

# **GÜMÜŞHANE CULTURAL ROUTE and TOURISM DISCOVERY GUIDE**



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Gümüşhane City Center from Canea Citadel



## PREFACE

With its citadels, Süleymaniye Neighborhood, Santa Ruins, the Ancient City of Krom, mansions that are civil architecture samples, glacial lakes, waterfalls, caves, plateaus, local tastes and products, our Gümüşhane has seized an important opportunity to take maximum advantage of the tourism dynamism in the Black Sea region, especially upon the elimination of the transportation problem in recent years.

I believe that Gümüşhane Cultural Route guide book, prepared by a team of professionals with an eye to displaying the natural, historical and cultural heritage of our Gümüşhane, which has the potential, with its clean and serene nature, to be a great harbor for those who wish to move away from the stress of city life and be able to breathe again, will arouse the interest of all travelers.

With this thought, I would like to extend my thanks to everyone, particularly our team, who worked devotedly and who contributed efforts in the making of this guide book.

Okay MEMİŞ  
Gümüşhane Governor





*Gümüşhane:  
The Hidden Garden In The Palms Of Snowy  
Mountains*

6

Örümcek Forest Nature Reserve Area, Kurtün





With its special areas in nature that break the routine and its unique geography that has created its own miracle, Gümüşhane is, in fact, a masterpiece of mother nature. Gümüşhane is a fascinating tourism center with its countless arduous mountains over 2000 meters, its crags that spear up like monumental statues, its glacial lakes that shine in the nooks of mountains, its vibrant river basins formed by the melting snow in the chain of mountains, its deep valleys formed by having been eroded for millions of years, its caves that evoke admiration, its sea of forests mixed with coniferous and broad-leaved trees, its plateaus that amount to four hundred, its historic stone arch bridges, its churches that emphasize the richness of its ethnic mosaic, and its archeological sites that reflect its archaic past.

8 Resembling a painting colored generously by nature, Gümüşhane geography offers impressive images each season. The majestic mountains that rise to the sky tearing cotton white clouds wrap them-

selves up in snow white at the end of the fall. Gümüşhane Mountains reveal their silhouettes only when the spring comes and the white cover melts and joins the creeks. In summer months, while Harşit and Kelkit valleys liven up, the plateaus in the north become smog-choked. In the fall days, you can run after colors, every shade of which you can catch. This adorable child of harsh nature attracts attention not only with its natural assets but with its historic locations as well. While touring Gümüşhane, you need to get permeated with it, as if you are turning the pages of a history book. While visiting historic places, such as the Ancient City of Satala, Krom Valley, Santa Ruins, churches, mosques, shrines, and stone arch bridges, you can surrender yourself to the mystic feeling of the past. Everyone visiting Gümüşhane, a miracle of nature, will encounter this part of geography that opens to the lost world of tales, and they will stand in awe of the striking natural and historical richness of the Anatolian Peninsula.



Altınpınar (Limni) Lake, Torul



## GEOGRAPHY:

Situated in a large basin adorned with hills, Gümüşhane has an interesting topographical structure. The city, which is located at the transition point of the Eastern Black Sea and Eastern Anatolia, is surrounded with high mountains. A member of the Eastern Black Sea Mountains in the north, Zigana extends to Gümüşhane in the center, and to Otlukbeli Mountains in the south. At an altitude of 1153 meters, the city center is located between Kuşakkaya and Alemdar hills. The highest point of the peaks, which generally line up in the direction of east-west, is 3331-meter-high Abdal Musa (Karagöl).

The list of the highest peaks over 2500 meters within the province borders: Abdal Musa (3331), Artabelinbaşı (3305), Cankurtaran Strait (3278), Sofrataşınbaşı (3188), Karadağ (3092), Deveboynu Hill (3082), Yedigözülerinbaşı (3039), Sarp (2987), Cambuğul (2972), Yılanlı (2959), Nebisöztası (2958), Madeninbaşı (2942), Çakırgöl (2924), Harmanlık (2907), Artebel (2876), Gölbaşı (2859), Cinlikaya (2854), Cıllaz (2847), Kuzusulağı (2844), Acemboli (2837), Camice (2826), Ziyaret (2824), Murat (2821), Taşkesen (2820), Eşek Square

(2813), Kabayalak (2807), Ardabilbaşı (2796), Taşkesen (2781), Hasan Mountain (2778), Ortadağ (2776), Kuzgun (2772), Maden (2772), İnsulak (2771), Hendüt (2769), Kurtkayası (2769), Karataş (2754), Manador (2728), Küçükyurt (2719), Deveboynu (2717), Fırın (2706), Kuruoba (2704), Kızılarkanı (2693), Dokuzoğlak (2691), Karakaya (2682), Ziyaret (2680), Alikaya (2679), Halyanlıkaya (2679), Alitaşı (2672), Kırtilintepe (2666), Ketenkaya (2664), Nişan (2660), Kanlıkaya (2654), Büyükdüz (2653), Büyükdag (2647), Murat (2638), Altıparmak (2634), Öküzyatakbashi (2624), Düztepe (2621), Teknecikkıranı (2616), Kavruz (2615), Çatal (2606), Kulat (Kolalt) (2600), Kopuz (2598), Siçanyurdu (2597), Büyükşehir (2594), Kangelinbaşı (2589), Tavukçayası (2589), Ayeser (2589), Kurt (2577), Karagöl (2568), İstihkam (2566), Küçükdağ (2553), Çatal (2551), Kurtkayası (2549), Eskiova (2543), Kayabaşı (2538), Lapazlı (2538), Halkalı (2534), Topukdüzü (2528), Oğlaksuyu (2527), Kurtboğazı (2524), Çevirmegöze (2508), Elmalı (2507), Soralımkıranı (2506), Kurtlarçeşme (2506), Karaburun (2501), and Kostan (2501).



The main reason for the existence of strong tributaries is that there are numerous high mountains in the province. The snow blanket that decorates the heights almost until the end of summer slowly melts and forms many large and small creeks. The two most important tributaries of Gümüşhane are Harşit (Kharşut) and Kelkit (Lykos/Kayl) brooks. Rising as Sifon Creek in the north of Vavuk Mountains, Harşit grows stronger by incorporating Soryan, Kermut and Keçi creeks. Then, it collects Pehlivantası, Arzular and Pirahmet creeks and becomes Gümüşhane Creek at the city center. After the central district, it joins Yeşildere, İksu, Korum, and Çit creeks and enters into deep straits at Torul and Kürtün district borders. Then, taking in big creeks, such as Karanlık, Haşara, Demirkapı, Sümükdere, Gücük, and Erikbeli, into its catchment basin, Harşit Brook flows into the Black Sea in Tirebolu district of Giresun province. The journey of 142-kilometer-long Harşit Brook within the province borders is approximately 95 kilometers.

Another remarkable tributary of the province, Kelkit, starts its journey as Kale Creek from the southern slopes of Vavuk Mountains. With the inclusion of some tributaries from Teslim, Spikor and Çimen mountains, it becomes Kuşmaşat Creek in Köse Plain. Then, taking Aksop, Balahor and countless small streamlets into its bed, Kelkit passes through Şiran district and exits Gümüşhane borders. Together with Çekerek River, it is one of the two important branches of Yeşilırmak, which flows into the Black Sea after passing through Erzincan, Giresun, Sivas, Tokat, Amasya, and Samsun provinces.

Apart from many small waterfalls in Gümüşhane province, there are Tomara, Tekke, Halgent, Çağlayandibi (Islıalan), Artabel and Beşgöller waterfalls. It is easy



Uğurtaş, Torul



Çit Creek, Torul



Kelkit River, Şiran



Çimenli Plateau, Kelkit





Sarıçiçek, Central District



Spring Migration, Kürtün



Kürtün Plateaus



Waterfall, Demirkapı-Torul

to access Halgent and Tekke waterfalls, which dry up in summer, due their proximity to the central district. Çağlayandibi Waterfall is located on Kürtün-Örümcek Forest road. It is possible to access Gül-  
açar Artabel and Gümüştuğ Beşgöller waterfalls within Torul district borders on foot. 114 kilometers to the province center, Tomara Waterfall is one of the natural temples that adorn the tourism showcase of the province. Gliding from a height of about 25 meters, the waterfall is within Şiran district borders.

There are several glacial, natural and dam lakes in Gümüşhane. The glacial lakes are Çakırgöl, Dipsiz, Bulanık and Aygır in the central district; Suyungözü, Akbulak Yıldız 1 and 2 in Şiran district; Adalı (Büyük/Karanlık), Karanlık (Ahtabur), Küçük, İkizgöller (Karagöller), Buzlu, Beşgöller (5 lakes), Karagöller (3 lakes), Acembol (3 lakes), Dağdibi Yıldız, and Gölbaşı in Torul district; and Karagöl and Gölönü in Kürtün district. In addition, Limni and Altınpınar (this lake, too, is called Limni by locals) natural lakes in Torul district can be visited. By taking advantage of the flow rate of tributaries, Torul, Kürtün, Köse, Koruluk, and Gökçebel dam lakes were built. Moreover, there are irrigation ponds in the province, such as Akbaba, Aktutan, Aşağıalıçlı, Çamur, Örenbel, Sadak, Salyazı, Söğütlü Emek, Taşköprü, Telme, Yağmurdere, Yaydemir, Yeniköy, Yeşilbük (Kızlarkalesi), Yukarı Kulaca, and Yuvacık.

The most important plains of the province are Kelkit and Şiran plains, which spread to the south. In the mountainous regions, there are deep valleys rifted by river basins, such as Büyükdere, Çit, Demirkapı, Cehennem, Karadere, Sümüklü, Gücük, and Yanbolu. On the high parts of the piedmonts, there is a total of 383 plateaus, 133 of which

are in the central district, 27 in Kelkit, 9 in Köse, 24 in Şiran, 56 in Torul and 134 in Kürtün. Plateaus such as Erikbeli, Kazıkbeli, Kazmankaya, Kızılağaç, Şehmerlik, Münürlü, Kadirga, Balahor, Taşköprü, and Madenare famous for their crowded populations. However, the traditional texture in the plateaus, which have been turning into summer resorts, is mostly lost. A limited number of plateaus, such as Alas, Dölek, Dulağa, Eğrisu, Yalınkavak, Yılanlı, and Konak, shine out with their authentic appearance. In the plateaus on Çimenli Mountains, nomad camping sites are more common. 52% of Gümüşhane province, which spreads to an area of 585.868 hectares, is steppe, 28% is forest and 19% is agricultural land. The region hosts differ-

ent plant communities since it is located between humid and temperate Eastern Black Sea and high and arid Eastern Anatolia climate belt. The forests and tree species differ in terms of dispersion. The forestland in the north is usually under the domination of Oriental Spruce, Scotch Pine and Caucasian Fir. Particularly, Örumcek Forest in Kürtün and the forests in the north and south of Zigana Mountain are the most important representatives of this vegetation type. In addition, plant communities, such as redwood, wych elm, juniper, chestnut, hornbeam, quaking aspen, oak, blackberry, rhododendron, nettle, laurel, wild rose, blueberry, sharp dock, violet, red poppy, boxwood, spurge, musk thistle, horsetail, milk vetch, shrubs, herd's



Dulağa Plateau, Torul



grass and bushes, are common. The detection of 1010 species belonging to 80 plant families, 137 of which are endemic (rare), in a study carried out in Kelkit district borders in 2012 gives a good opinion about the flora diversity of Gümüşhane.

Gümüşhane's natural richness, which adorns it with perfect decoration, conduced to some regions' acquisition of a special status. Zigana, Çakırgöl and Süleymaniye Neighborhood Winter Sports Tourism Centers; Artabel Lakes, Limni Lake, Tomara Waterfall, Çağlayandibi Waterfall, Karşıyaka and Köse Nature Parks; Erikbeli Tourism Center, Örümcek Forest Nature Reserve Area, Yukarı Ku-

laca and Örenkale in Şiran district, as well as Camallı and Mahmatlı Wild Life Improvement Areas in Kelkit district are the most important ones of the above-mentioned areas. Let us remind you that in these wild life areas, there is a chevro-tain (*Capra aegagrus*) population.

Gümüşhane, which you will explore on village roads adorned with apple, sour cherry, pear, cherry, mulberry, plum, almond and rosehip trees, is in the continental climate zone in general. Harsh winter months are cold and snowy. Summer months, on the other hand, are arid and hot. The most convenient period to visit Gümüşhane is between May and October.



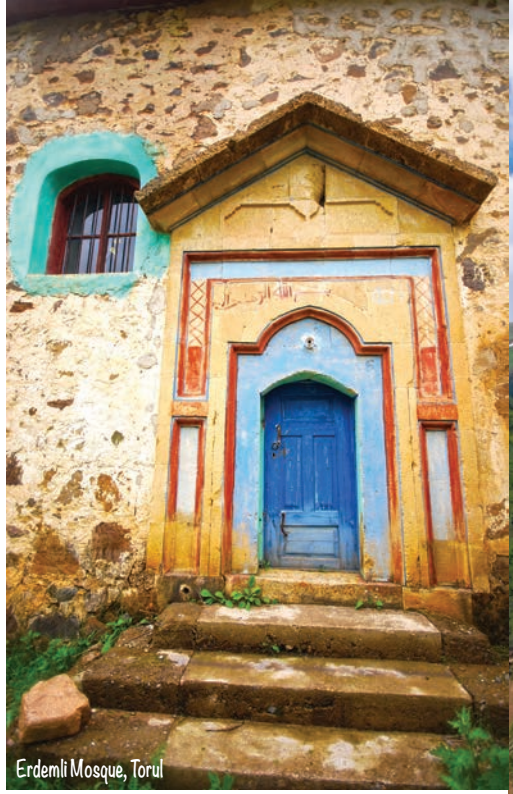


## HISTORY

This ancient city, the first settlement of which dates back to 3000 years ago, has always been the favorite of Anatolian peoples. From Argonauts, who named the Black Sea 'the raging sea that does not host any guests', to Hittites, who described the region as 'Azzi-Hayasa Land', from Romans to the Ottoman Empire, many peoples dwelled in Gümüşhane. The historic works of art that spread to the province prove the existence of Assyrian, Hittite, Urartian, Median, Persian, Macedonian, Pontic, Roman, Byzantium, Umayyad, Seljukian, Ilkhanid, Calayir, Eretnids, Black Sheep Turcoman, White Sheep Turcoman and Ottoman civilizations. That the region has rich gold, silver, copper and iron ore beds is the most important factor that increased the attraction of the region. As can be understood from the name, Gümüşhane, which was in fact a mining town, used to be called Argyropolis in the ancient times, which meant 'silver'. Mentioned in the works of Strabon and Ksenophon in the ancient period, mining has continued for centuries and reached the present day. About the city, which once contributed silver coins to the imperial treasury from the mint that was established in the region, there are edicts in the records of Ottoman Supreme Court in the Ottoman Archives. Mentioned as a 'grand and prosperous city' in Katip Çelebi's Cihannüma, Gümüşhane was named 'Canca' in the Ottoman period. Those history enthusiasts who come to the city of Gümüşhane can visit the citadels (Canca, Kov, Keçi, Torul etc.), rock tombs (Araköy/Könger, Kadiçayırı and Özen), the Ancient City of Satala, Santa Ruins, the Ancient City of Krom, Süleymaniye Neighborhood, mosques, shrines, as well as numerous churches and stone arch bridges.



İmera Monastery, Central District



Erdemli Mosque, Torul



Süleymaniye Neighborhood, Central District



Imera Monastery Complex, Central District



## HISTORICAL TOURS



You can discover the past of the city in the historical locations spread over Gümüşhane province borders by means of the tours, whose details we get across below.







Zeki Kadirbeyoğlu Mansion

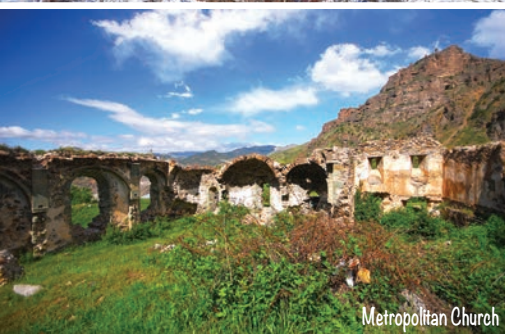


Süleymaniye Mosque

18



Old House



Metropolitan Church

### a) Tour of Süleymaniye Neighborhood (Old Gümüşhane)

Süleymaniye Neighborhood, also known as Old Gümüşhane, is a settlement where people from different religions have been living fraternally for centuries. Süleymaniye Neighborhood, in which minarets, churches and monasteries rise together, is a region where people have settled since the ancient period. The existence of gold and silver mines, which have been operated for thousands of years, increased the significance of the settlement. The region had its brightest period, especially during the reign of Murad IV, the Ottoman Sultan. The real settlement moved to Harşit Basin after the Ottoman-Russian war, and Süleymaniye Neighborhood was left to be alone with the wearing effect of time.

The details of the tour, during which you will visit many civil architecture examples as well as many historic structures in the protected area where restoration works are continuing at the present time, are as follows:

The first historic location of our 3-kilometer tour, Zeki Kadirbeyoğlu Mansion (İbrahim Lütfü Pasha), was built in 1861. The building, whose facade arrangement reflects the 19th century Turkish architecture, has a square plan and two stories. In its garden is Pasha Bath. Right next to the building, restored by Gümüşhane Municipality, rises Süleymaniye Mosque, whose construction dates back to 1520-1566. You can see the Old Mosque-Primary School Building next to the mosque (in its southeast), which was renovated in 1899. In the garden of the historic building, which was renovated in 2012, are Hacı Tahir Shrine and Mısırlıoğlu Shrine. When you leave the mosque and turn right, you come across Hamam (Bath) structure in the place called Sağır location. When you turn left to the west from



the corner of the street and climb a short ramp, you get to the entrance of Küçük Mosque, one of the first Ottoman structures of the city, which dates back to the 16th century. The altar of the structure, which has an octagonal dome, is made of face stone. Now proceed through small alleys and get to the street. The first building on the right is Ahmet Kaya House, built in the 19th century. The door and window forms of the two-story building are attention-grabbing. When you keep on going up through the structures that decorate Süleymaniye Neighborhood, you see Metropolitan (Hagios Georgios) Church. The church, the first name of which was Hagia Tiriada, was constructed with three naves and in the basilic style. After that, on your right is Rum School (Metropolitan) with its impressive image. Another structure that reflects the magnificent past of the city is the Metropolitan (Management) Building 100 meters ahead. Behind the two-story building, made of clean cut stone, are Hızır İlyas Fountain and Muammer Daloğlu Mansion.

Strong flow rate in the spring months and the historic Fountain, go towards the settlement center under the guidance of the pathway. In the meantime, let us mention that another pathway that turns right reaches Yukarı Neighborhood, where there are two old mansions. After passing by Kavaklık Bath on the side of the creek bed, enter the dirt road. Panaghia Rock Church will come into view in the rocky area on your right catercorner. Located on a spot that dominates Süleymaniye Neighborhood from the north side, the church was designed to have one nave and built by laying quarry stones next to a small spring. The mansion opposite you is Ali Erkan House. Having three stories including the attic, the structure was built in a large garden. Right next to it is



Metropolitan Building



Old House

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Winter in Süleymaniye Neighborhood

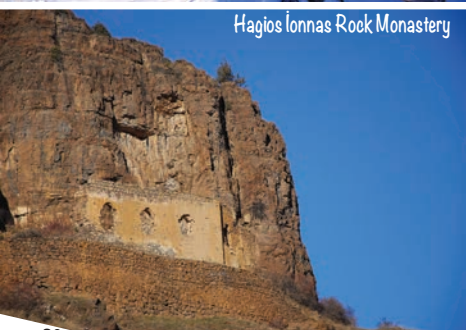


Timos Stavros Church





Ali Erkan's House



Hagios Ionnas Rock Monastery

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Fahri Gümüşeli's House



Autumn in Süleymaniye Neighborhood

Fahri Gümüşeli House. The 8 windows on the second floor add a distinctive visuality to the mansion. On the corner of the street, which passes through the two houses, you will see another bath of Süleymaniye Neighborhood. Kavaklık Bath complex is planned to be renovated. After you pass by Minare, the remnant of a mosque, Timos Stavros Church, which has three naves, rises on your right. The next historic structure is again a Minaret, which is the remainder of a mosque. After you pass by the Arch Bridge, you will see Taş Mağaza 1 and 2 Buildings on both sides of the road. A little ahead on your right, there are remnants of the Old Government Office. This historic structure was built on a rectangular plan with clean cut stone and quarry stones. Now, cross the asphalt that comes from Gümüşhane and follow the pathway that stretches in the direction of north. Located right outside the settlement, Surp Karabet Armenian Church tries to resist time with its view in ruins. At the end of the tour, you need to take the asphalt road and proceed 300 meters northwards. In order to visit Hagios Ionnas Rock Monastery, built by carving the body of Çatal Kaya Hill, you need to take the pathway that rises on your left. The front facade of the church, a part of which is ruinous, is still standing. In the structure, there are frescos on different themes. From the area where the monastery is located, you can photograph Gümüşhane City Center and Süleymaniye Neighborhood from different angles. The distinct pathway that turns southwards at the entrance of the monastery will take you to the square, your starting point.

We should also mention that, in the north-eastern part of the neighborhood, there is Hagios Theodoros Church, the oldest church of the settlement built by miners in 1480, and another Minaret in the valley.



# SÜLEYMANİYE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAVEL TOUR

- 1- Zeki Karahbeyoğlu Mansion (İbrahim Lütfü Paşa)
- 2- Paşa Bath
- 3- Süleymaniye Mosque
- 4- Old Mosque-Primary School Building
- 5- Hacı Tahir Shrine
- 6- Mısırlıoğlu Shrine
- 7- Bath
- 8- Small Mosque
- 9- Ahmet Kaya House
- 10- Metropolitan (Hagios Georgios) Church
- 11- Greek School (Metropolitan)
- 12- Metropolitan (Administration) Building
- 13- Hızır İlyas Fountain
- 14- Muammer Dalioğlu Mansion
- 15- Fountain
- 16- Bath
- 17- Panaghia Rock Church
- 18- Ali Erken House
- 19- Fahri Gümbüşeli House
- 20- Minaret
- 21- Kavaklık Bath
- 22- Timos Stavros Church
- 23- Minaret
- 24- Arch Bridge
- 25- Taş Magaza 1
- 26- Taş Magaza 2
- 27- Old Government House
- 28- Surp Karabet Armenian Church
- 29- Hagios Ionnas Rock Monastery
- 30- Minaret
- 31- Hagios Theodoros Church

Gümbüşeli

Yerk Church





### **b)The Ancient City of Satala**

One of the two ancient cities sharing the same name in Anatolia (the other in Karataş Village of Lydia region), the Ancient City of Satala is 99 kilometers to the city center. One of the biggest headquarters of the Roman Empire in the east, together with Zeugma, Samsat and Malatya, the archeological site was also the base of the 4000-soldier 15th Legion of the Roman Army. This legion, which was 'Loyal to the Sun God Apollo'





and which was commanded by Emperor Titus Flavius Vespasianus for a period at the beginning of the 2nd century B.C., continued to exist in Satala until the 4th century.

In the city area, which is within the borders of Sadak Village in Kelkit district, there is a theater, an agora and the palace ruins. In the surface research done in the site, where only the water arch and the Roman pool remnants can be seen today, various human and animal figurines, seals, coins, oil lamps and shards were found. While these artifacts are exhibited in İstanbul, Erzurum and Trabzon archeological museums, the bronze bust, a rare piece, is displayed in London British Museum. We should also mention that there are remnants of a caravansary between Sadak and Sökmen villages.

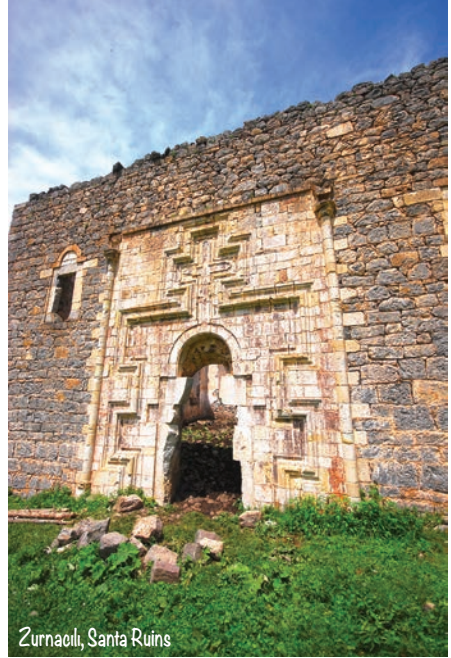


### c) Santa Ruins

With its derelict stone buildings, ruined churches and its ever-misty silhouette, Santa has an enchanting atmosphere. Located at the end of Yanbolu Valley, at the most inaccessible point of the Black Sea Mountains, the settlement was once the commercial, cultural and religious center of the region. Santa Ruins consist of 7 neighborhoods called Binatlı, Çakallı, Çinganlı, İshanlı, Piştöflu, Terzili and Zurnacı, which were built on the height where the forest border ends. When coming from Gümüşhane, you first encounter Piştöflu Neighborhood. After that, while Zurnacı is located on the right side of Yanbolu Creek, other settlements are situated on the slopes on the left side of the valley. In each neighborhood, ostentatious stone churches rise, and all the houses are made of cut stone. You can come across a fountain at the entrance of almost every street. Since its natural location makes an independent and safeguarded shelter, the region had been effective in the 17th-century Christian society's continuance of their existence. Particularly, the official buildings constructed at the end of the 18th century are attention-grabbing. Çakallı, İlyas Peygamber, Hagios Hristaforos, St Theodor, St. Kiryaki, St. Christoper, St. Konstantinos and St Petros are among the must-see historical places.

It is possible to access Santa Ruins via different roads. However, due to their being on a high region, the roads are closed in winter months. The 82-kilometer Gümüşhane-Arzular-Yağmurdere-Taşköprü route is the most preferred route because it is asphalt up to Yağmurdere. Another option, the 77-kilometer Gümüşhane-the Ancient City of Krom-Olucak (İmera)-Cami Boğazı Plateau route, may not be passable by every type of vehicle due to its turning into a

dirt road after Olucak Village. Those who have confidence in their vehicle (a high vehicle or an SUV) can try this laborious but scenic route only in the summer months. Those who wish to come via Trabzon need to follow the 104-kilometer Arsin-Araklı-Yanbolu road.



Zurnacı, Santa Ruins



Piştöflu, Santa Ruins





Zurnacli, Santa Ruins



Ishanli, Santa Ruins



Pigtoflu, Santa Ruins



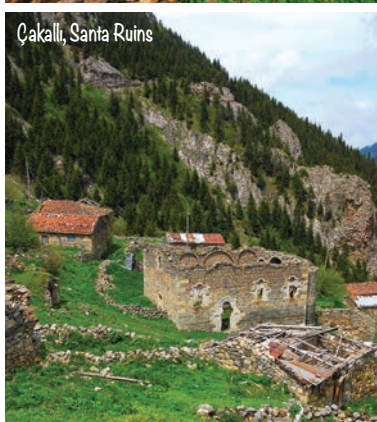
Terzili, Santa Ruins



Binali, Santa Ruins

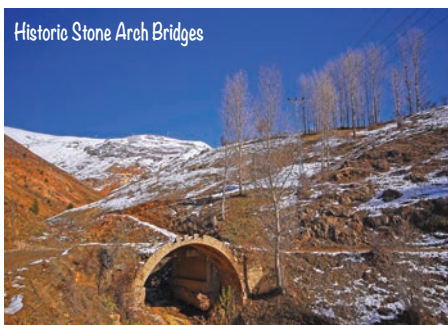


Pigtoflu, Santa Ruins



Çakalli, Santa Ruins







#### d) The Ancient City of Krom

An interesting valley in terms of both history and nature... An extraordinary journey among Cehennem Valley, stretching along a deep corridor, steep valleys surrounded by rocks, naked heights and authentic villages reflecting the region... You need to turn right with the guidance of the signboard at the 11th kilometer of Gümüşhane-Torul road, and proceed for about 27 kilometers. At the first turnout, you will see the Karaca Cave sign. The next junction will direct you to Meryemana Monastery in Cebeli (Harava) village. On your way, you can see Çengelli and Kuşçu churches. After the visit to the monastery, you will go back to the main road and reach the entrance of Cehennem Valley. The small valley on the left leads you to the churches in Atalar (Zimera) village. For Aydınlar (Muzaras) Church, in which the frescos are still in good condition, you need to face up to an extra 7 kilometers. At the exit of visually impressive Cehennem Valley, this time you will come across another valley on your left where Uğurtaş (İstavri) Village is located. During your trip, you can visit arch

bridges and churches, particularly Bagava, in company with the pulsing creek. To follow the main route, you need to go back after Uğurtaş, pass by Yağlıdere Village and turn left at the Ancient City of Krom signboard. The road is pretty rough; therefore, we recommend that you drive carefully. The remnants of the Ancient City of Krom in the valley, which consist of 15 churches and chapels, two arch bridges, the citadel, two grain mills, and the old houses, whose stonemasonry you will admire, are worth your hard journey. Krom (Şamanlı) region, which is referred to as Bulut plateau on the map, is made up of Mancandanos, Çayıroğlu (Ulivena), Gavanak, Düzce (Alikinos), Muhara, Sarıoğlu, Evlice (Nanak), and Başkapı (Loriya) neighborhoods.

The region, which is rich in terms of minerals, has been on the historic migration routes where people resided since the ancient period. Some Greeks of Turkish nationality who converted to Islam in the 16th century under the domination of the Ottoman Empire built places of worship under their houses and continued their Christian belief secretly for around 200 years. Called Krifi (secret) in Greek language, this community felt the need to build many churches when they became Christian again using the legal rights they were given in 1857. The region, where there are approximately 50 churches and chapels, is like a historic open air museum. The churches, many of which rise on unfrequented hills, are in eye contact with each other. Almost every one of them has a separate architectural and ornamental styles.

At the end of your journey, we strongly suggest that you go back to the turnout point, go up to Olucak Village and see İmera Monastery (St. Jhon Prodromos), one of the most beautiful churches within Gümüşhane province borders.



Zigana Ski Center



Limni Lake

Saranoy Plateau



Aydınlar

Atalar

Çiçekli Plateau



Meryem Ana Monastery



Cebeli



Cehennem Valley



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Karaca Cave












İkisu

Gümüşhane/Trabzon Highway





## ANCIENT CITY OF KROM AND ITS VICINITY

-  Citadel
-  Church
-  Arch Bridge
-  Cave
-  Viewpoint
-  Restaurant
-  Accommodation
-  Campground
-  Hiking Route



#### e) Route of Citadels

Gümüşhane region is located in a significant passing point used for military and commercial purposes in respect of its geopolitical structure. Its location on a junction point on old Roman roads both in the north-south and the east-west direction as well as its being one of the main routes of the historical Silk Road route are the main reasons why citadels were built for security and control purposes. The existence of 14 citadels and 8 watchtowers in total within the province borders proves this.

Citadels that constitute the backbone of the Route of Citadels are as follows: Akçakale (17 km) in Bağlarbaşı vicinity, Canca (8 km), which looks at Harşit Valley from a hilltop, Edre (33 km) in Dörtkonak Village, Keçi (20 km) on

Gümüşhane-Bayburt highway, Kov (28 km) on Gümüşhane-Erzincan highway, Övündü (17 km) in the north of district center, Kodil (19 km) in Dibekli Village; Babakonağı Geremez, which is 7 kilometers from Kelkit district, Süme, which is 4 kilometers north of Özkürtün town of Kürtün district, İntaşı/Balıkhisar, which is located 26 kilometers southeast of Şiran district, Demirkapı/Ermük, which is 23 kilometers northwest of Torul district, Kopuz, which is 37 kilometers to Torul, Yalınkavak, which is 29 kilometers away, and Torul, which watches Harşit Brook and Torul district on a rough mass of rocks.

Those who wish can photograph the watchtowers in Altınpınar, Cebeli, Eymür/Bahçelik, Gökçeler, Kalecik, Krom, Olucak, and Övündü settlements.

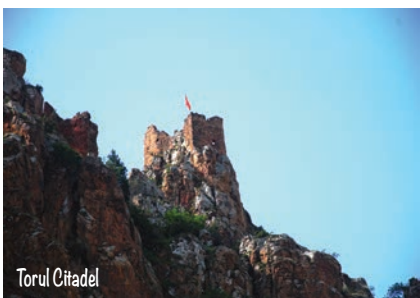


Kov Citadel, Central District



Keçi Citadel, Central District











Imera Monastery, Central District

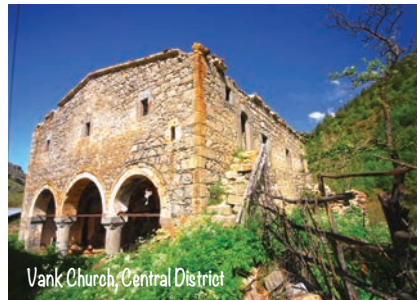
### f) Route of Churches

As we learn from the writers in the ancient period, Upper Harşıt Basin was known as the Haldian land where Haldi people, famous for their mining, lived. The local community, who came from Pagan tradition, adopted the Rum language and Christianity in the Byzantine period. Although they converted to Islam en masse in 1650 during the reign of the Ottoman Empire, they had difficulty adapting for a long time. When the minorities were accorded the right to change their religion with a law enacted in 1857, some of them reconverted to Christianity. Several monasteries, churches and chapels from that period have been decorating Gümüşhane as the archaic eyewitnesses of Turkish society's freedom of belief and tolerance. Unfortunately, these historic structures, many of which are in rundown condition due to being abandoned and unused, have been waiting to be renovated and brought to tourism.

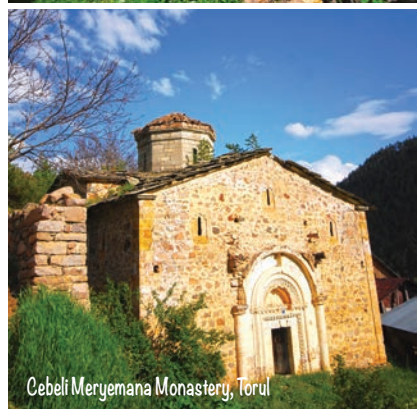
You may visit the churches, which are alone on high hills or among houses in the settlements, especially in the ancient City of Krom, Santa Ruins and Gümüştuğ (Avliyana) regions. We strongly suggest that you see Vank, Hagios Ionnas Rock, İmera (St. John Prodromus), Alikinos, Gavanak, Sarıoğlu, Santa Çakallı, and Santa Piştöflu in the central district; Çakırkaya Rock in Şiran district and Büyükçit Panagia Meryemana, Aydınlar Muzaras, Cebeli Çengelli, Cebeli Meryemana, Gümüştuğ Başköy, Güzeloluk, and Uğurtaş churches and monasteries in Torul district.

One of Gümüşhane's historic structures in good shape, İmera Monastery (St. John Prodromus) was established as a women's monastery in 1710. The structure, which is 2 kilometers from Olucak Village via drive route (600 meters on foot), was

renovated in 1845 by Sister Roksana. You can see frescos depicting Jesus and his apostles in Atalar Village's Aydınlar (Muzaras) Church, which maintains its outer holism. Another historic structure that has survived till today is Meryemana (Virgin Mary) Monastery in Cebeli Village. If you want to visit Meryemana Panagia Monastery in Büyükçit (Çit-i Kebir) Village of Torul district, you need to cross over the historic arch bridge and climb the pathway on the left for about 1 kilometer. This magnificent structure, which dates back to the 9th century, is also the oldest monastery in Gümüşhane region. Çakırkaya Rock Church on Şiran-Tomara Waterfall route is one of the most interesting churches of the Route of Churches with its form carved into rocks.



Vank Church, Central District



Cebeli Meryemana Monastery, Torul





Aydinlar (Muzaras) Church



Church



Cumüstug (Avliyana) Church, Torul



Zurnacılı, Santa Ruins



Büyükçift Panagia Meryemana Monastery, Torul









Sarıççek Bridge, Central District





Tohumoğlu Bridge, Central District



Kamberli Bridge, Central District



Meryemana Bridge, Torul



Büyük Çit 2 Bridge, Torul



Kopuz Bridge, Torul



Taşköprü, Central District



### g) Route of Historic Stone Arch Bridges

Around 40 historic stone arch bridges that surround Anatolia and whose numbers amount to 1400 are located within the provincial borders of Gümüşhane. These aesthetic structures, which continue to connect the past to the present and the future despite their fatigue, have been acting as mediators in the development of civilizations and their contact with each other. Particularly, Anatolian Peninsula on the historical Silk Road brought several peoples into commercial and political connection with each other for centuries by means of its wide road net comprised of inns, caravansaries and bridges.

Connecting two sides, fronts or valleys separated by an obstruction, bridges are interesting not only with their functionality but with their architectural and aesthetic appearance as well. Stretching like a bow over rapids, stone arch bridges are classified as horizontal, round, pointed, one arch and multiple arch. The main reason for building stone bridges in the form of a rising arch is to ensure that the structure does not get inundated with overflowing. The supporting stone of the bridge is the most important element that redresses the balance.

Some of the beautiful bridges you can visit within the provincial borders of Gümüşhane are Taşköprü, Olucak, Kanberli, Bazbent, Çiftgezler, Old Gümüşhane Route, Gümüşhane Stone, Hamam Creek, Harşit Brook, Hindere, Orman Yolu (Forest Road), Tohumoğlu, Ulucami, and Yamakoğlu Creek 1-2 in the central district; Meryemana (Mother Mary) Church, and Sarıbaba/Değirmen in Kürtün district; Bahçeli, Büyük Çit 1-2-3, Dedeli, Demirkapı Ermük, Dibekli, Gülaçar Esentepe 1-2, Gümüştuğ Balçılar, Gümüştuğ Creek, Gümüştuğ 1-2, Güvemli, İlecik, Kopuz 1-2-3, Torul 1-2, Uğurtaş, Bagava, Yıldız 1-2, Zigana Silk Road, Zigana Bekiroğulları and Zigana bridges in Torul district.



Büyük Çit I Bridge, Torul



Bazbent Bridge, Central District



Olucak Bridge, Central District

## h) Route of Shrines

Shrines, which can be described as the monumental vaults of Turkish statesmen or clergymen, are all over the province. Çağırnababa in Tekke Village, 13 kilometers from the central district; the religious scholar of Egypt's Al-Azher University, Hacı Tahir Efendi in Süleymaniye Neighborhood; Karamanoğlu Pirahmet Bey, built in 1550 in Pirahmet Village and Musa Dede in Gümüşkaya Village; Babakonağı Hayribaba, called as Haydaribaba by the locals, in Kelkit district; Çamur Village Cupola, 44 kilometers from Kelkit district center; Ebe Hatun and Seydibaba in Seydibaba Village of Şiran district and Firdevs Hatun Shrine, built in 1557, in Seydibaba Village of Şiran district, 8 kilometers from Şiran district center constitute the main course of our route.

Firdevs Hatun Shrine, Şiran



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Pirahmet Bey Shrine, Central District







Çamur Village Cupola, Kelkit



Çağırnababa Shrine, Central District

## CULTURAL TOURS

This route, which involves the civil architecture examples in Gümüşhane, tours the central district and its Sarıççek Village. In the historical buildings, constructed in the lathing style, the room doors, the traditional wooden decorations on the ceilings and the floral and geometric figures on the facades are interesting. The roofs of these structures, designed specially for the typical climate conditions, are protruding and almost all of them have a balcony.

In the city tour, during which you can take photos of old Turkish houses, you can visit İkiz Mansion, which is in the use of the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, Özdenoğlu and Balyemez mansions, which provide service as a restaurant and a café, as well as Şahbenderoğlu, Erdemir Akagün, Hasan Fehmi Ataç, and Mehmet Aksoy houses. You can also take photos of civil architecture examples, such as Zeki Kadirbeyoğlu Mansion, Ahmet Kaya, Ali Erkan, and Fahri Gümüşeli houses in Süleymaniye Neighborhood, which is 2 kilometers from the city center. In addition, Yeşildere Village Old School, 9 kilometers from the province center, is among the must-see civil architecture examples.

Those who have the time or will use Yağmurdere route for Santa Ruins must visit Sarıççek Village Rooms. These



City Center



İkiz Mansion (Museum), City Center



Süleymaniye Neighborhood





Yağmurdere Village



Süleymaniye Neighborhood

Yağmurdere Village



Yeşildere Village Old School

Süleymaniye Neighborhood



Yeşildere Village Old School



Central District



Yağmurdere Village

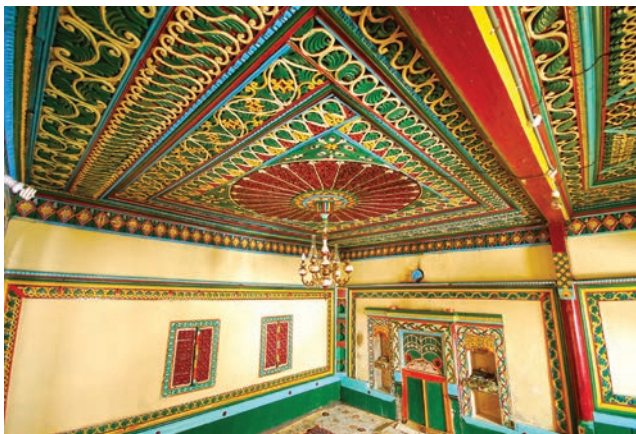


interesting rooms, which are 48 kilometers to the province center, were built by Hacı Ömer Ağa in 1873 with the purpose of hosting guests. In these rooms, which are early examples of Turkish architecture, classic forms as well as western influences were used. On the wooden embroiders interlocked with a nailless technique, ways of adornment consisting leaves were stylized. The harmony of the embroidery-like ornaments and the vividness of colors are the most significant factors that make the interiors of the rooms attractive.

The construction story of Sarıççek rooms is quite interesting. For the rooms, which are 50 meters apart from each other, a master puts an apprentice in charge. When it comes to the stage of interior arrangement, the apprentice asks for help from the master. The master does not want to share his knowledge and experience, saying that they are paid the same amount of money for the job. Then, the master and the apprentice decide to work separately and each lets himself into his room. They cater to their every need in the room they work in and they don't come out for two years. The apprentice, whose pride is hurt by the way the master treated him, becomes very ambitious. At the end of two years, while the work the apprentice did creates a dazzling effect, the master's work is not liked. Upon seeing this, the master accepts defeat and leaves the village.













#### a) Artabel Lakes Nature Park

Without question, Artabel Lakes Nature Park is the leading natural beauty of the province. Located in a high geography that keeps clear of people, this authentic area is a fascinating park with Abdal Musa Hill, which is the highest summit of Gümüşhane, its lonely and silent glacial lakes surrounded by rugged summits, its rare plants, its old migration routes and its authentic plateaus. Artabel, which is in the basin of Gavur (Balaban) Mountains, belonging to the Gümüşhane range of the Eastern Black Sea chain of mountains, is situated within the borders of Gulaçar, Gümüştuğ and Dağdibi villages of Torul district and Akbulut of Şiran district.

There are 22 glacial lakes in the park, which has made its name on the list of Turkey's natural beauties. In Artabel basin, stretching in the east-west direction and accessed via Esentepe Neighborhood of Gulaçar Village, there are Adalı (Büyüç/Karanlık), Karanlık (Ahtabur), Küçük, İkizgöller (Karagöller-2 pieces), Buzlu lakes (above Adalıgöl and it only comes out when the ice melts after July). The valley basin in the northeast-southwest direction, which can be accessed on foot via Dulağa Plateau of Gümüştuğ Village, comprises two parts. There are Beşgöller (5 pieces) in the one on the left and Karagöller (3 pieces) in the other on the right. Acembol (Üçgöller-3 pieces) within Dağdibi village borders are located in the valley in the northwest-southeast direction. In the northwest of these lakes, which can be accessed on foot via Gölönü Plateau, you can see Gölbaşı Lake. Yıldız Lake, within Dağdibi borders, is situated in the valley basin in the west of Abdal Musa Hill. Suyungözü and



İkizgöller (Karagöller-1), Gulaçar



Karanlıkgöl (Ahtabur), Gulaçar



Adalıgöl (Büyüç/Karanlık), Gulaçar





Kugukgöl, Gulağar



İkizgöller (Karagöller) 2, Gulağar



Suyungözü Lake, Akbulak



Buzlu Lake, Gülağar / Vehbi YALÇIN



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Beşgöller 5, Gümüştuğ



Yıldızgöl 2, Akbulak



Beşgöller 1, Gümüştuğ



Beşgöller 3, Gümüştuğ







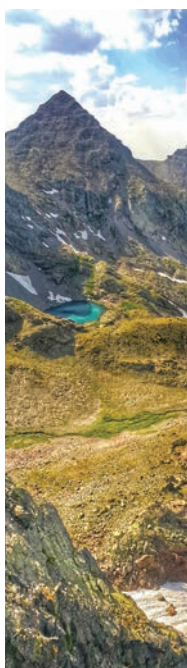


Acembol (Uçgöller) Lakes, Dağdibi



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Dağdibi Yıldız Lake





Gölbaşı Lake, Dağdibi



Akbulak Yıldız 1 and 2 glacial lakes, which spread over the southern borders of the nature park, are located in the valley in the north-south direction. These lakes can be accessed on foot via a distinct pathway from Hendüt Plateau of Akbulak Village in Şiran district. The largest glacial lake of Artabel Lakes in terms of area is Adalığöl (the second one is the 4th lake of Beşgöller), and the deepest one is Karanlık (Ahtabur) Lake. In addition, there are large and small ponds whose areas get smaller because they dry up in the summer.

Artabel Lakes, declared a natural park in 1998 due to their geological and geomorphological resources, landscape values and flora and fauna diversity, encompass an area of 5859 hectares. In this authentic geography, there are 141 plant species in total, belonging to 39 families and 103 types, 12 of which are rare. Fauna diversity of the park, which has 13 landscape values, comprises 30 mammals and 88 bird species. 10 plant species in the nature park face the danger of 'extinction'. The chevrotain, chamois, bear, coyote, fox, marten, badger, golden eagle, lesser kestrel, caspian snowcock, lammergeier, white vulture, black stork, marbled teal, and central Turkish mountain viper are the animal species that stand out in the fauna diversity of the area. 6 of the mammals and 81 of the birds are in the red list consisting of the endangered species.

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Karagöller, Gümüşlüğ / Recep ERGİN

# ARTABEL LAKES NATURE PARK

Alucra Plateaus

Buzlugöl

Karanlıkgöl  
(Ahtabur)

Adalıgöl

Suyungözü Lake

İkizgöller  
(Karagöller)

Küçükgöl

Akbulak  
Yıldız Lakes

Karagöl Plateau

Hendüt Plateau

Akbulak

Gülaçar

Esentepe  
(Artabel)



Kürt Tombs



Dağdibi

Gölbaşı  
Lake

Dağdibi  
Yıldızgölü

Abdal Musa  
Peak

Acembol Lakes  
(Üçgöller)

Karagöller

Beşgöller

Yılanlı Plateau

Gümüştuğ

Dulağa Plateau



## b) Örümcek Forest Nature Reserve Area

Örümcek Forest Nature Reserve Area, located in Kürtün district of Gümüşhane, is an open air tree museum where Europe's tallest fir and spruce trees are. As can be understood from its name, Örümcek (spider), the area, where a dense and impassable grand tree community goes up to the sky, was declared a nature reserve area in 1998. Along Gücükdere Valley, which spreads over a geography moistened by Harsit Basin, you encounter monumental trees when you go up on the forest roads that remind of a labyrinth. On the first platform at an altitude of 1215 meters, two Black Sea fir trees, one of which is 61,5-meter-high, extend their branches to the sky as if they are praying. On the second spot at an altitude of 1370 meters rise two fir trees and three caucasian spruce trees, whose heights are 49-58 meters. These spruce trees, 552 centimeters in diameter, are regarded as the tallest and widest spruce trees in Caucasus. The 20-kilometer-long forest road from Kürtün district travels the length and breadth of Örümcek Forest Nature Reserve Area and reaches Çıkrıkdüzü Plateau. If you are traveling in summer, you can extend your tour up to Güvende and Kazıkbeli plateaus.

By the way, 4.80-meter-high and 4.15-meter-wide Kırantı Evliya Juniper Nature Monument in Kırantı Village within Şiran district border, and 30-meter-high and 4.85-meter-wide Ali Ağa's Poplar Nature Monument are among the natural beauties worth seeing.





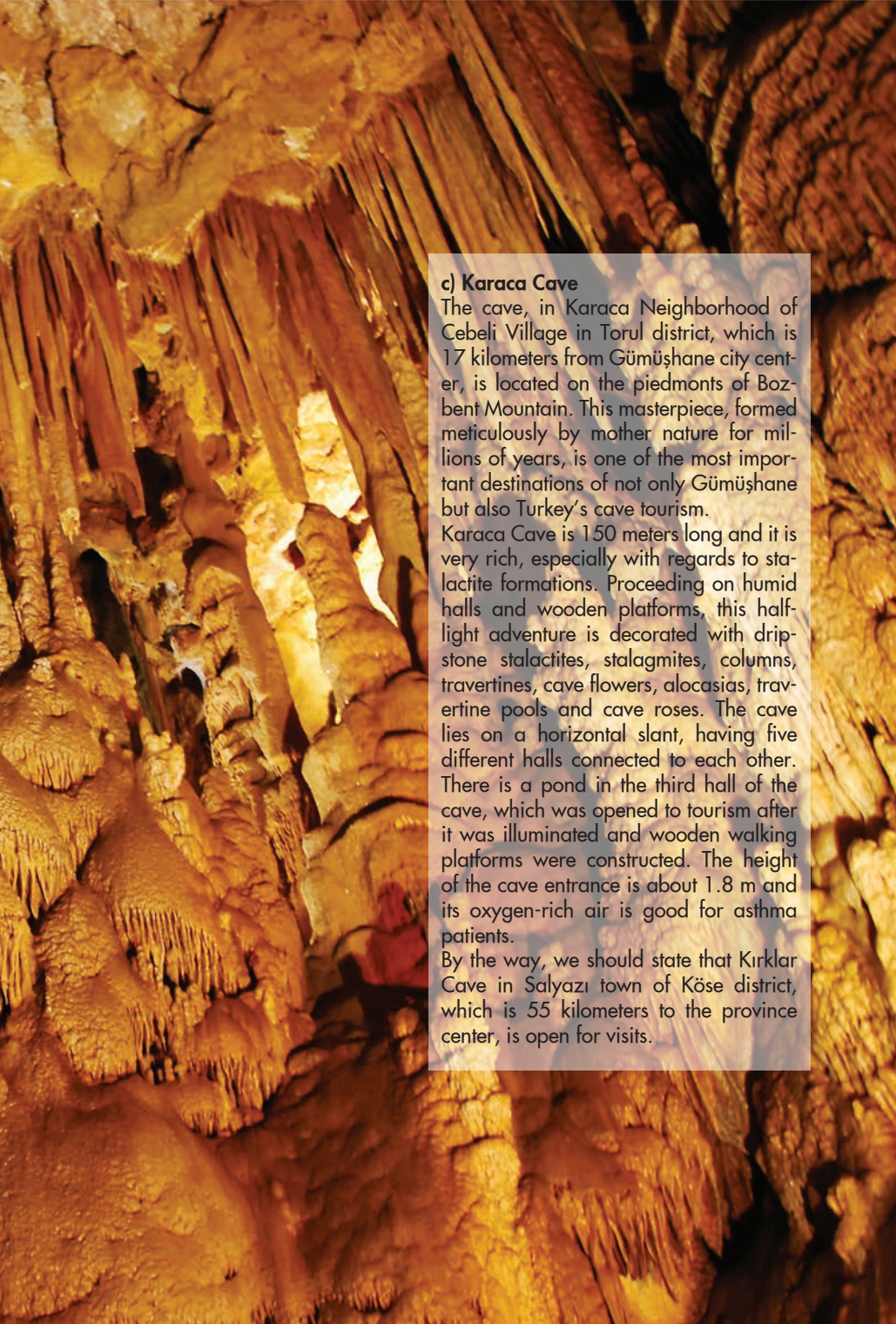






Karaca Cave, Torul/Vehbi YALÇIN





### c) Karaca Cave

The cave, in Karaca Neighborhood of Cebeli Village in Torul district, which is 17 kilometers from Gümüşhane city center, is located on the piedmonts of Boz-bent Mountain. This masterpiece, formed meticulously by mother nature for millions of years, is one of the most important destinations of not only Gümüşhane but also Turkey's cave tourism.

Karaca Cave is 150 meters long and it is very rich, especially with regards to stalactite formations. Proceeding on humid halls and wooden platforms, this half-light adventure is decorated with drip-stone stalactites, stalagmites, columns, travertines, cave flowers, aloccasias, travertine pools and cave roses. The cave lies on a horizontal slant, having five different halls connected to each other. There is a pond in the third hall of the cave, which was opened to tourism after it was illuminated and wooden walking platforms were constructed. The height of the cave entrance is about 1.8 m and its oxygen-rich air is good for asthma patients.

By the way, we should state that Kırklar Cave in Salyazı town of Köse district, which is 55 kilometers to the province center, is open for visits.

#### d) Butterfly Tour

60% of the province of Gümüşhane, whose borders spread over Euro-Siberian and Irno-Turanian fitogeographical regions, is covered with mountains. The altitude variation caused by these mountain masses, the heights of which exceed 3300 meters in places, reaches great proportions and causes diverse home ranges to form. Qualities such as having the conditions of both the Black Sea and the continental climate, and being located at the beginning of Anatolian Diagonal, has brought richness to Gümüşhane's







biological diversity. The biggest part of this diversity is comprised of butterflies, with their 215 known species. 7 of these 215 species are endemic (e.g. Torul Blue / *Plebeius torulensis*), the majority of the rest are rare and endangered species across Turkey. It is possible to see these rare species on the route of Tersun Mountain-Hendüt Mountain-Artabel Lakes Nature Park. Those who will join these tours must take a guide who knows the region well with them. We would like to remind you that you need to take pains to protect the natural circle of life and not give any harm to the butterfly species.



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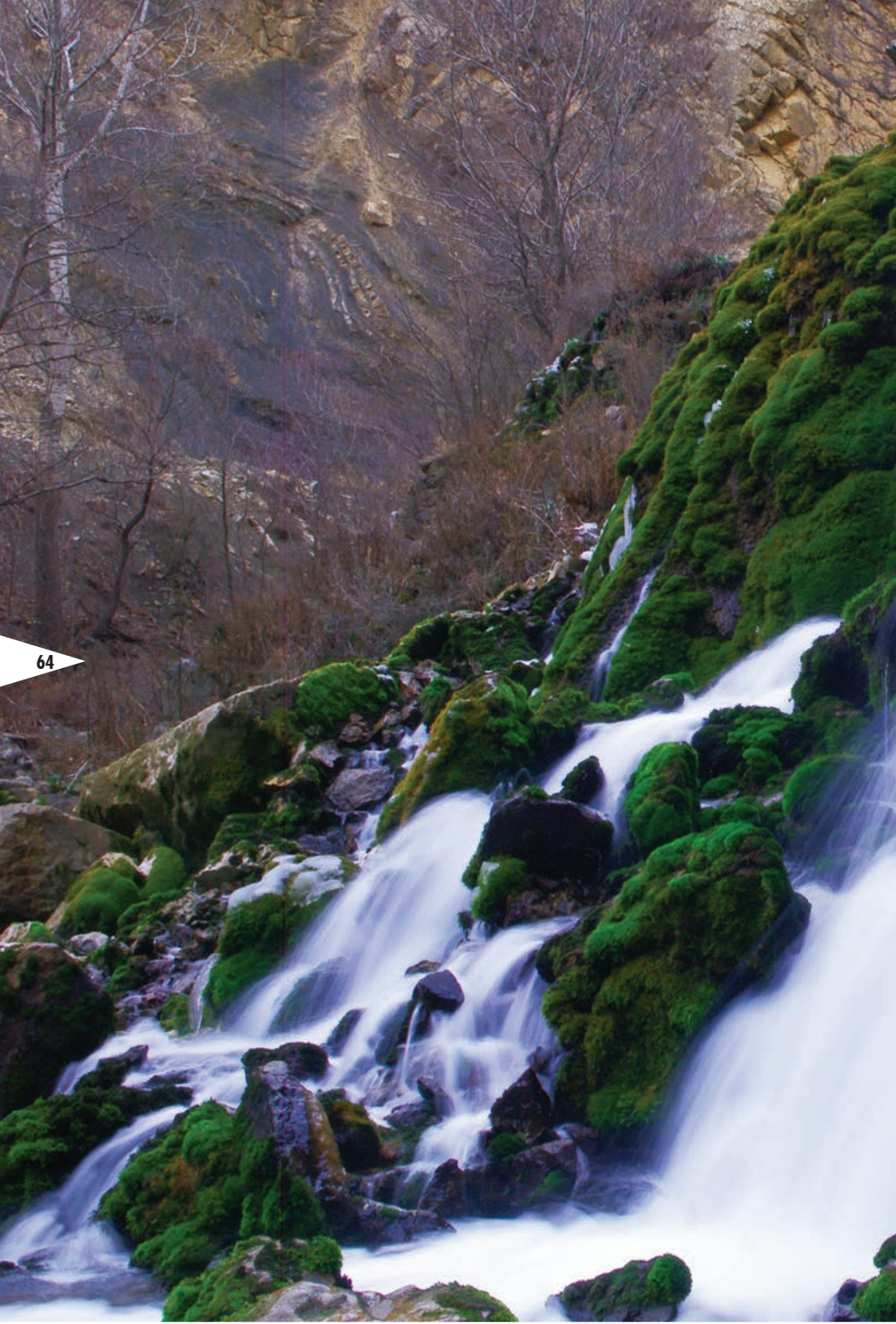


Vehbi YALÇIN













Tomara Waterfall, Şiran/vehbi YALÇIN

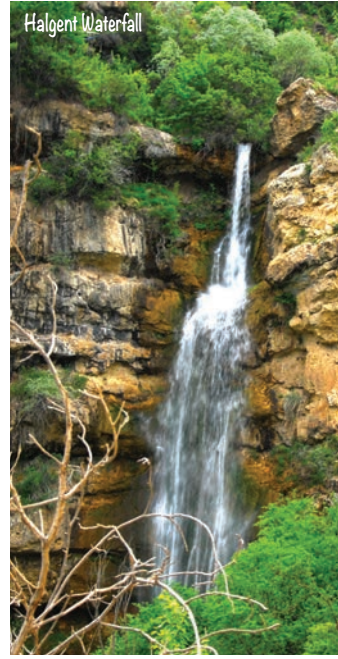
### e) Tour of Waterfalls

The main spots of our Tour of Waterfalls are Tomara, Tekke, Halgent, Çağlayandibi, Artabel and Beşgöller waterfalls. It is possible to access Halgent and Tekke waterfalls from the central district of Gümüşhane; however, its flow rate in the summer is very low. Tekke waterfall, which is 5 kilometers from Tekke Village, is accessed through the formations of fairy chimneys. Gliding through the rocks, Halgent Waterfall is 1 kilometer from the central district. Artabel Waterfall in Artabel Lakes Nature Park can be seen at the end of the road that goes from Esentepe Neighborhood of Gulaçar Village to Karagöl Plateau. Beşgöller Waterfall, which can be accessed with a 4-kilometer hike from Dulağa Plateau of Gümüştüğ Village, is formed by the percolating of waters coming from the lake basin through high rocks.

Çağlayandibi Waterfall, which is in a dense forest texture and does not receive much sunlight within the day, is 3 kilometers from Kürtün district. You can access the waterfall, which was declared a Nature Park and landscaped in 2014, with a 100-meter hike from the roadside.

Tomara, which proudly made its mark in the list of 'Turkey's Most Beautiful Waterfalls', is definitely the star of Gümüşhane's tour of waterfalls. Also known as 'forty springs' in the region, Tomara Waterfall is mentioned along with an interesting story. The shepherd of Seydibaba Village used to take the herd to an isolated place at noon every day and prayed after he performed ablution. Unpleased with this situation, villagers sued the shepherd on the grounds that he left the herd thirsty. One day, when they shadowed the shepherd, they saw him go to the same place again. Unaware of the villagers following him, the shepherd hit his staff to the ground and he both performed ablution with the water coming out and watered the animals. When he realized that the villagers had been watching him, he got angry and he threw his pipe and his knife to two separate places. Thus, Kirk Gözeler Spring and Tomara Waterfall were formed at these two spots.

The waterfall, within the borders of Seydibaba Village in Şiran district of Gümüşhane, is 15 meters wide and 25 meters high. The waters that discharge from separate springs in a rocky area on the piedmonts of a hill fall over the rocks that make a barrier ahead and form Tomara Waterfall. The waterfall widens and creates an impressive sight when falling over this barrier. The waterfall area is a preferred rest and picnic area both with its natural ambiance and facilities.







Tomara Waterfall



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Beşgöller Waterfall



Çağlayandibi Waterfall





#### f) Limni Lake Nature Park

Located on the slopes of Büyükdüz Crest, in the west of Gedik and Kaban hills, Limni Lake is an endorheic lake. This beautiful lake, situated at an elevation of 2100 meters, is within the borders of Saranoy Plateau of Zigana Village in Torul district. Declared a type A picnic area in 2006 and Nature Park in 2011 by the Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, the area attracts attention with its diverse flora and fauna. An accomodation facility suitable for the nature's texture was built on the side of the lake, surrounded by the forest foliage. It is possible to access Limni Lake, which is 41 kilometers from Gümüşhane province center, via a stabilized road from Zigana Winter Tourism Center. Those who are confident of their vehicles may prefer the short dirt road that lies northwards from Zigana Village.







Limni Lake Nature Park, Toorul



## HIKING TRACKS

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The interaction between individuals and societies has always required mobility. However, this mobility has never been randomized; it has always been practiced via certain routes that allow faster and easier connections. Therefore, roads and routes are needed for materials and information to be carried from one place to another. Turkey is one of the countries in the world that have the richest old route and pathway network.

The humankind has used various routes in Anatolian Peninsula from the prehistoric ages to the present. In the middle of the 3rd millennium B.C., a long distance communication network was established for the exchange of goods, technologies and ideas between the Anatolian Plateau and Upper Mesopotamia. The written texts that emerged from the 2nd millennium B.C. made it possible to understand the settlements on these routes and the details of the travels. The Roman Road System has been the focus of researchers in recent years. The subsequent road and route system in the Byzantine and Seljukian periods is still being researched.

By its geographical position, Gümüşhane has always been on the linking routes in the history of humanity. The most important of these routes can be listed as the Silk Road, Roman Road, Ten Thousands (Anabassis) Road, Top (Russian) Road, Şehitlikler Road, Rum Road and Old Migration Roads.

The historic route which was once used to transport goods such as silk, spices, honey, glass, ivory, precious stones, fur, grains and oil carried by caravans, starting from China via Kirghizistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Istanbul to Europe, is called the Silk Road. Although there are some claims about the route at the present time, China, Pamir Plateau, Afghanistan, Iran, Gaziantep, Antakya Harbor and Italy constitute the backbone

of the route. Upon the development of international relations and trade, new routes were added to the main route in the course of time. One of them is the Trabzon-Gümüşhane-Erzurum-Tabriz-Rey-Nishapur-Bukhara-Samarkand-Kashgar-China route. The goods, which were taken to Trabzon harbor via Zigana Pass, were transferred to Venice and Genoa via the ships that set out from this spot.

As Otto von Blau, the Trabzon consul of Prussia, stated, there are two routes on Trabzon-Gümüşhane line. These are Trabzon-Zigana (Kalkanlı)-Torul (Ardasa)-Gümüşhane 'Winter Road' and the 'Summer Road', which covers a very rough geography via Maçka-Cevizlik-Hamsiköy (İstavri) Village. Passing over Zigana Mountain, this route was wide enough only for the caravans to pass in the past. When the route was widened in the 1930s under the leadership of Swiss chief engineer, William Rudolf Cramer, it relatively relieved the travelers with Zigana Pass, opened at an altitude of 2030 meters. In that period, there were many inns on the summer and winter roads, such as Taşköprü, Kulat, Acısu, Gümüşki, Kuz, Barutçu, Seyfi (Acısu-Cami Strait), to cater for travelers' accommodation and other needs. By the way, let us remark that Kulat (Kolat) and Karakaban mountains, where the summer road passed, were a nightmare for caravan leaders because bandits attacked. The most comfortable part of Trabzon-Tabriz Silk Road was the Bayburt-Balator-Sifon Valley-Sobran-Gümüşhane route on which mail transport was carried out. Opened recently, the highway proceeds parallel to the old road between Maçka and Torul. In the meanwhile, we should remind that Gümüşhane-Torul-Harşit-Tirebolu line has been used for centuries as an alternative route to get to the Black Sea.





Cinlihanlar, Hanzarya Strait-Trabzon

One of the main routes of Roman Road, which covered the length and breadth of Anatolia in the ancient period, used to pass through the provincial borders of Gümüşhane. Roman Road followed the Trabzon-Gümüşhane-The Ancient City of Satala-Erzincan-Kemah-Fırat River-Pülümür Pass-Malatya-Mesopotamia route in the north-south direction. It followed the Tabriz-Erzurum-Kop Pass-Bayburt-Köse-The Ancient City of Satala -Şiran-Alucra-Niksar-Amasya (Amaseia)-Vezirköprü (Neoklaudiopolis)-Taşköprü ((Pompeiopolis)-Gökçesu (Kratei)-Bolu (Bithynion)-İstanbul line in the east-west direction. Both routes stopped by the Ancient City of Satala, situated at the main intersection point.

The Return of Ten Thousands-Anabasis, the work of historian/soldier Xenophon (430-355 B.C.), provides the story of 'the fight for the throne between two brothers governing the Persian Empire and the return of around ten thousand Greek soldiers after the war'. Kaykhusraw, the West Anatolian force commander of the Persian Empire, which was ruling the entire Anatolia in that period, declares war against his brother, Xerxes II, who claimed the throne after his father, Dari-

us II's death. He adds 13.000 Greek soldiers (with shields and spears) and 700 mercenaries from Isparta to the 100.000 people he gathered from the local people. In 401 B.C., he sets off eastwards from the Ancient City of Sardes, which is near Salihli district of Manisa. He crosses Anatolian Plato, goes down to Cilicia via Gülek Strait, and then reaches Mesopotamia via Northern Syria. In Konaksa, near Babylon, he battles with his brother's Persian Empire Army, consisting of 1.200.000 soldiers and 6000 cavalry men. Losing the war at the end of a bloody battle, Cyrus is killed during the battle. The surviving Greek soldiers at Xenophon's command want to reach the Black Sea, passing through Eastern Anatolia, and return to their country by ship under harsh winter conditions. While they are passing over Zigana Chain of Mountains via Gümüşhane with the help of local guides, they see the Black Sea from a high spot and they scream 'Thalassa!' (sea) with joy. (Today, the word Thalassa is used as an idiom in western languages, meaning 'the end of hard times'). At this location, where they first saw the sea, each soldier brings a stone to form a benchmark, and they name

that spot 'Thekes Hill'. Then, they arrive at Trabzon harbor and return to their country by ships that have been waiting for them. This region, where ten thousands saw the sea is a question of debate among scientists.

There are various speculations about the route of this legend, called The Return of Ten Thousands-Anabasis in history. According to Assoc. Prof Dr. Süleyman Çiğdem, ten thousands followed the Mandiri-Muzaras-Bazbent Mountain-Bazbent Neighborhood-Bazbent Bridge-Yağlıdere-İrizma Creek- Menzilhane-Öküz Yatağı-Kulat Inns-Turna Lakes-Karakaban-Meşeiçi-Naldöken-Maçka-Trabzon route. On the other hand, according to the 'Anabasis Road' project, which was put into effect in recent years by Maçka District Governorate of Trabzon province, the route follows Maçka-Yazlık (Livera) Village-Livera Citadel- Düzler Hamlet-Aya Pavlos Strait-Rışk Plateau-Saveriksa Plateau-Kusal Plateau-Kebi Plateau- Mühirci Plateau-Omela Plateau-İsgobel Plateau line. According to those who formed this route, İsgobel Plateau is the Thekes Hill location, where the ten thousands in Anabasis first saw the sea. According to the

research we did, the continuation of the abovementioned route is most probably İsgobel Plateau-Selboğazı Plateau-Arnastal Plateau -Sarış Plateau-Taşköprü Plateau -Kurugöl Plateau -Alaçayır Plateau -Dölek Plateau -Yitirmez-Arzular line. After reaching the main road, the route gets to the Ancient City of Satala by crossing Tohumoğlu Bridge.

The routes through which ammunition and canons were conveyed in the Ottoman Empire period were referred to as 'Top (Cannon) Road'. Routes for Cannon Road were formed in order to transmit ammunition, which was of vital importance, especially in the Ottoman-Iranian and Ottoman-Russian wars, to Erzurum and Kars. Differing from main and seasonal lines, these routes usually followed crest lines on mountainous areas. The ammunition, which was transferred from one provincial border to another on the main axis, was received by the local people in each village and carried up to the border of the neighboring village. Villagers used to transport cannons with the help of means called 'Mekkare', such as horses, donkeys and mules, used in transportation in the Ottoman Army. The subsidiary line that got to the can-



Dölek Strait Martyrs Cemetery, Central District





non roads in Erzurum and Kars regions used to pass over Trabzon-Maçka-Cevizlik-the Ancient City of Krom -Yitirmez Village-Bayburt-Kop Mountain.

In the same way, Russians, who invaded the Eastern Anatolia Region for a period, built roads that were called the 'Russian Road' in Kars-Erzurum-Trabzon-Gümüşhane-Artvin-Rize regions. These roads, built with the purpose of enabling easier transportation of armies and gun carriages during the war, were usually located in valley bottoms or mountain crests. Today, the most important 'Canon/Russian Road' within Gümüşhane borders can be seen on the plateaus around Yitirmez Village -Hanzarya Strait-Kulat Inns and Çakırgöl Mountain. On Gümüşhane Mountains, where the Ottoman Empire 3rd Army Headquarters was deployed in the period of Ottoman-Russian war between 1916-18, there are several martyr's cemeteries. On Gavur Mountains, spreading to the north of Alucra district of Giresun, where the 3rd Army Headquarters were, and especially on the crests of Karanlık (Ahtabur) Lake in Artabel Lakes Nature Park, there are numerous martyrs' graves. Human skulls and bones encountered in the bul-

works from the war period are its most significant proof. There are emplacements and bulwarks on both Gavur and Zigana mountains. The best known martyr's cemeteries within provincial borders are Kabaktepe, 28 kilometers to Kürtün district center, and Dölek Strait martyrs' cemetery in the borders of Dölek Village of central district.

We mentioned in the "History" section that there are many churches within the borders of Gümüşhane. The 'Rum Road' line, which connects these important churches and monasteries, was a route used by monks for transportation in the past. The backbone of the aforementioned 'Rum Road' constitutes the transportation network between Sumela Monastery in Maçka district of Trabzon, İmera Monastery (St. John Prodromus) in Olucak Village of the central district of Gümüşhane, Meryemana Monastery in Büyükçit Village of Torul district, and Kayadibi Meryemana Monastery in Şebinkarahisar district of Giresun. This route roughly followed Sumela-Kurtdere Plateau- Cami Strait Plateau-Hanzarya Strait-İmera Monastery-Cehennem Valley-İkisu-Torul-Kirazlık-Tokçam-Yaşorman-Kangala Taşı-Suda Strait-

Meryemana Monastery-Gümüştuğ-Yılanlı Plateau-Gölönü Plateau-Kurdish Cemetery-Yedigözülerinbaşı-Kangel-Akarca-Alucra-Şebinkarahisar Meryemana Monastery line. This route's alternative in Gümüşhane borders followed Övündü-Arılı-Kalecik-Dedeli-Köklü-Esentepe-Kızılkaya line after İkisu Village, and joined the main route at Kurdish Cemetery locality.

Besides all these historic roads, there are numerous old migration routes and pathways treaded in order to go to the centers of cities and districts, and routes covered on mules in order to trade with the villages of neighboring provinces. In Gümüşhane region, there are too many old migration and plateau roads to squeeze into this guide book.

For instance, Olucak villagers in the north preferred Krom-Maden-Hanzarya-Cinli Inns-Larhan-Kınalı Bridge (Çoşandere)-Maçka-Kanlıpelit-Ayvasıl route to take dry and fresh fruit (pears, apples) to Trabzon in exchange for beans and corn. On the other hand, the caravan route that came to Olucak Village from the east followed the Bayburt-Sabrun-Arzular-Dölek (or Yitirmez)-Kınalı Bridge-Çamlık Plateau-Tenekeci Plateau-Karatay line. Local people of Olucak preferred Uğurtaş-Kulat Strait-Kulat Inns route to go to Hamsiköy settlement of Trabzon. To be able to cater for their needs, they traveled on mules in the 6-hour Zubar-Tefil-Aktutan-Bektaşlı direction so that they could take animals to the marketplace set up every week in Gümüşhane in exchange for wheat, flour, tea and sugar. In the meantime, Olucak villagers, who dispatched goods such as cheese and butter that local people of Yomra made, went down to Yomra district on mules via Hanzarya Strait-Cami Strait Plateau-Kurtdere-Sarıtaş Plateau-Gümüşki-Santa-Yanbolu

Valley route.

Uğurtaş Village, located in the west of Olucak Village, was a junction point used both by local people and the ones in the city center to pass to Trabzon. We can list the alternative routes preferred for centuries, especially in summer, due to the convenient geographical conditions in Uğurtaş region as follows: Uğurtaş-Kulat Mountain-Ayaser-Old Zigana Pass-Maçka-Trabzon, Uğurtaş-Kulat Mountain-Ayaser-Barmada-Bodamış Plateau-Ferganlı-Hamsiköy-Maçka-Trabzon, Uğurtaş-Kulat Mountain-Turnagöl-Lapazan-Hoca Mezarı-Karakaban-Meşeici-Maçka-Trabzon, Uğurtaş-Kulat Mountain -Acısu-Larhan-Kınalı Bridge (Çoşandere)-Maçka-Trabzon ve Uğurtaş-Kulat Mountain - Cami Strait Plateau- Altındere Valley (Sumela Monastery)-Maçka-Trabzon. In addition, Uğurtaş villagers used the Bazbent Mountain-Mescitli or Koroş-Haşera Village-Hacıemin lines in order to go to the marketplace in Gümüşhane city center.

In the southern part of the province, especially due to the passes that Gavur Chain of Mountains allow, the old migration routes got to Şiran district and Alucra district of Giresun. Of all these routes, the most important one was Torul-Kirazlık-Tokçam-Yaşorman-Kangala Taşı-Suda Strait-Gümüştuğ-Geçit Creek-Artelbel-Galis-Kurdish Cemetery-Akbullak (Norşon)-Şiran. Gümüştuğ villagers used to take oxcart shafts to Şiran in exchange for crops and wheat. Again, Torul locals used Yılanlı Plateau-Kurdish Cemetery -Yedigözülerinbaşı-Akyatak Plateau-Boyluca route to Alucra in order to take staple food, such as butter and dry cottage cheese, in exchange for animals. The locals of Gülaçar Valley, which is in the east of Gümüştuğ, would pass over high Gavur Mountains via Kızılyar-



Akera-Yedigözülerinbaşı to get to Alucra, and via Galis to get to Şiran district. Another caravan route in the same region was Demirkapı-Ellecik-Arpalık Kıranı (Karataş)-Olukman Plateau-Pazardüzü-Güvez Karagöl-Öşkine or Pazardüzü Kurdish Cemetery-Ağayatak-Çakmanus, which got to the districts of Giresun. The biggest shopping center of the region was Pazardüzü locality during the times when Kazıkbeli Plateau was not used as settlement.

In the light of the information above, we have carried out this work, 'Gümüşhane Cultural Route', for the sake of turning all these historical routes into locations known for their social and cultural properties, rather than being meaningless spots on the map. Our Culture Road, which encompasses the parts of historical routes within Gümüşhane provincial borders, such as Silk Road, Roman Road, Ten Thousands (Anabassis) Road, Top (Russian) Road, Şehitlikler Road, Rum Road and Old Migration Roads, is 384 kilometers long. Another important criterion we considered while forming the entire route was to give priority to regions with tourism mobility. These regions, which have tourism potential due to natural and historical values, can be listed as Zigana Winter Tourism Center, Santa Ruins, the Ancient City of Krom, Çakırgöl Winter Tourism Center, Zigana Plateaus, Central Gümüşhane, Süleymaniye Neighborhood, Karaca Cave, Artabel Lakes Nature Park, Limni Lake Nature Park, Altınpınar (Limni) Lake, Kazıkbeli Plateau, and Örumcek Forest Nature Reserve Area.

At the present time, many of the ancient roads have disappeared due to modern road network has outstretched nationwide. Some part of the old migration routes is covered more with thornbushes and trees every day because they are not

used by people and animals. While trying to stick by the old migration routes as much as possible while working on the routes, we strived to use the pathways still well-functioning and relatively in good condition. By observing the geographical conditions in the region, we determined the low-risk hiking routes that will give the most pleasure to nature lovers.

This "Gümüşhane Cultural Route" stops by many touristic locations in the province and draws a large circle. Those who wish can complete the route as a long-running activity, as well as plan it in stages. The main axis of the Culture Road is formed by Zigana Ski Center-Tek Dükkan-Kulat Strait-Hanzarya Strait-The Ancient City of Krom (Bulutayla)-Alikinos (Düzce)-Sarioğlu-İmera Monastery-Oluçak-Köklü (Nazırlı Neighborhood)-Baş (Tefil) Neighborhood-Aktutan-Zuvar-Kent Forest-Kızılköy-Pirili-Gümüşhane-Süleymaniye Neighborhood-Gözeler (Tembada) Plateau-Aygırgöl-Dipsizgöl-Aksu (Monastery) Plateau-Eşek Square-Midi Plateau-Tersun Pass-Orman Bekçevi (Ranger's Unit)-Çevrepınar (Zimon) Plateau-Evren (Söfker) Plateau-Akbulak Hendüt Plateau-Kurdish Cemetery-Maden-Isırganlı Plateau-Esentepe (Artabel)-Karagöl Plateau-Artabel Lakes-Beşgöller-Karagöller-Abdal Musa Peak-Yılanlı Plateau-Acembol Lakes-Gölönü Plateau-Teknecik Plateau-Cinlikaya-Kurdish Cemetery-Karagöl-Kazıkbeli-Güvende Plateau-Çıkrıküzü-Örumcek Forest-Çağlayandibi Waterfall-Kürtün.

In addition, the route, enriched by alternative routes, extends to different regions and visits certain places that decorate the tourism showcase of Gümüşhane. Nature lovers may hike Zigana-Limni Lake-Kordon Strait-Çiçekli Plateau-Zagarya Harmanı-Badanos Forest-Karaca Cave track in order to visit Karaca Cave.

History lovers may try Zigana Ski Center-Tek Dükkan-Kulat Strait-Hanzarya Strait-Cami Strait-Orta Plateau-Çakırgöl-Çatalbahar Plateau-Kurugöl Plateau-Taşköprü Plateau-Santa Ruins route. Our recommendation to those who wish to see Sumela Monastery via Gümüşhane is to pick Cami Strait-Isgobel Plateau-Sumela Monastery stage.

Gümüşhane Cultural Route also prepared different options for adventure lovers who want to explore Artabel Lakes Nature Park. Those who enter the park from the Gümüştuğ (Avliyana), Gülaçar (Nivene) or Dağdibi (Fidigar) side can draw a large circle and go back to the starting point, or they could hike the 'Trans Abdal Musa Peak' track.

The route was not marked with international signs due to passing from a high geography and stopping by countless historical places. You can access all the details of the routes, whose maps were formed by determining only the Global Positioning System (GPS) data, and get

information on the following websites: [www.burasigumushane.com](http://www.burasigumushane.com) and [gumushanerotalari@gmail.com](mailto:gumushanerotalari@gmail.com). Those who want to hike the routes along which there are guiding signboards at the junction points can get detailed information on the route and get a guide by contacting the persons in the 'Information and Guidance' section of this book.

Due to the existence of snow packs in the region during the route works, the GPS data pass a little below or above the main pathway, but assuredly get back to the main route in 200-500 meters. When you encounter such a situation, we suggest that you not be surprised and keep on walking on the main pathway despite the GPS data. By the way, many villages in the region are still called by their old names, and asking for directions can be a little troublesome. Therefore, you will find the old and the new names of villages and places together in the sections in which the tracks are explained.





## IMPORTANT WARNINGS FOR HIKERS

- ▶ Do not set off alone during your hiking activity. Make sure you take a guide who knows the region with you or make use of the Gümüşhane Mountaineering Club in the region.
- ▶ Before you hike the track you have chosen, check if it is suitable for your performance. Do not take risks. When determining the route, consult persons who know the region.
- ▶ Zigana and Artabel Lakes Nature Park tracks are recommended only to those who are professional and experienced nature lovers, especially in winter. Remember that the weather conditions in these regions can be variable even in summer due to high altitude. In winter, watch out especially for an avalanche risk. Take into consideration the possibility of sudden fog in summer.
- ▶ We would like to remind you that all tracks might be muddy in rainy months. In such seasons, take into account that you might get wet among damp plants. Because of its nature, sunless parts of the forestland will be moist, especially at the morning hours. You can use leggings.
- ▶ All the routes offer enough water. You can make use of fountains, water sources and springs during your hike.
- ▶ Your cell phone may be out of coverage in Zigana Mountains and plateaus, Artabel Lakes Nature Park, Tersun Pass, and the Ancient City of Krom. Do some comprehensive research about your travel before you set off.
- ▶ Remember that collecting living beings such as plants, insects, butterflies and reptiles is a crime of 'biological smuggling'.
- ▶ Due to widespread stockbreeding in the region, beware of shepherd dogs, especially in areas where herds graze.
- ▶ There are bears in the region. Never walk alone and quietly. Hang a bell on your backpack. While walking, blow a whistle periodically or make sounds. Remember that the most dangerous thing about encountering a bear is running into it. As long as you make a sound, the wild animal will know your existence, and will probably watch your every move, but will not get in your way. While passing through unfrequented places, walk fast and noisily, especially in areas where there are water sources and wild berries. Should you encounter a bear, be as calm as possible and never panic. Leave it enough space to escape, and walk backwards slowly, looking into its eyes.
- ▶ 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 it will give us generously.
- ▶ Do not leave any food waste or left overs except peels in the nature. Remember that you might change the original dynamic of wild life and the habits of animals.
- ▶ Gümüşhane is a very rich province in terms of historical places. Take pains not to give any harm to archeological sites, particularly on the routes of the Ancient City of Krom, Santa Ruins, and Gümüştuğ Valley. Warn the people around you about protecting the historical sites, which are the inheritance of humanity.

## DIFFICULTY LEVELS OF HIKING

**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 slopped land. 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.







Beşgöller 4, Gümüşlük-Artabel Lakes Nature Park

Difficulty Level 2

# TRACK 1

Zigana Ski Center-Kuzu Lakes-Alas  
Plateau-Tek Dükkan (10 km)

Gümüşhane plateaus, surrounded by ravishingly beautiful mountains, come into blossom, especially in spring. The route we will recommend starts at Zigana Winter Tourism Center, one of the most important tourism values of Gümüşhane, and gets to Tek Dükkan locality. You enter the dirt road extending eastwards from the starting point of the route, Zigana Plateau, at an altitude of 2100 meters. Ascending with a mild inclination, the route turns to a pathway in a while. Then, you turn south and reach the plateau group road that establishes

a connection between Zigana Ski Center and Cami Strait. After passing by small Kuzu Lakes, scattered about on the right side of the road, you get to Alas Plateau turnout. Keeping ascending and offering a wonderful scenery, the route passes from the south of 2603-meter-high Çevirmegözü Hill. The route, which allows you to watch Atalar Valley in the south, proceeds from the south of Bodamış Plateau and ends at Tek Dükkan locality. Attention! The region could be foggy in all seasons, especially in the afternoon!







Zigana  
Ski Center



Tek Dükkan



Limni Lake



Difficulty Level 2

# TRACK 2

Tek Dükkan-Ayeser Plateau- Kulat (Kolat)  
Strait (9 km)

Giving pleasure with extraordinary views, this route continues in the west-east direction from the crests of Zigana Mountains, which draw the Gümüşhane-Trabzon border. Besides its scenic spots, the most important quality of the route is that it covers the old Top Road. You first pass by Isırganlı Plateau turnout. Then, the hiking activity continues in the north of 2600-meter-high Kulat (Kolat) Mountain. The route, which proceeds along the crest, presents views of Gümüşhane in the south at times and Trabzon's plateaus and mountains in the north at others. After you pass by Ayeser Plateau fork, you get to Osmanoğlu Plateau turnout. Now, you need to turn right from this point and walk south-

wards. In order to shorten the track on the dirt road that climbs to the slopes of 2589-meter-high Ayeser Hill, you may use the small pathways. If you are walking in clear weather, you can take clear photos of Uğurtaş Valley in the south. The route, which turns east again on the peaks of Ayeser Hill, passes close to the old emplacements on Top Road while you are proceeding on Cemalbey Crest. At the last stage, it passes from the north of Nişan Hill (2660), and gets to Kulat Strait (Inns) locality. These old inns, which were the frequent destination of so many caravans, have been used by the local people, especially in summer, for centuries.



Zigana Mountains and Plateau Roads





Tek Dükkan



Kulat Strait



Altitude

2643m

2465m

2413m

9 km

Distance

Difficulty Level 2

# TRACK 3

Kulat Strait-Hanzarya (Pinar) Strait  
(8 km)

Kulat Strait, one of the most important passing points between Gümüşhane and Trabzon, is located at a pass where there are old inns between Ayaser and Kilisekiran hills. Used by the villagers in the north of Gümüşhane city to get down to Maçka for centuries, the pass is located in the west of 2462-meter-high Kilisekiran Hill. The route we will recommend gets to Hanzarya by following the traces of the old Top Road. You start ascending by entering the dirt road that goes eastwards at the start of the route. When you arrive at the northern slopes of Büyükdüz Hill, Çoşandere (Larhan) Valley, which Hanzarya and Cami straits face will

come into view. The settlement on the valley slopes on your right are Aşağı and Yukarısoğanerem plateaus. The route, which starts ascending again after drawing a large arch, passes from the northern piedmonts of Murat Hill of Kulat Mountains. When you get to the peak point, you can take photos of Cinlihanlar in the valley as well as Usluoğlu and Derinirmak plateaus. Now, get off the dirt road and take the old Top Road, which proceeds indistinctly in the meadowland. This weedy road, which proceeds along Kavalak Crest, will take you to Hanzarya (Pinar) Strait. The inns at this locality are open from the end of spring until October.



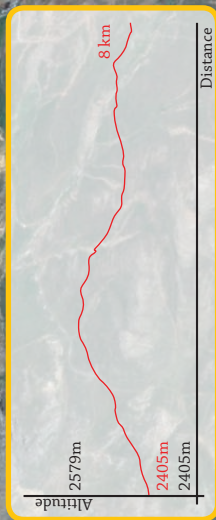




Kulat Strait



Hanzarya Strait



Difficulty Level 2

# TRACK 4

Kulat Strait-Uğurtaş (İstavri) (9 km)

Our hiking track, which starts in Kulat Inns region, located at an important intersection point, follows the mule path that is used by Uğurtaş villagers to get to Maçka via Karakaban and Acisu. Unfortunately, most of the pathway has disappeared due to not having been used for a long time and the creek bed's rising in winter. At the first stage, you will start walking on the dirt road that gets access between Kulat Inns and Uğurtaş. You will enter the mule road in about 600 meters. The track, which meets the dirt road again in a while, will go down to Uğurtaş Creek by a bridge. GPS data continues on the right side of the creek bed; however, those who want can follow the pathways on the left after the bridge. The route, which crosses to the left side of the creek from the area where there is a small concrete embankment, follows the water pipe line from this point on used to carry water to Uğurtaş Village. The ever-ascending route, which presents a magnificent valley scenery, has fallen into ruin in places due to land slide. The valley bottom will start to widen in a while after the water canal enters the forest land. The pathway, which meets the walk way in the last part, will cross the dirt road and reach Uğurtaş Village at the 9th kilometer. Let us remind that there is a chapel, which has preserved its authentic texture, in the village.



Uğurtaş Valley

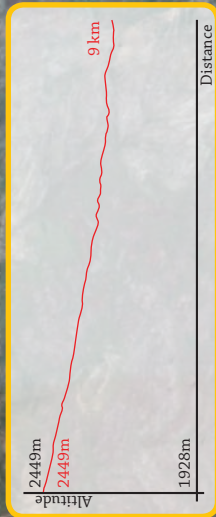




Kulat Strait



Uğurtaşı



Difficulty Level 2

# TRACK 5

Hanzarya Strait - Cami Strait - Çakırgöl  
(10 km)

90

This route we recommend, during which you will encounter different dialects, colorful festivals and different tastes while you are hiking in Gümüşhane plateaus, passes through Hanzarya and Cami Strait, two important passes that have been used since the ancient period. Starting from the inns in Hanzarya Strait, which is also referred to as Pınar Strait on the map, follows the dirt road up to Cami Strait. The route, passing from the west of high mountains such as Madeninbaşı (2942), Camica (2826) and Murat (2821) hills, proceeds northwards. On your left, you can see the starting point of Çoşandere Valley, which goes down to Maçka, and Trabzon plateaus such as Derinirmak, Usluoğlu, and Cinlihanlar. The route, which turns right to the east after a while, reaches Cami Strait locality, located at the strait between Taşkesen and Murat hills, and used by caravans in the past and by transhumants in the present.

At an altitude of about 2100 meters, Cami Strait Plateau is located at an important intersection point on the connection line of Gümüşhane-Trabzon plateaus. In the north of the plateau, where Sultanmurat Mosque is located, there are Taşkesen,

Kasapoğlu and Mezarlık plateaus of Trabzon. From the plateau, where festivals participated by thousands of people are organized, go towards the dirt road where there is Çakırgöl Tourism Center signboard. The eastward hike turns into a tractor road that outstretches right after 1 kilometer. After passing by a graveyard, you will get to Marandaoglu Neighborhood of Orta Plateau. Now, cross the bridge and start following the dirt road. While the track is ascending with a mild inclination, Gırlavu and Karahava plateau houses will come into view on your left. Turn right from the intersection under the guidance of the signboard, and keep on ascending. Continuing in company of a wide valley panorama, you will pass a creek bed and start ascending sothwards again. At the end of the 10th kilometer, you will arrive at Çakırgöl Glacial Lake, located on the northern piedmonts of Deveboynu Mountain. You can set up a camp in the area, where there are many large and small lakes. Unfortunately, the ease of transportation due to the road that has come close to it after it was declared a tourism center has caused this wonder of nature to be polluted by insensible people.



Çakırgöl

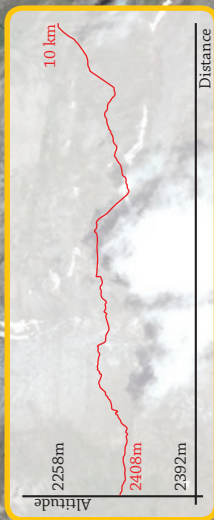




Cami Strait

Çakırgölü

Hanzarya Strait



Difficulty Level 2

# TRACK 6

Çakırgöl - Çatalbahar Plateau - Kuru-  
göl Plateau - Taşköprü (12 km)

92

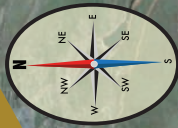
Adorned with beauties that will take their place in the photo album on your mind, this route passes through the plateaus in the north of Çakırgöl and Deveboynu hills, and gets to Taşköprü Plateau. The route, on which you will trace the old migration roads, starts from the east of Çakırgöl, and proceeds northwards. After you pass by small rills and lakelets formed by the melting of snow, you will reach a narrow pathway that comes from Karabina Plateau. Moving northwards, the pathway will proceed along a crest for a while. After passing by the small rocks you encounter, leave the pathway that goes towards Karahava Plateau and turn right. The route, which starts declining, will join another pathway going in the west-east direction after a while. Proceeding parallel to the slope, this pathway will first take you to a dirt road, and then you will have to cross to the other side of (Sumela Monastery) Meryemana Creek, which created Altındere Valley. By crossing the plateau group road, which lies parallel to the creek, you can enter Çatalbahar (Çatal-

puar) Plateau. You can take a break at the fountain in the plateau, where there are modern summer houses in a strange architectural style besides traditional plateau houses. Then, start following the pathway that proceeds parallel to the electric poles at the exit of the plateau. The pathway, which passes from the south of Gedigin Hill, will pass through the region which forms a considerable glacial balcony in winter and travel eastwards. Passing above Kuruğöl Plateau, this pathway is an old migration route used by caravans in the past. The wide weedy pathway will start declining and follow the right side of the creek bed that comes from Kanlıkaya and Kirtlin hills. In the last part, you need to cross the creek and take the group road that gets access between Taşköprü and Kuruğöl plateaus. The hike, in company with the creek on your right, flowing parallel to the road, will pass by Eğrisu Plateau and get to Taşköprü Plateau located between Serin and Çiçekli hills. In the plateau, on the historic caravan route where there are old inns, there are hotels, boarding houses and restaurants.



Çakırgöl-Taşköprü Pathway

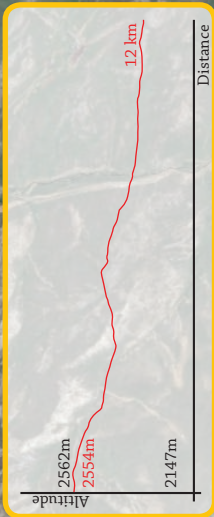




Taşköprü P.

Çatalbahar P.

Çakırgölü



Difficulty Level 2

# TRACK 7

## Taşköprü-Gölet-Santa Ruins (11 km)

This route, at the end of which you will reach Santa Ruins, which will highly attract you, proceeds in the north direction. After walking for about 300 meters, you cross the historic arch bridge and start following the pathway that lies among meadows. The route, which proceeds from the right side (east) of Yanbolu Creek, passes through the valley between Çiçekli Hill and Ziyaret Mountain (2680). In a while, the pathway will turn into a tractor road and take you to Taşköprü Dam Lake. The houses on the opposite side belong to İrmakbaşı Plateau. You continue your hike from the right side of the lake while taking photos of the impressive view. When you get to the body of the dam, Yanbolu Creek, coming from the dam lake, will flow into a deep valley while the dirt road continues straight ahead. After passing by Çukurkayalar locality, you will see Piştöflu settlement, the first

neighborhood of Santa region, from a distance. While the dirt road is spiralling down to the creek bed, you take the tractor road in the north. This road, opened with the purpose of erecting the electric poles, will turn into a pathway in a while that gets access to İsgorden Plateau. Now, you have entered the forest domain where yellow pine and spruce trees abound. Keep on walking northwards. After passing by the creek that flows through the rocks, go down to the west to Yanbolu Creek valley. When you reach the valley bottom, you have to cross the water by seasonably checking the flow rate. If you take the pathway that goes northwards after crossing the creek, you can arrive at Piştöflu Neighborhood and get to Santa Ruins. Let us remind that, in Santa region, which pushes the limits of imagination with its stone houses and churches, there are 6 more beautiful neighborhoods.







Santa  
Ruins



Taşköprü



Difficulty Level 2

# TRACK 8

## Hanzarya (Pınar) Strait-Ancient City of Krom (Bulutayla) (5 km)

Surrounded by enchantingly beautiful mountains, Gümüşhane plateaus await their guests, especially in spring, a time for smelling flowers and running to the moorland. Located at an important intersection point, and starting from Hanzarya Strait, referred to as Pınar Strait on the map, the route gets to Krom (Bulutayla /Şamanlı) settlement, where there are several churches and chapels. Those who start hiking from the area where there are old inns near Maden Plateau need to take the tractor road right below the main road. This secondary road, which follows the electric pole line, will join another dirt road that comes from the east after a while. Keep on walking westwards watching the valley where Krom settlement, the new name of which is Bulutayla, is located. When you get to the old Kranköy locality, you will see the pathway that goes down to the left, which is the south direction. The partly paved ancient road, on which there are still retaining walls in places, will take you to a big church. When you start walking again after a short break, follow the pathway that goes westwards. After passing by the creek, you will arrive in a neighborhood. After visiting another church whose stonemasonry you will admire, head towards the south again. After the ancient road, which leaves the dirt road, first takes you to a rundown church and then to a small chapel, you will get to Krom settlement. We suggest that you visit all the historic structures in the area, which looks like an ancient city with its old buildings, religious structures, citadel and its grainmill in ruins. After discovering the archeological site, you can drink a cup of tea at the café next to the mosque, which was formerly a church.



Old Stone Pathway, Ancient City of Krom

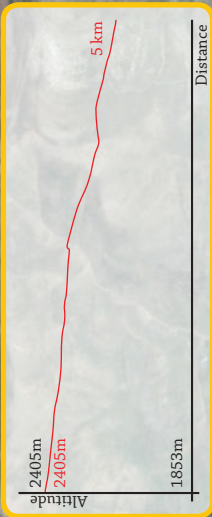




Hanzarya  
Strait



Ancinet  
City of Krom



# TRACK 9

Ancient City of Krom (Bulutayla)-  
Alikinos - Sarioğlu- İmera Monastery  
- Olucak (7 km)

It is possible to hike this route we recommend in two different ways. Those who follow the ancient pathway that goes down to the creek bed from Krom settlement will get to Sarioğlu Church after the ramshackle church in Yaylacık Creek. Those who follow the dirt road that continues eastwards from Krom will get to Sarioğlu settlement via a route, which is a mix of a dirt road and a pathway, after they visit Alikinos Church, the namesake of the settlement. After both tracks join at this point, the route will first get to İmera Monastery, and then to Olucak Village via an ancient pathway used by monks. The route, which passes through the slopes of Gökçe and Sivri hills after Sarioğlu, follows a pathway, the left side of which is rocky and the right side a cliff. We recommend that you not try this ancient route, which is marred due to not having been used much. At the end of the route, we suggest you visit İmera Monastery, one of historical assets of Gümüşhane that has survived till today, and the stone houses in the village.







Ancient  
City of Krom

Sanoğlu

Olucak  
(İmera Monastery)



# TRACK 10

Olucak (İmera) - Köklü (Nazırlı) Neighborhood - Baş (Tefil) Neighborhood - Bektaşlı Neighborhood - Aktutan (Hayeske) (12 km)

This route, which starts from Olucak Village, a tourism asset with its church and old houses, follows the old migration routes used to get to central Gümüşhane. Let us state that you can walk on the distinct pathway by following the telegraph pole line. First, you need to go down to Olucak Brook by passing through the settlement, and cross to the other side over the historic arch bridge. From Göz Creek, one of the small branches of Olucak Creek, the migration route starts ascending steeply towards Köklü Neighborhood in the south direction. The pathway, which eases off the inclination with small twists, passes by an abandoned hamlet. Ascending in company with the gurgling Göz Creek on your left, the route arrives at the pass at an altitude of 2150 meters between Koroş Mountain and Hidirnebi Hill. You can watch a wide panorama with Olucak Village and Deveboynu Summit behind you, and Abdal Musa and Kuru hills in front of you. From this spot on, the old migration route follows a dirt road for about 1,5 kilometers.

At the point where the plateau road makes a sharp bend, you will find the old pathway again. The old marketplace road, which starts descending from the left of Tarlalık Crest continues along the telegraph pole line. The route, which meets the plateau pathway again after passing by a fountain, arrives at Baş (Tefil) Neighborhood at this point. After having a rest at the fountain at the entrance of the settlement, walk towards the old cemetery. The pathway, which disappears for a short time due to long weeds, will cross a creek and go downhill between Tufankaya and Kurtüzü hills. Joining a dirt road at the entrance of Bektaşlı Neighborhood of Aktutan Village by crossing a wooden bridge, the track will turn into a pathway again in 300 meters. After passing by a lakelet surrounded by a green pasture, the route will cover Temirli, Orta and Esentepe neighborhoods, respectively, and reach the asphalt in Aktutan village center.



Bektaşlı Neighborhood Wooden Bridge



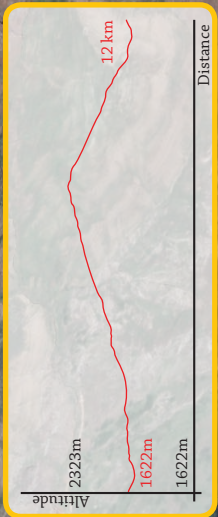


Olucak

Köklü Neighborhood  
(Nazırlı)

Baş Neighborhood  
(Tefil)

Aktutan











# TRACK 11

Aktutan (Hayeske) - Zuvan Crest  
- Urban Forest - Kızılköy - Pirili -  
Gümüşhane (9 km)

In order to find the entrance to the old pathway used by the villagers in the region to go down to Gümüşhane, you need to get to the cemetery at the exit of Aktutan Village. Traveled on mules and donkeys in the past, the pathway starts ascending from this point on. Proceeding usually in the forest, the pathway passes by small meadows once in a while and slowly ascends. Ignore the dirt road that cuts in. Instead, follow the pathway that moves ahead, and get to Zuvan Crest. You can watch the valley where Aktutan ve Yeşildere villages are located from the natural rock observation terrace at this point. When you continue your hike, you will arrive in Çamlıca (Omele) settlement after a short decline. Turn left and head towards the pathway that starts ascending again by the stone walls. In a while, a recently opened forest road will come your way. Ascending steeply and intercepting the road

twice, the pathway will finally turn into a forest road and get to Urban Forest. You can take photos of Hfarsit Valley and Gümüşhane City Center from the observation terraces in the forestland, which spreads between Kalecik and Kuşakkaya hills.

At this point, the old migration route starts descending again and gets to Kızılköy settlement first. The route, which turns right from the opposite of the fountain at the exit of the village and turns into a pathway again, involves a descent towards central Gümüşhane. Intercepting a tractor road after a while, the route turns right at the trivium and proceeds on a pathway again. The pathway, between thornbushes and thickets due to being underused, will continue parallel to plantations. At the last stage, after proceeding on a tractor road again, you will pass by a mosque and reach Pirili Neighborhood of Gümüşhane central district.



Aktutan and Gümüşhane Between Old Pathway





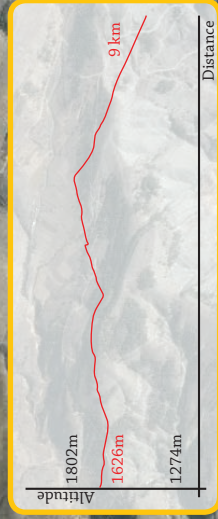
Aktutan



Urban Forest



Gümüşhane



# TRACK 12

**Süleymaniye Neighborhood - Gözeler (Tembada) Plateau - Gümüşhane Güzeller Neighborhood (11 km)**

Reminding of a hanging historical decor as if the time stopped in the past centuries, Süleymaniye Neighborhood is 2 kilometers from the center of Gümüşhane. Starting from this special location where you can visit churches, mosques and civil architecture examples, our route draws a large arch and gets to Güzeller Neighborhood of Gümüşhane. Since the first part of the route we will recommend is continual uphill, it is a tiring stage. Starting in front of Süleymaniye Mosque, the route passes by historic structures and ascends from the left of the creek bed in the south. The pathway, proceeding from the valley bottom between Yellikirse and Yelliburun hills, will get to a level area. At this point, you need to head towards the small valley bottom that you see across the water reservoir, but you may take a short break at the fountain first. The pathway, which heads westwards later on, will pass by the creek bed and start ascending steeply. The route, which joins another pathway when it reaches the crest point, will turn left to the south and continue ascending. Now you are climbing along the valley made fertile by Sarı Creek basin, coming from Aygır Lake. When you get to a relatively flat area, the pathway will be divided in two. The one on the left goes to Koyunoğlu Plateau. You take the one on the right and continue your hike in the southwest direction from a large meadow. The sole poplar tree that you see on the hilltop will be your point of bearing.

When you get to the hilltop, you will see two small lakes on your left. This area, used by birds as a wetland, will turn into a paved ancient road. There is a historic fountain (Ayazma) under the poplar

tree on your left. The old road, paved in places, continues from the left of Aygır Lake up to Dörtkonak (Edre) Citadel. You need to follow the pathway that goes westwards from Ayazma, where you have refreshed your water and had a rest. In a short while, you will pass by the seasonal lake on the meadowland and arrive at the crest point. The gallant rock you see on your left is Yangınbaşı Hill. Now start walking towards the pine forests that appear below. The pathway, which passes by three consecutive fountains and enters a young forestland, will take you to Gözeler Plateau. The rest of the route follows Turna Creek bed, which passes through the plateau.

First, follow the right side of the creek passing by the fountain at the exit of the plateau. After 200 meters, cross the creek. If you continue on the path that furcates right, you can get back to your starting point, Süleymaniye Neighborhood, via a different route. In a short while, you will get to the only house that stands below the asphalt road. The pathway, which enters the forest again twisting among the verdure, will guide you in this part of the hike. The old migration road, used to go up to the plateau from central Gümüşhane, will cross the creek twice and take you to Vank Church. The remaining part of the route follows the asphalt road for about 1.5 kilometers. After a sharp bend, turn left from the electric pole you come across, and find the old migration road again. The route, which covers a wide cropland, will start declining from a crest point and go down to Güzeller Neighborhood, whose roofs you see below. The closest resting area is Balyemez Mansion, which serves as a restaurant/café, at the end of the route.



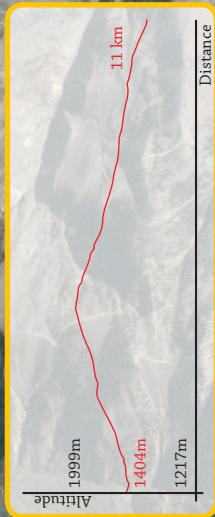


Güzeller  
Neighborhood

Süleymaniye  
Neighborhood

Gözeler P.

Aygırgölü



# Difficulty Level 4 TRACK 13

Gözeler (Tembada) Plateau - Aygırgöl - Bulanıköl - Dipsizgöl - Aksu (Manastır) Plateau (15 km)

Starting from Gözeler (Tembada) Plateau, which is 8 kilometers from central Gümüşhane, the route gets to Aksu Plateau after a 700-meter climb. The route, which stops by three lakes, one of which is glacial, and has extraordinary views, is one of the most beautiful routes in Gümüşhane. In the first part of the hike, you need to mount the crest of Yangınbaşı Hill, in the south direction. Having Gümüşhane scenery on the northeastern side, the climb gets to Aygır Lake after three fountains lined along the track. You can take a break at the lake, where you won't want to leave due to its panoramic view. Then, keep ascending by following the pathway that passes under the rocks in the southeast direction. Stopping by two hamlets that are no longer used, the route arrives at Koyunoğlu Plateau, located in the north of Terek Hill. After you refresh your water, ascend for a while from the east of Terek Hill by following the pathway above the plateau. The pathway, which you will indistinctly trace among lengthy weeds, will take you to Bulanık Lake. By passing over the lake,

which dries up in summer, continue ascending some more in the west direction. The tractor road you come across comes from Dörtkonak Plateau in the north. You should follow the road that lies southwards. In a while, Dipsizgöl on your right (west) and Yaydemir Plateau far ahead will come into view. Let us state that the snowy summits in the southwest direction are Abdal Musa Peak and Artabel Lakes Nature Park.

Get off the tractor road after a while and head towards the sole cottage and the fountain you see below. After you refresh your water, you will go up a short ramp. Then, you walk in the south direction and start ascending from the east of Koru Hill, which displays a rocky image. When you look from the crest you have reached, you will see a valley below. Go down to the valley, between Piringlik and Aymeme hills. The route, drawing a large arch, will turn east this time and enter another valley. Pass by the abandoned run-down plateau houses and walk towards the end of the valley. Turn right to the south from the distinct pathway that cuts in and climb for a short while through the forest. The route, which passes from the east of Yayla Hill, will end in Aksu (Manastır) Plateau, which is located on a crest and which has a vast view.







Gözeler P.

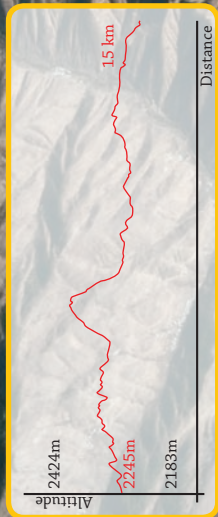
Aygırgölü

Koyunoglu P.

Dipsizgöl

Bulanıkgöl

Aksu P.



Difficulty Level 3

# TRACK 14

**Aksu (Manastır) Plateau - Eşek  
Meydanı - Midi Plateau (12 km)**

One of the routes with the best view among Gümüşhane hiking tracks, the route passes over the crests in the south of the city center. Along the route, you can easily walk on the dirt road that follows the electric power transmission line, or on the old pathway that moves parallel to the aforementioned road although it disappears in places. The activity, which starts from Aksu Plateau, gets to Eşek Square by following the dirt road. The route, entering an old pathway at the end of the large meadowland that is also a festival area, will proceed on Aksukıran Crest after passing over Ziyaret and Kaputaş hills. Along the route, during which you will capture awesome shots with an angle of almost 360 degrees, you will encounter different views on each hill and crest point. In the meantime, you will witness that a dense forest texture composed of pine, oak, beech and hornbeam trees paints the slopes below green. Proceeding at an altitude of 2100-2400 meters in the direction of southwest, the route will head towards the summit between Ayliyas and Gogola hills. Those who want can follow the horizontal pathway that turns right, but disappear at some points. After the summit, you can walk either the dirt road that lies parallel to electric poles or the pathways that continue along the slope. Passing from the west of 2469-meter-high Çatal Hill, the route will turn into a pathway again when it reaches a flat area. In this part of the route, where you will switch sides, the dirt road that comes from Karamustafa Village will cut in. Ignore the road and continue your hike on the twisting pathway after you cross to the opposite side. The weedy pathway will take you to Midi Plateau of Karamustafa settlement. You can pitch a tent by the fountain whose water comes from the springs in the mountains, or go back to central Gümüşhane by a vehicle you have organized beforehand.



Gavur Mountains

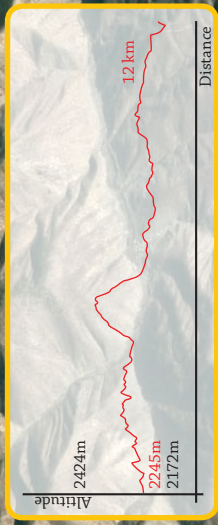




Aksu P.



Midi P.



# TRACK 15

## Midi Plateau-Tersun Pass (9 km)

Starting from Midi Plateau, the route proceeds on a highly rough dirt road by following the electric line at the first stage. Passing from the west of Tezenobasi, Karlikovak, Midi, Yelliburun and Elmalı hills, the route will continue in the north-south direction. On your right (west), you can see the red-roofed houses of Karamustafa Village very far away. The dirt road you have been following will narrow in a while, turn into a tractor road, and start descending. From the spot you are at, you can watch the distillation tower and the gold mine, which spreads over the valley below. Now, walk on the tractor way that goes down crookedly. The rough dirt road, which will end in about 600 meters, will turn into an old migration pathway. Now, you will proceed through a forestland and continue your hike by switching sides along the slope. The pathway, which will reach a large flat area, passes by a fountain you will come across and reach a dirt drive road on your left. When the track, proceeding westwards, arrives at an old ranger's unit, you can take a break. When you set out again, the forest road will take you to another ranger's unit in the northwest of 2158-meter-high Gorden Hill. This means you have reached Tersun Pass, from which the highway that gets access between Gümüşhane and Şiran passes.



Yelliburun Hill





Midi P.



Tersun Pass



# TRACK 16

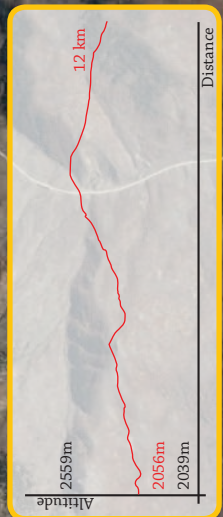
Tersun Pass - Çevrepinar (Zimon) Plateau - Evren (Söfker) Plateau (12 km)

Tersun Pass is the most important spot of the transportation network between Gümüşhane and Şiran. Starting from the abandoned Forest Ranger's Unit located in this area, the route enters an unused forest road from the highway. The hike at the southern piedmonts of Hhardigel Hfill proceeds in the southwest direction. You can follow the main road at the junction points that come your way by consulting the GPS data. The forest road will ascend a little following the crest. Reaching the top of 2292-meter-high Çıplak Hfill after Eğip Hfill, the route proceeds westwards. When you get to the peak point, you need to take the pathway that goes left to the south. The route, which first has a short decline, and then goes uphill, will pass over Erdemli Strait. The route, which heads westwards (right) when it reaches the hilltop, gets to Çevrepinar (Zimon) Plateau in company with an awesome scenery along the crest. This region is referred to as Karışık Plateau on 1:25.000 scaled maps. After taking a short break at the fountain in the abandoned plateau, enter the pathway that lies westwards. This old migration route, used for carrying animals to be sold in the marketplace, will go through the pass between Altıparmak (2634) and Boyunduruk hills. When you reach the passage point, Kelkit Brook Basin and Şiran district will be below your feet with all their details. The rough valley you see below goes down to Telme Plateau. You turn right to the northwest and head towards the pass between Boyunduruk and Hfalkalı hills. The dirt road below that lies along the crest forms the rest of the route. Now, walk towards the road with the help of the pathway in between meadows. The dirt road, which passes through Yaşıpmarı, Orta, Sivri, Çatal and Comboğal hills, which constitute Gavur Chain of Mountains, will present an extraordinary scenery to its guests. You can take photos of Zigana Mountains in the north, Kelkit Basin in the south, and Abdal Musa Chain of Mountains in the west. In this part of the route, you will encounter embankments dug up during the Russian War. Descending with a mild inclination, the road will get to a junction point. The road on the right goes to the Forest Fire Cottage and Şehitlik locality. You turn left and end your activity at the fountain in the festival area on Evren Plateau. A vehicle you have arranged beforehand can pick you up, or you can set up a camp if you are equipped.

Abdal Musa Peak from Tersun Pass







Difficulty Level 3

# TRACK 17

## Evren Plateau-Hendüt Plateau (13 km)

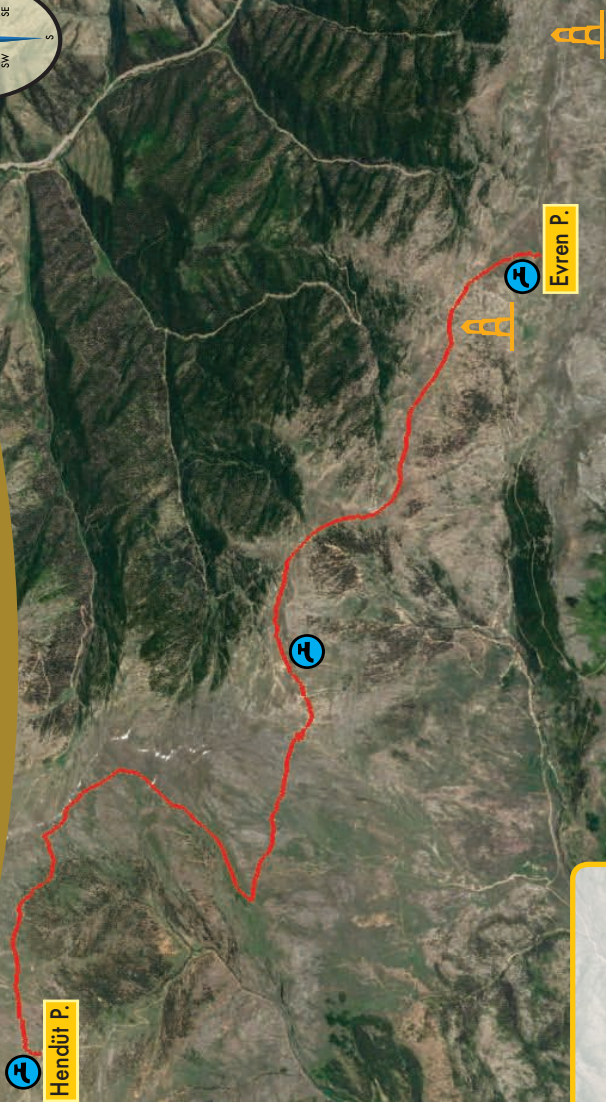
116

The activity, starting from the plateau used by Evren villagers, will pass by the graves of some soldiers who fell martyrs during the Russian War, at the turn of the 20th century, and get to Hendüt Plateau. Almost half of the route is a rough tractor road that proceeds along the crests that connect hills to each other. Starting from the fountain at the exit of the plateau, the hike moves northwards and get to the Forest Fire Cottage you see across. Right after that, you will reach the martyrs' cemetery, which is located in the south of Mezarlık Hill, and referred to as 'Garipler Mezarlığı' on the map. Then, you direction will head towards north-west, and you will proceed towards Tuzluoba Hill. The route, which covers an open land since it moves along a crest, will offer you a different view at every kilometer. You will hike in company with a vast panorama made up of Gulaçar (Nivene) Village and Zigana Mountains in the north, and villages of Şiran district as well as Kelkit Plain in the south. The track, which turns north for Elma Hill, and west for Gölceğiz Hill, passes from the south of Büyükkarakaban Mountain later on. In the meanwhile, you can take photos of Günyüzü and Erenkaya plateaus in the valley bottom on your left (south) as well as Koruluk Pond below. The route, which enters an old pathway between Büyükkarakaban and Yelliburun Crest, will turn north again after a while. Now, you are walking on the slopes of 2439-meter-high Ziyaret Hill. 2769-meter-high Hendüt Mountain is opposite you with its paramount body. Now, you will draw a large arch and first reach the crest point, and then come across a pathway junction. The distinct pathway that goes right is used for access to Çamurlu Plateau. You need to head towards west to the left and follow the pathway that passes from the southern piedmonts of Hendüt Mountains. Your activity will end in Hendüt Plateau, used by Akbulak (Morşon) villagers and referred to as Gölyanı on maps.



Doğa Koruma ve Milli Parklar Müdürlüğü Arşivi





# TRACK 18

Hendüt Plateau-Kurdish Cemetery-  
Karadağ Mine - İsrırganlı Plateau-  
Esenstepe (Artabel) (13 km)

118

One of the biggest villages of Şiran district, Akbulak (Morşon) is located on the old migration route between Torul and Şiran. A dirt road that gets to the south of Karadağ Hill (3092) from the village reaches both Şiran/Akbulak and Yıldız lakes and the vicinity of Suyungözü Lake. The pathway starts at the point where the road ends passes over the crest and goes down to Artabel Lakes. However, we should state there this part can only be hiked by very experienced nature lovers due to the lack of distinct pathways and harsh conditions of the geography. The route we will recommend is a historic mule road used between Torul and Şiran in the past. At the first stage of the hike, which starts from Hendüt Plateau, those who wish can follow the creek bed or the dirt road. At Kurdish Cemetery locality at the passage point located in the west of Hendüt Hill (2769), both routes will merge. Soon, you will reach the passage point where the pathway diverges and you will see the houses of Karadut (Galis) Plateau in the valley bottom at your feet. The pathway that turns right and goes down towards the creek bed gets to the plateau. You should take the one on the left, which lies parallel to the slopes of Karadağ. We would like to remind that snow masses could block your way until the end of June, and that the hiking could turn into a tough one. Continuing in the northeast direction, the route will join a dirt road when it gets to the dross. At this point, by following the tractor road that heads towards northwest, you need to go through the pass between İsrırganlı and Cılağ hills and start descending. Turning into a pathway again in İsrırganlı (Koraşia, Soğuksu) Plateau, where there are jerry-built plateau houses referred to as 'Kelif' by the local people, the route will cross Büyükkorman Creek and proceed along Biladiyos Crest. As the valley on your right gets deeper, you will reach the forest border. When you get to a rocky cape, you can see the roofs of Esentepe (Artabel) Neighborhood of Gülaçar (Nivene) Village below you. The pathway, which goes down from an area shaded by trees, will take its travelers to the settlement after crossing the wooden bridge and then entering the dirt road. Those who want to lodge in the area can make use of Artabel Holiday Village Facilities 1 kilometer below.



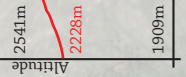
Vehbi YALÇIN





**Esentepe  
(Artabel)**

**Hendüt P.**



# TRACK 19

**Esentepe (Artabel) - Aksu Plateau - Geçit Plateau - Gümüştuğ (Avliyana) (13 km)**

One of the old roads that have been used between Torul and Şiran for centuries, the route goes through two passes between 2350-2450 meters. The first part of the track, which starts at the borders of Artabel Lakes Nature Park, consists of considerable ramps. The pathway, which goes up northwards to the marble quarry, gets you to a level area. By crossing the dirt road that comes your way, you start ascending under the guidance of the pathway. Ascending in the valley between Çıplakkıran and Kavaklı hills, the route crosses Zigöir Creek and heads towards northwest. At the pass you came from, you can watch the splendid view that lies to Zigana Mountains in the north, and Tersun Pass in the south. Heading towards north again from this point on, the pathway proceeds on the rocky slopes of Manodor Hill. We strongly suggest that you follow the main pathway

carefully because many pathways may confuse you on this track.

When you get to the rocky hill above Aksu Plateau, keep on walking on the main pathway that continues northwards. When you reach the plain between Manador and Devedüzü hills, you will see graves on your left, which means you have gotten to the second pass. If the weather is clear, you can see the peak of Abdal Musa Hill from where you are. Now, enter the pathway that you will see on the right of the dirt road that comes up to the pass and go down to Geçit Plateau. The route will continue descending some times on the pathway and sometimes on the dirt road according to the GPS data. You can use either the dirt road, or the pathways by the creek that go parallel to this dirt road. The route will first cross a wooden bridge over Geçit Creek, and then a historic arch bridge over Gümüştuğ Creek. The route, which turns into a pathway paved on both sides, will pass by a ramshackle church on the left and arrive in Gümüştuğ Village.



Geçit Creek Bridge





Gümüşhüğü

Aksu P.

Esentepe  
(Artabel)



# TRACK 20

Hendüt Plateau - Akbulak Yıldız  
Lakes - Suyungözü Lake - Artabel  
Küçüköl - Karagöl Plateau (13 km)

You can plan this route, starting from Hendüt Plateau as 3 separate tracks. Those who wish can visit the lakes around Akbulak, watch Artabel Lakes Valley, and go back to the starting point. The second option is to drive to the pass and beyond, visit Artabel Lakes, and get back. What we will recommend is to go to Karagöl Plateau after visiting Akbulak lakes at the borders of Artabel Lakes Nature Park. The route, which has two tough ascents, starts at Kazmaçayırı locality above Hendüt Plateau. At this point, get off the dirt road and enter the pathway proceeding in the direction of northwest. When you go down to the bed of Kekreboğazı Creek, cross the stream and start ascending. Turn to the southwest direction at the pathway junction you will soon reach, and continue your climb. When you get to the basin in the north of Harmançık Hill (2907), you will be able to see Akbulak Yıldız Lakes. Spreading over two separate areas, the lakes are also good camping sites. Go back after the break and go down to Kekreboğazı Creek. After you cross the creek, climb in the north direction. Büyükgöz Creek, which you will see on the left, will guide you in this part of the route and take you to the side of Suyungöz Lake in the southern piedmonts of Cankurtaran Hill.

When you set off again, follow the old top (cannon) road and reach the dirt road. At the end of the crooked road, enter the pathway and walk uphill up to the pass. When you get to the pass between Cankurtaran and Karadağ hills, you can see Artabel Lakes Valley in the basin below. Go right carefully on the firm ground and go down to Küçüköl first with the help of the indistinct pathway. Then, you can get to Karagöl Plateau by follow the creek bed. The plateau, where there are a few tents, is only 10 minutes to the road that comes from Esentepe, Gülaçar Village.



Hendüt Plateau Kazmaçayırı District





Karagöl P.

Suyungözü  
Lake

Akbulak  
Yıldız Lakes

Hendüt P.









# TRACK 21

Karagöl Plateau - Artabel Lakes -  
Karagöl Plateau (9 km)

126

This route involves a journey to the heart of Artabel Lakes Nature Park, which spreads over a large basin surrounded by summits exceeding 3000 meters. Starting at the end of the dirt road that lies from Esentepe Neighborhood to the nature park, the route proceeds on a pathway going westwards. At the end of a half-hour hike, you get to a level area used as a camping site. By passing over the small hills that you encounter, you get to Adalgöl (Karanlık/Büyükgöl), located on the eastern slope of 3305-meter-high Artabelinbaşı Hill, which looks gigantic. The route, which heads towards the south, passes by a lake that dries up in the summer and gets to the old top road. Now, you need to turn to the west again and ascend. Soon, you will be in Karagöller area, spreading over the basin on the northern slopes of Cankurtaran Hill. After taking photos of the two consecutive lakes (the third is too small to mention), you need to go back.

When you reach the old top road in the east-west direction, you will enter the pathway that ascends northwards from the same point, and climb for 200 meters. At the peak point, you will encounter the impressive view of Karanlık (Ahtabur) Lake, situated below the rocks in the east of Ardaöl Strait. You can take a long break at the glacial lake, the deepest lake in the Nature Park. After you rest, you need to go back to the old top road again, and walk downhill on the same road this time. On the level area on your left, there are small lakes that dry up in the summer. Küçükgöl, which you see below, is the last glacial lake that you can see in this activity. After taking a short break by the lake, head towards north and get to the campsite. From this point, you can get back to the starting point by entering the same pathway you used in the morning.







Karagöl P.



Küçükgöl

İkizgöller  
(Karagöller)

Adalıgöl

Karanlıkgöl



# Difficulty Level 4 TRACK 22

## Dulağa Plateau - Beşgöller - Dulağa Plateau (15 km)

Located within the borders of Gümüştuğ (Avliyana) Village of Artabel Lakes Nature Park, Beşgöller is situated in a narrow valley bottom between Abdal Musa and Sofrataşınbaşı hills. The easiest access to the basin, where there is one lake on each platform, is via the pathway in Dulağa Plateau of Gümüştuğ Village. We recommend the route, which involves a 700-meter climb, only to experienced hikers. If you are going to try the route for the first time, it is a good idea to take a local guide with you who knows the region. Attention! The inevitable fog of the Black Sea might suddenly appear out of nowhere even in sunny weather and cause you to get lost.

The pathway that starts from Dulağa Plateau, which hasn't lost any of its authentic looks, proceeds along the creek bed in the southwest direction. After you pass over Halvanlıkaya Hill, the valley is divided into two at Deregözü locality. The one on the right gets to Karagöller region on the piedmonts of Abdal Musa Hill. You go towards left and continue ascending by the creek. Soon, you will encounter a mass of rock that seems impassable. You need to follow the pathway on the right side of the rock carefully. When the route, passing under the waterfall that comes from the lakes, reaches the first level area, you will see the first lake. Now, you can continue your hike, during which you will see a separate lake on each platform. The 4th lake you will come across is the 2nd largest glacial lake in the nature park. If the weather is clear and you have confidence, you can move on to Karagöller Valley via the pass on the right side of the last lake, and then go back to Dulağa Plateau. Those who don't want to push themselves hard can go back using the same route after they see the last lake.



Beşgöller Valley





Dulağa P.

Yılanlı P.

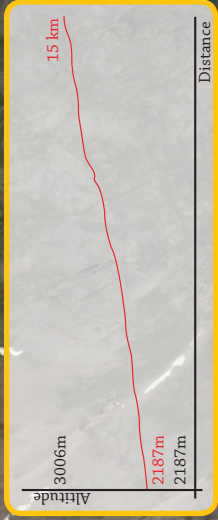
2. Lake

1. Lake

3. Lake

4. Lake

5. Lake



# TRACK 23

**Yılanlı Plateau-Abdal Musa Peak-  
Adalıgöl-Karagöl Plateau (14 km)**

The climb to Abdal Musa Peak (3331), the highest point of Gümüşhane province, and Artabel Lakes of Zigana, Çimenli and Munzur mountains along Nature Park Trans route is an activity whose difficulty level is high. Do not try this route alone; take a guide with you who knows the region well. In the first part, the route starts from Yılanlı Plateau, and goes down to Kuzugözü Creek Valley after it passes over Yılanlı Crest. When the route, which later heads to southwest from the valley bottom, reaches a flat area, you can take a short break. Now continue your climb taking a bearing on Cambugöl Hill on your left. In this part of the route, which turns south after going through a pass, an awesome view awaits. Acembol Lakes below you, and Alucra and Kürtün plateaus on the horizon will present you a vast nature photograph.

You can get to the peak that forms the roof of Gümüşhane by proceeding on a secree ground. If you are doing your activity in clear weather, be prepared for a breathtaking panorama consisting with glacial lakes. When you start descending after signing the summit journal, you will proceed on the slopes of Üçgözeler basin by continuing your hike southwards. When you cross over the hill you encounter, it means you have adjourned to Karagöller Valley. By crossing over the lakes that froze until the beginning of summer, you will get to the crest point that separates Beşgöller and Artabel Lakes. After you take photos of Beşgöller in the north, the route will start to descend sharply. Without throwing caution in the wind in the secree area, continue your hike towards the east of Adalıgöl. Your activity will end in Karagöl Plateau after you pass by Artabel camping site on the flat area you went down to.



Abdal Musa Peak



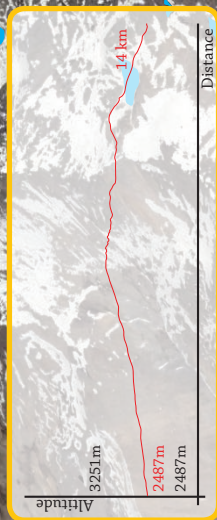


Yılanlı P.

Dulağa P.

Abdal Musa  
Peak

Karagöl P.



# TRACK 24

Yılanlı Plateau - Acembol Lakes  
- Gölbaşı Lake - Gölönü Plateau -  
Tekneçik Plateau (14 km)

This route, during which you will hike on the summits of Gavrur Mountains, visits the glacial lakes in the western region of Artabel Lakes Nature Park. The activity starts from Yılanlı Plateau of Gümüştug Village. At the first stage, you enter the pathway that lies in the southwest direction behind plateau houses, and go up to the crest. At this point, after you turn right at the diverging pathway junction, you move on to Kuzugözü Creek Valley and keep on hiking in the southwest direction. The activity, which continues on the southern slopes of Yılanlı Hill (2959), reaches the creek bed level while ascending with a mild inclination. At the end of the valley, Cambugul Hill rises with all its solemnity. Now, by following the pathway designated by king post stones, you will climb one level and reach a large flat area. Here, you can take a short break. At the end of the area, where a narrow creek flows and which was used as a plateau in the past, the passage you will cross over. The 'king post' (the mark formed by imbricating stones called

İnakşah by the Indians), which rises in the middle of the passage and helps nature lovers, especially in snowy/foggy weather, is your reference point to determine your direction.

Now, take a bearing on the right side of the valley and ascend along the slope. When you reach the passage, you can see Acembol Valley and the western members of Gavrur Mountains. We recommend that you first walk southwards along the crest and take photos of Acembol lakes that shine on the western piedmonts of Cambugul Hill. Then, start descending on a hard and steep passage and get to the side of Acembol Lakes, consisting of two lakes. The difficulty level of this part is quite high; therefore, if you can't face up to it, head towards the right side of the crest. You can go down to the valley via a longer route via a relatively soft pathway.

After a break on the Goller plain, enter the pathway next to the last lake. The route, which first turns west, and then southwest, will reach Gölbaşı Lake. After you photograph the glacial lake, you can start descending on a crest and get to Gölönü Plateau. You can end your activity in Tekneçik Plateau, within the borders of Dağdibi Village by the vehicle road you have reached at this point.



Yılanlı Plateau, Torul





Dağdibi

Yılanlı P.

Gölönü P.

Teknecik P.

Gölbaşı Lake

Acembol  
Lakes



# TRACK 25

**Tekneçik Plateau - Kurdish Cemetery - Karagöl (17 km)**

Starting from Tekneçik Plateau, used by Dağdibi (Fidigor) Village, our hiking route gets to Karagöl within the borders of Kürtün district by pursuing the old caravan pathways and dirt plateau roads. Let us state that a part of the route proceeds within the district borders of Giresun province. At the first stage of this hiking activity, you will enter the dirt road lying parallel to the creek bed and ascend southwestwards. Climbing to the crests of Cinlikaya Hill, the route makes a sharp turn at the peaks of Gavour Mountains, which draw the provincial border between Gümüşhane and Giresun, and heads north. From this point on, the hike, in company with the view of Alucra plateaus on your left, will follow the old caravan road that comes from Demirkapı region. The route, which proceeds in the west of Ortadağ after it passes through Kurdish Cemetery locality, will continue as a descent in the northwest direction. The route, which joins a rough dirt road in a while, will continue on the peaks of İnlerinbaşı, Ambar and Erimez hills. After hiking on the same line for about 6 kilometers, you will reach the junction point on the peak of Topuktepe. The road that comes from your right side goes to Yaylalı Village. Derindere is located in the north, and Kapaklıyatak plateaus are in the south. You walk in the northwest direction and keep on proceeding on the slopes of Sarıyar Hill. The dirt road will turn north and climb a short ramp. Soon, you will see Karagöl, which glitters in the nooks of Acembol Hill on your right (west). You can go down to the side of the lake with the help of the pathway, or get to Kaşıkbeli Plateau, 8 kilometers away, by a vehicle you have organized in advance.



Karagöl, Kaşıkbeli Plateau - Kürtün





Karagöl

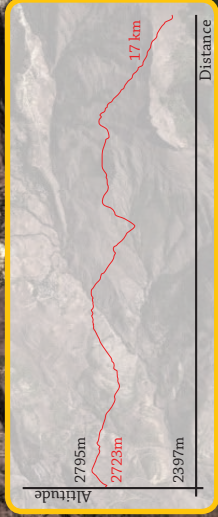
Yaylalı

Ekinçiler

Gölbaşı Lake

Kurdish Cemetery

Tekneçik P.



# TRACK 26

Karagöl-Kazıkbeli Plateau (8 km)

136

Located on the northern slopes of Acembol Ifill, Karagöl creates reflections that plays with sun rays all day long. The lake, which was named Karagöl like the other glacial lakes in Anatolia that are close to the summits of high mountains, is located at an elevation of 2630 meters. Karagöl-Kazıkbeli Plateau route generally follows the dirt road that gets access between plateaus. Proceeding along the crest, the route passes from the east of Çarpi Mountain and gets to Yedigöğ Springs locality in the north of Çingenkayası Ifill. You continue your hike northwards from this junction point, which also intersects the roads that come from Abso and Yılanlı plateaus. The route, which stops by Türkmenbaşı Plateau later on, passes from the east of Kazıkbelibaşı Ifill (2648) and goes down to Kazıkbeli Plateau. In the plateau, which is famous for its festival in the summer, there are accomodation and shopping opportunities.



Acembol Lakes District





Yaylalı

Kazıkbeli P.

Karağöl



# TRACK 27

Kazıkbeli Plateau - Güvende Plateau (19 km)

138

Following the dirt road that gets access between Kazıkbeli Plateau and Güvende Plateau, this route ends in a green area that the forest border starts. Starting by the cemetery at the exit of the plateau, the hike proceeds along the crest with short ascents and descents. After you pass by Gölceğiz Nomad Camping Site, you walk in the northeast direction and get to Gavur Plateau via Çekümce Plateau. Along the route, which has extraordinary views, you can take photos that will stay with you forever if you are not caught up in fog. The route, which covers the slopes of Balıkbaşı, Çakmakkaya, Kapıkaya and Güvercin hills later on, crosses over a passage in the last part and gets to Güvende Plateau. You can have a rest in one of the coffee houses in company with a cup of tea brewed on wood fire.



Kızılköy Fountain, Central District





Güvende P.



Kazıkbeli P.



# TRACK 28

Güvende Plateu - Kabaktepe Martyrs' Cemetery (7 km)

The entire route we will recommend consists of dirt roads. Reaching Kabaktepe Martyrs' Cemetery, built in commemoration of martyred soldiers during the Ottoman-Russian War, continues along the crest. Those who hike this route will do their activity in company with awesome views in clear weather. At the first stage of the route, you enter the plateau road that lies eastwards from Güvende Plateau. Passing over the slopes of Dağyolu, Kabayalak, Çilektaş and Tekmezar hills, the route reaches Sulakdüzü Beli. The route, which turns left from a junction point in a while, ends at the martyrs' cemetery, located on Kabak Hill, at an altitude of 2308 meters. You can see the old embankments at the peak point right above the fenced martyrs' cemetery.



Kuzugölü Valley, Torul



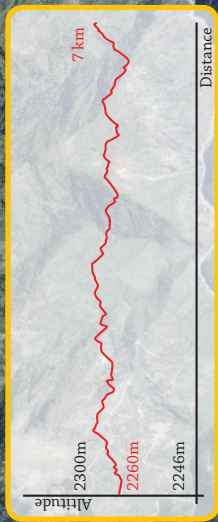


Kürtün

Örümcek Forest

Kabaktepe Martyrs Cemetery

Güvende P.



# TRACK 29

Güvende Plateau - Çikrikdüzü -  
Örümcek Forest - Çağlayandibi  
Waterfall (16 km)

The route, which covers the length and breadth of Örümcek Forest Nature Reserve Area, one of the most important parts of Gümüşhane's nature tourism, is a nice adventure within the verdant tunnel that does not give passage to sunlight. The entire route is a dirt road, but those who want may use the distinct pathways on the slopes up to Çikrikdüzü. Starting from Güvende Plateau, the hike heads northwards and gets to Çikrikdüzü Plateau via Alınca Plateau. Turning east from this point and entering an entire forest texture, the track slowly starts descending from the piedmonts of Bakacak Hill. Proceeding under gigantic trees under the guidance of Örümcek Creek, the route continues in company with colorful views. The twisting road, which lies within a plant cover dominated by spruce, fir, and beech trees, passes through monumental trees. Do not forget to have your photos taken in front of the monumental trees, which reach the sky. The route, which keeps switching between the right and the left sides of the stream called Güçükdere in the lower parts, reaches Yeşilköy Küçüköyceğiz Neighborhood. After a sharp bend, you unexpectedly encounter Çağlayandibi Waterfall. This beautiful landscaped waterfall, is the last spot of the route. Let us state that the dirt road between Güvende Plateau and Yeşilköy is going to be turned into asphalt in a few years.

Örümcek Forest, Kürtün







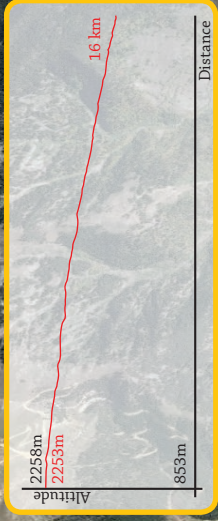
Kürtün

Çağlayandibi  
Waterfall

Çıkrıküzü P.

Örümcek Forest

Güvende P.



# TRACK 30

**Limni Lake - Karaca Cave (14 km)**

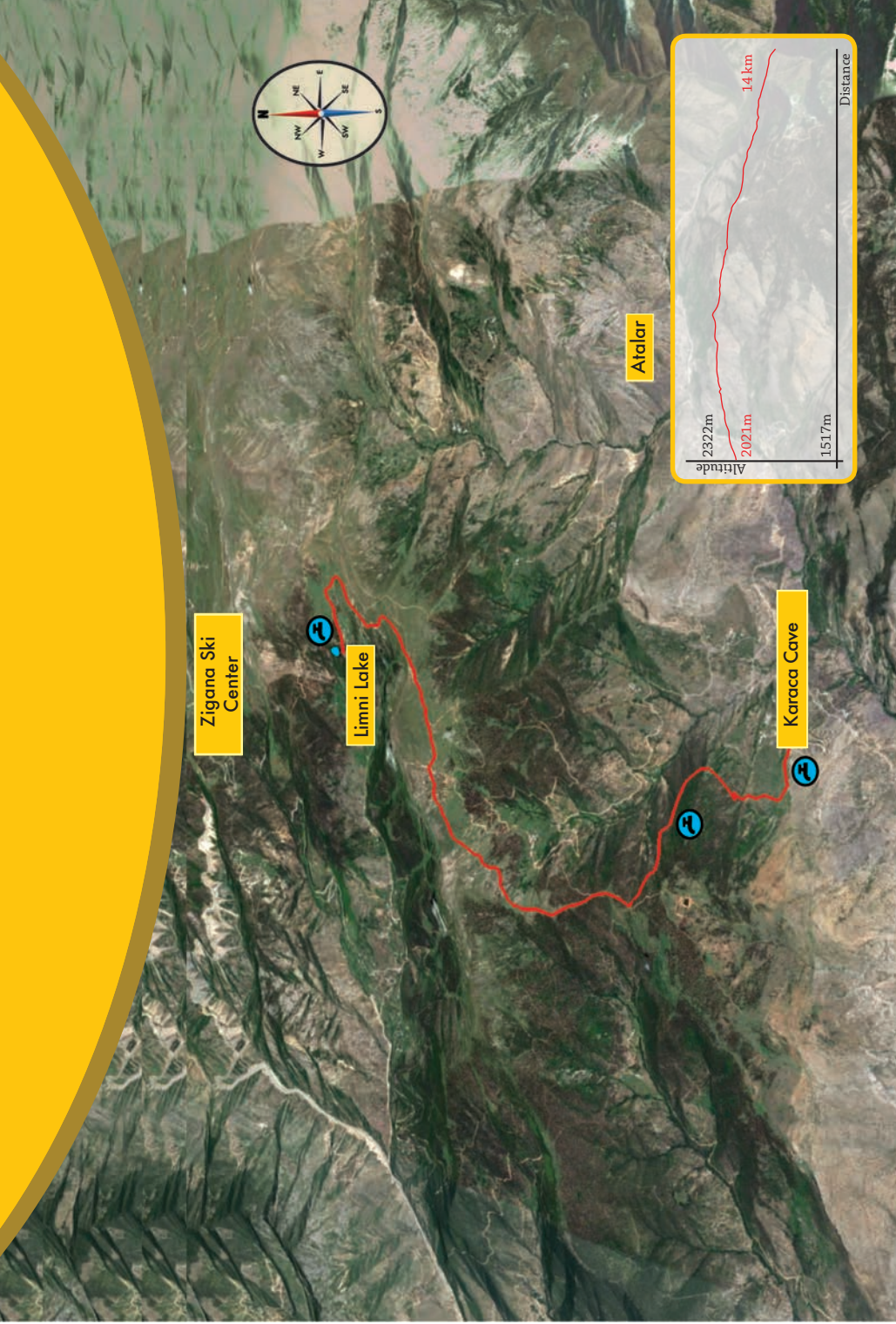
This trip, in company with colorful plants and bubbling creeks, starts at an altitude of 2005 meters and ends at Karaca Cave, at an altitude of 1516 meters. Those who set out from Limni Lake need to follow the dirt plateau road in the east direction where there is Çiçekli Plateau sign. After you pass over Saranoy Plateau, a mild ascent starts. This 5-kilometer-long stage of the route turns south after Kanlıboğaz. Reaching Kordon Pass locality, the route gets off the dirt road and enters a distinct pathway. This old migration road, used by Cebeli villagers to get to the marketplace on Zigana plateaus, proceeds in the southeast direction along the slope. When you get to Gebeç Strait, Gavar Mountains and Artabel Lakes Nature Park on the horizon line in the southwest, and Çakırgöl

Mountain view in the northeast will come into view. The pleasurable trip will go down to the level of Badanos forests and join a dirt road. In this area, named Zagarya Harmanı (Harvest) by the local people, you need to walk for about 500 meters and enter the pathway on the left. Now, you will walk in a fresh atmosphere shaded by tall and thin yellowpine trees. After refreshing your water at Soğukpınar fountain, continue walking. In a while, you will see a newly opened road below you. The route, which ascends for a while from this point on, will present the scenery of Karaca Neighborhood and Cehennem Valley to its guests. We recommend that you follow the route carefully because the pathway, not used frequently due to the newly opened road, disappears in places. Proceeding in the southeast direction, the route goes down to the road in the last part, and reach Karaca Cave, one of the most important tourism destinations in Gümüşhane.



Gebeç Strait, Torul



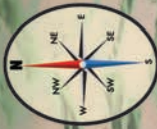


Zigana Ski  
Center

Limni Lake

Atalar

Karaca Cave



Difficulty Level 3

# TRACK 31

Esentepe (Artabel) - Yalinkavak  
(Sorogna) Plateau (13 km)

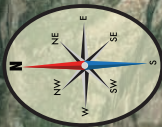
The first stage of the recommended route, which starts at the borders of Artabel Lakes Nature Park, follows the same route described in Track 19. When you reach the bluffs of Manodor Hill, the route will turn west and start descending. When you get to Aksu Plateau, which looks abandoned, you can take a break at the fountain. When you set out again, follow the distinct pathway in the northeast direction. Climbing to the heights of Yıldız Mountain, the route will move to the north of the mountain at the top, and proceed on a flat line along the slope. At this point, verdant Gümüştüğ (Avliyana) Valley, on your left, will accompany your hike. You will see the traditional wooden houses of Yalinkavak Plateau far away, where your activity will end. The route, which passes over the crests of Kevrankale and Susuz hills and draws a large arch, will join a newly opened rough dirt road. You can enter the pathway that turns left in about 800 meters, and get to Yalinkavak, one of the rare plateaus whose texture is still intact.

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Gavur Mountains from Manodor Hill





Yalınkavak P.  
(Soroyna)



Aksu P.



Gümüştüğ

Gülaçar

Esentepa  
(Artabel)

Altitude  
2440m  
1916m  
1916m

13 km

Distance

# Difficulty Level 3 TRACK 32

Yalınkavak (Soroyna) Plateau -  
Altınpınar (Limni) Lake (12 km)

The route we will recommend is a scenic route during which you can walk either on the dirt road or on meadows parallel to this road. Starting from Yalınkavak Plateau, the route ascends and goes up to the heights of Alitaşı Plateau. From this point, you can watch both Gümüştüğü and Büyükdere valleys. Now, start following the dirt road that heads eastwards to the right. You can see Güvemli (Haviyana) Village on your left, and Yalınkavak (Soroyna) Village on your right. The route, which then passes over the slopes of Karakaban, Fırahti, Hemende, İrişkin, and Demirtaşı hills, goes down to Altınpınar (Limni) Lake between Canboğul and Ağrit hills via twists at the last stage. Around the lake, which is also a camping site, there are two fountains.

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Esentepe-Aksu Plateau Pathway





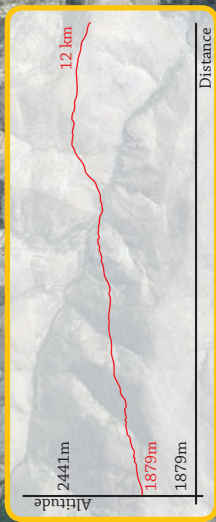
Alınpınar



Alınpınar  
(Tımnı) Lake



Yalınkavak P.  
(Sorayna)



# TRACK 33

Çatalbahar Plateau - İsgöbel Plateau (14 km)

This stage, which constitutes the Gümüşhane foot of 'Anabasis Road' route, put into practice by Maçka District Governor's Office of Trabzon province, starts from Çatalbahar (Çatalpuar) Plateau. At the first stage, you walk on the dirt road that lies parallel to Meryemana Creek, fed by waters coming from Çakıröl. Then, you turn right at the junction point in Karahava Plateau, and ascend on the pirdmonts of 2597-meter-high Sığanyurdu Hill. In a while, you will take the weedy side road you will see on the left and walk in the northeast direction. When Arınastal Plateau comes into view at the peak point, you need to proceed on the dirt road that goes northwards. Now, you are walking on the eastern slopes of Altındere Valley, through which Meryemana Creek flows. Proceeding on rocky and bare hills, the route first passes over Saçlık Hill (2448), and then the western piedmonts of Kalecik Hill (1410). After Akberan and Saçlık plateaus, you reach the trivium on the slopes of Karlık Hill (2281). The road on the right goes to Selboğazi Plateau, and the one on the left to Üçevler Plateau. You go straight ahead and aim for İsgöbel Plateau, where there is a mosque and a coffee house. Anabasis route follows two separate routes at this locality. Those who want can go down to Maçka district via plateaus by following the pathways on the crest. The track on the left will take you to Sumela Monastery with a continually descending hike.



Vehbi YALÇIN





Sümela Monastery

Isgöbel P.

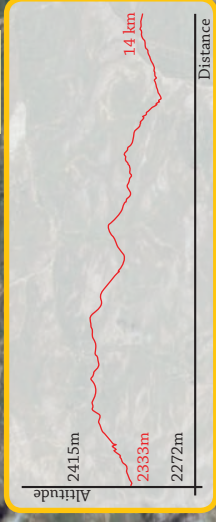
Santa Ruins

Cami Passage

Çatalbahar P.

Çakırgöl

Taşköprü



## BICYCLE TRACKS

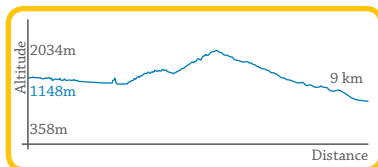
The fact that the city of Gümüşhane is surrounded by high hills offers up-and-down routes, especially to mountain bike lovers. These performance-based routes, which require being in good shape, consist of altitude climbing to about 1000-1500 meters. The flattest part of the city is Kelkit Brook Basin between Kelkit and Şiran. In order to get to Kelkit and Şiran districts from the city center, you need to climb Tersun and Toraman ramps. In this region, where there is such potential for mountain biking, we determined routes on which dirt roads are used between districts, villages and plateaus. All you need is to get a mountain or a city bike, and pedal on these uphill and downhill routes.





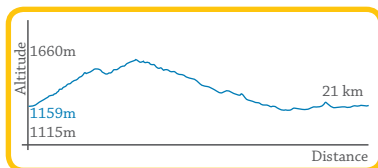
### Track 1: Gümüşhane-Mezra-Karşıyaka-Gümüşhane (9 km)

This short yet tough route, which the biking lovers in the city center can try, starts at an altitude of 1153 meters and follows Gümüşhane-Bayburt highway at the first stage. The route, which heads south from Yeni Hastane junction, starts climbing a tiring ramp up to Mezra Turnout. Reaching 1479 meters, the route starts declining in the last part and gets back to the starting point via Karşıyaka Nature Park. The Hospital-Mezra Turnout-City Center part of the route is a dirt road; the rest is an asphalt road.



### Track 2: Gümüşhane-Yeşilyurt-Gümüşhane (21 km)

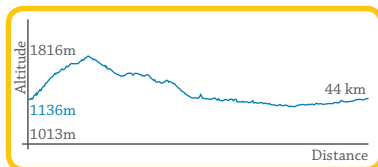
Covering Yeşilyurt Valley, the route presents an awesome Gümüşhane view at Urban Forest junction point. At the first stage, you start from the city center, at an altitude of 1153 meters, and take Trabzon highway. Then, it passes through tunnels and heads northeast from Yeşilyurt fork. Now, it is time to pedal uphill with a mild inclination. After Aktutan Village junction, the slope gets steeper. Let us remind you that you will work up quite a sweat while climbing to 1644 meters. When you reach the peak point, you can watch Gümüşhane settlement with all of its details. At the last stage, you can go down to the city center without pedalling by following the winding road. The entire route is an asphalt village road.



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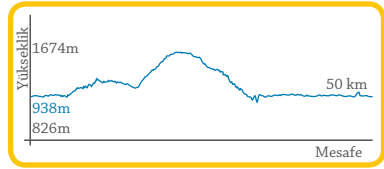
### Track 3: Gümüşhane-Süleymaniye Neighborhood-Gözeler-Gümüşkaya-Gümüşhane (44 km)

The route, almost all of which consists of an asphalt track, starts from central Gümüşhane, at an elevation of 1153 meters. This part of the route, which follows Gümüşhane-Trabzon highway for a while, is relatively risky due to busy traffic. The toughest uphill of the route, heading south after Şiran junction, is the ramp between Dibekli and Gözeler, which climbs to 1795 meters. If you want to see Canca Citadel, you need to climb an extra 100 meters after Vank Church junction. In the last part, you can reach the starting point without pedalling from Süleymaniye Neighborhood.



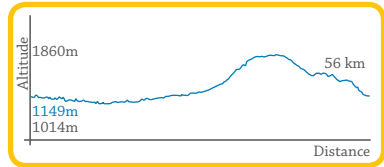
#### Track 4: Torul Dam Lake Ring (50 km)

Circling Torul Dam Lake, this route is adorned with breath-taking views. Following the lake side, surrounded by Gümüşhane forests, which wrap themselves up in a different kind of beauty each season, the route passes through villages located on slopes. The difficulty level of the track, which climbs from 1050 meters to 1682 meters. Particularly, after Aksüt Village, there is a very steep ramp. Entering into the forest after Topçam Village turnout, the route starts descending up to Kırazlık Village. The Aksüt-Kırazlık part of the route is a dirt road; the rest is an asphalt road.



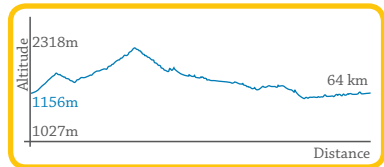
#### Track 5: Gümüşhane-Süleymaniye Neighborhood-Dörtkonak-Hasköy-Gümüşhane (56 km)

Starting from the city center, the route climbs to Süleymaniye Neighborhood, a tourism center. After you take photos of the historical structures, you can set off again. Those who want can with the extraordinarily beautiful view of Harşit Brook Valley and Gümüşhane settlement by following Canca Citadel sign at Vank Church turnout. When you go back to the main route, you need to climb a considerable ramp. The ramp, which climbs to 1844 meters, will end in Hasköy Village. From this point on, you will go downhill until Şiran road. In the last part, you can take Trabzon-Gümüşhane highway and end your tour.



#### Track 6: Gümüşhane-İkisü-Oluçak-Tefil-Aktutan-Gümüşhane (64 km)

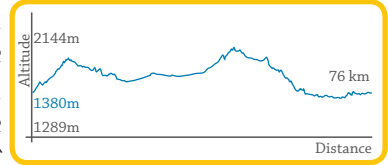
Passing through Cehennem Valley, one of the most beautiful geographies of the province, and Oluçak Village, where historical places are located, this route is a one-day activity. However, there are two tiring ramps between Oluçak-Tefil and Aktutan-Urban Forest. Except for these two ramps, climbing to 2000 and 1600 meters, we can say that it is an enjoyable trip. You head northwest from Karaca Cave turnout on Gümüşhane-Trabzon highway and enter the historic valley. The Oluçak-Aktutan part of the journey, decorated by churches and stone arch bridges, consists of dirt roads; the rest is asphalt village roads.





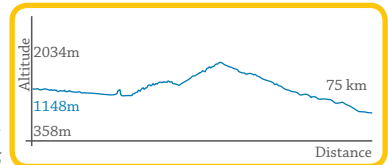
### Track 7: Pirahmet-Köse-Pirahmet (76 km)

The track, which starts from Pirahmet Village, on Gümüşhane-Bayburt road, follows Kelkit asphalt in the first part. At the point where the valley divides into two in Kırıklı Village, you follow Köse district road and pedal in the southwest direction. Climbing to 2000 meters, this is one of the toughest parts of the route. Then, you get to Köse district center by Köse Dam Lake. When you start pedalling again after the break, you first proceed eastwards on Bayburt road. The route, which heads northwards from Salyaşı town, where Kırklar Cave is located, climbs to an altitude of 2114 meters, which is the route's highest point. Now, it is time to go downhill. You first get to Gümüşhane-Bayburt road via Yenice Village, and then reach the starting point.



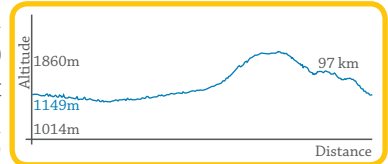
### Track 8: Gümüşhane-Torul-Zigana Pass-Maçka (75 km)

This route, which we recommend to cyclists in good shape, climbs from 1153 meters to 2200 meters. At the exit of Torul, you need to get off Trabzon highway and enter the old road. Now, you are on your way to Zigana Village, pedalling in an atmosphere decorated by forest cover. The route, which turns into a riot of colors in autumn, gets to Zigana Winter Tourism Center via the dpiring old road. At this location, where you will take a long break, you can drink a cup of tea in company with the view of Gaur Mountains, lying southwards. The route, which then goes down to Zigana Tunnel, follows the old asphalt, parallel to the new road, and descends along Değirmen Valley up to Maçka.



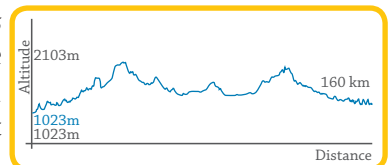
### Track 9: Gümüşhane - Dibekli - Hasköy - Gülaçar - Tersun Pass - Karamustafa - Gümüşhane (97 km)

The first and the last stages of this route, which draws a large 'eight', follows the same road as "Track 5". Those who reach Hasköy Village need to take Gülaçar road on the right and climb to Tersun Pass. When you get to the pass, you will enter the old road in front of the forest storehouse and go back to Hasköy settlement via a different road. In the last part, you can arrive in Gümüşhane via Süleymaniye Neighborhood under the guidance of Dörtkonak signboard.



### Track 10: Gümüşhane-Kelkit-Şiran-Gümüşhane (160 km)

You can plan the route, all of which follows asphalt roads, as a two-day activity. Toraman and Tersun passes contain the ramps of the route. You will proceed on a flat line between Kelkit and Şiran. For accomodation, you can pick either Kelkit or Şiran.

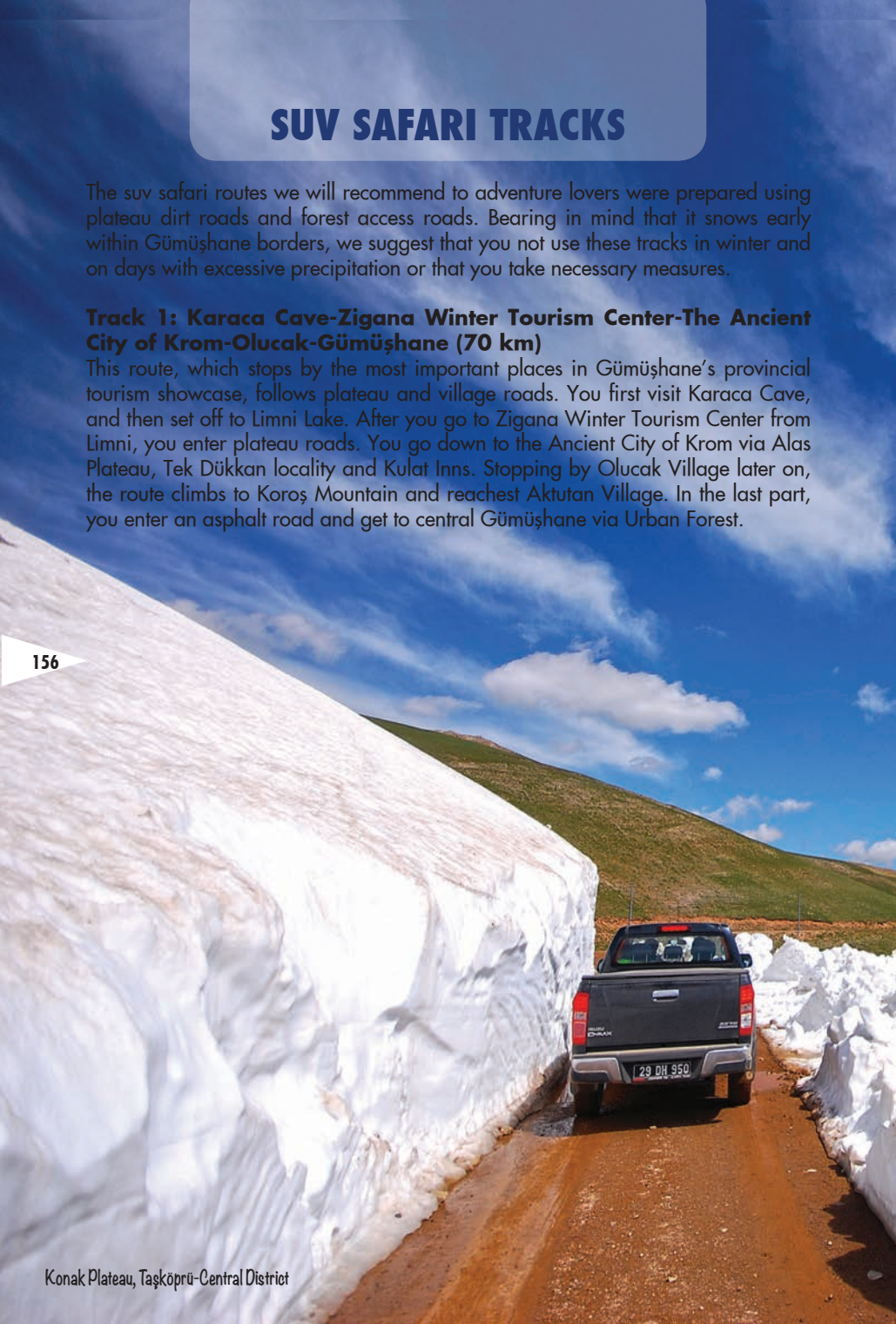


## SUV SAFARI TRACKS

The suv safari routes we will recommend to adventure lovers were prepared using plateau dirt roads and forest access roads. Bearing in mind that it snows early within Gümüşhane borders, we suggest that you not use these tracks in winter and on days with excessive precipitation or that you take necessary measures.

### **Track 1: Karaca Cave-Zigana Winter Tourism Center-The Ancient City of Krom-Olucak-Gümüşhane (70 km)**

This route, which stops by the most important places in Gümüşhane's provincial tourism showcase, follows plateau and village roads. You first visit Karaca Cave, and then set off to Limni Lake. After you go to Zigana Winter Tourism Center from Limni, you enter plateau roads. You go down to the Ancient City of Krom via Alas Plateau, Tek Dükkan locality and Kulat Inns. Stopping by Olucak Village later on, the route climbs to Koroş Mountain and reaches Aktutan Village. In the last part, you enter an asphalt road and get to central Gümüşhane via Urban Forest.





### **Track 2: Kürtün-Erikbeli Plateau-Kadırga Plateau-Zigana Winter Tourism Center-Karaca Cave (73 km)**

Stopping by Erikbeli and Kadırga plateaus which are tourism centers famous for their festivals, the route later gets to Zigana Winter Tourism Center on a dirt road via Zigana Tunnel. In the last part, it follows Limni Lake route and gets to Karaca Cave.

### **Track 3: Torul-Gümüştug-Kopuz-Torul (75 km)**

The route, which covers the length and breadth of Çit and Demirkapı valleys, within Torul borders, also involves a journey resembling a history tour. Several churches, mosques and historic stone arch bridges on the route await history and nature lovers.

### **Track 4: Kürtün-Kazıkbeli Plateau-Özkürtün (81 km)**

Starting from Kürtün town, located in Harşit Basin, the route passes through Örümcek Forest Nature Reserve Area and stops by the plateaus on the slopes of Gavur Mountains. It reaches Kazıkbeli after Çıkrıkdüzü and Güvende plateaus. Then, it passes over Yılanlı Plateau and arrives in Yaylalı Village. From this point on, you use the asphalt village roads and get to Özkürtün district via Demirkapı Village.

### **Track 5: Zigana Winter Tourism Center-Çakırgöl Winter Tourism Center-Santa Ruins-Taşköprü-Arzular-Gümüşhane (121 km)**

Passing over several plateaus on Zigana Chain of Mountains, the route first visits Çakırgöl Tourism Center and then Santa Ruins. In the last part, the route stops by Taşköprü Plateau and Yağmurdere Village, which looks as if it belongs to the past, and ends in Gümüşhane provincial center. We should state that you will very often encounter fog and rain while covering the route, which is at a high elevation.



## WINTER TOURISM

In addition to the fact that the region is surrounded by mountains, snow's falling early makes the city advantageous in terms of winter sports. There are 3 winter tourism centers provincewide.

The most famous ski center of the region is Zigana Winter Tourism Center, which is located within the borders of Zigana Village in Torul district of Gümüşhane. The access to this location, which is 46 kilometers to Gümüşhane city center, is via a 5-kilometer-long road that turns right at the exit of Zigana Tunnel. It is one of the 3 easily accessible ski centers (Erciyes and Palandöken being the other two) due to its being only 60 kilometers to Trabzon Airport. There is 1 accomodation facility in this area, which was declared to be a tourism center in 1991.

Throughout the ski season between December and April, the snow depth is about 100-150 centimeters. There is a babylift facility in the ski center, as well as a 661-meter-long teleski, the person-hour capacity of which is 843 persons. The ski-run, on which the average inclination reaches 20%, is suitable for both professionals and beginners. The region, whose scale of height varies between 1900 and 2500 meters, is surrounded by forests and alpine meadows. Located in the south of the ski center, Gavur Mountains display a magnificent visuality in clear weather.

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Another Winter Sports Center on Zigana Mountains, Çakırgöl is about 55 kilometers to the city center. It is possible to get to the center, which is hard to access in winter months, via Gümüşhane-Ikisu-Olucak road. 7 mechanical facilities and 11 ski-runs are planned to be built in the area, which was declared to be a tourism center in 2005 by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The implementation of the project in Süleymaniye Neighborhood, which was declared to be a Winter Tourism Center in 2010, has been continuing.





## OTHER ACTIVITIES

That Gümüşhane region is mountainous and that there are numerous dam lakes offers many activity opportunities to adventure lovers. Those who want can plan speleology, rock climbing, paragliding, rafting, horseriding, photo safari and water sports activities.

Great divides, particularly the big ones such as Torul, Kürtün and Köse Dam Lakes, present a favorable setting for water sports. In these lakes, you can participate in such activities as sailing, surfing, lake canoeing and paddling. We should mention that a water sports festival is organized in Kürtün Dam Lake every year. You can also do handline fishing in many creeks. However, we suggest that you respect the fishing prohibitions during the spawning period of fishes, particularly of the Mediterranean trout, which is an endangered species.

Photography aficionados might prefer Artabel Lakes Nature Park, which offers different frames each season, as well as Örumcek Forest Nature Reserve Area, which turns into a riot of colors, especially in fall. Gümüşhane plateaus, in the alpine meadows that spread to high hillsides, come into flower, particularly in June. Provincewide, Artabel Lakes, Beşgöller, Acembol Lakes, Akbulak Yıldız Lakes, Çakırgöl, Dipsiz Lake, Aygır Lake, Limni Lake and Altınpınar Lake, as well as Tekke Kuzağıl, Soğuksu, Karşıyaka, and Yukarı Kuluca picnic areas are suitable locations for camping. We should also remind you that you can camp in some plateaus, such as Dulağa, Yılanlı, Hendüt, and Taşköprü.

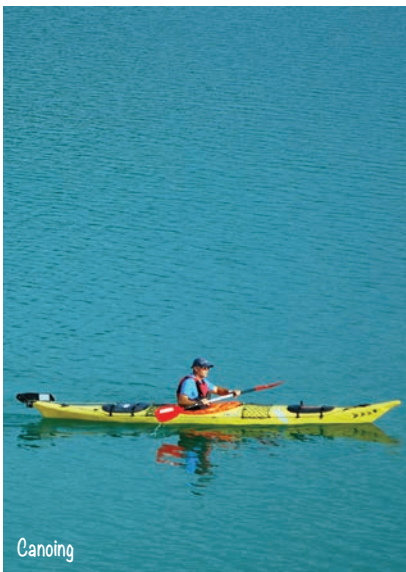
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Rock Climbing/Vehbi VALÇIN



Canoing



Photo-Safari in Örümeek Forest Nature Reserve

## LOCAL TASTES

In Gümüşhane, located at a passage point between the Black Sea and Central Anatolia, you can find the traces of both the Black Sea and Eastern Anatolia cuisine. In addition, the existence of different ethnic groups is among the factors that diversify the tastes province-wide. Recently, Gümüşhane is cited, especially with fruit leather and churchkhela (köme). In the past, villagers used to boil fermented fruit juice in giant cauldrons on wood fire, and then lay it on the floor and turn it into fruit leather and churchkhela with traditional methods. Unfortunately, this sector has now turned into fabrication because the villages have been emptied. There are approximately 30 churchkhela factories province-wide.

Certain dishes and desserts that you can taste in Gümüşhane are borani, gendime, gavut, savoy cabbage soup, pot roast wrap, green beans with bulghur, haşıl, kolot, kuymak (tuğala), lemis, siron, stuffed vegetables with yoghurt, burma dessert, fişkil, kanzili patty, and rosehip feast (Traditional names cannot be translated). Those who are fond of local tastes can buy fruit leather and köme, as well as tulum cheese and tulum ve çil cheese. Gümüşhane, where many fruits are grown due to its climatic properties, is famous for its muscatel apple, Hacıhamza pear, walnut, cherry, sour cherry, plum, apricot and hazelnut.

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Kazıkbeli Plateau Market



Kurtün Bread



Cheese



Fruit Leather



Fruit Leather  
and Churchkhela



## HANDICRAFTS

While mentioning the local handicrafts, we need to allocate a separate paragraph, especially for Kelkit and Şiran carpets and rugs. You can find Zili rugs, saddlebags, prayer rugs, throw pillows, runners and luck charms in Kelkit region; and the type of rugs called Ala, which are colored with madder in Şiran region. In the meantime, we should mention that silk carpet business in Kürtün district has become widespread recently.

That forest products are abundant within the district borders of Torul is the main reason why the locals gravitated towards woodwork, such as churns, buckets, pots, floor tables, spoons and rolling pins. In addition, samples of ironwork, particularly axes, hatchets, hinges, keys and bells, can be found in the province.

In Dölek Village of the central district, the making of earthen casserole dishes (gudu) has been continuing for centuries. Black, red, yellow and white dirt taken from plateaus is brought to sludge consistency. After that, the mud made from fat soil is shaped by kneading it on wooden moulds. It is left under the sun to dry for a while. Then the base is cut with a knife. By means of a wooden tool called Gogoş, the final shape is given and handles are affixed. At the last stage, it is kiln-dried in a tandouri oven. The casserole dish made from mixed sludge is of good quality and durable, and the dish that is cooked in it tastes delicious.



Yıldız Village, Torul



Casserole Dishes, Dölek-Central District



Şiran Carpet



Handmade Bag



Kelkit Carpet

## PLACES TO VISIT

**Central District:** Citadels (Akçakale, Canca, Keçi, Kov, Krom), **Watchtowers** (Olucak), Mosques (Cami-i Sağır, Kaleköy, Süleymaniye Neighborhood Ulu and Küçük, Güzeller), Churches (Cebeli Virgin Mary, Hagios Ionnas Cave, İmera (St. John Prodromus), Metropolitan, Hagios Stephanos, Surp Karabet Armanian, Hagia Sophia, Timos Stavros, Hagios Theodoros, Vank, İkişu Cave, Alikinos, Bulutyayla (Şamanlı), Çayıroğlu, Gavalak, Kayaaltı, Loria, Mağara, Mancandanos, Nanak, Ortayayla, Sarioğlu, Zemberek, Livena, Likos, Santa Binatlı (Prophet Elijah), Santa Çakallı, İshanlı, Piştof St. Christopher, Terzili St. Theodor, Zurnacılı 1-2), **Shrines** (Çağırğanbaba, Hacı Tahir Efendi, Pirahmet, Musa Dede), **Baths** (Dere, Paşa, Kavaklık, Çaput, Süleymaniye), **Fountains** (Cami-i Sağır, Daltaban, Güzeller Mir Ahmet Raşid, Özdenoğlu, Santa Piştof, Santa Terzili and Ulucami), **Bridges:** (Kanberli, Taşköprü, Bazbent, Çiftgözler, Old Gümüşhane Road, Gümüşhane Stone, Hamam Creek, Harşit Brook, Hindere, Tohumoğlu, Ulucami, Yamakoğlu Creek 1-2), **Civil Architecture** (Zeki Kadirbeyoğlu, Şehbenderoğlu, Özdenoğlu, Balyemez mansions; Ali Erkan, Erdemir Akgün, Fahri Gümüşeli, Hasan Fehmi Ataç, Mehmet Aksoy ve Rafet Çubukçu houses, Sarıçiçek Rooms), **Lakes** (Çakırgöl, Dipsiz, Bulanık, Aygır, Yağmurdere, Taşköprü, Aktutan, Yaydemir, Aşağıalıcı), **Waterfalls** (Tekke, Halgent), **Caves** (Karaca), **Plateaus** (Taşköprü, Bulut, Sarıtaş, Maden, Alaçayır, Dölek, Balahor) **Tourism Centers** (Çakırgöl and Süleymaniye Neighborhood Winter Sports Tourism Center), **Nature Parks** (Karşıyaka Nature Park)

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Gümüşhane City Center



**Kelkit District: Historic Locations** (the ancient city of Satala), **Citadels** (Babakonağı Geremez), **Rock Tombs** (Özen), **Mosques** (Köycük Eski, Örenşar, Özbeyli), **Shrines** (Babakonağı Hayribaba, Çamur Village Cupola), **Lakes** (Akbaba, Çamur, Sadak, Örenbel, Söğürlü Emek), **Plateaus** (Çimenli, Çiçekli, Cemallı, Kuzuçimeni), **Nature Area** (Camallı and Mahmatlı Wildlife Development Areas)



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**Köse District: Lakes** (Köse, Akbaba, Yuvacık, Salyazı), **Caves** (Kırklar), **Plateaus** (Yaylım, Şurut), **Nature Parks** (Köse Nature Park)



**Kürtün District:** **Watchtowers** (Süme), **Churches** (Yaylım Meryemana (Virgin Mary) 1-2-3-4), **Mosques** (Söğüteli), **Fountains** (Yaylım Orta Neighborhood 1-2, Sarıbaba, Ayşe Şanlı), **Bridges** (Church of the Virgin Mary, Sarıbaba/Değirmen), **Waterfalls** (Çağlayandibi), **Lakes** (Kürtün, Gökçebel, Karagöl, Gölönü), **Plateaus** (Kazıkbeli, Güvende, Çıkrıküzü, Yılanlı, Gölönü, Erikbeli, Kazmankaya, Kadırga, Münürlü, Şehmerlik), **Tourism Centers** (Erikbeli Tourism Center), **Nature Areas** (Örümcek Forest Nature Reserve Area, Çağlayandibi Waterfall Nature Park)



Kadırga Plateau, Kürtün

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**Şiran District:** **Citadels** (İntaşı/Balıkhisar), **Watchtowers** (Gökçeler), **Rock Tombs** (Araköy, Kadiçayırı), **Churches** (Çakırkaya Kaya), **Mosques** (Araköy, Seydibaba, Telme), **Shrines** (Ebe Hatun, Firdevs Hatun, Seydibaba), **Fountains** (Ericcek, Gökçeler, Telme), **Waterfalls** (Tomara), **Lakes** (Suyungözü, Akbulak Yıldız 1-2, Koruluk, Telme, Yukarı Kuluca, Yeşilbük, Yeniköy), **Plateaus** (Hendüt, Evren, Kırıntı, Beydere, Erenkaya, Telme), **Nature Areas** (Artabel Lakes and Tomara Waterfall Nature Parks, Yukarı Kuluca and Örenkale Wildlife Development Area, Kırantı Eviya Ardıcı and Ali Ağa's Poplar Nature Monuments)



Şiran City Center



**Torul District: Citadels** (Kodil, Kopuz, Övündü, Torul, Yalınkavak), **Watchtowers** (Altınpınar, Cebeli, Demirkapı Ermük, Gümüştuğ, Kalecik), **Churches** (Büyükçit Virgin Mary (Panagia Theotokos), Büyük Çit Emirler (Papavere), Atalar Aydınlar, Cebeli, Cebeli Köpçüler 1-2, Cebeli Çengelli, Cebeli Loria, Cebeli Virgin Mary, Demirkapı Ermük, Demirkapı Hıdırellez, Demirkapı Kayadibi, Demirkapı Zobah, Dibekli Ekmekçi, Gorgodos, Gülaçar, Gülaçar Çamlievler, Gümüştuğ Balcılar, Gümüştuğ Main Neighborhood St. Demetrios, Gümüştuğ Creek, Güvemli Vartlı, Güvemli Veredon, Güvemli Düzler, Güzeloluk, Kopuz, Kardüzü, Kuşlu, Uğurtaş 1-2, Uğurtaş Menzilhane, Yaycılı, Yıldız Çamdibi, Yıldız Çolgun), **Mosques** (Arpalı, Atalar, Bahçelik, Büyük Çit, Cebeli, Demirkapı, Gülaçar Esentepe, Gülaçar Köklü, Güvemli Baş Neighborhood, Güzeloluk, Kocadal Dörene, Kocadal Erdemler, Uğurtaş, Yalınkavak, Yıldız, Zigana), **Fountains** (Arpalı, Aşağı Arılı, Büyük Çit 1-2-3-4-5-6, Cebeli 1-2-3-4-5, Dibekli Ekmekçi, Gülaçar Esentepe, Gümüştuğ Dere, Güzeloluk, Güzeloluk Göğüs Neighborhood, Işık Bayana, Kopuz 1-2, Uğurtaş 1-2-3, Uğurtaş İstavri, Yukarı Arılı), **Bridges** (Meryemana 1-2, Bahçelik Çavuşalı, Çit Creek 1-2-3, Dedeli, Demirkapı Ermük, Dibekli, Gülaçar Esentepe 1-2, Gülaçar Balcılar, Gümüştuğ Central Neighborhood 1-2, Gümüştuğ Creek Neighborhood, Güvemli, Güvemli Central Neighborhood, İlecik, Kopuz 1-2-3, Torul 1-2, Uğurtaş 1-2, Bagava, Yıldız 1-2, Virgin Mary 1-2, Zigana Silk Road and Zigana Bekiroğulları), **Waterfalls** (Artabel, Beşgöller), **Lakes** (Torul, Limni, Altınpınar, Adalı, Küçük, Buzlu, İkiz, Karanlık, Beşgöller, Karagöller, Acembol, Gölbaşı, Dağdibi Yıldız), **Plateaus** (Teknecik, Olukman, Kürtmezarı, Gölönü, Yılanlı, Dulağa, Karagöl, Çamurlu, Galis), **Tourism Centers** (Zigana Winter Tourism Center), **Nature Areas** (Artabel Lakes and Limni Lake Nature Parks),



Torul Dam Lake

## FESTIVALS

Rosehip-Pestil (Fruit Leather) Culture and Tourism Festival

Santa Festivities

Taşköprü Culture and Plateau Festival

Kelkit Festival

Çimen Plateau Festival

Köse Mountain Festival

Kabaktepe Plateau Festival

Kadırga Plateau Festival

Kazıkbeli Plateau Festival

Alacapazar Festival

Kürtün International Orienteering and Adventure Contest

Güvende Plateau Festival

Harmanlık Village Festival

Akyayla Festival

Telme Plateau Festival

Araköy Plateau Festival

Yeşilbük Plateau Festival

Ozanca Plateau Festival

Bahçeli Plateau Festival

Yukarı Kuluca Plateau Festival

Boğazyayla Festivities

Kırıntı Plateau Festival

İnözü Plateau Festival

Seydibaba Plateau Festival

Yeniköy Plateau Festival

Dumanlı Plateau Festival

Kürtün Dam Lake Water Sports

Konamlı Plateau Festival

Selimiye Plateau Festival

July, Gümüşhane

July, Gümüşhane

July, Gümüşhane

July, Kelkit

July, Kelkit

July, Köse

July, Kürtün

July, Kürtün

July, Kürtün

July, Kürtün

July, Kürtün

July, Kürtün

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July, Şiran

August, Gümüşhane

August, Kürtün

August, Şiran

August, Şiran



Autumn in Zığana Mountains



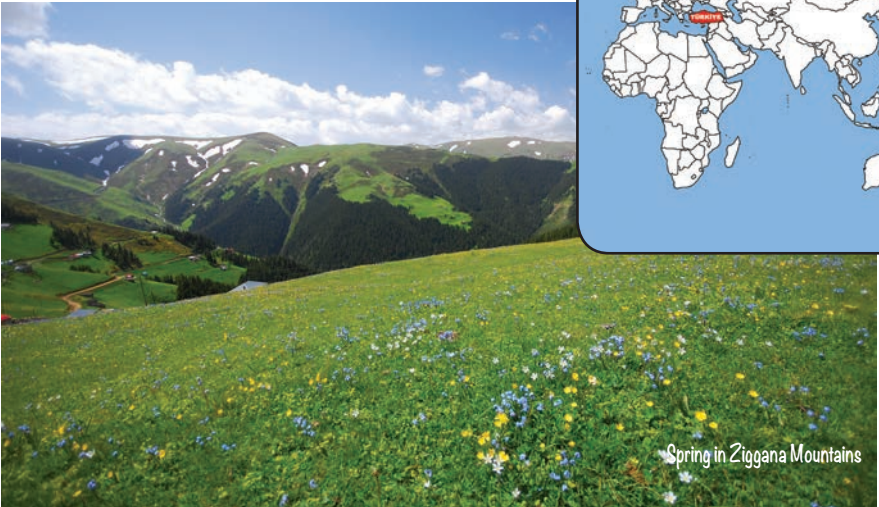
## TRANSPORTATION

Gümüşhane is 1.108 kilometers to İstanbul, 788 kilometers to Ankara, 101 kilometers to Trabzon, 78 kilometers to Bayburt, 145 kilometers to Erzincan, 235 kilometers to Giresun, and 382 kilometers to Samsun.

The distances of Gümüşhane districts to the center:

Kelkit	71 km
Köse	46 km
Kürtün	55 km
Şiran	101 km
Torul	20 km

The coach station is in the city center. Trabzon, which is the nearest airport, is 110 kilometers to the city center. Various airlines have shuttles to İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir and Antalya every day. For those who wish to use the air way, Erzincan (148 km) and Erzurum airports (210 km) are an option.



Spring in Ziggana Mountains

## ACCOMODATION

The province of Gümüşhane has a number of accomodation facilities that suit every pocket. As tourism has developed in the city, the number of starred and high quality hotels has increased. It is also possible to find boarding houses and bungalows outside the city in plateaus, Artabel Lakes Nature Park, Gülaçar Village and Limni Lake Nature Park. There is a 4-season hotel in Zigana Ski Center. For detailed information, you can check out the "Tourism/Accomodation Facilities" section of Directorate of Provincial Culture and Tourism website ([www.gumushanekulturturizm.gov.tr](http://www.gumushanekulturturizm.gov.tr)).

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police	155
Gendermery	156
Emergency	112
Forest Fire	177
Tourism Police	(0456) 2131467
Governorate	(0456) 2131579
Provincial Culture and Tourism	(0456) 2133473
Karaca Cave	(0456) 6265070
City Museum	(0456) 2135966

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## INFORMATION AND LOCAL GUIDANCE

Directorate of Nature Conservation and Natural Parks : 0 (456) 2132207  
[gumushane@ormansu.gov.tr](mailto:gumushane@ormansu.gov.tr)

GPS coordinates and information : [www.burasigumushane.com](http://www.burasigumushane.com)  
[gumushanerotalari@gmail.com](mailto:gumushanerotalari@gmail.com)

AFAD (Disaster Relief Agency) : 0 (456) 213 0122

Engin DOĞRU : 0535 2037770

Ersin DEMİREL : 0535 2199326  
[www.ersindemirel.blogspot.com](http://www.ersindemirel.blogspot.com)

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(Artabel Holiday Village)

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