soon, you will arrive at Büyük Havuz (Pool). You will rejoin the dirt road at Karacaören settlement by following the streambed through fruit trees and farms. After you turn left, cross Üçtepeliler historical arch bridge and follow the dirt road. At the 7th kilometer, you will reach Pınarbaşı, which is the raison d'être of Sarımsaklı Creek. It is possible to swim in the pool formed by the water spring even in the winter months. Those who wish can start this route over Gereme and turn it into a 9-kilometer activity.



Bünyan-Power Plant

Pınarbaşı Spring



Route 6
Bünyan Pınarbaşı-
Büyükbürüngüz (14 km)

Difficulty Level:3



In the past, locals of Bünyan used Büyükbürüngüz-Gesi route to go shopping in Kayseri. The hiking activity that we will recommend includes a part of this old road. The hiking that starts at Pınarbaşı water spring turns left at the first turn and enters the dirt road. When you reach Bünyan-Güllüce asphalt, cross the road and keep on walking on the dirt road. When you get to Tol Ağılı location, you will see that a valley starts. Follow the streambed surrounded by trees and walk toward southwest. The valley will first get narrow and pass through a rocky area. After you pass by the region called Kurtdeğiği by the locals, the valley will widen. Continue hiking in company with the fields on your left that become green in the spring months. In about an hour, you will get close to the point where the valley ends. Head toward the pathway that appears on your right. After a while, the route, which turns into a cobbled historical road, will join a dirt road when it reaches the plain and passes through the fields.

The route, which starts to ascend in this region called Körükçünün Ağılı, will reach an altitude of 1700 meters between Kilise Hill and Alitaşı Hill. At this point, you can now see Büyükbürüngüz settlement, lying below. After Küçük Çatak location, you pass by the vineyards and finish your activity in Büyükbürüngüz village. After having a rest at the coffee shop of the village, you can photograph the old houses, three historical mosques and fountains.



Bünyan-Pınarbaşı



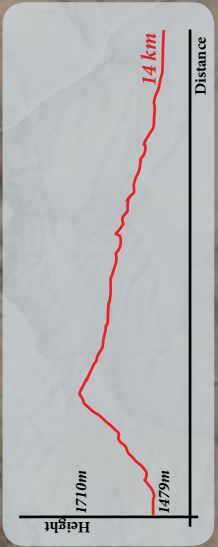
ToI Ağılı



Körükünün Ağılı



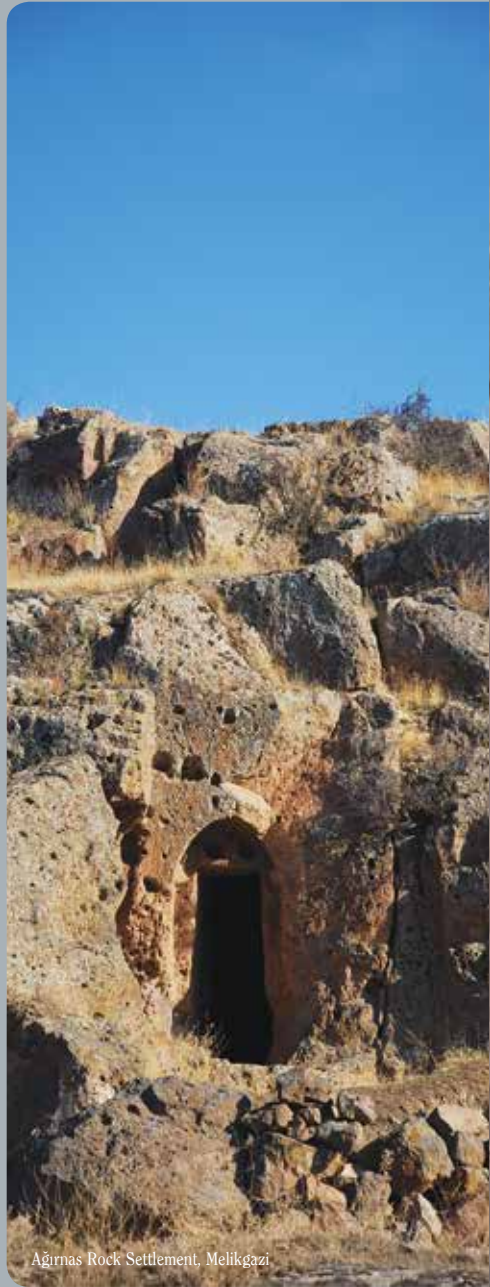
Büyükbürüngüz



Route 7
Turan-Ađırnas-Hacet
Pınarı (5 km)

Difficulty Level:2

This route, on which you can explore the natural and cultural texture near Kayseri city center, starts in Turan village. You go down to the valley by following the dirt road in Turan village, where there is a rock settlement, cave and churches. You head towards right at the junction point in the valley, which poplar trees dominate, and proceed along the route. On the slopes on your left, you can see the rock settlements belonging to Ađırnas. When you get closer to Ađırnas, you will reach another junction point. Turn right at this point and enter into the settlement because the streambed under the bridge will not give you passage. You will cross the main road in central Ađırnas and come to the front of the underground city. After touring the underground city, keep on hiking and proceed along the creek shadowed by the trees. In front of Hacet Pınarı, which is one of the sources of the creek, the hiking activity will end.



Ađırnas Rock Settlement, Melikgazi

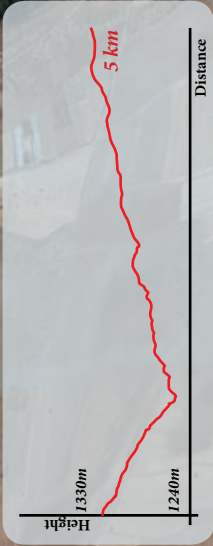


Ağınas

Hacet Pınarı

Turan

Bağpınar Road



Route 8
Ağırnas-Bağpınar
(9 km)

Difficulty Level:2



A longer version of Route 5, this route starts at the point where Ağırnas Underground City is located. Along the valley, you proceed in company with the views of Ağırnas, Turan and Bağpınar rock settlements in a fresh route, especially in the summer months. At the end of the track, which moves forward in company with Akpınar Creek, you can photograph the stone houses of Bağpınar and two historical stone arch bridges.



Bağpınar, Melikgazi



Ağınas

Turan

Bağpınar



Route 9
Güzelköy-Gesi
(5 km)

Difficulty Level: 1



Known for its pigeon houses and civil architecture examples, Güzelköy in Gesi region will be the starting point of your activity. Those who come from Gürpınar or Karabağ can enter from the south of the village. Walk toward the village center, photographing the old Kayseri houses on the main street. At the point where the street turns right in about 800 meters, you enter the dirt road going down and left. Soon, you will arrive at the village cemetery. Gülpınar Creek and the historical arch bridge will be on your left. Proceeding through the valley, you will see the pigeon houses lined up on the slopes. Cross the creek at the place where the dirt road turns right and proceed northeastward. Soon, you will arrive Gesi settlement.

Delikkaya, Soğanlı/Yeşilhisar





Gesi

Güzelköy



Route 10
Kayabağ-Bahçeli
(3 km)

Difficulty Level: 1



This route, which we have prepared to enliven your weekend, passes through a valley full of pigeon houses, one of the symbols of Kayseri. Before you start hiking, you can visit Darsiyak (Yanartaş) Church in Kayabağ. The hiking track, which starts at the square right down the church, enters a pathway on the left after 300 meters crossing the bridge. The route, which turns into a dirt road a hundred meters ahead, will go down to a streambed. Go across at the point where you reach the asphalt and walk toward the inside of the valley from the left of the pond that blocks your way. You can photograph the pigeon houses and caves scattered on Sülpiye crest on your left. The route follows the creek that flows through the trees and ends in Bahçeli (Efkere) settlement.

Gesi Pigeon Houses, Melikgazi





Bahçeli



Penzikli Underground City



Çatalim Underground City

Pond



Kayabağ



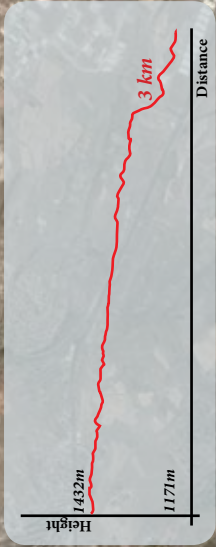
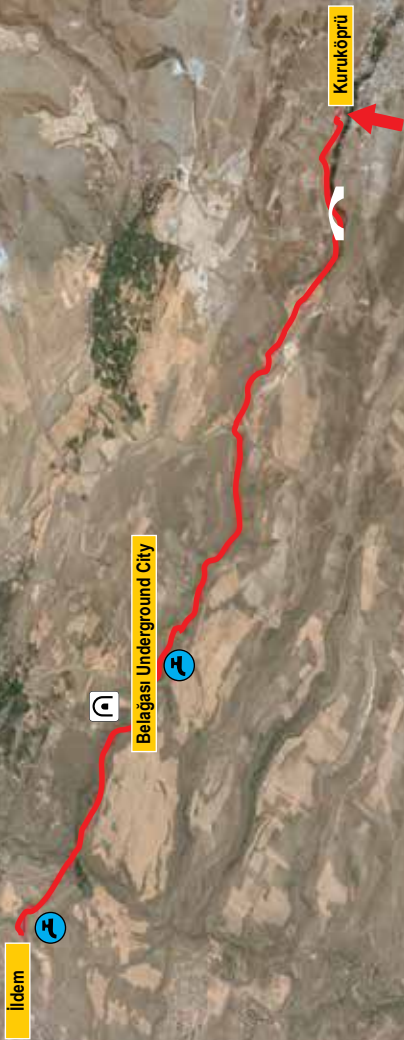
Route 11 Kuruköprü-İldem (14 km)

Difficulty Level:3

One of the old works of art that reflect the history of Kayseri is the aqueduct in Kuruköprü village. The aqueduct, which is thought to have been built by the Romans in the 8th century, was once part of the system used for carrying the water coming from Gürpınar (Salguma) village to Kayseri city center. You start hiking right below the aqueduct, from the streambed of Gömü Creek. The hike you will take along the narrowing valley after departing from the settlement is interrupted by the Gürpınar Organized Industry asphalt road. You cross the road and reenter the valley from the side of the treatment plant. The valley called Gümüşpınar Creek after this point, gradually gets narrower and deeper. After seeing the two seasonal waterfalls, you come to an area surrounded by ram-parts on Karatepe piedmonts. This location on the left slope is called Hasan Efendi (Ötedere) Canyon by the locals. It is speculated that leprosy patients once lived in the rock cavities. Then, you will reach Belağası location, where there are rock settlements on both sides of the valley. After you pass by the area in which there are two underground cities, the valley will widen. The hiking track ends at the old Kayseri-Gesi asphalt near İldem.



Kuruköprü Aqueduct, Talas



Route 12
Tekgöz Bridge-Tahirini
(9 km)

Difficulty Level:2

One of approximately one thousand four hundred stone arch bridges in our country, Tekgöz is still standing in spite of time and doing its duty. Located at a point where Kızılırmak enters a deep valley, the bridge will be the starting point of your hike. It is possible to see the rock settlements along the valley, located below Kocaibrahim and Hacılarnkale hills. Follow the dirt road after the bridge and pass through the fields. At a point where the river gets narrow, the route extends southward along a pathway that follows the eastern side of Kızılırmak. Another important point of the track, which is adorned with historical rock settlements and rock tombs, is the rock settlement in Çatalada, located on the opposite shore. On this track, you can also watch the birds that make the most of Kızılırmak's blessings. The 3-kilometer pathway enters the dirt road that sails through the fields on the riverfront in the region where the valley widens. In the last part, you go up a short ramp and end your activity at the entrance of Tahrini village.

Tekgöz Bridge, Kocasinan

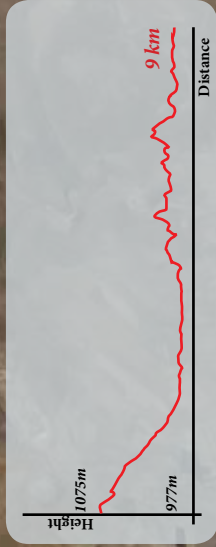




Tahirini

Çatalada

Tekgöz Bridge



HIKING ROUTES AROUND MOUNT ERCİYES

Erciyes from Yay Lake, Sultan Marshes/Yeşilhisar



Route 13
Kızık-Gereme
(5 km)

Difficulty Level: 1

Gereme Ruins, Develi



The entire track, which starts in Kızık village of Develi district, is a dirt road. Passing from Kurtlukayak crest, the route ends at Gereme ruins, located on the piedmonts of Zağrak hills. You can see historical ruins in Gereme, which was one of the most important centers of the Iconoclastic Period.

Mount Erciyes Summit-Yıldırım GÜNGÖR



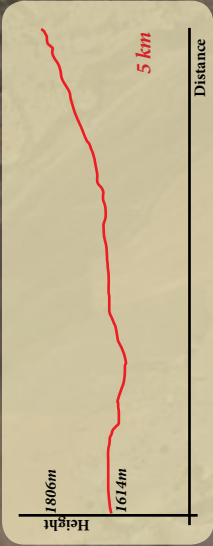


Gereme



Kızık

Develli Road



Route 14
Erciyes Hotels-Hisarçık
Valley-Tekir Plateau
(15 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Erciyes from Tekir Plateau, Melikgazi



The route, which passes by the valley called Kırlandıç or Hisarçık Canyon and reaches Tekir Plateau, is one of our one-day tracks in Erciyes region. Starting at Çakılıyurt location in the Erciyes-Tekir Plateau picnic area, proceed along the channel. After passing by Kesikkemer aqueduct, you cross the dirt road in front of you and reach Gavurharmanı location. The route, which proceeds along the streambed of Kurudere, goes down to the depths of the valley, where a small waterfall falls in the winter months. On the slopes of the valley, which is stony and barren in the summer months, but colorful with wild flowers in the spring months, you can come across oak trees here and there. One of the surprises of the route is the historical stone bridge whose arch is the only thing that is left. After you pass by Küçükçağlayanınbaşları location, Çaylakçukur Creek, which you follow, will join Seyfe (Suçağ-Kırlandıç Valley) Creek, coming from the left. At this point, you can go up to the crest in front of you and photograph the rock cavities of the underground city opposite. Now take Seyfe Creek to your right and proceed along the crest for a while. With the help of the dirt road that you come across, go down to the valley and keep on walking southward. You can finish your activity at Bendinbaşı location, where the valley ends on a wide plain. The dirt road you have reached will be about 300 meters to Kayseri-Develi highway.

Another version of the route, which is called 'Kırlandıç Valley' route by the local hiking clubs, passes by the entire valley and reaches Hisarçık settlement. We recommend this route only to experienced hikers due to the need to cross two waterfalls.



Hisarcık

Kırılangıç Valley

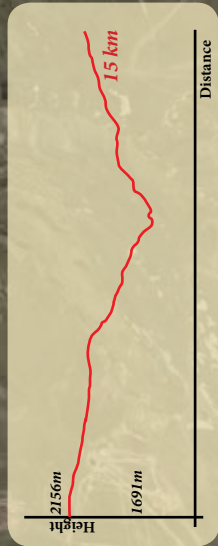
Süt Bridge

Kayseri-Develli Road

Kesikkemer Aqueduct

Tekir Plateau

Erciyes Hotels Area



Route 15
Erciyes Hotels-Hisarçık
Valley-City Forest
(9 km)

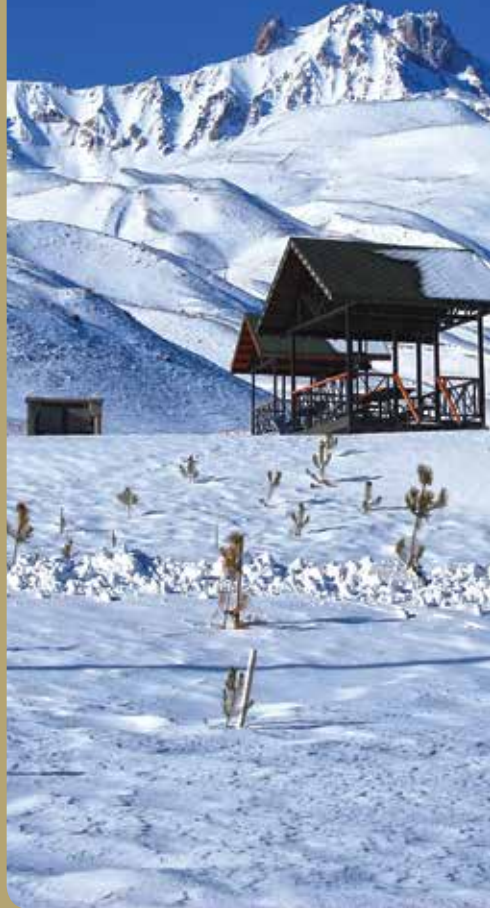
Difficulty Level:3

Süt Bridge, Melikgazi



The route, which starts at Çakılıyurt location in the Erciyes-Tekir Plateau picnic area just like Route 14, follows Seyfe Creek. It first passes by Kesikkemer aqueduct and enters the dirt road on the right. The route, which merges with another road that comes from the left after a while, proceeds eastward. When you reach Çaylakçukur Creek, you part from the main road and start hiking along the canal. Let us remind you that there is a Roman pool from the ancient period in the middle of the field on your left transverse. In a short while, you will see Süt Bridge under your left. You can photograph the extant arch part of the bridge, which belongs to the Late Byzantine Period. The route, which then follows the canal and joins the dirt road, ends in City Forest.

Mount Erciyes from Tekir Plateau Picnic Area





Hıarcık

City Forest



Süt Bridge

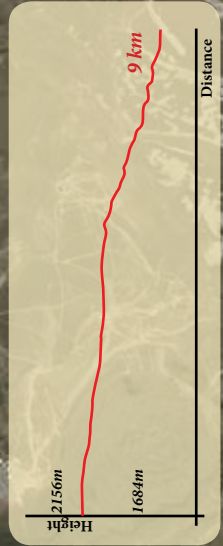


Kesikkemer Aqueduct

Kayseri-Develi Road

Lifos Mountain

Erciyes Hotels Area



Route 16
Hacılar Gate-Lifos-Tekir
Plateau
(7 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Kesikkemer Aqueduct and Lifos Mountain, Hacılar-Melikgazi



2509-meter Lifos (Barut) Mountain, which is not visited very often although it is near the city center, draws attention with its crater-like summit and historical remains. Apart from the rampart walls approximately one kilometer in length, the cistern, bastion and structure remnants are among the important details of the area. The hiking route starts with the dirt road that reaches Atağlı Plateau from Hacılar Ski Center. After passing by the plateau, turn left from Atağlı Pınarı location and ascend. When you reach the peak point, you can see both the panorama of Kayseri and the historical remnants. When you start going back after the break, you will arrive at Atağlı Pınarı first. From here, follow the dirt road that continues northward and pass by Uçurumun Creek. Then, you will proceed among fields and reach Hisarcık-Erciyes road at Çadırın Pınarı location.

Remains on Lifos Mountain

2509-meter Lifos Mountain, which is situated in the northeast of Mount Erciyes, has a strategic importance in respect of its location. Among the reasons for its strategic importance are that it is an observation terrace dominating Kayseri city center and it is in a position to control Kayseri-Erciyes-Tekir Plateau-Develi route, which has been used for centuries. In this respect, the possibility that the historical settlement was an outstation is high. The crater area between two sharp-peaked hills is surrounded by about one hundred-meter rampart walls. The number of the bastions, which take place approximately every 66 meters, is sixteen. Apart from the ramparts, you can see structure remnants, a water cistern and arched tombs in the region.



Kayseri-Develli Road

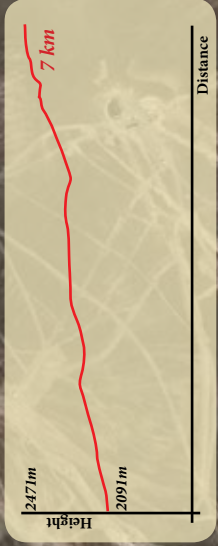
Tekir Plateau

Lifos Mountain



Atağılı Pınarı

Hacilar Gate



Route 17
Aksu Fountain-Gereme
(9 km)

Difficulty Level:2



Little egret-Köksal KAYHAN

All of this route, which is the continuation of Route 11, is a dirt road. The hiking, which starts at Aksu picnic area on the wayside of Erciyes-Develi road, proceeds on moorland. The route, which turns left at the junction point when it gets close to Dikkartın Hill and passes through Karnıyark Hill and Kabaktepe, first reaches the pumice stone quarries. After declining for a short while, you turn right at the trivium and arrive at Gereme ruins.

Mount Erciyes from Tekir Plateau





Dikkartın Hill

Gereme



Karniyarık Hill

Üçtepeler

1920m

1531m

9 km

Distance

Aksu Picnic Area

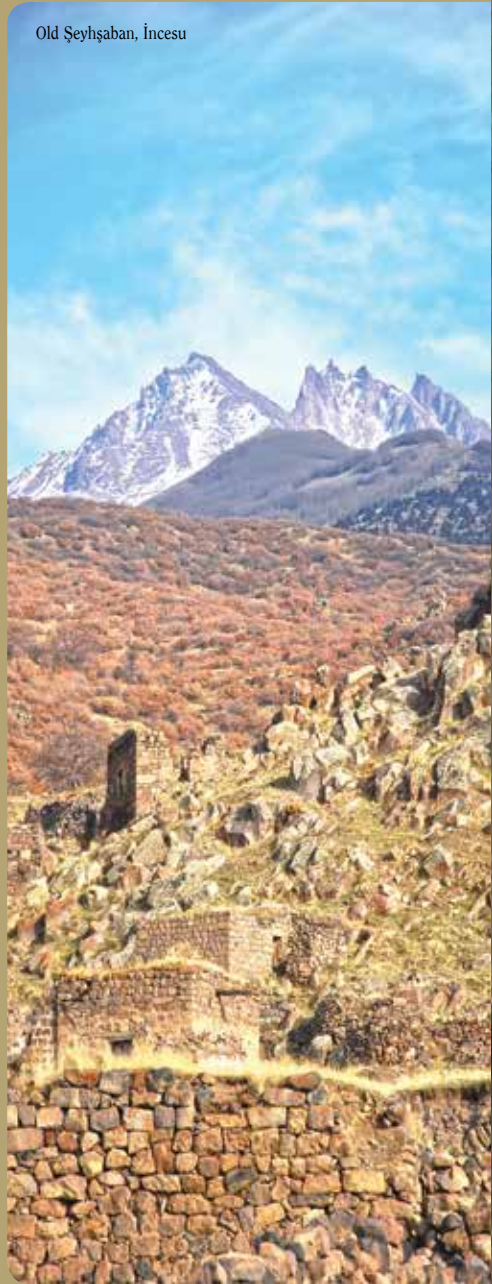


Route 18
Sarıgöl-Old Şeyhşaban
(10 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Used by transhumants in the summer months, Sarıgöl is one of the two largest lakes on the piedmonts of Erciyes. The tractor way that is located in the south of the lake, which is 13 kilometers to Hacilar district center, is going to be the starting point of the hike. The route first passes through Değirmen and Kırmızı hills and reaches Gelence Plateau. Then, the tractor way, which proceeds through Gelence and Kavaklıdağ hills, turns westward near Medinoğlu Pınarı and starts descending. You keep on hiking through a valley in an area covered with oak and pine forests on your right. Evliya Hill, on the peak of which Şem'un El Gazi Shrine is located, is rising on your left. After you pass by Kavaklı and Uzunyayla, the dirt road first reaches the fire pool and then old Şeyhşaban settlement. In the area, used as a plateau today, you can photograph a splendid view of Mount Erciyes, along with the ruins.

Old Şeyhşaban, İncesu





Sarıgöl

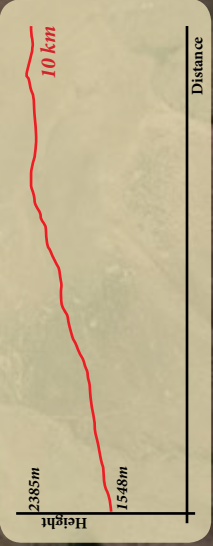


Gelence Plateau

Medinoğlu Pınarı



Old Seyihsaban



Route 19
Hitit Tepe-Sütöonduran-
Water Tank
(11km)

Difficulty Level:3

This is another one-day hiking route on the piedmonts of Mount Erciyes, which is preferred by nature lovers due to its proximity to Hacilar settlement. The route starts from Hitit Tepe at the upper station of Erciyes Ski Center. The hike, which proceeds westward in its first part, contains small descents and ascents due to the topographical structure of Erciyes. The track, which passes from the south of Sütöonduran and Ođlakkıran hills, starts descending by turning north at the location where it meets Aksu Creek, which comes from the heights of Erciyes. After reaching the dirt road, you walk for a short while and arrive at Sütöonduran Plateau. After this point, you can get to the water tank by walking either on the slope or through the valley. While the spring waters of Mount Erciyes were collected and transmitted via ducts in the past, today they are transmitted to the city via a pipe system.



Molasse Boiling

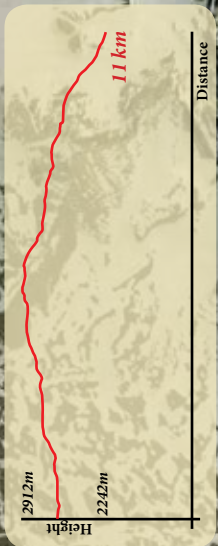


Lifos Mountain

Hitit Tepe

Water Tank

Sit Donduran



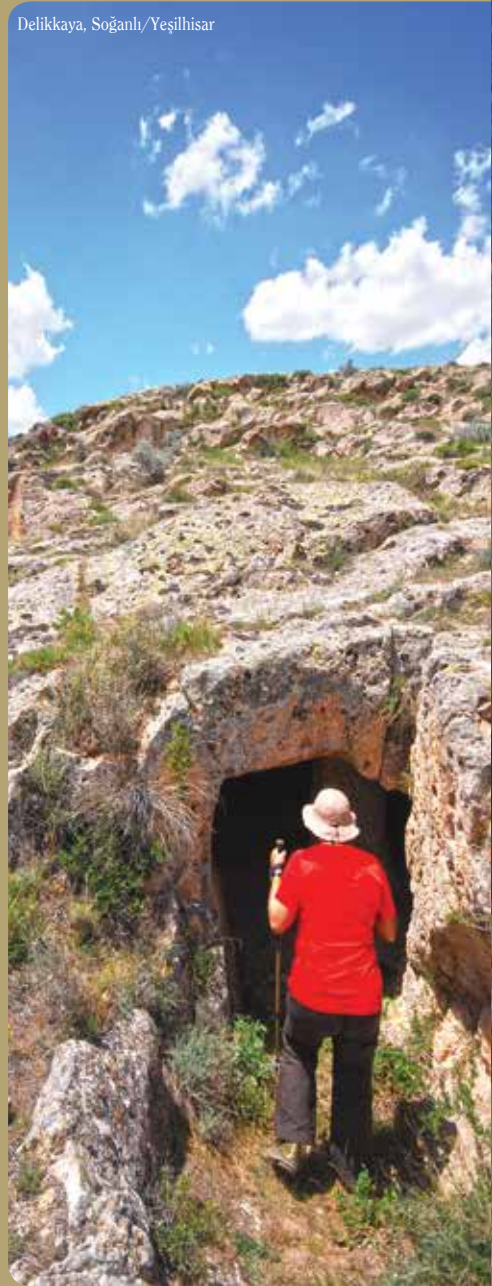
Route 20
Sand Quarry-Water
Tank-Sarıgöl
(11 km)

Difficulty Level:3



Sarıgöl, Hacilar/İncesu

You will start hiking at the cross-roads where Hacilar vineyard houses end and ascend along Aksu Creek Valley. Through Taşlıkartın and Karagüllü hills surrounded by trees on your right, Yanık and Kefeli mountains on your left, you will reach the water tank in Aksu Plateau in company with gulleys. You can make use of the GPS coordinates at the junction points that you will come across along the route. In your trip, which continues southward after a short break, you will arrive at a crater lake Sarıgöl by passing Kırkpınar, Uzunyayla and Zambık plateaus (in Hacilar district). Reed fields on the surface of the lake create a nice contrast on blue waters for photographers.





Sand Quarry

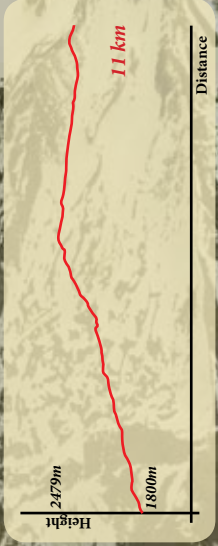


Water Tank



Uzunyayla

Sargöl



Route 21
Hisarcık Gate-Cableway-
Hitit Tepe-Hacılar Gate
(13 km)

Difficulty Level:3



The hiking route, which connects three of the two lift lines in Erciyes Ski Center, reaches Hacılar Gate by cableway at the last stage. The route starts in front of Hisarcık Gate lift. You join the dirt road by walking along the slope in the direction of northwest on rugged terrain. After that, you first proceed southward and then westward and arrive at Yalçın chairlift. You continue after a short break and walk westward from Karakulaktepe chairlift nearby. You reach the beginning of ski track 5 via the endpoint of ski track 2B. You can go down to Hacılar Gate from this point called Akbayır Hill by cableway. In the summer months, when the cableway does not run, you need to walk up to Hacılar Main Gate.



Hand Woven Rug



Hacılar Gate

Lifos Mountain

Tekir Plateau

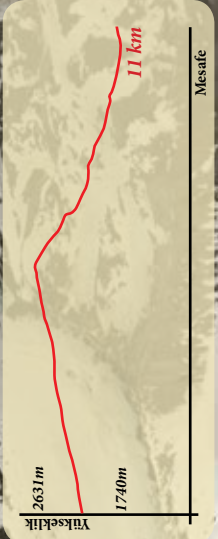
Kaysert-Develi Road

Lifos Upper Gate Gondola

Hisarcık Gate

Karakulaktepe Lower Station

Erciyes Hotels Area



Route 22
Hitit Tepe-Sütöndüran-
Sarıgöl
(13 km)

Difficulty Level:3



Another version of Route 16, the route follows the same track up to Sütöndüran location. The hike, which continues proceeding westward at Sütöndüran Plateau, passes by Kırkpınar Creek (it might be dry in the summer months) and reaches the area where Kırkpınar Plateau is located. Leaving the dirt road and ascending in the moorland covered with short grass, you arrive at Uzunyayla. Now, you join the dirt road that comes from Hacılar district center. A little ahead on the right, you will see Zambık Plateau and the junction point that comes from Kızılören. Starting from this point, the track will ascend again and reach Dalmaca Cliff. At the peak point, you can capture one of the most beautiful photographs of Sarıgöl. At the end of the hike, you can have a picnic on the lakeside and see migratory birds, if you are lucky.

Fall in Hacılar



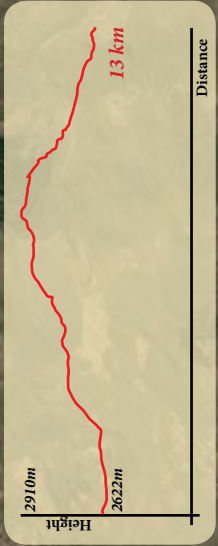


Hittit Tepe

Sütdonduran

Uzunyayla

Sarıözü



Route 23
Tatar Lake (Kızık)-Aksu
Fountain
(13 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Kızık village, which is 10 kilometers to Develi district, is located on the southern piedmonts of Mount Er-ciyes. Tatar Lake location, which is on the tractor way that extends to the plateaus from the village, is the starting point of the route. The route, which ascends with a mild inclination along Çukuryurt Creek for about 2 kilometers, heads toward east right above Güzelce Plateau, at the end of the valley. Then you will try to proceed on an indistinct pathway along the slope, which forms deep cracks in some places, will tire you with slight descents and ascents. When Ortataş Plateau nearby appears, you will be very close to Dikkartın Hill. Another valley through which Kartınardı and Saracık creeks flow will lie in your south. After you pass by the cadastral stone that you will come across, you will have moved on to the east of Dikkartın Hill. The tractor way you will see below is the route that comes from Aksu location of Kayseri-Develi asphalt road. Now start descending by walking southeastward and reach Zambık Plateau (Develi district) below. You can have a breather and arrive at Aksu picnic area under the guidance of the dirt road that you saw from above.

Gökoluk Plateau, Yahyalı



Hastahocann Lake, Yahyalı



Üçtepeler

Dikkartın Hill

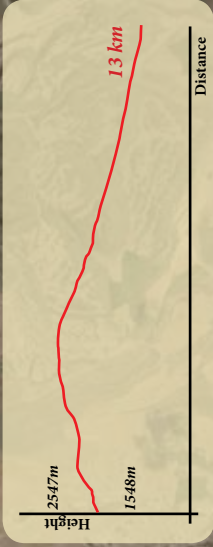
Karnıyark Hill

Tatar Lake

Aksu Picnic Area

Develi Road

Kızak



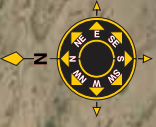
Route 24 Sarıgöl-Kızık (15 km)

Difficulty Level:3

The starting point of the route is Sarıgöl, one of the two natural lakes of Erciyes. The part of the route up to Gelence Plateau is the same as Route 18. You start hiking from the tractor way that lies southward. The route, which passes through Değirmen and Kırmızı hills, offers a wonderful lake photograph. When you proceed a little, old Şeyhşaban village in the direction of southwest and Demirkazık view across appear. You enter a short pathway and rejoin the tractor way. The track, which slightly ascends in Gelence Plateau first and then near Hacıbeyin Yurdu hamlet, reaches the graveyard near Balıklıağıl crest. At this point, you move on to another valley and follow the track that turns into a pathway. After a hike of approximately half an hour, you are on the tractor way again. After Ortataş Plateau, you pass Çukuryurt location and reach Tatar Lake. When you set off again after a break, the track, which turns into a pathway and a tractor way, brings its guests to Ahmet Pınarı location. The ruins that you will see around are known as Turkman houses by the villagers. The route ends in Kızık village.

Erciyes Summit Climb





Mount Erciyes

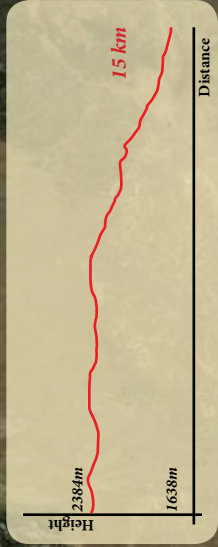
Sarıgöl

Gelence Plateau

Ortataş Plateau

Tatar Lake

Kızık



Route 25
Tatar Lake-Tekir Pond
(16 km)

Difficulty Level:4



Tekir Pond, Melikgazi

We recommend this track, which is quite long and tiring for a one-day track, to experienced nature lovers. Volcanic Mount Erciyes's rough terrain with deep rifts will give a hard time to hikers. To reach the starting point of the track, you need to go to Tatar Lake near Kızık. The route, which ascends northward in company with Çukuryurt Creek, arrives first at Güzelce and then at Ortataş Plateau. This is also the junction point of the hiking track that comes from Sarıgöl. You turn right and proceed in the direction of east. In your southeast, Dikkartın Hill rises with all its majesty. After you pass the short valley formed by Kartınardı Creek right below you, you will come across a cadastral stone. On your right (in your south), you can see the tractor ways that go down and Zambık and Yıldızkaparı plateaus, located on the eastern feet of Dikkartın Hill. Carefully passing from slight descents and ascends, continue your hike. You can take a short break in the region where the sheepfolds in Çağşak Plateau are located. This time, a small oak coppice forest will be in your south, and Üçtepeler in your east. When you keep on walking, you will reach a pumice stone quarry between Ağsu and Samatlı locations. You can walk toward Kayseri-Develi highway on the banks of the Tekir Pond by entering the dirt road, and finish your activity.

Sarıgöb

Mount Erciyes

Tekir Pond

Pumic Stone Quarry

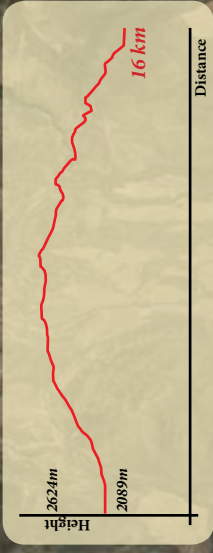
Çağşak Plateau

Dikkartm Hill

Üçtepeler

Kayseri-Develi Road

Tatar Lake



Route 26 Erciyes Hotels Area- Pumice Stone Quarry- Gereme (18 km)

Difficulty Level:4

The longest of the one-day tracks, this route gets to Gereme ruins, which is at 1800 meters, from an altitude of 2370 meters. Those who want to shorten the route for 4 kilometers can start the hike from the pumice stone quarry. You ascend from the hotels area to the stone quarry, gaining an altitude of 100 meters. You turn south from the quarry, which is closed today, and follow the pathway. The route turns into a dirt road at Yörüksekisi location. The track, which follows the valley plain between Beşparmak and Gök hills, passes by Beşparmak and Kekliceek plateaus and turns southwest. In this region, you can see the forested land that decorates the southern slopes of Gök Hill. The hike, which continues in a barren land structure and on an area covered with short grass after it passes by Yılanlı Hill, crosses the dirt road that comes from Aksu picnic area and joins the tractor way. After you pass through Karnıyarık and Kabak hills, you will see another pumice stone quarry on your right. The tractor way that you follow will take you to Gereme ruins soon. You can photograph the ruins in Gereme, which was once a holy place for Christendom.

Erciyes Summit Climb-Yıldırım GÜNGÖR





Erciyes Hotels Area

Kayseri-Develli Road

Mount Erciyes



Üçtepeiler Plateau

Üçtepeiler

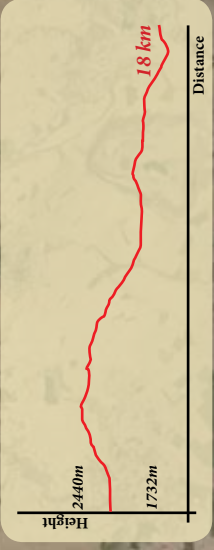
Dikkartin Hill

Gereme



Tatar Lake

Sarıgöl





HIKING ROUTES IN SOĞANLI and ERDEMLİ VALLEYS

Avla Canyon, Soğanlı/Yeşilhisar



Route 27
Derbentbaşı-Güzelöz-
Church
(7 km)

Difficulty Level:2

Başköy Monastery, Yeşilhisar



The southwestern borders of Kayseri province remains within Cappadocia region. Valleys in this area are known for hosting rock settlements and churches. The route we will recommend starts from Derbentbaşı village center and heads to the valley that lies southeastward. After photographing the impressive caves on the slopes, keep on hiking on the dirt road. While proceeding on the left side of the valley, you will see a streambed lying through trees and gardens. The hike will first reach Başköy, and then Güzelöz village. You can see impressive examples of civil architecture in both settlements. When you enter the short valley that extends northward from Güzelöz village, the rock church you will come across on the right will be the end point of your trip. Let us remind you that the last part is asphalt.

Başköy Monastery, Yeşilhisar



Soğanlı Doll





Derbentbaşı



Başköy



Başköy Monastery

Güzelöz Church



Güzelöz



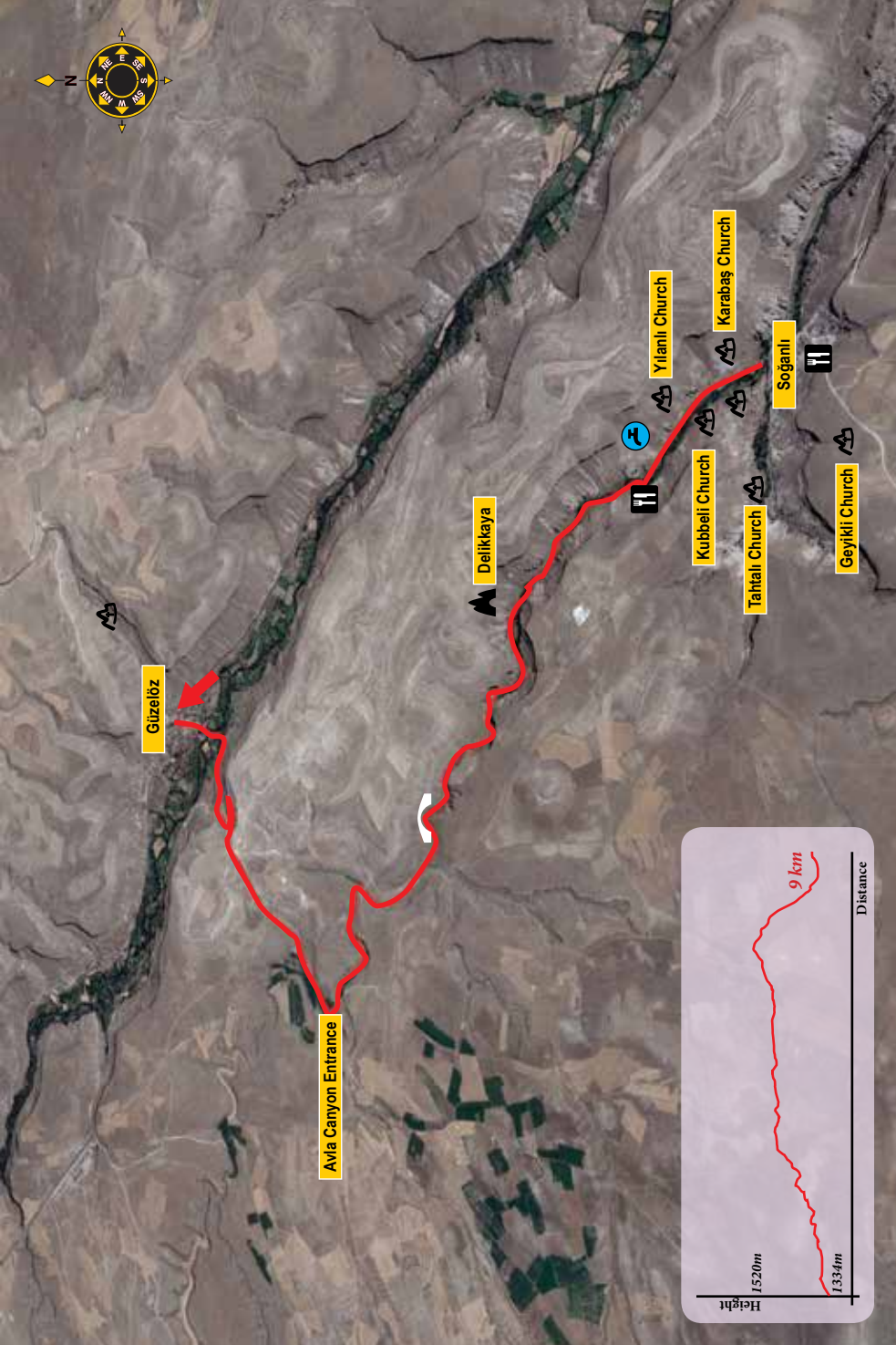
Route 28
Güzelöz-Avla Canyon-
Soğanlı Valley (Canyon Pass)
(9 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Without question, Soğanlı Open Air Museum is one of the most special tourism centers of not only Kayseri, but Cappadocia region as well. Karabaş, Kubbeli, Yılanlı and Tahtalı (Santa Barbara) churches being in the first place, rock churches are visited by thousands of people every year. The approximately 9-kilometer hiking track starts from Güzelöz village center. You pass by the streambed, proceed westward on the dirt road and start ascending. After watching Güzelöz settlement below for the last time at the peak point, you walk southwestward and pass through fields. You enter Avla Canyon by turning left (southeast) at the place where the dirt road reaches the second junction point. The track that narrows down in 2 kilometers continues as a 4-meter-wide and 15-meter-high corridor. After this point, we recommend that you be cautious about the possibility of stone falls from above in some places. The track, which widens in 1,5 kilometers and turns into a deep valley, has an awesome visuality. In this part, the hiking activity, which is in company with rock settlements and pigeon houses that decorate the lush valley is quite pleasurable. By heading towards the tractor way that follows the streambed at the end of the valley, you can go to the restaurant near Yılanlı Church.

Avla Canyon, Soğanlı/Yeşilhisar





Güzelöz

Avia Canyon Entrance

Delikkaya

Yılanlı Church

Kubbeli Church

Tahtalı Church

Soğanlı

Karabaş Church

Geyikli Church



Route 29 Güzelöz-Soğanlı (11km)

Difficulty Level:2

Avla Canyon,
Soğanlı/Yeşilhisar



Following the same course as Route 25 from the start until the entrance point to the valley, the route proceeds southeastward via a pathway at the entrance of the valley. You pass through fields in company with the view of Avla Canyon on your left and you follow the dirt road. Sometimes entering the pathways through fields, the route reaches an observation terrace near Soğanlı. On this hill, you have the chance to photograph Büyük Kol and Çayırönü valleys of Soğanlı. Then, start descending to old Soğanlı village by the help of a steep pathway. The pathway, which turns right when you get close to the settlement, will take its travelers to Santa Barbara Church. The track will get to the main road in this area and you will see the signboard of Geyikli Church on your right when you proceed westward. After visiting the historical place, you can have a rest at the restaurant at the square. In the remaining part of the day, make sure to visit the other rock settlements of Soğanlı Valley.

Soğanlı Archeological Site, Yeşilhisar





Güzelöz

Avia Canyon Entrance

Delikkaya

Yılanlı Church

Karabaş Church

Soğanlı

Geyikli Church

Tahtalı Church

Dirt Road

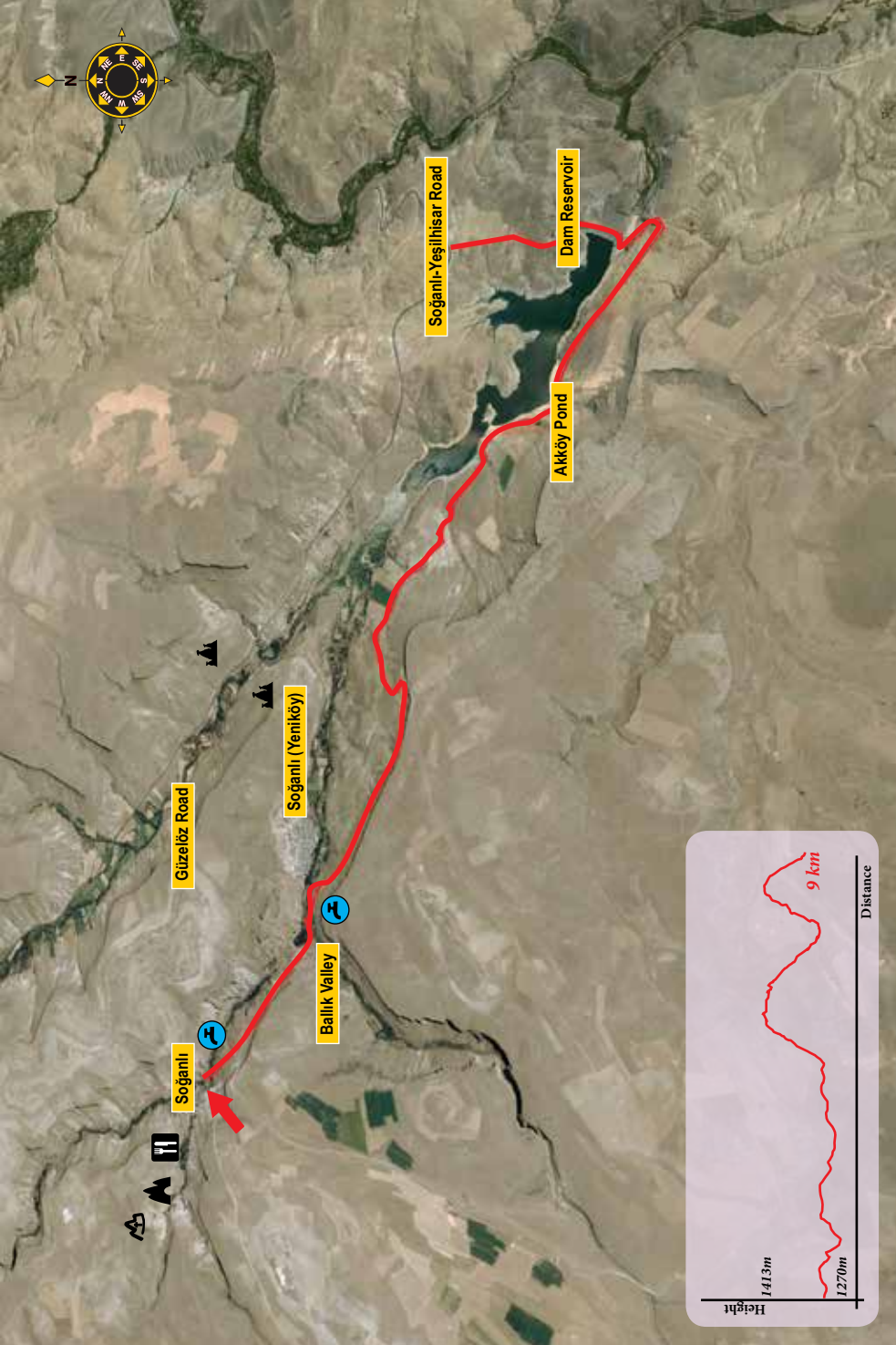


Route 30 Soğanlı-Akköy Pond (9 km)

Difficulty Level:2

Almost all of the one-day route proceeds on the tractor way. You come across the view of a dam lake at the last part of the valley, full of rock settlements. From the ticket booth of Soğanlı ruins, head toward the restaurant on your right and then cross the creek and enter the pathway that ascends southeastward. The route, which joins the dirt road above, will start descending with a scenic hike in a valley, both sides of which are full of rock settlements. When you reach the old settlement located at the entrance of Ballık Valley, keep on walking up to the streambed. The track, which merges with a road that comes from your right, will ascend southeastward again. At the peak point, you will proceed joining another way that comes from your right this time. Now, you are face with a view dominating the entire Soğanlı Valley. Below (on your left), you can see the new Soğanlı village. Turn left first, and then right on the plain and keep on walking through fields with the help of the tractor way. Soon, you will reach the reservoir on the southern shore of the dam lake. Go toward north under the guidance of the dirt road and end your activity on Yeşilhisar-Soğanlı asphalt.





Soğanlı- Yeşilhisar Road

Dam Reservoir

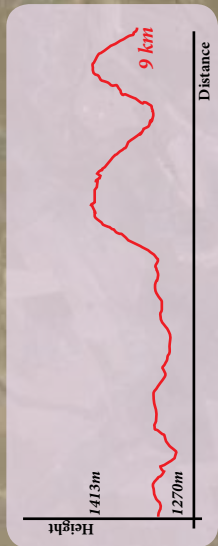
Akköy Pond

Güzelöz Road

Soğanlı (Yeniköy)

Soğanlı

Ballık Valley



Height

Distance

9 km

1270m

1413m

Route 31 Akköy-Keşlik-Erdemli (15 km)

Difficulty Level:3



Soğanlı Valley, Yeşilhisar

Those who wish to hike this route need to get to Akköy, which is 7 kilometers to Yeşilhisar district. You first photograph the pond on the highway on the lakeside of Akköy Dam Lake; then you walk northward from the pathway on the slopes of Yepelekli Hill. You enter the dirt road that comes your way when you get close to Keşlik Bağları and proceed northwestward. You give a short break at the pool formed by Ulugöl Creek, head toward north this time and reach Keşlik village. The impressive view of the rock settlement and the underground city captivates the travelers. The route follows the dirt road for a while at the exit of the settlement. After you refill your bottles at the fountain that you come across, enter the pathway you will see on your right. This route will pass through the foothills of the Akmezar, Kurtdağı, Büyüktavşandamı and Küçüktavşandamı hills and take you to Erdemli Valley. When you get close to the valley, you will turn left in the rocky area in front of you and go down to the streambed. When you get into the valley, you need to turn right. Rock churches, rock chambers and pigeon houses that spread to the slopes and attract attention with their adornments will color your trip. In this last part, you can explore all the details of Erdemli Valley. A vehicle that you will arrange in advance can take you from Erdemli village center.



Erdemli

İkikuyu

Karaönür

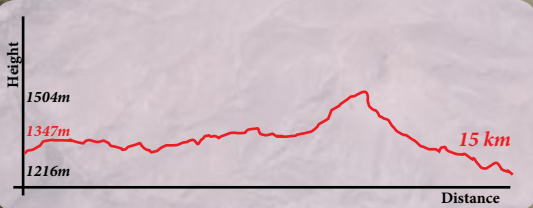
Keşlik

Akköy

Soğanlı-Yeşilhisar Road

Start of the Route

Akköy Pond



HIKING ROUTES in YAHYALI- ALADAĞLAR





Route 32
Bostanlık-Meryem Ana
Cave-Main Road
(5 km)

Difficulty Level:2

For this one-day hiking route, which remains within Aladağlar National Park, you first need to get to Hacer Forest signboard, located in the mid-point of Ulupınar-Kapuzbaşı road. From this point, walk for about 2,5 kilometers on the dirt road that goes to Hacer Pass in the direction of west. When you reach a sharp bend, take the narrow pathway that you will see on your left curling southward. After a short while, you will reach Meryem Ana Cave, located in the southwest of Deliktaş Hill. Considered sacred by the locals, the cave is still used for the rain prayer in periods of drought and due to the belief that it is good for some illnesses. After the cave visit, keep on hiking southward. The pathway that passes through the field walls will bring you again to Bostanlık location of Ulupınar-Kapuzbaşı road. This triple junction point is also the start of the dirt road that is used for reaching Acısu (Acıman) Plateau, within Adana borders.

Deliklikaya, Kapuzbaşı/Yahyalı





Ulupınar

Hacer Forest Signboard

Ulupınar-Kapuzbaşı Road

Bostanlık

Hacer Forest Road

Meryem Ana Cave



Route 33 Bozarmut-Güney Waterfall (5 km)

Difficulty Level:2

The route, which is a half-day activity for those who visit Aladağlar National Park, ends at Güneysu Waterfall, which is the least known and visited cascade of Kabuzbaşı Set of Waterfalls. The route starts at Bozarmut Plateau, which is accessed after you go for 9 kilometers from the new Acısu turning of Kapuzbaşı-Ulupınar road. We should mention that the vehicle road up to the start of the hike passes through a forested land. Your activity starts next to a house in the fields and enters a pathway. Almost all of the route involves a decline. The track, which meets with a creek in a while, continues to proceed along the waterfront. After about 1 kilometer, the pathway joins a dirt road. Right after that, you come across a pool at the meeting point of two creeks. The route, which lies in the forest texture, goes down to the streambed again and crosses a wooden bridge. When the first houses of Büyükçakır settlement come into view below you, the noise formed during the fall of Güneysu Waterfall will echo in your ears. The existence of family boarding houses and restaurants in the area where the waterfall is situated makes it possible for nature lovers to rest.





Kapuzbaşı-Ulupınar Road

Kapuzbaşı

Hotels

Güney Waterfall

Bozarmut



Route 34 Hamaylı-Divrik Mountain Summit-Hamaylı (5 km)

Difficulty Level:5

Divrik Mountain from Taştekné, Çamlıca/Yahyalı



Divrik Mountain, near Kapuzbaşı, has admirable magnificence with its giant 2537-meter bulk. This carstic and rocky mountain, which was separated from Aladağlar mass by deep valleys created by Barazama and Zamantı rivers, attracts mountaineers with its summit that lies alone. We should mention that those who want to try this route must be experienced nature lovers without fear of heights. You start the climb at Hamaylı location, which is about 6 kilometers to Kapuzbaşı. Hamaylı, which can be accessed by car from a dirt road, is a flat area located within a forest texture. The hike, which extends southward, first reaches Kurban Sekisi, and then İnlık location, used as a dry cottage cheese storehouse. When you come to the area called Takama by the locals, the track gets steeper. Climbing up the pass between two cliffs, the route reaches the highly sharp crest of the mountain. We suggest that you move carefully on the crest, which is always windy. Now, you will first proceed westward and try to reach the summit. We would like to remind you that we suggest only experienced mountaineers try this stage, which creates a sense of space and involves rock climbing by the help of hands in some places. The reward for those who climb the summit will be the awesome view that they will see in clear weather. Go back to the point where you started to climb the summit and by walking in the direction of east this time, reach Aşağı Ziyaret location, which is considered sacred for those living in the region. In the last part of the course, you start declining carefully on the same route, turn left at Kurban Sekisi location and go back to the starting point via Molla Mezarı.



Kapuzbaşı

Aşağı Ziyaret

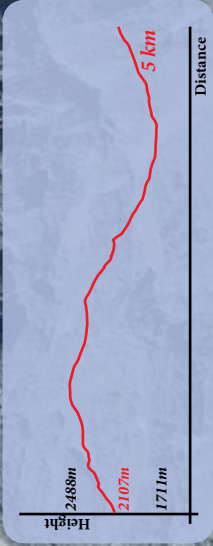
Crest

Divrik Mountain Summit

İnlük

Kapuzbaşı Road

Hamaylı



Route 35
Gücüksu Plateau-Emin
Kadı Bridge
(7 km)

Difficulty Level:3

The route, which involves one of the extant historical roads from the ancient period, passes across the western face of Aladağlar, which remains within the borders of Yahyalı district. You can reach the beginning of the track, which involves the plateaus such as Gökoluk and Gücüksu still used today, by car by using Yahyalı-Gökoluk-Maden road. The pathway that starts from Gücüksu, which is a big plateau, passes across a stone passage that functions as a gate and enters the route called 'Gavur Road' by the locals. You gradually ascend on the track, where you will see paved road walls a little ahead, and reach Çıracak Musa'nın Yurdu location first, and then a gateway. You can watch Zamantı basin and the view of Aladağlar from this region. Now, you will start descending and reach the location called Yaya Yolunun Dibi by the villagers. You continue your hike by turning right (southward). On your left transverse, you can see the dirt road that gets access between Çamlıca (Faraşa)-Ulupınar (Barazama). Gavur Road, which you follow, passes by Avradın Mezarı location and ends at Emin Kadı Bridge at the entrance point of Aksu Canyon.

Emin Kadı Bridge, Ulupınar/Yahyalı





Güçlüksu Plateau



Geleri



Aksu Canyon



Emin Kadı Bridge

Ulupınar-Çamlıca Road

Route 36
Emin Kadı Bridge-
Taştekne (Fire Tower)
(8 km)

Difficulty Level:3



One of the best examples of historical stone arch bridges within Kayseri provincial borders, Emin Kadı Bridge is on the old migration road. Rising from the slope of a rocky mountain, the historical road merges with Gavur Road, which comes from Gücüksu Plateau. After this point, continue northward for a while and start walking eastward at the region where you have reached a plain. In the last part of the route, you pass by Söğüt Çayırı location and get to Çamlıca-Ulupınar road at Taştekne (known as Taşoluk by the locals) location, near the forest fire tower, which watches the whole region.





Güçlüksu Plateau

Geleri

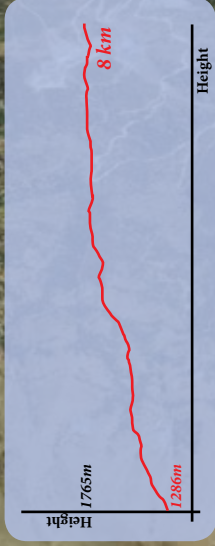


Taştekne

Ulupınar-Çamlıca Road

Aksu Canyon

Emin Kadi Bridge



Route 37
Gücüksu Plateau-
Taştekne (Fire Tower)
(8,5 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Another route, which starts from Gücüksu Plateau, is comprised of a different version of routes 35 and 36. In the first part, Gücüksu-Yaya Yolunun Dibi stage of Route 35 is followed. The last part consists of Söğüt Çayırı-Taştekne stage of Route 36.

Gökoluk Plateau, Yahyalı





Kürsüyan Plateau

Gökölük Plateau

Güçüksu Plateau

Çamlıca

Geliri

Aksu Canyon

Emin Kadı Bridge

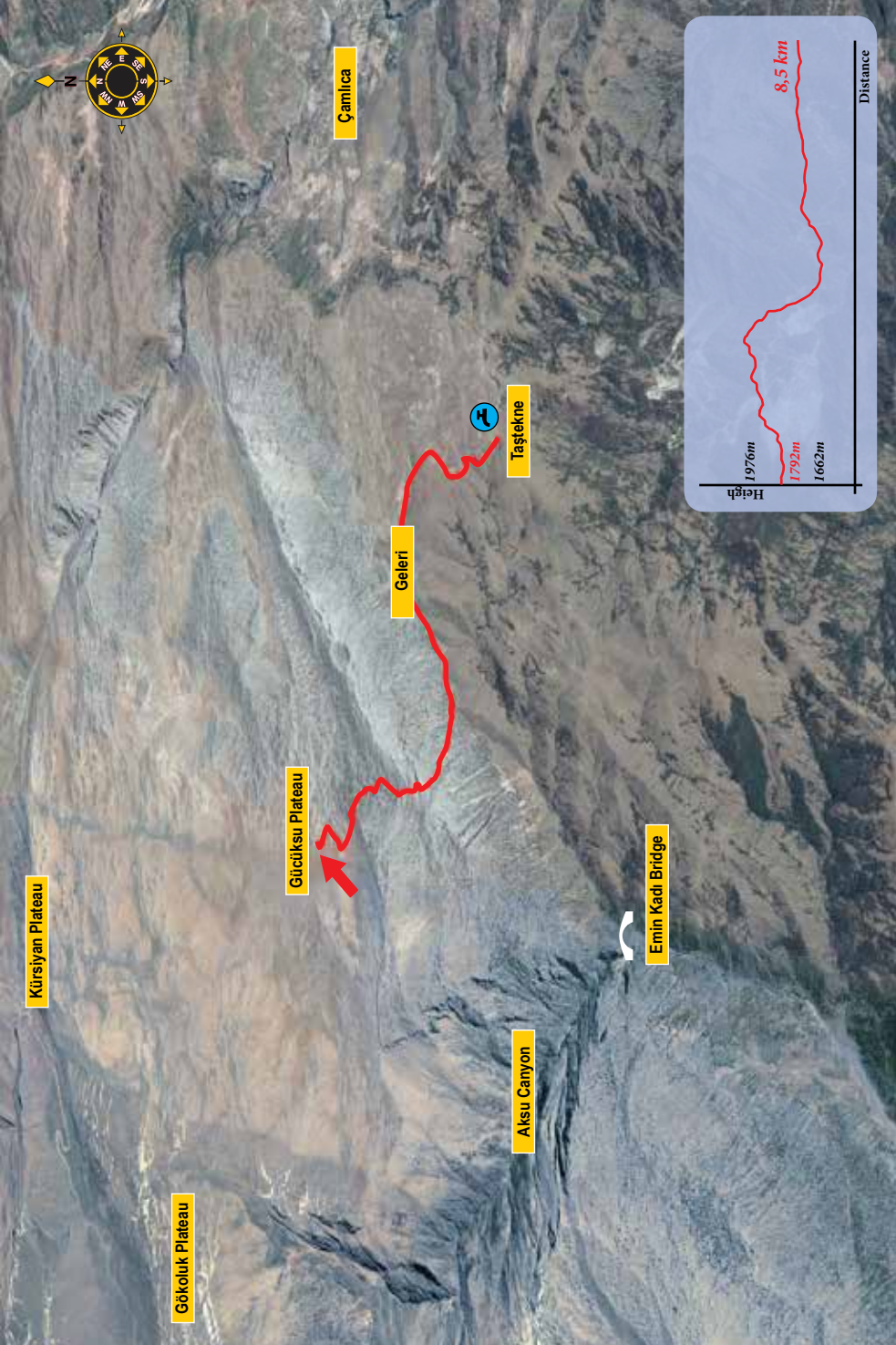
Taştekne

1976m
1792m
1662m

8,5 km

Distance

Height



Route 38
Çamlıca-Çavdaruşağı
(9 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Aladağ Trans Pass



Hiding in the nooks of Zamantı basin, Çamlıca village was once called Faraşa. The village was a miner settlement that has kept its importance since the ancient period with its historical values such as Meryem Ana Cave, citadel and the church that was turned into a mosque. The village center, which is about 38 kilometers to Yahyalı district, will be the starting point of your hiking activity. The pathway that you get connected from the southern exit of Çamlıca settlement proceeds in company with Zamantı River panorama on your left. The route, which joins the dirt road for a short time at Kocakoz location, turns into a pathway again and offers an enjoyable trip to its guests. After passing by Teknedere, Karagedik and Mandıra locations, you reach Kocadere Bridge. Here, another dam construction on Zamantı River and the pond will start to accompany you in your trip. Drawing a large arch from the feet of Çavdaruşağı Hill on your right, you get close to the river for a short while. Then, you cross a rocky pass and enter Çavdaruşağı village at the point where the dam pond ends.

Those who wish can go down to Zamantı River after Mandıra location, cross over at the point where the stone arch bridge is located, depending on the situation of the water, and follow the old Çamlıca-Yeşilköy migration road. The reward of this route will be the travertine bridge formation and the waterfall at Ziyaret location.



Çamlıca

Yeşilköy

Yeşilköy Waterfall

Kocadere Bridge

Çavdaruşağı

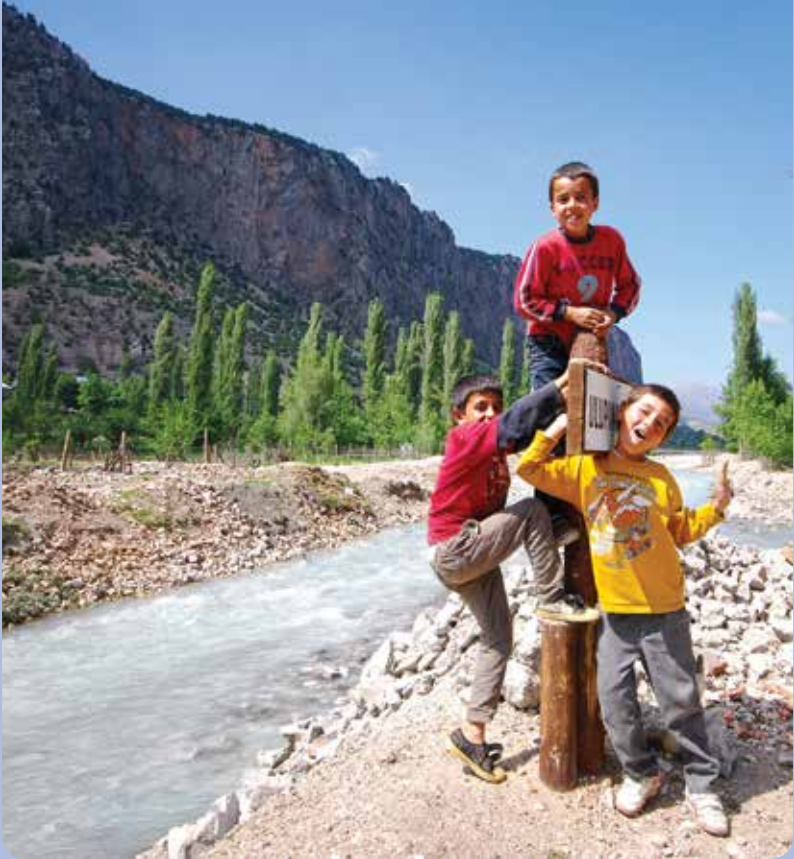


Route 39
Emin Kadı Bridge-
Ulupınar
(10 km)

Difficulty Level:2

Those who wish to hike this route have two options. The first one is to use the dirt road between Ulupınar and Çamlıca villages. This road, from which few vehicles pass, lies on a narrow valley surrounded by forested land. The second option is the pathway that proceeds through fields on the right side of Ulupınar Creek, which comes from Aksu Canyon. This activity, which everyone can easily do, passes from a relatively flat line that does not have much height variation.

Ulupınar Creek, Ulupınar/Yahyah

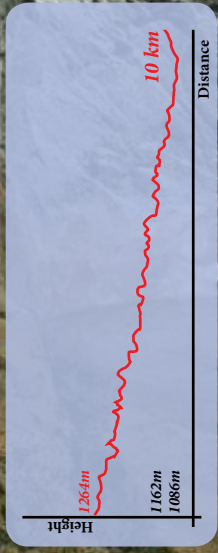




Emin Kadi Bridge



Ulupinar



Route 40
Geleri-Kayapınarı-
Çamlıca
(10 km)

Difficulty Level:2



The beginning of the route is Geleri location of Çamlıca village of Yahyalı district. To access this point, you first need to get to Taştekné turning near the forest fire tower and then reach Geleri plain by turning right. Also called Taştekné or Osman Gedik Fountain, Geleri is a wide prairie. When you follow the pathway that lies northeastward, you will reach Kurugöl location by intersecting the dirt road you will come across after a short while. Right after that, the route will head toward east and you will start descending from an area partly covered with oak trees. The dirt road below that comes into view gets access between Çamlıca and Ulupınar. When you get to the road, you can turn left and walk to Çamlıca village, the rooftops of which you will notice from above.

Çamlıca, Yahyalı





Yahyalı Road

Çamlıca

Ulupınar Road

Taştekne

Geleri



Route 41
Mezarın Gediği-Belen-
Büyükçakır
(10 km)

Difficulty Level:2

One of the one-day hiking routes near Kapuzbaşı, the track can easily be hiked by everyone. Those who want to start the hike need to get to Mezarın Gediği location by following the direction of Kapuzbaşı-Köristan-Hamaylı. You will go out of the road, start walking on the pathway and follow the direction of east up to Yelli Belen. In the area you have arrived, you can watch the splendid view of the valley, given life by Zamantı River. The route, which heads southward, will take you downhill with a mild inclination in company with Zamantı panorama. When you reach Kefen Beleni, the route will turn into a dirt road and you will get to Tolu Keleri after you pass by Avzanata location. After you photograph the ancient building and the Roman grave at this point, you can go on. You can reach Büyükçakır village, the red-tiled houses of which you see below, with an easy walking tempo.





Divrik Mountain Summit

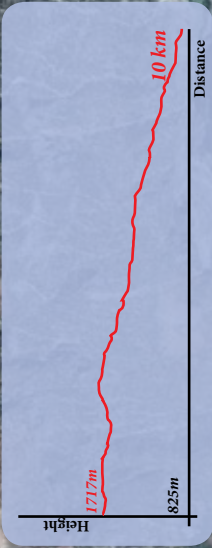
Mezarın Gediği

Yelli Belen

Kapuzbaşı

Tolu Keleri/Roman Grave

Büyükçakır



Route 42
Kapuzbaşı-Karanlıkdere-
Köristan-Kapuzbaşı
(10 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls, Yahyalı



The route, all of which is comprised of a dirt road, starts in Kapuzbaşı settlement at an altitude of 840 meters, climbs up to 1540 meters, draws a large circle and goes back to the starting point. Let us mention that the forest road is not very much preferred by vehicles. First of all, you walk from the village and get to Hatçe Öldüğü junction point. Then, the route, which ascends up to Çayır Gediği via Karanlıkdere and Takada following the road on the left, starts declining from Köristan-Boğazın Pınar-Çatılı Taş locations and goes back to Hatçe Öldüğü.

Elif Waterfall, Kapuzbaşı/Yahyalı





Route 43
Zebil-Zebil'in Üstü-
Dömbere
(10 km)

Difficulty Level:3

Hacer Pass, Ulupınar/Yahyalı



The route, which includes Zebil Cave, another historical place near Çamlıca village of Yahyalı district, takes place in the part of Yahyalı-Çamlıca road that passes through Zamantı Valley. The starting point of the route is the cropland right up the road. There is a waterfall that is called with the same name and that partially dries up in the summer months in the region, which is called Zebil Hill in the map. The pathway you will follow ascends in the direction of northwest and gets to Zebil'in Kapısı location. If you walk to the right from the junction point, namely to the north, you can reach Zebil. It is a good idea to have a local guide or someone who knows the region with you. The area where the cave is located is rocky and risky. From the point you have come from, you can see the water spring that forms the waterfall and the Roman inscription on the rocks. When you go back to the junction point that you left a little while ago, you will walk toward northwest and get to a rocky hill. The region, where there are a large number of columns and building remains, was probably used as a settlement area in the ancient period. From here you can feast eyes on Zamantı Valley. When you keep on walking after a short break, you will first head toward east and then turn south when you come across a dirt road. Your hike, which you continue on pathways in places, will get to a small valley plain. When you come to an old graveyard (kōristan) after you pass by Çatal Armut location, it means you have arrived at Dömbere Plateau. The dirt road that comes from the east will take you to Çamlıca or Yahyalı.



Ceviz-Dömbere Road

Zebil Üstü

Zebil

Zebil Road

Çamlıca-Yahyalı Road

Dömbere



Route 44
Taştekne-Hamaylı
(11 km)

Difficulty Level:3



The pathway marked as 'Çakır Road' on the maps is the mule road that Kapuzbaşı villagers once used to get to the open market in Yahyalı district. The hike, which starts from Taştekne location near Çamlıca village, lies along the crest in the direction of south and southwest. The track, which proceeds on the slopes of Çatalçam, Balaban and Kurtasıldı hills, offers its travelers a view that sees Zamantı and Ulupınar valleys. Then, you enter the pathway, pass by At İzinin Sırtı location and reach Çatalçam crest on the right below, used by transhumants. Unfortunately, Çavuş'un Oluğu Fountain, which you will come across soon, does not flow in the summer months. After that, you arrive at a narrow passage point called Deve Deyiği by the locals. The track, which lies in a forested land in Elmanın Gedik region, joins the dirt road at Küçük Kurt Asıldığı location. After following the road for a while, you head to the pathway that continues on the right at Büyük Kurt Asıldığı location, where there is a wrecked building, Mezarın Gediği, where you reach after about a half-hour hike, is a junction point where we join a dirt road. You can get to Kapuzbaşı settlement via Büyükçakır if you turn left or via Hamaylı if you turn right. You choose the right side and finish your activity at Hamaylı location on the western foot of Divrik Mountain.



Çamlıca

Taştekne



Geleri

Ulupınar-Çamlıca Road

Elmanın Gediği

Küçük Kurt Aslıdığı

Mezarın Gediği

Hamaylı

Emin Kadi Bridge

Aksu Canyon



Route 45
Aksu Canyon (Gökoluk
Plateau-Canyon-Emin
Kadı Bridge)
(12 km)

Difficulty Level:4

Aksu Canyon, Ulupınar/Yahyalı



Those who wish to try Aksu Canyon Route, which is one of the most pleasurable tracks of Kayseri hiking routes, should prefer summer and fall months. The water level in the spring months might pose a serious danger, so beware. The recommended hike starts at the mosque in Gökoluk Plateau, which is 30 kilometers to Yahyalı district, and continues southward. You first enter Çanakçı (Dereyurdukapızı) Creek Valley and reach Aksu Creek conjunction, which comes from the east. At the point where there are a few rundown buildings, you turn west, cross the wooden bridge and get to Çardağınbaşı (Fertekler) location, where the valley gets wider. At the joint of two valleys where you will see old plateau houses and beehives, you head toward south again and enter Aksu Canyon. The pathway that goes right in the area where you are is also the beginning of the old migration road that goes to Ulupınar. The valley between 1614-meter Bozkaya and 2404-meter Uçağaç hills turns into a canyon with rock walls getting higher and higher. After a while, you come across Kurukapız Creek, which comes from the right. Let us remind you that in this part of the route, you will have to walk in the water. The rocky slopes surrounded by juniper, pine and spruce trees will sometimes block your view of the sky. You will pass by the locations called Odaklar and Sapakorum by the locals and reach Emin Kadı Bridge at the exit of the canyon after a tough hike.



Yahyalı Road

Gökölük Plateau



Wooden Bridge

Çardağınbaşı

Emin Kadi Bridge

Aksu Canyon

Ulupınar-Çamlıca Road



Route 46
Gökoluk Plateau
(Maden)-Ceviz-Dömbere
(13 km)

Difficulty Level:3

The starting point of the route, a part of which passes through the valley and the other part from a flat area, is Suna Plateau on Yahyalı-Gökoluk Plateau road. The hike starts by entering the dirt road that goes toward southwest. After about a half-hour hike, you leave the dirt road and enter a valley. Passing through Horoz and Sırçak mountains, the valley is located in a barren and rocky region. In the part of the valley which relatively gets wider between Deliktaş and Ceviz hills, you will notice a large meadow on your right. This hamlet, where there is also a Roman graveyard, is used by the villagers in the summer months. You will head to the left and follow the pathway that climbs north. When you get to the plain, you can photograph a wide Aladağlar view including the valley through which you hiked a little while ago. In the moorland between rocks, which is called Elma Çukuru in the map, you will hike for about 4 kilometers and reach Dömbere. Since there is a dirt road that gets to this area, where there is an old settlement, you have the chance to go back to Yahyalı or Çamlıca settlement by car.

Aladağlar from Gökoluk Plateau, Yahyalı





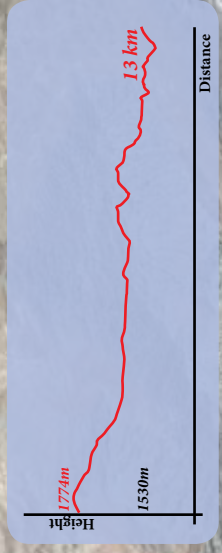
Yahyalı-Gökoluk (Maden) Road



Dömbere



Ceviz Roman Grave





HIKING ROUTES INVOLVING CAMPING

Yedigöller Plateau, Yahyalı



Route 47: Acısu Road-Bozarmut-Güney Waterfall (14 km)

Acısu (Acıman) Plateau, which remains within the borders of Adana province, can be accessed via two different routes from Kayseri-Kapuzbaşı settlement. The new dirt road that passes through a forested land which is under the domination of pine and spruce trees is in near distance to Kapuzbaşı. You can plan the hike as a two-day activity during which you camp at Bozarmut Plateau. The route, which is entirely a dirt road up to Bozarmut turning, involves an ascent of about 400 meters. You enter the pathway in the plateau and start descending. The route ends in front of Güney Waterfall in Büyükçayır settlement.

Route 48: Kapuzbaşı-Köristan-Hamaylı-Mezarın Gediği-Büyükçakır (19 km)

The camping area of this two-day activity is Mezarın Gediği location. The route, which is a dirt road up to this part, continues as a pathway that descends starting from Mezarın Gediği. The track, which turns into a dirt road again at Kefen Beleni location, gets to Büyükçakır village in company with the view of Zamantı Valley.

Route 49: Kapuzbaşı-Karanlıkdere-Hamaylı-Divrik Mountain-Hamaylı-Köristan (20 km)

All of this route, which is one of the two-day activities involving camping around Kapuzbaşı, proceeds on a dirt road in forested land. You can choose Hamaylı region as the camping area. This is a hiking activity that everyone can easily try.

Route 50: Sarıgöl-Aksu Fountain (22 km)

The stop over area of the first day of the route, almost all of which involves a descent with a slight inclination, is Ortataş or Kartınardı location. It is a good idea to have enough water supply, depending on the season.

Route 51: Sarıgöl-Tekir Pond (22 km)

The route, which starts from Sarıgöl just like Route 50, can be planned as a two-day activity involving camping. Again, you can choose Ortataş or Kartınardı region for camping. We recommend the route, the first day of which involves a descent and the second day of which involves a climb with a slight inclination, to experienced hikers.

Route 52: Derbentbaşı-Güzelöz-Soğanlı Valley-Soğanlı-Akköy-Keşlik-Erdemli (42 km)

The route, which covers the most beautiful valleys of Cappadocia region that are within Kayseri borders, is also a mysterious trip taken to the past with its rock churches and settlements. You can plan the three-day hiking activity in a way to stop over in Güzelöz and Soğanlı.

Route 53: Gökoluk Plateau (Maden)-Aksu Canyon-Emin Kadı Bridge-Geleri-Akgeven-Ceviz-Suna Plateau (33 km)

The most important feature of this route, during which you can prefer Emin Kadı Bridge and Ceviz region as camping areas, is that it passes through two deep valleys. The route, which entirely covers Aksu Canyon on the first day, involves a rela-

tive descent. The track, which ascends for a good part of the second day, lies along the valley in Ceviz region on the last day and gets to Suna Plateau. Let us mention that you won't have a water problem along the way.

Route 54: Aladağlar Trans Pass (Demirkazık-Yedigöller-Ulupınar) (35 km)

One of the most hiked routes in our country, Aladağlar trans pass can be planned as a four-day activity, three nights of which involve camping. As the starting point of the route, you can choose either Demirkazık or Çukurbağ village of Çamardı district of Niğde. You can finish the first day, during which you will take an easy hike, by camping in Sokullupınar. On the second day, you will enter Karayalak Valley, cross the passage called 'kapi' (gate) by mountaineers through narrowing rocks and get to Çelikbuyduran location. Those who wish can climb the 3723-meter Emler summit in the north and watch Aladağ summits and Yedigöller Plateau. You can spend the night by putting up a tent at the side of Büyük Lake, which is on the foot of Direktaş Hill. On the third day, a tough and gradually descending hike that crosses Hacer Pass is waiting for you. You can finish this tiring day by camping at Soğukpınar. On the last day, the old pathway that passes through a forested land will take its travelers to Ulupınar.

Route 55: Suna Plateau (Maden Road)-Ceviz-Akgeven-Taşteknne-Hamaylı-Kapuzbaşı (37 km)

This route, which Kapuzbaşı and surrounding villages once used to go to the open market in Yahyalı district, is also a historical migration road. The route can be planned as a three-day activity, by camping at Rota, Ceviz and Hamaylı locations. You can hike Suna Plateau-Ceviz stage through the valley on the first day, Ceviz-Hamaylı and Hamaylı-Kapuzbaşı courses on the second and third day respectively.

Hacer Pass, Yahyalı

Route 56: Kürsiyan Plateau (Maden Road)-Gücüksu-Geleri-Taştekn-Hamaylı-Kapuzbaşı (40 km)

A different version of Route 55, the track follows the same course after Geleri location. When you consider Geleri and Hamaylı as the camping areas, the route can be easily completed in three days.

Route 57: Gökoluk Plateau (Maden)-Aksu Valley-Hasta Hocanın Plateau-Yedigöller-Demirkazık Village (42 km)

The route we will recommend is in fact a different Aladağlar trans pass route. You first get to Yedigöller plateau in the direction of north-south, and then you turn west and arrive at Demirkazık village. Normally, this track is a four-day activity involving camping in Aksu Valley, Hasta Hocanın Plateau and Çelikbuyduran. The beginning of the route is Gökoluk Plateau of Yahyalı district. You go down to Aksu Valley from the plateau, head toward west and walk to the source of Aksu Creek. After spending the night in the valley, you walk toward Akçay plateaus on the second day. Then you head toward south and proceed along the feet of Teke Kalesi Mountain. The right side of the point where you cross the pass is Çağılınbaşı Pass. You will go down to Hasta Hocanın Lake below, which winks at you in blue. You can spend the second day at the banks of this beautiful lake. On the third day, you ascend toward Yedigöller plateau, where you will see many lakes, depending on the season. Without question, the star of this area is Büyük Lake, which mesmerizes those who see it. After the break at the plateau, you turn westward, walk to Çelikbuyduran location and finish the third day. On the last day, you can traverse Karayalak Valley and arrive in Demirkazık village of Çamardı district of Niğde via Sokullupınar.

Route 58: Gökoluk Plateau (Maden)-Aksu Canyon-Teke Citadel-Hasta Hocanın Plateau-Yedigöller-Hacer Pass-Ulupınar (44 km)

The feature of this route, which is another version of Route 57, is that it starts within Kayseri borders, enters Niğde borders with Yedigöller plateau, and finishes in Kayseri borders again at the last stage. The route, which follows the same track as Route 57 up to Yedigöller, turns right from here, heads toward east and goes down to Ulupınar via Hacer Pass. Aksu Valley, Hasta Hocanın Plateau and Soğukpınar can be considered as the camping areas. The nature lovers who are confident and in good shape can complete this hiking trail in 4 days.

Route 59: Erciyes Circle (Hotels-Sarıgöl-Tekir Pond) (46 km)

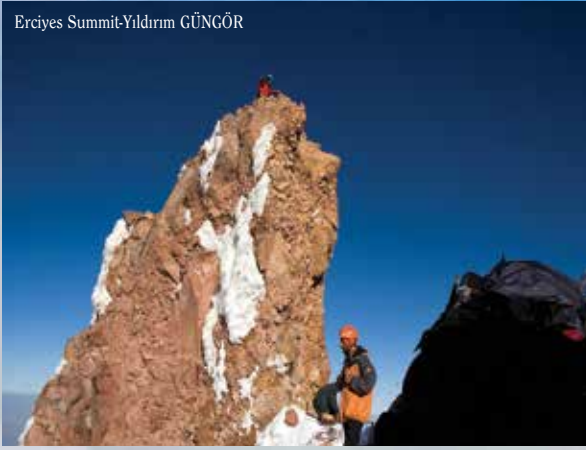
You can complete this route, which starts from Hotels location in Erciyes region and draws a large circle around Mount Erciyes, in 4 days. The track can be planned to hike Hisarcık Gate-Hitit Tepe stage on the first day, Hitit Tepe-Sarıgöl on the second day, Sarıgöl-Ortataş on the third day and Ortataş-Tekir Pond routes on the last day.

Route 60: Ulupınar-Aksu Canyon-Aksu Creek Spring-Teke Citadel-Hasta Hocanın Plateau-Yedigöller-Hacer Pass-Ulupınar (57 km)

The longest of Kayseri hiking tracks, this route draws a large arch, starting from Ulupınar village. This activity, during which you can explore the summits and glacial lakes of Aladağlar mass, can be completed in 5 days. You can put up a tent at Emin Kadı Bridge, Aksu Creek Spring, Hasta Hocanın Plateau and Soğukpınar locations.



Erciyes Summit-Yıldırım GÜNGÖR



MOUNT ERCİYES SUMMIT CLIMB ROUTES

Erciyes Summit Climb-Yıldırım GÜNGÖR



For the summit climb, the starting point is Tekir Plateau from the eastern face of the mountain and Sütöndüran Plateau from the northern slope. For both climbs, you can use different route options such as Glacier, Snow-Ice, Şeytan Boğazı, Crest and Left Lane.

NORTHERN CLIMB

To climb Mount Erciyes from the northwestern side, you first need to reach Sütöndüran Plateau, which is at an altitude of 2700 meters, via Hacilar district. Between Hacilar and Sütöndüran Plateau is a dirt road which is about 20 kilometers long. You have the chance to set up a camp in the region where the mountain hut in Sütöndüran Plateau is located. For a climb from this point, you can choose between Glacier and Snow-Ice routes, both of which are 12-hour activities.

a) Glacier Route

From the camp area, you first aim the lower region of Tarak Kayalar (Tarak Rocks) and reach the starting point of the glaciers. After a short break, you prepare the necessary equipment and start climbing. You pass through Tarak Kayalar and reach the summit with a tough and careful climb. The way back is usually via Snow-Ice route. Since the track is covered with snow and ice for 12 months, training and technical equipment are necessary in these climbs. The climb must be in company with an experienced guide. Generally, technical equipment is used during climbs. This is a steep and tough route compared to others. It is a track that is preferred for training purposes by the mountaineers who will climb high summits abroad.

b) Snow-Ice Route

From the camp site, you arrive at the location that is the beginning of the climbing point and called 'Kahvaltı Kayası' (Breakfast Rock) by the mountaineers. After the short break and breakfast here, you start climbing. Then, you reach the division point of the two routes that will merge above after a while. The first one is the classical route on the right that passes through the masses of two rocks; the other one is a tough and rugged route on the left that reminds of a steep slope. Since it is risky, we don't recommend the route on the left to those who do not have enough training and equipment. Both routes merge after the crest-shaped rock mass and the climb continues on a scree ground. You take a break when you come between Erciyes and Little Erciyes summits. Then, you take the big summit to your left and reach a cave by a horizontal climb via a pathway and on scree ground in places. It is said that this cave was a church used for religious purposes. You walk for a short time and arrive at a rocky area. At this location, you rock climb with a rope for about 15 meters and climb the main summit of 3917-meter Mount Erciyes. Those who wish can try the little summit climb later on. Depending on the season, you can use the same route for the decline if the surface of the glacier is soft. If the surface is hard, you can prefer the western face of the mountain and go down to Sütöndüran Plateau, which is the starting point.

EASTERN CLIMB

Those who want to try climbing from the eastern face of Mount Erciyes need to get to Ski Center-Hotels (2150 m) region in Tekir Plateau. The second target point is

Dağevi, located in the 2nd station region and accessed by cableway or on foot; or Çoban İni camp site, at an altitude of 3100 meters. Those who will hit the top via the Crest route generally prefer Dağevi; those who will use Şeytan Boğazı and Left Lane routes prefer Çoban İni camp site. Access to the camp site on foot takes 3 hours from Tekir Plateau and 1 hour from Dağevi.

a) Şeytan Boğazı Route

This route, which lies in the shape of a strait, is quite steep and difficult compared to other tracks. During winter climbs, technical equipment, training and a guide are necessary. There is a risk of avalanche. In summer climbs, it is recommended that you hike with a guide for such reasons as steepness, fall of rocks and scree ground. From Şeytan Boğazı route, you directly go up to the little summit crest and reach the little summit from there in about 30 minutes. With a 20 or 30-minute hike from the little summit, you reach the big summit. The top of Erciyes is a 15-meter-high rock mass in the shape of a tower. Below this mass is a cave that connects the eastern and northern climbing routes with each other. You will need technical equipment support in order to climb the rocky summit, a part of which creates a sense of space. Those who hit the top via Şeytan Boğazı usually go back from the same route. Those who do not wish to walk the same route can go down using Left Lane or Crest route.

b) Left Lane (Nesrin Topkapı) Route

Left Lane is on the left of Şeytan Boğazı route, which is in the south. There are three options to reach the summit from the Hörgüç Kaya location, where this route, which is less risky compared to Şeytan route in terms of the risk of rock falls and avalanche, merges with Crest route. You can either cross over Hörgüç Kaya by partial rock climbing or go up to the little summit crest by declining a little from its front or behind and then ascending again. You can determine your route depending on the state of snow and ice. The passage behind Hörgüç Kaya is the safest route although it has disadvantages such as scree ground and long distance. The mountaineers climbing from this route usually prefer Şeytan Boğazı route on their way back because it is shorter.

c) Crest Route

This is the longest route to the summit but it is less risky in the summer months. You gain elevation by hiking along the crest that surrounds Üçker Basın. After each hill you crest, another one comes, but you persistently keep on going to reach Hörgüç Kaya and merge with Left Lane track. Crest route should not be preferred in the winter months due to the strong wind and blizzard.

ERCIYES TRANS PASS

Those who choose to climb from the directions of east or north can go down to the other side of the mountain by facing up to a 14-hour hike. For the trans pass, it will suffice to cross to the other side through the cave you reach after the summit and choose one of the recommended routes.⁴

⁴Mount Erciyes Summit Climb Routes part was prepared by Ahmet BAKTIR.



Üçtepeler

Tekir Pond

Base Camp

Hisarcık Gate

Tekir Plateau

Kayseri-Develi Road

Hacılar Gate



Dikkartın Hill

Erciyes Summit

Erciyes Little Summit

Base Camp

Sütdonduran



BICYCLE ROUTES



Yamula Dam Lake, Çevril/Kocasinan

Kayseri city center's being on a relatively flat plain causes cycling in the city to become widespread. Since cycling groups use the routes in the city, the Metropolitan Municipality contributes to the development of this sport with the implementation of bike lanes on the streets and parking spaces. In a region where there is such a potential, we mostly specified routes for mountain bike lovers. Kayseri bicycle routes amount to 2382 kilometers in total over 27 different routes that use district and village roads and the dirt roads between plateaus in general. On all tracks, you can use mountain and city bikes. You can get the details of downhill or singletrack routes in Erciyes region from the website of Erciyes Inc., www.kayserierciyes.com.tr.



FOR A SAFE BICYCLE TRIP

- Before you set off, make sure you have had your bicycle serviced to check if there is a breakdown.
- Obey the traffic rules.
- Make sure to use a bicycle helmet. Choose the most fitting helmet for your head.
- Do not start your journey before adjusting the saddle of your bicycle to the suitable level. The wrong saddle height causes you to get more tired while riding your bike.
- The crushed stones on the wayside are as dangerous for bikes as they are for cars.
- Water is vital for bikers. By consuming water along the way, regain the water that your body has lost.
- Prefer lightweight outfits that exude sweat. Bicycle gloves and sweat bands are very convenient accessories. Bicycle gloves and sweat bands are very useful accessories. Keep a poncho, waterproof pants, a windstopper and a lightweight polar fleece jacket with you.
- Make sure you leave a safe stopping distance with the vehicles in front of you. At intersections, give a signal by raising your hand towards the direction to which you are turning.
- There will certainly be slopes on long courses. Going uphill with the right gear is important in terms of exerting your power in a controlled way.
- Do not hesitate to use your horn or buzzer in case of danger in order to give the necessary warning.

Yamula Dam Lake, Kuşçu/Kocasinan



LONG-DISTANCE BICYCLING

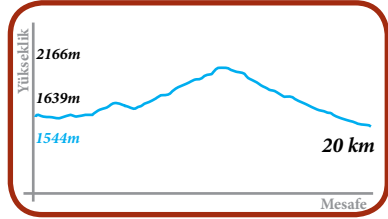
- Arrange the inside of your bicycle bag taking the balance into consideration. An unbalanced bag will discomfort you during your ride.
- Make sure you have a spare inner tube, a small pump, a chain remover, an allen wrench and a tube of jell that enables the bicycle ride a little longer after a blowout.
- A bike lock is a must in long-distance bicycling.
- Consume light foods that give energy (chocolate, biscuits, dried nuts and fruits). To increase your resistance, keep vitamin pills and muscle relaxants with you at all times against possible cramps.
- If you are going to ride at night, prefer clothing that reflect in the light. You can use auxiliary accessories that will help you to be noticed, such as a cats eye.
- Bicycle glasses will both protect your eyes from sunlight and prevent small pieces of scattering stones from harming your eyes.
- The most important things that you need to have at all times in a long-distance bike trip are a map and documents that contain route information.



BICYCLE ROUTES

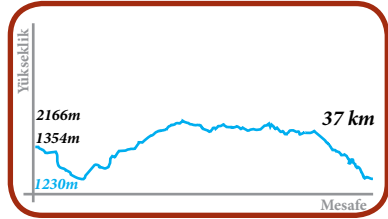
Route 1: Kızık-Gereme-Aksu Picnic Area (20 km)

The entire route is a dirt road. The route, which starts at 1639 meters and climbs to an altitude of 2166 meters, is completed in Aksu picnic area, at 1544 meters at the last stage. The historical location of the route is Gereme ruins. Between Kızık and Zambık is uphill; it is downhill afterwards.



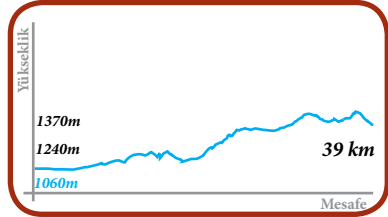
Route 2: Develi-Kızık-Gereme-Aksu Picnic Area-Develi (37 km)

On this route, which can be considered the longer version of the previous track, between Develi-Kızık and Aksu Picnic Area-Develi is asphalt; the remaining part is a dirt road. Starting at 1230 meters, the route climbs to a height of 2166 meters and goes back to the starting point. Let us remind you that Kızık turning-Kızık-Gereme-Zambık stage is uphill.



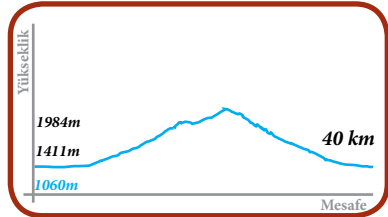
Route 3: Central Kayseri-Germir-Tavlusun-Talas-Hisarçık-Hacılar (39 km)

The route, which we will recommend to those who like cycling in the city, starts in the city center, which is at 1060 meters, and ends in Hacılar district center, which is located at an altitude of 1370 meters. The route, all of which is asphalt, goes by historical settlements such as Germir, Tavlusun and Talas.



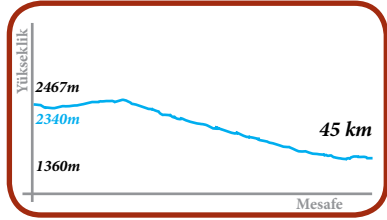
Route 4: Central Kayseri-Hisarçık-Hacılar-Central Kayseri (40 km)

The route, whose starting point is the city center (1060 m), climbs to a height of 1984 meters via the asphalt road used to get access to Mount Erciyes. The route, which turns right from Hacılar Kapı turning and goes by Hacılar district center, gets back to the starting point. The second part is almost entirely downhill. The entire route proceeds on an asphalt road.



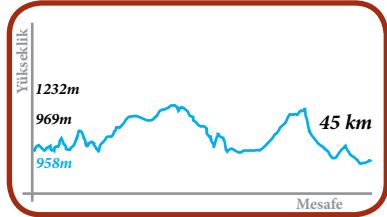
Route 5: Hacılar-Sarıgöl-Kızılören-Hacılar (45 km)

The first stage of the track, which we will recommend to bikers in shape, starts from Hacılar district center, which is at 1360 meters, and climbs to Sarıgöl, at 2340 meters. In the second part, you will go downhill until Kızılören and then you will return to Hacılar from the asphalt that has slight descents and ascents. Between Kum Ocağı-Sarıgöl-Kızılören stage is a dirt road; the other parts are asphalt.



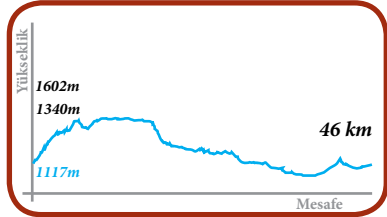
Route 6: Tekgöz Bridge-Yuvalı-Bayramhacı-Avanos (45 km)

The route, which starts from Tekgöz Bridge and follows Kızılırmak River up to Avanos district of Nevşehir, has two ramps, one of which climbs to a height of 1232 meters. You climb to Yuvalı village from Tekgöz Bridge, which is at an altitude of 969 meters, and then start declining toward Bayramhacı village. You can see rock settlements along the way. Then you hit Avanos road and after a short ramp, you go down to Avanos district, located at 958 meters, almost without pedalling.



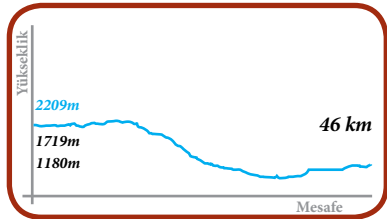
Route 7: Yeşilhisar-Erdemli-Gülbayır-Kavakköy-Güzelöz-Soğanlı-Akköy-Kaleköy-Yeşilhisar (46 km)

This special area, which remains within Kayseri borders of Cappadocia region, is known for its historical structures and lush valleys. The exit point of the activity is Yeşilhisar district, which is located at a height of 1117 meters. The track, which goes uphill at the exit of Gülbayır village, climbs up to a height of 1602 meters. The last part of the track, on which you will come across fountains and settlements, involves a decline until Soğanlı.



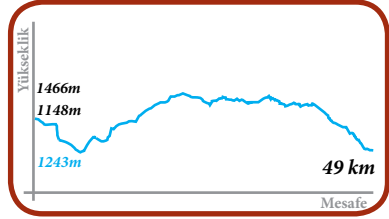
Route 8: Tekir Pond-Zincidere-Endürlük-Hisarçık (46 km)

Tekir Pond-Zincidere part of the route, on which you can watch the view of Mount Erciyes and Kayseri city center from the crests of Koç Mountain, is a dirt road. You set off at an altitude of 2209 meters and go down to Endürlük settlement, at 1180 meters. In the last stage, you need to go up on an asphalt road until Hisarçık.



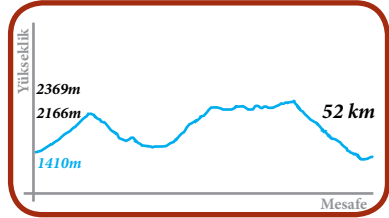
Route 9: Ağırnas-Bağpınar-Gesi-Gürpınar-Kuruköprü-Başakpınar-Talas (49 km)

The route, which starts from Ağırnas, the birth place of Master Mimar Sinan, begins at an altitude of 1243 meters and finishes at 1148 meters. The highest point of the track, all of which is asphalt, is 1466 meters.



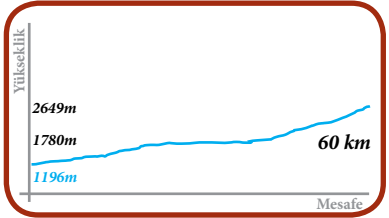
Route 10: Hacılar-Sarıgöl-Kızık-Aksu Picnic Area (Singletrack) (52 km)

This route, on which you use the plateau and village roads around Erciyes, involves a stony and dusty course. The first stage is a ramp that starts at 1410 meters, extends to Sarıgöl, at 2369 meters and requires quite a performance. Then, you will carefully go down to Kızık village, located at a height of 1639 meters. In the last stage, you will climb up to Zambık location, at 2166 meters, and then go down to Aksu picnic area, at 1544 meters.



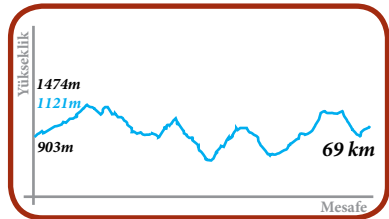
Route 11: Yahyalı-Gökoluk Plateau-Delikkaya Maden-Yahyalı (60 km)

This route, on which you will cross the most beautiful plateaus of Yahyalı district, climbs to the northeastern hills of Aladağlar mass. The last part of the track, which is asphalt starting from Yahyalı district, until Gökoluk Plateau, is a dirt road until the mine. You can freshen with the spring waters that come from the mountains during your climb to the plateau, which is at an altitude of 2649 meters.



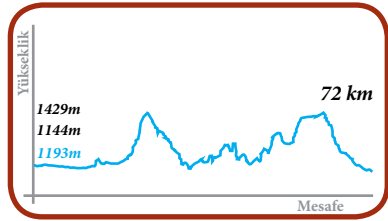
Route 12: Yahyalı-Çamlıca-Yeşilköy-Delialıuşağı-Dikme-Yahyalı (69 km)

The route, a good part of which follows Zamantı River, draws a large circle and returns to Yahyalı district, which is the starting point. Çamlıca Turning-Çamlıca-Yeşilköy part of the track, on which you will go uphill for 300 meters at the most, is a dirt road; the remaining part is asphalt. The route starts at a height of 1121 meters and at one stage, it goes down to 903 meters. Its highest point is Dikme village, at 1474 meters. Let us remind you that short descents and ascents are waiting for you from time to time.



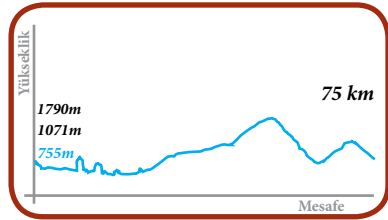
Route 13: Kültepe-Akın-Kuşçu-Yamula Dam Lake-Çevril-Taşhan-Emmiler-Erkilet (72 km)

The reward for those who want to try the route will be the natural and historical locations involving Kültepe ruins, Yamula Dam Lake and rock settlements. You start pedalling from Kültepe turn (1193 meters) of Kayseri-Sivas road. You first climb to a height of 1429 meters, and then go down to the dam lake which is at 1096 meters. The track, which turns into a dirt road at Kuşçu settlement, continues in company of a lake view, with slight descents and ascents that do not bother bikers. In the last part, you go up to the highest point of the route (1429 meters) and then, without even needing to pedal, you start declining toward Erkilet, located at an altitude of 1144 meters.



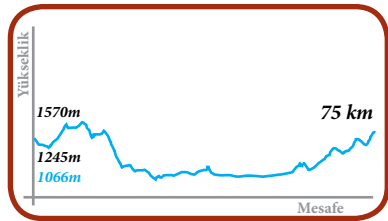
Route 14: Kapuzbaşı-Ulupınar-Çamlıca-Yeşilköy-Çavdaruşağı-Büyükçakır-Kapuzbaşı (75 km)

This time, you start from Kapuzbaşı settlement, draw a large circle from the south of Çamlıca and Yeşilköy villages and return to the point you started pedalling. Ulupınar-Çamlıca-Yeşilköy stage of the road is dirt; the remaining part is asphalt. From Kapuzbaşı (755 m), where you sit on the saddle of your bicycle, you start ascending and climb to the height of 1790 meters, where the forest fire observation hut is located. The remaining part of the track involves a descent until Kapuzbaşı village.



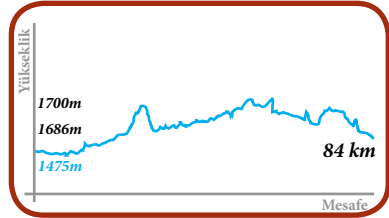
Route 15: Hacılar-Kızılören-İncesu-Yeşilhisar-Soğanlı (75 km)

Everyone who likes longtime bicycle activities can try this route, which does not have many ramp climbs. The reward of the track, all of which is an asphalt road, is the rock settlements and churches located in Soğanlı Valley.



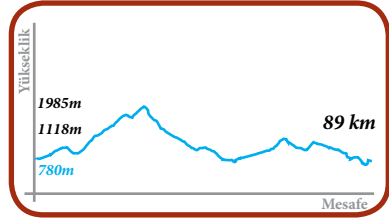
Route 16: Pazarören-Cinahmet-Kurttepe-Arslanbeyli-Artmak-Mezgıtlı-Değirmentaş-Küçük Kabaktepe-Büyük Kabaktepe-Eğrisöğüt-Pınarbaşı (84 km)

There are no remarkable ramps on this bicycle track, which follows a historical route. Only Mezgıtlı-Değirmentaş part of the track, which goes between the heights of 1475-1700 meters, is a dirt road; the other parts are asphalt village roads.



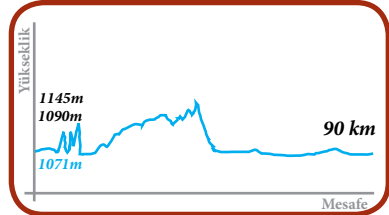
Route 17: Kapuzbaşı-Acısü-Aladağ Road-Kapuzbaşı (89 km)

This is one of our hardest bicycle route in terms of fitness and endurance. A part of the track, almost all of which is a dirt road, passes from Adana provincial borders. The highest point of the route, which starts from Kapuzbaşı village, at an altitude of 780 meters, and draws a circle in the direction of south, is 1985 meters. It is a good idea to try the route, which reaches the plateau from oxygen-rich forested land, only in the summer months. You should drink the spring water in Acısü Plateau which is good for several diseases.



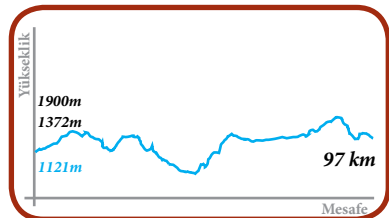
Route 18: Sultan Marshes Circle (İncesü-Çayırözü-Soysallı-Sindelhöyük-Yenihayat-Senirköy-Yeşilova-Ovaçiftlik-Sultan Marshes-İcmeler-Yeşilhisar-İncesü) (90 km)

The bicycle route, which tours around Sultan Marshes, one of the most important wetlands of our country, proceeds almost on a flat line. Only Sindelhöyük-Senirköy part is a dirt road. The Sultan Marshes signboard that you will see on Ovaçiftlik road will take you to a birdwatching area, where you can walk on wooden platforms.



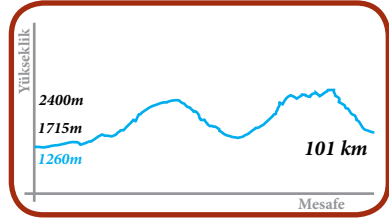
Route 19: Yahyalı-Dikme-Mansurlu (Adana)-Burhaniye-Balcıçakırı-Çavdaruşağı-Yeşilköy-Delialıuşağı-Dikme-Yahyalı (97 km)

A part of the route, all of which is asphalt, passes from Adana provincial borders. The highest point of the route, which starts from Yahyalı district (1121 meters) and goes back to the same point, is 1900 meters. The two ramps of the track are between Dikme-Feke Iron Mining Plant and Delialıuşağı-Dikme. Except for the Mansurlu entrance, where mineral exploration regions have deteriorated the nature, the track proceeds in a forest texture.



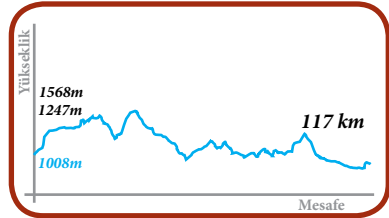
Route 20: Hacılar-Sargöl-Kızık-Main Road-Develi-Erciyes-Hacılar (101 km)

Let us remind you that the difficulty level of some parts of this route, which we will recommend to experienced bicycling lovers, is high. The route, which proceeds on Develi asphalt after the dirt road on Hacılar-Kızık stage, reaches Kayseri city center via Erciyes road. The hardest parts of the track are the two ramps between Hacılar-Sargöl (1800-2400 m) and Develi-Erciyes Ski Center (1260-2200 m). Kızık-Develi road and Erciyes Ski Center-Hacılar stage is descent.



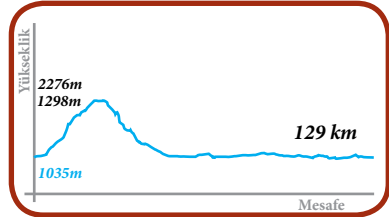
Route 21: Şahruh Bridge-Yerlikuyu-İğdeli-Karapınar-Kızılpınar-Küpeli-Özvatın-Kayapınar-Felahiye-Mollahacı-Hasancı-Kuşçu-Çevril-Taşhan-Emmiler-Ebiç-Yemliha-Tekgöz Bridge (117 km)

The route, which chases Kızılırmak River in Kayseri provincial borders, lies between two historical stone arch bridges. There are two short slopes on the Şahruh-Özvatın-Felahiye part of the route, which goes down to Tekgöz Bridge, at an altitude of 985 meters, from Şahruh Bridge, located at an altitude of 1106 meters. Only Kuşçu-Emmiler stage of the track, which goes along Yamula Dam Lake, is a dirt road.



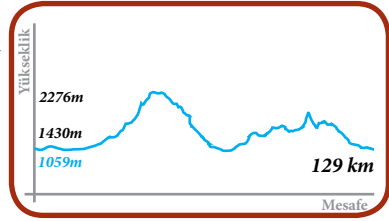
Route 22: Erciyes Circle 1 (Central Kayseri-Hisarçık-Erciyes Ski Center-Develi-Soysalı-Çayırözü-Şeyhşaban-Kızılören-Hacılar-Kayseri) (128 km)

We recommend this route, which tours around Erciyes, the 5th highest mountain of Turkey, to professionals and those who like long distance bicycling. The hardest part of the track is the ramp between Kayseri and Erciyes. Another short slope is in the direction of Şeyhşaban village. The route, which proceeds on a dirt road between Şeyhşaban and Kızılören, should not be tried in the winter months.



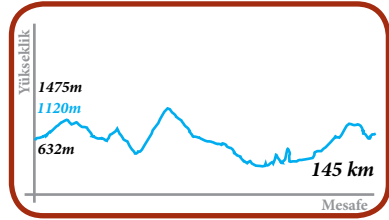
Route 23: Erciyes Circle 2 (Kayseri-Hisarçık-Erciyes Ski Center-Develi-Soyssalı-Çayırözü-Subaşı-İncesu-Kayseri) (129 km)

This route, which again draws a circle around Mount Erciyes, is a different version of the previous track. All of the track proceeds on asphalt roads. The most important part that will push bicycle lovers hard is the long slope between Kayseri and Erciyes.



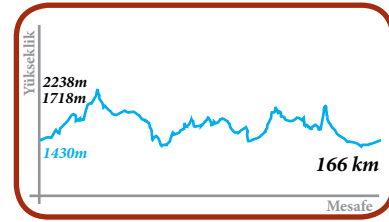
Route 24: Yahyalı-Çamlıca-Ulupınar-Kapuzbaşı-Büyükçakır-Çavdaruşağı-Yeşilköy-Delialıuşağı-Dikme-Yahyalı (145 km)

The route, which follows Zamantı River, enters the oxygen-rich pine forests in Çamlıca village and goes back to Yahyalı district, which is the starting point. The most important slopes of the route are between Çamlıca-Forest Fire Observation Tower and Delialıuşağı-Dikme. You can plan the route, which starts from 1120 meters, climbs to the height of 1790 meters, goes down to Kapuzbaşı at 632 meters and goes up to 1475 meters again, as a two-day activity. Çamlıca Turning-Çamlıca-Ulupınar part of the track is a dirt road; the remaining part is asphalt.



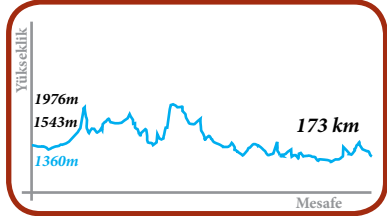
Route 25: Pınarbaşı-Gebelek-Kırkgeçit-Damızlık-Örtülü-Kırkısarak-Tavlaköy-Ördekli-Dayıoluk-İnce mağara-Fettahdere-Değirmentaş-Mezgitli-Artmak-Arslanbeyli-Cinahmet-Karapınar-Pazarören (166 km)

A part of the route, which you can plan as a two-day activity, crosses over Kahramanmaraş provincial borders. Kırkgeçit-Damızlık, Kırkısarak-Tavlaköy, Fettahdere-Değirmentaş-Artmak parts of the track are dirt roads; the other parts are asphalt. You can use Sarız settlement to spend the night on the route, which does not have a remarkable ramp.



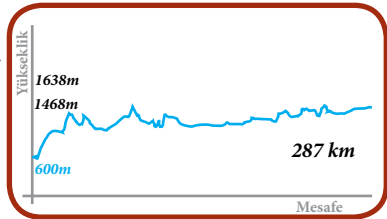
Route 26: Hittite Road (Develi-Ayvazhacı-Yazıbaşı-Gömedi-Gümüşören-Ayşepınar-Hoşca-Taşçı-Köseler-İmamkulu-Tahtakemer-Culha-Kesir-Büyükcanlı-Küçükcanlı-Çayınli-Dağyurdu-Arslantaş-Ayvat (Adana)-Mirzaağa-Değirmentaş-Mezgitli-Artmak-Arslanbeyli-Cinahmet-Karapınar-Pazarören) (173 km)

You can think of this route, which stops by the historical locations of Hittites, one of the most important civilizations of Anatolian geography and which crosses the passages that they used to go to the south, as a 2 or 3-day activity involving camping. Ayvat-Mirzaağa-Değirmentaş-Artmak part of the route, a little part of which crosses to Adana borders, is a dirt road. The most important slopes of the route, which does not have a significant ramp, takes place in the Arslantaş-Geçit and Ayvat-Mirzaağa parts. The route, which exits from Develi (1360 m), first goes on with a slight descent until Gümüşören. There is a relatively easy ascent from İmamkulu to Arslantaş. After climbing to Geçit (1976 m) from Arslantaş, you start descending toward Ayvat (1543 m). The route, which starts climbing again to reach Mirzaağa (1835 m), proceeds on a relatively flat line in the last stage. You can set up a camp in İmamkulu and Değirmentaş settlements.



Route 27: On the Track of Zamantı River (Şerefiye-Örenşehir-Üçpınar-Yahyabey-Tahtaköprü-Kaynar-Pınarbaşı-Pazarören-Tavlaklar-Kötüören-Çaybaşı-Avşarsöğütlü-Melikören-Tatarköy-Akmezar-Köprüköy-Bostanlı-Şıhbarak-Böke-Culha-Tahtakemer-İmamkulu-Köseler-Taşçı-Gümüşören-Süleymanfakılı-Taşhan-Sazak-Dikme-Delialıuşağı-Yeşilköy-Çavdaruşağı-Büyükçakır-Kapuzbaşı) (287 km)

One of the two long tributaries of Kayseri province, Zamantı River covers the city from one end to the other in the direction of north-south. Our bicycle route, which follows Zamantı around until it leaves the provincial borders, can be planned as 3 or 4-day activity involving camping or housing. The exit point of the water, Şerefiye village of Pınarbaşı district is located at an elevation of 1638 meters. The point where the river passes from Kayseri provincial borders to Adana region is at an altitude of 600 meters. Proceeding sometimes from the side and sometimes a little further of the river, the route has short and mild slopes at certain points. Between Süleymanfakılı-Gümüşören and Çaybaşı-Tavlaklar, the route is a dirt road. Those who wish can cover the part between Sazak and Yeşilköy by cycling via Çamlıca.



JEEP SAFARI ROUTES

The jeep safari routes that we will recommend to adventure lovers have been prepared using plateau and dirt link roads. We suggest that you not use these tracks in the winter months and on heavily rainy days.

Route 1:

Araplı-Akköy Dam Lake (26 km)

By following the railroad course from Araplı village, located on Yeşilhisar-Niğde road, you can reach Akköy Dam Lake via a dirt and sandy road. You can tour Soğanlı Valley on the same day and cover the 20-kilometer Soğanlı-Railroad-Akköy Dam Lake route this time.

Route 2:

Hacılar-Sarıgöl-Kızılören-Old Şeyhşaban-Kulpak-Kızık-Gereme-Aksu Picnic Area (52 km)

We should remind you that this route, on which you use plateau and village roads around Erciyes, is a route that will give the vehicles a hard time.

Route 3:

Kapuzbaşı-Ulupınar-Çamlıca-Yeşilköy-Çavdaruşağı-Büyükçakır-Kapuzbaşı (73 km)

The track, which starts from Kapuzbaşı settlement, draw a large circle from the south of Çamlıca and Yeşilköy villages and goes back to the starting point.



Suna Plateau, Dömbere Road, Yahyah



Jeep Safari Tour in Sultan Marshes, Yahyah



Route 4:
Sultan Marshes Tour (75 km)

You should try this tour, organized by an accommodation facility, which is the namesake of Sultan Marshes, only by taking someone who knows the region well with you. Almost every season, there is a risk of sinking into sand or mud. Only the Sindelhöyük-Yeniha-yat and Senirköy-Ovaçiftlik parts of the route are asphalt.

Route 5:
Yahyalı-Çamlıca-Ulupınar-Kapuzbaşı (79 km)

The route, which proceeds in company with Zamantı River starting from Çamlıca turnout, which is 12 kilometers to Yahyalı, stands out with its visuality. Between Yahyalı-Çamlıca Turnout and Ulupınar-Kapuzbaşı is asphalt.

Route 6:
Kapuzbaşı-Acısü-Aladağ Road-Kapuzbaşı (89 km)

The route, a part of which passes from Adana borders, is a kind of route that will give the vehicles and drivers a very hard time.

Route 7:
Yahyalı-Suna Plateau-Gökoluk Plateau-Suna Plateau-Dömbere-Çamlıca-Ulupınar-Kapuzbaşı (139 km)

The route, in company with the most beautiful plateaus of Yahyalı and the picturesque view of Aladağlar, promises its guests beauties they can not forget.



A dramatic landscape of a mountain plateau. The foreground shows a rocky, brownish plateau with patches of snow. In the background, dark, jagged mountains rise, partially obscured by thick, grey clouds. A bright blue banner is positioned at the top of the image, containing the text 'SCENIC VEHICLE ROUTES' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

SCENIC VEHICLE ROUTES

Yedigöller Plateau, Yahyalı



SCENIC VEHICLE ROUTES

We can recommend almost every road that connects the districts as the scenic vehicle tracks for travelers. You will have the pleasure of discovering these routes, which you can also use as bicycle tracks, by your vehicle.

Route 1:

Yeşilhisar-Erdemli-Gülbayır-Kavak-Güzelöz-Soğanlı-Akköy-Kaleköy-Yeşilhisar (46 km)

Route 2:

Erciyes Circle (Kayseri Center-Hisarcık-Erciyes Ski Center-Develi-Soyallı-İncesu-Kızılören-Hacılar-Kayseri) (128 km)

Route 3:

Yahyalı-Çamlıca-Ulupınar-Kapuzbaşı-Büyükçakır-Çavdaruşağı-Yeşilköy-Delialuşağı-Dikme-Yahyalı (145 km)

Route 4:

Pınarbaşı-Gebelek-Kırkgeçit-Damızlık-Örtülü-Kırkısrak-Tavlaköy-Ördekli-Dayıoluk-İncemağara-Fettahdere-Değirmentaş-Mezgitli-Artmak-Arslanbeyli-Cinahmet-Karapınar-Pazarören (166 km)

Route 5:

Hittite Route (Develi-Ayvazhacı-Yazıbaşı-Gömedi-Gümüşören-Ayşepınar-Hoşca-Taşçı-Köseler-İmamkulu-Tahtakemer-Culha-Kesir-Büyükcanlı-Küçükcanlı-Çayınlı-Dağyurdu-Arslantaş-Ayvat(Adana)-Mirzaağa-Değirmentaş-Mezgitli-Artmak-Arslanbeyli-Cinahmet-Karapınar-Pazarören) (173 km)

Route 6:

Yahyalı-Senirköy-Çadırkaya-Dündarlı (Niğde)-Sulucaova-Orhaniye-Bademdere-Çukurbağ-Çamardı-Etekgöl-Yelatan-Kamışlı (Adana)-Gerdibi-Büyüksofulu-Kıcak-Kökez-Kabasakal-Aladağ-Kapuzbaşı-Çavdaruşağı-Delialuşağı-Dikme-Yahyalı (230 km)

Route 7:

On the Track of Zamantı River (Şerefiye-Örenşehir-Üçpınar-Yahyabey-Tahtaköprü-Kaynar-Pınarbaşı-Pazarören-Tavlaklar-Kötüören-Çaybaşı-Avşarsöğütli-Melikören-Tatarköy-Akmezar-Köprüköy-Bostanlı-Şihbarak-Böke-Culha-Tahtakemer-İmamkulu-Köseler-Taşçı-Gümüşören-Süleymanfakılı-Taşhan-Sazak-Dikme-Delialuşağı-Yeşilköy-Çavdaruşağı-Büyükçakır-Kapuzbaşı) (287 km)



Fall in Erciyes, Haçlar

PARAGLIDING



Erciyes from Ali Mountain Summit, Talas



PARAGLIDING

For the activities of paragliding and hanggliding, which are growing rapidly in the world and in our country, Ali Mountain is a unique location due to its geographical position and structure. Ali Mountain, which was searched out by a group of voluntary pilots at the beginning of 2000, has been hosting many national and international competitions since 2004.

The take-off field, located within the borders of Talas district, offers sporters, who take off from an altitude of 1750 meters, a unique view of Mount Erciyes and Kayseri city center. Ali Mountain, paragliding field, which makes it possible to take off in all wind directions independent from the mountain range, is an important flying area that allows very strong air currents due to its position and climate. Pilots who take off from Ali Mountain, land on the park of Talas district. Ali Mountain, track also hosts paragliding and hanggliding championships. The second mountain in our country where the most flights are made after Babadağ region in Fethiye district of Muğla, Ali Mountain, is placed on the top in one-man flights. The take-off field, which is easily accessible due to its proximity to the city center, exceedingly satisfies the sense of adventure of nature lovers even in the winter months.





Paragliding, Havva ÜNAL





WINTER TOURISM

Erciyes Skiing Center

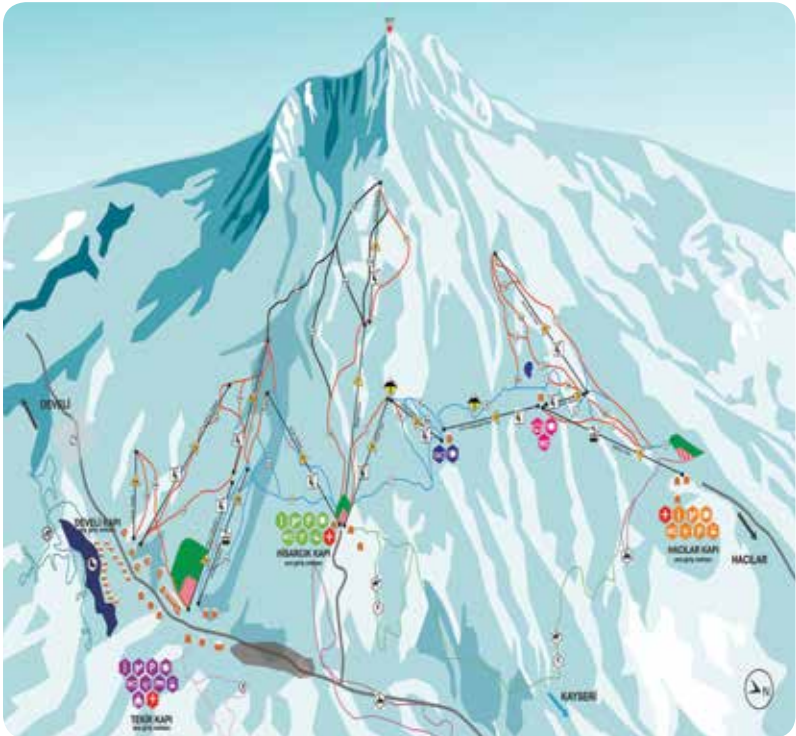


WINTER TOURISM

Mount Erciyes, with its facilities spread on its feet, has the characteristic of being the most easily accessible skiing center of our country. The facilities, which are 25 kilometers to Kayseri city center and 30 kilometers to Erkilet Airport, are located at Tekir Plateau location on Kayseri-Develi highway. The dominant wind at Erciyes Skiing Center, where the most suitable time for skiing is between December and April, is southwestern. Since there is an artificial snowmaking system on 75% of the existing ski tracks, the duration of the season can be longer now.

The inclinations of the ski tracks, which spread out on heights between 2100 and 3400 meters, vary between 10% and 50%. In the area, where there are qualified accommodation facilities, there are 16 telpher and lift lines in total. Ski lovers can do such activities as Alpine skiing, snowboarding, snowkiting, sledding and heliskiing.

Within the scope of Erciyes Master Plan, which was put into practice in the past years by Erciyes Inc., founded by Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, the skiing center is going to take on a brand new image and be one of the most important addresses of winter tourism in the coming years. The region, which will gain a new identity with the completion of the project, will reach a level of adequacy for hosting big organizations.



The Map of Skiing Center was prepared by Erciyes Inc.



Erciyes Skiing Center

WATER SPORTS

Zamanti River has been one of the important areas where the rafting sport has been carried out for years. However, in the aftermath of the construction of the HES (Hydroelectric Power Plant-HPP) and dams, the decrease in the flow rate caused rafting activity in the region to slowly disappear. The new address of water sports is Yamula Dam Lake. Here, you can go sailing, surfing, canoeing and lake cycling. The travel agencies in Cappadocia region organize three-day canoe safari tours on Kızılırmak River (Yemliha-Beydeğirmeni-Küllü-Bayramhacı-Sarıhıdır-Avanos/57 km).

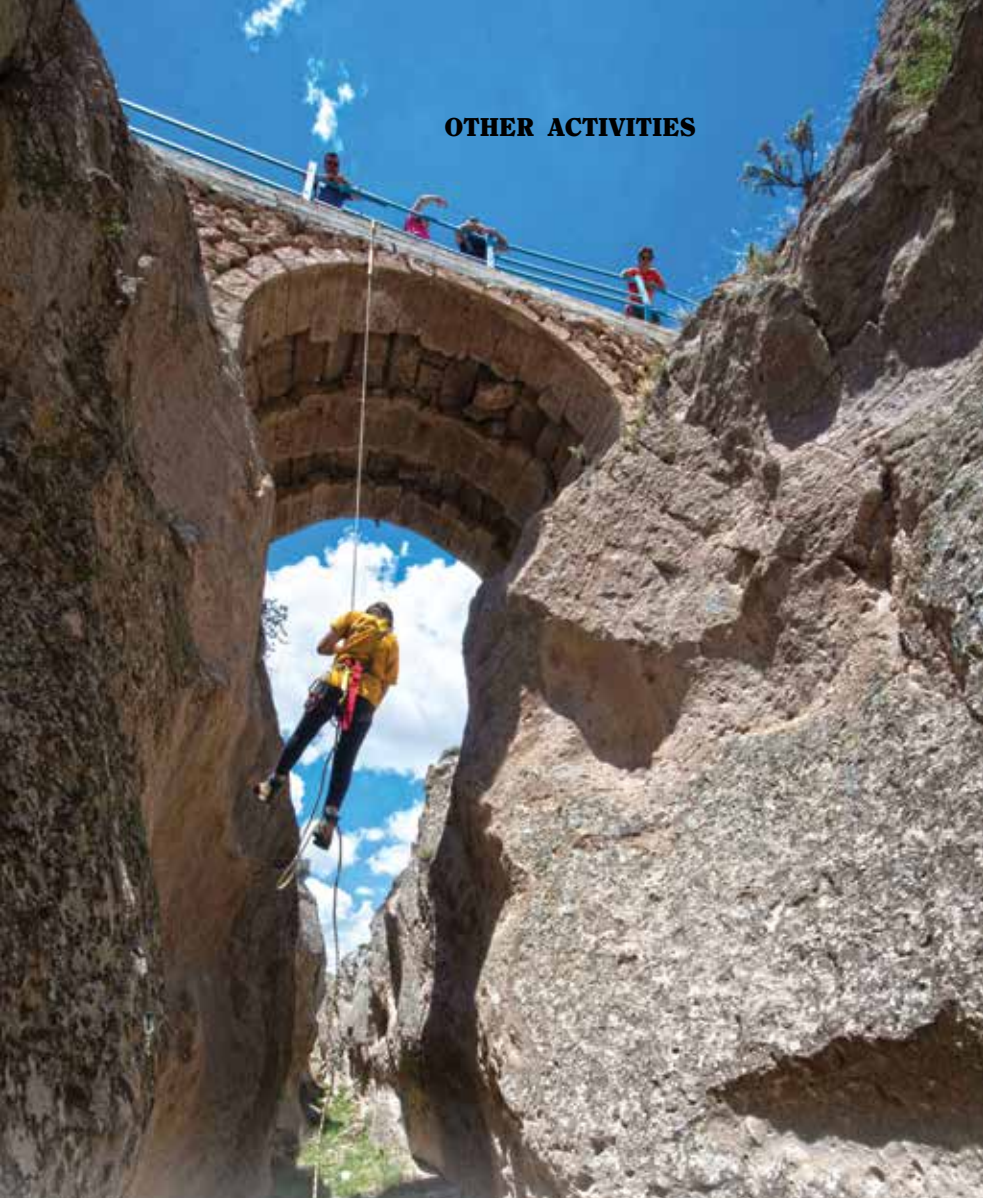
Canoeing in Kızılırmak. Kadost Archive



Canoeing in Kızılırmak. Kadost Archive



OTHER ACTIVITIES



Kayseri presents many activities to the adventure aficionados. You can go rock climbing at the entrance of Hisarcık Canyon and Ulupınar; and go on a photo safari in Yahyalı plateaus, Mount Erciyes, Sultan Marshes, Soğanlı Valley and Gesi region. Apart from rock settlements and underground cities, there are Dipsiz Cave in Büyüktoraman town of Felahiye district and Göksu Cave in Çavdaruşağı village of Yahyalı district as natural caves in Kayseri.

Avla Canyon, Yeşilhisar-Ali Ethem KESKİN

CARAVAN AND CAMPING

Gökoluk and Suna plateaus, the entrance of Aksu Canyon, Soğukpınar, Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls and Hastahocanın Plateau in Yahyalı district; Akköy Pond, Soğanlı Valley and Kovalı Pond in Yeşilhisar district; Şıhlı Pond in Develi district; Sarımsaklı Pond and Pınarbaşı Spring in Bünyan district; the banks of Yamula Dam Lake in Kocasinan district are suitable areas for caravan and camping.





THERMAL SPRINGS

In Kayseri, which is located in a volcanic region, there are thermal springs that are made use of the treatment of nutritional deficiencies, kidney and urinary tract disorders, dermatological diseases, heart and blood circulation, rheumatism and respiratory tract diseases. You can make use of Bayramhacı Thermal Spring in Bayramhacı village (65 km to the city center), Tekgöz Thermal Spring in Yemliha town (33 km), Çiftegöz Thermal Spring in Himmetdede settlement (35 km), and Hacı Veli Thermal Spring in Boğazköprü (16 km) as medical tourism. Let us mention that there are accommodation facilities in Bayramhacı and Hacı Veli thermal springs.

LOCAL TASTES

Pastrami and Turkish style fermented sausage (sujuk), which are identified with Kayseri, were brought to Anatolia from Central Asia by Turkish raiders. The raiders, who carried their food with them because they were constantly on the move, preferred dried meat due to its being durable. They softened and cooked the meat where they camped. This tradition continued when they adopted a sedentary life. Only 40% of the slaughtered animal can be used as pastrami. The animal's back, neck and sides of the belly are spared for making pastrami. The remaining meat is used for making sujuk. This meat is passed through a mincing machine, mixed with various spices, filled into chitterling and worked up into sausage. Pastrami, plastered with fenugreek is more durable in comparison with sausage. In addition, Turkish ravioli (manti) is among the special tastes of Kayseri.



Bayramhacı Thermal Spring, Kocasinan



HANDICRAFTS

Speaking of handicrafts, we need to mention the carpet making separately, which is identified especially with Bünyan and Yahyalı districts. Having a rooted history, carpet making was the main means of living for many families in the region until recently. The basic material of Yahyalı carpets, on which you can see geometrical patterns, as well as animal and plant designs, is wool and they are loosely woven. It has designs called göbekli, dabazlı, karpuzlu, mihraplı, kemerli and üç göbekli. There are usually blue medallions over a white background in the designs of tightly woven Bünyan carpets. Wool, floe and silk carpets are woven in Hacılar. Rug aficionados can visit the shops in Pamukhan, Bedesten and Cumhuriyet neighborhoods, as well as Bünyan and Yahyalı.

As souvenirs, you can buy Soğanlı dolls in local outfits, hand made carpets and rugs (Bünyan, Yahyalı, Avsar, Sarız), rush weaves of Develi-Sindelhöyük and wicker baskets.



TRANSPORTATION

Kayseri is 771 km to İstanbul, 317 km to Ankara, 607 km to Antalya, 450 km to Samsun, and 306 km to Adana.

The distances of Kayseri districts to the center;

Akkışla	80 km
Bünyan	42 km
Develi	46 km
Felahiye	52 km
İncesu	35 km
Özvatat	69 km
Pınarbaşı	90 km
Sarıoğlan	62 km
Sarız	133 km
Talas	12 km
Tomarza	53 km
Yeşilhisar	67 km
Yahyalı	81 km



The coach station and the airport are in Kayseri city center. Various airline companies schedule reciprocal flights to İstanbul everyday.

ACCOMMODATION

Kayseri has a great number of accommodation facilities that appeal to every budget. As tourism improves in the region, the number of starred hotels of good quality is increasing. There are boarding houses in Kapuzbaşı, Soğanlı and Sultan Marshes tourism regions. For information, you can see the “Tourism/Accommodation Facilities” link on the website of the Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate of Kayseri (www.kayserikulturturizm.gov.tr).

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police	155
Gendarme	156
Emergency Service	112
Forest Fire	177

Tourism Information
Tel : 0352 222 3903

INFORMATION and LOCAL GUIDANCE

Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate of Kayseri
Web : www.kayserikulturturizm.gov.tr
Phone : 0352 2220898
e-mail : iktm38@kulturturizm.gov.tr

Directorate for Natural Preservation and National Parks
Web : kayseri.ormasu.gov.tr

Kayseri Erciyes A.Ş.
Web : www.kayserierciyes.com.tr

GPS coordinates and information
Web : www.trekkinginkayseri.com
e-mail : info@trekkinginkayseri.com

AKUT Kayseri Representative
Phone : 0532 7383520

Ali KARAKULAK (Erciyes)
Phone : 0535 8151640

Atalay ATASOY (Birdwatching)
Web : www.sultanbirding.com
Phone : 0352 6585549

Atıl Ulaş CÜCE
Phone : 0530 4680326
e-mail : atilulascuce@gmail.com

Bünyan Dostları Derneği (Bünyan Lovers Association)
Phone : 0505 6473888

Hasan AŞIKOĞLU (Kapunbaşı/Yahyalı)
Phone : 0538 5210069

Mahmut DÜŞÜNCELİ (Ulupınar/Yahyalı)
Phone : 0543 3884291

Mesut ATASOY (Sultan Marshes/Yahyalı)
Phone : 0535 3365188

Mustafa ÖZÇELİK (Ağırnas-Bağpınar)
Phone : 0536 3448760

Onur ERALP (Çamlıca/Yahyalı)
Phone : 0533 4966084

Oruç KAYMAK (Çamlıca/Yahyalı)
Phone : 0538 6748161

Tolga İNAN (Bicycle/Paragliding)
Phone : 0544 7727355

Ersin DEMİREL
Web : www.ersindemirel.blogspot.com
Phone : 0535 2199326

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