



SAMSUN



Governorship of Samsun

Publisher



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Hüseyin AKSOY
Governor of Samsun



Samsun

Samsun, the place where the Great Leader Atatürk started the National Liberation Crusade and the place where he took the first step towards it, is one of the cities of the Black Sea Region with the highest potential of tourism thanks to its natural, historical and cultural richness, and its sea, land, air and railway transportation capabilities.

Samsun has a 6000 year old history which has been the host of many different cultures and has become an important cultural and trading center of Anatolia since its establishment.

Samsun, which has such an historical background, presents its guests many tourism activities from winter tourism to thermal tourism, from health tourism to nature and sea tourism

It is the most important city of the Black Sea region by means of Social and Cultural life with its State Opera and Ballet, State Theater Stage of Samsun, State Classical Turkish Music Chorus, Galleries, Museums and Libraries.

Samsun still isn't at the point it deserves today in tourism despite its 200 km seaboard, natural beaches, numerous archeological sites, registered structures, hardwood mosques, 17.426 archeological and ethnographic artifacts exhibited in museums, hundreds of endemic plants, plateaus, mountains, forest waterfalls, lakes, and trekking, winter skiing and grass skiing, paragliding and water sports possibilities.

Our goal is to promote Samsun the future City of Tourism to its rightful position.

The latest investments in tourism in the recent years have raised hopes regarding this subject.

I would like to thank and to present my compliments to all of those who participated in this study which I believe will contribute to the presentation of our city that has a rich historical background and is in a fast development phase in terms of social, economical, cultural and touristic life. I also wish for this study to gain Samsun new companions.

Hüseyin AKSOY
Governor of Samsun





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Samsun City Map

Black Sea



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LEGEND

- City center
- Districts center
- Town center
- Dam, Lake, River
- Brook
- State highway
- Road
- Transp. Codes
- State Railway
- Fish Hakchery
- District
- Town

Scale 1:300,000





SAMSUN

Samsun is the largest city in the Black Sea Region of Turkey.

After all, it is situated in the centre of the Black Sea Region. The highway connection from the centre of Turkey, Ankara, to the Black Sea region is ensured via Samsun.

The land route also goes from Samsun to Sinop in the west and Ordu, Giresun, Trabzon, Rize, and Artvin in the east. In addition, the largest airport of the region is in Samsun on that beautiful plain between Samsun and Çarşamba. The port of Samsun is one of the oldest

ports of the region. The port of Samsun is also the port at which Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the great leader of Turkey's national independence war, set foot in Anatolia, to initiate the war of independence. At that time there were no port facilities, it was just a dock which could serve only small boats. The "Bandırma" steamer, which brought Atatürk to Samsun, became the symbol of the national independence war. However, this symbol was not appreciated and preserved; it was sold for scrap metal in the 1950's. Now, a replica of that beautiful ship has





been built and it is exhibited in the museum at East Park, on the eastern edge of the port.

Samsun had long forgotten the sea; but now the two are reunited...

The port of Samsun was established at the huge gulf where Samsun meets the sea from one side to the other, as if to separate the land from water. Moreover, there was a railroad between the sea and the land, allowing the people of Samsun to forget the sea for about 40-50 years, merely watching the dirty waters of the

port from a distance or from the fairgrounds.

Now this is changing, and the people of Samsun are reuniting with the Black Sea. The constructions at the port and East Park are finished, and those at West Park are almost complete. This place has become a recreational site including sightseeing terraces, mile-long walking and jogging tracks, a zoo, sports fields, water parks and, of course, many cafes and restaurants. In addition, the formerly foul-smelling water has been cleaned, by stopping the flow of wastewater to the port and the sea and by building waste treatment facilities.

Now, fish can live in the port and this has increased the number of fishermen who stand along the shores with their fishing lines. A shoreside sculpture of a fisherman, which was built by the Samsun Metropolitan Municipality, salutes everyone. He is there as if to say, you will be able to fish here for many years to come.

Lost traces of great history

The city of Samsun has a 7000-year-long history. It was called Amisos in antiquity but the settlements in the region date back to even earlier times. Traces of this settlement in the tumulus at Dündartepe which is in İlkadım region. Also some founding can be seen in the region of Bafra, and in the tumulus covered by Kızılırmak delta.





The most fertile plains of Turkey

Samsun has two huge plains created by two rivers, one of which is the longest river in Turkey. One is the Kızılırmak Delta and the Plain of Bafra; the other is the Yeşilirmak Delta and the Plain of Çarşamba. These are two of the very few large areas which the Black Sea Region offers between the steep mountains.

These two rivers have fertilized the land for thousands of years with the alluvial deposits they carry. These



two plains have been Turkey's fruit and vegetable garden. The richness still endures. The points where these two deltas meet the sea have formed little lakes and wetlands, and these have become home to many birds. The Delta and wetland of Bafra has especially rich fauna. These two wetland fields, which are situated on the migration routes of the birds, are also a perfect place for bird watchers.



Plateaus

When we think of the plateaus of the Black Sea Region, the plateaus of the Eastern Black Sea Region come first to mind.

The plateaus of Trabzon, Rize, Ordu and Giresun are very famous. Transhumant culture is almost specific to this region. However, even if they are not famous, the plateaus of



Samsun are beauties that are worth seeing.

The plateaus of Ladik and Vezirköprü, especially Kunduz and Akdağ, are the first plateaus to mention. In plateaus at Kunduz and Akdağ there are perfect places for nature lovers and campers. Nature lovers from Samsun especially prefer those nearer to the city centre and within Yakanet for walks in nature.

Samsun is on the brink of touristic regional development

Recently, alternative tourism options have started developing in Samsun. Nature tourism is popular and has

potential for various touristic activities with the sea, the unique sand, the very green forests, mountains that are snow covered in the winter, the lakes, long rivers, curative thermal springs, the delta of Kızılırmak, which is one of the largest wetlands of Turkey, and its 340 bird species.

The number of hotels in Samsun and its districts is increasing in comparison to previous years. The number of hotels, which is currently more than 27, will increase further in the years to come upon the completion of those under construction.





New hotels are being planned in compliance with the demand. Maybe many things will change in the next few years. The Metropolitan Municipality, Governor's office and Chambers of Commerce are working together on infrastructure for fairs and conference tourism. Samsun Airport is a busy place for Turkish Airlines and other airway companies.

Endless coasts and beaches

Samsun is situated in the Middle Black Sea Region of Turkey. The Coast of Samsun is 120 km in total. This coast, which lies from Alacam to Terme Miliç, includes a beach that reaches a depth of 200 meters at some points. This is a beautiful beach with fine sand. Unfortunately, the number of beaches

with developed infrastructure is limited. Nevertheless, the number of beaches is increasing. This increase will initially be at the centre of the city and especially Atakum. The numbers of hotels along the coastline were few. However, new hotel constructions have begun in the Atakum and 19 Mayıs regions.

Samsun is expected to be named as a tourism incentive area with allocations for the construction of large holiday villages and coastline hotels after the state develops the infrastructure. There is no other alternative for Samsun but to take advantage of its long coastline—almost half the length of the coast of Bulgaria—for coastline tourism and to benefit from this most developed type of tourism.





Festivals and fairs

Local festivals and fairs have been long standing traditions in these parts, but the recent addition of international cultural events have brought a new dimension to local festivities.

The international folk dancing festival is held here every July, with various neighbour countries taking part. Samsun also hosts the May 19 Festival, commorating the date of Atatürk's arrival in Samsun in 1919.



New excursion routes

We have made suggestions to travel agencies and domestic travellers. It is up to them whether to implement these suggestions or not.

Middle and Eastern Black Sea Region Tour (by bus or plane)

To Samsun airport by plane.

Samsun city tour. (See the pages about Samsun centre for excursion routes; these pages include alternative tours for those who are going to spend more than one day in Samsun.)

To Ünye, Perşembe and Ordu by bus.

Spending the night at Ordu. Historical tour of the city of Ordu.

Plateau tours in Ordu. A popular option in recent years has been driving in small Volkswagens.

City tour in Giresun. The road to Bolaman Stream, Plateaus, etc and Trabzon. Tour of the Sumela monastery.



Two Samsuns in History

İlker Sever

In his work called Geographika, Strabon states that the city of Amisos (Samsun) was founded by the people of Miletos arriving from Sinop, changed hands for three times and was an important city of its era which was well-organized.

Between the fourth and ninth centuries, Byzantines and Arabs constantly fought for Samsun and its surroundings; then the Turkomans took over the city in 1072. After a short time, the city was brought under Byzantine rule, but was constantly attacked by the Danişmentoğulları principality, which was subject to the Seljuk Sultan, Süleymanşah. Most of the region was conquered after Melik Danişmend Gazi's death. By 1081, the attacks were even fiercer. By 1084, the entire region except Amisos was conquered. The Byzantine governor of Amisos resisted for a long

time and was able to evade conquest. Having failed to take over the city, the Danişmentoğulları founded a city on a site, which was a stone's throw away from Amisos and now called Kale Mahallesi (Castle Quarter). The people of this new settlement named the people of the old one "Kâfirler" (Infidels). After some time, commercial relations began between these two cities and their relationship gradually increased.

The Seljuk dominion was rather weak during the reign of Sultan Mesud, and Danişmentoğulları became more powerful than the other principalities, but they began to lose their power because of severe competition for the throne in 1143. In 1178, Seljuk Sultan Kılıç Arslan II ended the rule of this principality in that region. In addition, Amisos, the "Infidel Samsun", was brought under Seljuk rule. After this, the Byzantine fleets attacked the region from time to time. The most severe attack was

○ SAMSUN FROM PAST TO PRESENT

The investigations carried out in Samsun area reveal that the earliest signs of the homo sapiens appeared in Tekkekoy. Works belonging to the sub-paleolithic age (400.000-10.000 BC), to the mesolithic age (10.000-8000 BC), to the Bronze Age and the Hittite Period were obtained as a result of the excavations and investigations carried out in the rock shelters caves and flat settlements.

The scientific excavations carried out in Tekkekoy, Dundartepe, Kaledorugu and İkiztepe where the late chalcolithic and bronze ages were located reveal that all the settlements were in the village style and were founded by small groups. It was revealed that the folk lived in frame houses; lived on hunting, fishing and husbandry; was familiar with fabric and leather trade; made weapons, ornaments and tools first





during Süleymanşah II's reign. It was an ambush organized by Alexios III. After the Crusader Invasion of Constantinople (1204), the Byzantine dynasty of Lascaris and Komnenos founded their new states in İznik (Nicaea) and Trabzon (Trapezounda) respectively; and the Komnenos expansion over the Black Sea region was disturbing the Lascaris dynasty and the Seljuks. Trade in the Black Sea was also greatly affected by this situation. Trade caravans used to

carry goods from Syria and Egypt to the ports of Samsun and Sinop (Sinope), using the routes passing through Kayseri and Sivas; those goods were then transported to other ports. However, Sinop was taken over by the dynasty of Komnenos, and Samsun was besieged. Therefore, commercial activity at the ports stopped. İznik (Nicaea) recognized the domination of the Byzantine Empire and asked for help. The one who saved Samsun and Sinop from the

from blister and then from arsenical copper. They were buried with the things they used in their daily lives in simple earth funeraries. It was determined that the Samsun area was in close relationship with the the Eastern Aegian Islands, Southern Greek, Bulgarian and Romanian cultures. Such relationships show that there was coastal sailing in the Black Sea.

According to the ancient sources, Amisos (Samsun) was a settlement established before the Greeks. Writers of the antique age indicate that the first name of Amisos was Enete. In the early 6 BC, a group from Miletos arriving from Sinope conquer the small settlement called "Amisos" and found the emporion. During the first half of 6 BC, the cappadocians arrive and settle in Amisos. In the middle of 6 BC, the cappadocian leader allows the Phokaians (ancient Phocaea) to settle in Amisos. In 437 BC, a group among those coming from Athens and arriving at Sinope settle in Amisos in the leadership of Athenokles and





hands of the Komnenos Dynasty, by cooperating with the Nicean Empire, was the Seljuk Sultan Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev I. The conflict between the Komnenos Dynasty and the Seljuks lasted for some time after the victory of Seljuk.

The old settlement of Christian Amisos survived for more than 200 years; first as a settlement subject to the Byzantine Empire and then beginning

from the first half of the 14th century—as a colony inhabited by the Genoans. Having signed the Nymphaion Treaty with the Byzantines,, granting them significant commercial concessions, the Genoans had an opportunity to be in charge of the ports along the Black Sea; in addition to being able to perform commercial activities without paying any custom duties within Byzantine lands. Byzantines were paying a huge price in exchange for renting 50 ships. After this treaty, the competition between Venice and Genoa became fiercer, focusing on Byzantium, but the Genoans were the superior force in the Black Sea; thanks to the treaty. Having taken control of the key commercial centers on the coast of the Black Sea such as Kefe, Sinop, Fatsa, Trabzon and Samsun, the Genoans became as wealthy as the Venetians.

Şerafettin Turan states that the exact date of Genoan settlement in Samsun is not known, but Samsun was written as Simisso and depicted with a

change its name as Peiraieos.

It is predicted that, in the midst of 6 BC, Amisos paid taxes to the Persians, just as the other Greek cities did, as Anatolia fell under the hegemony of Persians.

In the early 4 BC, Amisos was conquered by the Cappadocian Satrap Damastes; thus, establishing Persian domination in the area.

The Persian domination over Anatolia comes to an end upon the defeat of the Persians by Alexander the Great in 334-333 BC and Amisos gains independence. After the death of Alexander the Great,

Alexander's clerk, Eumenes, is awarded with the position of the satrap of Cappadocia and Paphlagonia-Pontus. After the death of Eumenes, Kassandros conquers Amisos in 315 BC. Antigonos saves the city by sending his nephew Ptolemaios there and the satrapy is reconstituted.

Amitos is put under the



Genoan flag in a map dating back to the year 1351.

Amisos was just another maritime city that had been brought under Genoan rule, just like Heraklia (Ereğli) and Amastris (Amasra). Samsun had a busy commercial port, even though somewhat overshadowed by the port of Sinop (Sinope). In addition, the extent of the hinterland of the port of Samsun increased its importance.

Walls surrounded Amisos, an important maritime city, and a governor appointed with the title "podesta" by the Genoans was in charge of it. Moreover, the residents of Muslim Samsun were benefiting from the shipyard and maritime experiences of the people of Amisos. The Seljuks, who were interested in commerce on the Black Sea, were also performing commercial activities through the port of Amisos, which was a commercial centre. Moreover, Genoans were purchasing commercial goods like fabrics, carpets and materials of all kinds from the Muslim



merchants. In addition, the Genoan goods coming to the port of Samsun were being marketed to Anatolia through these Muslim merchants. In the middle of the 14th century, Muslim Samsun and its surroundings were under the domination of the Eretna principality. During the reign of Giyaseddin Mehmed, the principality began to lose power and another one, Kubadoğulları, seized control of the

domination of the Republic of Pontus by Mithridates Kitises in 302 BC. Amisos is conquered during the reign of Mithridates II (225-220 BC). Amisos undergoes its prime during the reign of Mithridates IV (120-63 BC). Throughout the running wars between the Pontus Kingdom and the Roman Empire, Amisos is conquered by the Exarch of Kilikia and Asia of Rome, Lucullus, in 71 BC. The city, whose people were killed, turns into a wreck. Lucullus orders the restructuring of the city by setting the survivors free.

Pompeius comes to Amisos in the spring of 64 BC and makes new arrangements. The city, which falls to the share of the Byzantine Empire when the Roman Empire was divided into two, becomes a



center of bishopship going by the name Amisos. In 10 BC, the name of the city is mentioned as Amisos in a command of the Emperor Konstantin Porphygenitos.

Two different cities in the same place: Muslim Samsun and Amisos.



region. In 1398, Cüneyt Bey from Kubadoğulları left the city to Bayazid I without any resistance. After that, the control of Samsun and its surroundings was left to Alexander, the Muslim son of the Bulgarian Tsar (Şişman). During that time, Ottomans did not touch "Infidel Samsun", which was a Genoan colony, for not only the peace between Genoans and Ottomans, but also the services and taxes that were collected from the Genoans were important for the Ottomans. The presence of an article

in a treaty signed in 1403 between the representative of the Ottomans, Suleiman Çelebi, and the representatives of Byzantium, Venice, Genoa, Rhodes, Chios and Naksos about the abolition of tax obligations for the Genoans in the Black Sea supports this. Furthermore, if this port became damaged or if the Genoans holding a great trade colony there left Samsun, economical and political crises would likely occur. In 1403, Ruy González de Clavijo, the emissary of Henry III, sent an ambassador to

When Turks began to settle in Anatolia after the battle of Malazgirt, Danişmentoğulları, a Turkish principality, came to the Canik area and besieged Amisos, but they could not conquer the city. Muslim Samsun was founded by the sea in the form of a castle in order to watch over Amisos.

After the battle of Köseadağ (06.06.1243), the Mongols divided Anatolia into two, and the Canik area was part of the region left to Kılıçarslan, who was the Sultan of Seljuk.



After that, Canik came under the Greek Empire of Trapezond (Trapezounda.)

As for the Muslim Samsun that had come under Mongolian rule, it was conquered by Mesut, leader of the Turkish principality Pervaneoğulları.

Timour, traveled from Istanbul to Trabzon through the Black Sea Region.

In his travel journals, he mentions the dual structure of Samsun, stating that he visited Samsun in 1404 after leaving Sinop:

“We left Sinope on Saturday April 5th. We spent the whole night at sea. At noon the next day, we arrived at Samsun. The Turks were in charge here. There are two castles in Samsun; one belonging to the Genoans, the other to Suleiman Çelebi. We did not enter the port but stayed at sea. The weather was suitable so we arrived at Ünye at noon the next day.

In 1404, Samsun was under the rule of Suleiman Çelebi, the son of Bayazid I. After some time, the Candaroğulları principality took control of the city. Even though the area was destroyed by Tamerlane’s troops, after the defeat of Bayazid I in the Ankara War, the part of the city under Genoan domination survived.

In 1419, “Infidel Samsun” faced a disaster. A small fire spread out



gradually and flames surrounded the entire city. The Genoans evacuated the city immediately. The podesta in charge fled to Kefe, another Genoan colony. Being notified that the city was evacuated, Mehmet Çelebi ordered Biçeroğlu Hamza Bey, who was in charge of the governorship of the Ottoman lands in Asia Minor, to capture Amisos. Having been mostly evacuated after the fire, the city was conquered without any resistance. Turkish troubadour Aşıkpaşazade tells the conquest of the Infidel Samsun as follows:

1358: The Muslim Samsun came under the control of Suleiman (the leader of the Turkish principality, Hacı Emiroğulları). Suleiman accepted the domination of the State of Kadı Burhanettin Ahmet.

1389: Kubatoğlu Cüneyt Bey controlled Samsun.

1389: Bayazid I, also called Yıldırım Beyazıt, brought the city under Ottoman control without any bloodshed, in that Kubatoğlu Cüneyt Bey had escaped; and he appointed Alexander (the Fat) as the governor.

Bayazid does not touch Amisos but lays it under contribution

1402: When Timur (Tamerlane) gave the lands of the Anatolian Turkish principalities back, after the battle of Ankara, Muslim Samsun came under the rule of Emir Ahmet Tacettin of the Tacettinoğulları principality.

Then Kubatoğulları, Taşanoğlu



The control of Samsun was not the only thing to change after the fire. The title "Infidel" was also forgotten. The new title of that part of the city was "Dark" from then on. The Muslim part had now become the centre.

The port of Samsun was an important port where slaves, wine and all kinds of material and grain were traded. However, commercial activity was not as intense as in the old days. Historical sources state that the Genoans left the city after the fire, but

it is difficult to say that every one of them definitely left.

It is obvious that commercial relations between Genoans and Samsun did not end. In a document, dating back to 4 December 1423, there is an authorization for rebuilding the castle, which had belonged to the Genoan colony in Samsun. This authorization was granted at the request of the Genoans who helped the Ottoman



Sultan Murad II with the rebellion of Prince Mustafa.

These prove the Genoan presence in Samsun despite the decline of commercial activity. Öz states that Italian sources mention a Genoan colony in the city in the year 1424. Moreover, Öz claims that a group of five people called "Frank Market" which was recorded in the military documents of the year 1485 is the remnant of Genoan presence in the city.

Ahmet Bey and Cüneyt Bey, the son of Emir Ali Çelebi ruled the city for short periods respectively.

1419: Then Hızır Bey, the son of İsfendiyaroğlu Kötürüm Beyazıt (Bayazid the Cripple) conquered Muslim Samsun.

1419: A huge fire broke out in Amisos. The entire city was in flames. Genoans evacuated the city. In addition, the podesta in charge fled to another Genoan colony.

Having been informed that the city was evacuated, Mehmet Çelebi, ordered Biçeroğlu Hamza Bey, who was in charge of the governorship of the Ottoman lands in Asia Minor, to capture Amisos. The city was captured without any resistance.

After Biçeroğlu Hamza took over Amisos, he began to fight against





Turkomans saw the neighboring settlements as "the other", distinguished them by using a religious term, calling them Infidels. Thus, the city where they live was called Infidel. However, the fact that the Byzantines and the crusaders called the Turks "infidele" should also be remembered.

Unfortunately, the fortification of the castle of Muslim Samsun has not survived.

The remains of the fortification were demolished during the reconstruction of the city in 1870. As you see, during the Anatolian conquest, there were dual settlements in İzmir (Smyrna) and Samsun (Amisos); and the other named one of the two settlements in this dual structure "Infidel".

This is because of the fact that the

Muslim Samsun, which was under the rule of İsfendiyaroğlu Hızır Bey.

1419: Mehmet Çelebi took control of Muslim Samsun and Amisos for the last time. Hızır, son of Yörgüç Pasha, was appointed to the governorship of the city.

1526: After him, Sarraç Ali held office as the governor.

1760: Samsun became a small administrative district (Muhasssılık) and was joined under the Province of Trabzon

1869: While governor Arab Hakkı Pasha was in charge, the great fire of Samsun broke out.

Between the years 1874-1882, Samsun was an independent governorate.

1882: Samsun joined the Province of Trabzon once again.

1910: Samsun became an independent governorate once again

19t May 1919: Mustafa Kemal Pasha landed at Samsun to initiate the National War of Independence.

The Year 1919: Mustafa Kemal is in Samsun, the city where the National War of Independence was initiated.

From 19 to 25 of May

Having set foot in Samsun on 19 May 1919, Mustafa Kemal informed the Vizier's Office on May 20 by telegraph that a national resistance would definitely be initiated in Anatolia.

"Neither the nation nor the army will yield or accept this unjust violation directed against their existence."

On 20 May, Mustafa Kemal visited Badıllı village where there were armed conflicts between Greek Pontic marauders, and told the villagers in a place called Çimenlik (Grassland) that they must take up arms against the marauders.

On 21 May, he visited Avdan village near Samsun and made inquiries about the Pontic marauders near there. He spent the night in Halit's house in the village and then returned to Samsun.

By 21 May, he started to contact the commanding officers of the army corps. His aim was to detect the



Atatürk opening ceremony of Samsun-Çarşamba railway

location and strength of the troops, arrange movements and reinforcements, informing the commanders about necessary military precautions against possible enemy attacks from any possible direction, encouraging the commanders to develop militia forces, and preparing them for the idea of a national organization.

Atatürk and his wife during their visit to Samsun



He prepared a report including information about the activities of Pontic marauders around Samsun and sent this report to the Vizier's office on 22 May. If read carefully, the report shows traces of the idea of the National Independence Movement.

1. Turks will not tolerate any kind of foreign administration
2. For Turks, İzmir is as important as Istanbul.
3. No invasion will be permitted, especially an invasion by Greece.
4. Greek Invasion in İzmir is temporary; the Greeks will definitely be sent away.

Mustafa Kemal, who was ordered to maintain public order around Samsun, mentioned the salvation of the Turkish nation and the Turkish homeland entirely and stated in the reports he sent to Istanbul that it was necessary to count on the nation's tenacity and determination. The presence of Pontic marauders, foreign army officers and English intelligence officers and the fact that Samsun was under military occupation were making it dangerous for Mustafa Kemal to stay in Samsun. Greeks had surrounded the hotel where he was staying (Mantika Palace).



Views from Atatürk's visit to Samsun and Çarşamba

On 24 May, Mustafa Kemal Pasha informed Istanbul that he wanted to move to the more central areas within his inspection zone, in order to carry out investigations related to his official duty.

On 25 May, after breakfast, he set out to Havza (a southern district of Samsun) with a commission of 18 delegates that constituted the Inspection Quarter of the army.

Atatürk his colleagues arriving Samsun Port (Gazi Museum)





Atatürk's visit to Samsun

A journey of hardship: from Samsun to Havza

Mustafa Kemal's party set out from Mantika Palace Hotel and arrived initially at Subaşı through Şüküroğlu (now Mecidiye) Avenue.

The weather was gloomy. It started to drizzle while the party was getting away from Samsun and the sea. They climbed up the Unkapanı hill and went past the military barracks. Then they reached Avdan through Kiran village.

They had their first rest in Avdan Susuz Hanlar, and then they set out to Mahmur Mountain.

The region between the Mahmur Mountain and Susuz Hanlar was the zone where Pontic Marauders most

often prepared their attacks. There was woodland on the right and left sides of the area, and because the region was surrounded with Greek villages, the Pontic Marauders were raiding caravans and killing the merchants.

Canbutoğlu Ekrem from the Karlı village of Kavak (Ekrem the Circassian) and his men were in charge of the party's security. Born in Kavak in 1887, Ekrem the Circassian set up the first national guerilla organization against the Pontic marauders around Samsun in 1915.

The governor of Samsun, Kemal, was secretly supporting him.

Ekrem the Circassian was maintaining security of the road from Samsun to the central parts of Anatolia.





Atatürk visit the commanders of 16. Divison

On the Samsun-Kavak road, Mustafa Kemal's car broke down many times. One of those times, he approached a villager who was working in his field and said:

“My compatriot! The enemy is going to land in Samsun. They will even claim your harvest. But you are sowing your land, indifferently.”

“Pasha, Pasha! What are you talking about? I had two brothers and two sons. They all died in Yemen, Caucasia and Çanakkale. I am the only one alive; and I am useless in that there are three widows and eight orphans I have to look after. They all live on my harvest. Therefore, my homeland is no more than this field. Don't expect anything from me until the enemy comes to my field.”

These words demonstrated the depression, hopelessness and helplessness of the Anatolian people.

In Kulupınar, near Kavak, the car broke down again and the party continued on foot.

Ekrem the Circassian was among those welcoming Mustafa Kemal. In Kavak, the party met the prominent persons of the district in the city

hall. They discussed the national independence movement. Ekrem the Circassian and his 200 cavaliers were going to guard the party on the way to Havza. (You can see photos of Mustafa Kemal of the first days of the national independence movement, on display in the Gazi Museum.)





MUSEUMS

Gazi Museum

Samsun's Gazi Museum is on Mecidiye Avenue. The building was constructed as a hotel, with four shops on the ground level. The building stands on an area of 509 m², and was constructed by Jean Ionnis Mantika in 1902. This building was the first place where Mustafa Kemal, the inspector general of the 9th army, and his entourage spent the night when they landed in Samsun on Monday, 19 May 1919. Later, in 1926, the key of the Mantika Palace Hotel was offered to Mustafa



Kemal Pasha, on behalf of the people of Samsun, as a token of that day. During his third and fourth visits (on 16-18 September 1928 and 22-26 November 1930) to Samsun, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk stayed in this

hotel, which was given to him as gift from the people of Samsun. The building opened as Gazi Museum in 1940, through the efforts of the Municipality of Samsun. It was then transferred to the Ministry of Culture in 1995 and reopened in 1998 after some reorganization. The Atatürk Museum, which is next to the Archeology and Ethnography Museum, opened in 1968.





The collections of the Gazi and Atatürk Museums were consolidated in the Gazi Museum after a massive restoration, and Gazi Museum reopened in 23 May 2006. The waxworks of Mustafa Kemal and his comrades, and photographs from the period when he landed in Samsun on 19 May 1919 constitute the major holdings of the museum. Various documents, records and accurate replicas of Mustafa Kemal's belongings are among the other objects that are on exhibition.

Archeology and Ethnography Museum

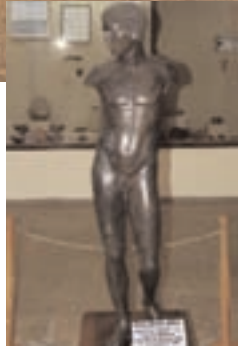
Situated in front of the old fairground of Samsun and near the new Governorship



Building, the Archeology and Ethnography Museum opened in 1981. The middle entrance hall and the right-hand side hall display archeological finds, and the left hall contains ethnographic pieces.

At the entrance, a floor mosaic found at the excavations around the antique city of Amisos greets visitors. The mosaic dates back to the time of Alexander Severus (BC 222 - 235), the Roman Emperor, and it seems to have undergone restoration at a later date. There is a scene in the middle of the mosaic depicting the Trojan War with Achilles and Thetis; and around it, there are images depicting the seasons. The





most valuable and interesting exhibit in the museum is the Amisos treasury, exhibited in glass cabinets right behind the mosaic panels. Tomb chambers were discovered during a road expansion in the centre of Samsun. The square-shaped tomb was 5x5 meters and 2.30 meters high and it included five graves. The family tomb, believed to belong to a high-ranking officer of the Pontic Kingdom, concealed a treasure, most of

which consisted of pure gold. The findings arouse great excitement. Investigations by the Director of the Samsun Museum and the researchers revealed that the earthenware, glass, metal and marble works found in the caves dated back to the early 3 BC. In terms of both number of items and historic value, the treasure is considered the most important collection excavated during the Republican period of Turkey. In the hall to the right, objects found in



archeological excavations around Samsun are on exhibition. These are objects that date back to Chalcolithic, early Bronze and early Hittite periods. The most valuable item in this section is the bronze sculpture of a naked athlete, dating back to the 1st century A.D. This section mostly consists of amphorae. In the ethnography part of the museum, ethnographic materials that demonstrate the social life and the commercial activities of Samsun in the near past are also on exhibition. Furthermore, the works found in the



Oymaagac excavation are exhibited in the rooms adjacent to the ethnography section.

Bandırma Ferry Steamer

The "Bandırma" ferry was a small boat built in Paisley, England. The steamer, which once belonged to a British company, was first named "Trokodero" then "Kymi" and it became "Pandarme" after a Greek from Istanbul purchased it. Finally, the steamer was named "Bandırma" when it passed to Seyri-Sefain (Ottoman Maritime Lines).



From Istanbul to Samsun with the Bandırma Steamer, 1919.

During the days when most regions of the country, including Istanbul, were under occupation. Mustafa Kemal and his comrades were holding meeting after meeting in his house in Şişli. They discussed ways to save the nation from occupation. The only way was to leave Istanbul on duty, going to Anatolia. At the same time, news suggested that the Greek Metropolitane was complaining about Turkish attacks on Greek villages and that the occupying forces would appeal to the Sublime Porte to take control of the situation and that if the local authorities failed to maintain order in Samsun and nearby villages, the occupation forces would do so. Mustafa Kemal was the one of the first among the commanders that the Sublime Porte trusted to maintain order. Damat Ferid Pasha and Mustafa Kemal met at the Foreign Affairs Palace on 1 May 1919 and discussed the situation. On 12 May 1919,

Mustafa Kemal was appointed as the Inspector General of the 9th Army. Sultan Vahdettin had welcomed Mustafa Kemal in his office and ordered him to find solutions to the problems put forward by the British. The Sultan appointed Mustafa Kemal as an aide-de-camp.

With close friends at the house in Şişli, he made plans for what to do after arriving in Samsun and preparations for the journey.. The naval forces had been heavily damaged and the existing fleet had been sent to Germany for maintenance and repair. The 41-year-old “Bandırma” steamer, which had sailed only across the Marmara Sea, was assigned for this expedition. Ismail Hakki Durusu was appointed captain of this ferry steamer, which had little resistance to the rough waves of the Black Sea. The ferry was to follow a route as close to the coastline as possible. The aim: to reach land in the fastest way, at the same time protecting itself from potential enemy attacks. The voyage would end in Samsun; however, the steamer could go on shore in Sinop in case of danger. On the morning of 16 May, Mustafa





Kemal and his command boarded the ship. The “Bandırma” was stopped at the Sirkeci Dock and underwent a heavy inspection by the British. After the steamer had left Istanbul, a destroyer was sent by the British forces to force back or sink the steamer. However, because the “Bandırma” did not follow the route planned by the British occupying forces, it escaped. On 18 May 1919, around 12 o’clock, the “Bandırma” steamer entered the Port of Sinop. When the Governor of Sinop, Mashar Tefik Bey, who was a guest on board, went on shore in a rowboat; Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his friends were considering to land in Sinop and then going to Samsun by land. This way, they would escape from the warship following them. However, when they realized that the land route would be more difficult than the sea route due to road conditions, they decided to continue their voyage by ferry. On Monday morning, 19 May 1919 at 08:15, the “Bandırma” ferry steamer anchored at Dil Dock, Samsun. Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his companions-at-arms boarded single-masted boats and went ashore at the Dil Dock (Reji), built by the French. Today the First Step (İlk Adım)



Monument stands there, between Samsun Grand Hotel and Yaşar Doğu Sport Center. Nobody knew that this young general landing in Samsun on 19 May 1919 was going to start the Independence movement. His official duty was to put order to and gain control of revolutionary gangs in and around Samsun. His official title was Inspector of the Army.



STATUES

Statue of Honor

Atatürk's bronze statue, the symbol of Samsun, was made by sculptor H. Kriphel as a commission from the people of Samsun. The statue was brought to Samsun by a German ship on 15 November 1931. H. Kriphel and an engineer called Mayer from Vienna were also on board. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon on 15 January 1932, a large crowd attended the unveiling ceremony of the Statue of the Gazi. Samsun's Statue of Honor is



8.85cm high including its base and 4.75 cm high without it. Atatürk, in all his majesty, is riding a rampant horse. His eyes are filled with honor and determination, gazing west, far ahead. His erect position on the horse expresses fearlessness and the might of the Turks. A hard steel arm is reaching for a sword. There are bas-reliefs on two sides of the base and texts on the other two.

One of the bas-reliefs shows people carrying guns and ammunition, near a rowboat on a dock with a carriage behind them, indicating that the bas-relief depicts the moment of battle.

In the middle of the other bas-relief, Atatürk stands tall as a symbol of great victory. His face is turned towards the people as





he joins hands with them. He is surrounded by the Turkish nation; villagers, city folks and elders. The texts on the base of the statute read as follows:

- Gazi Mustafa Kemal landed in Samsun on 19 May 1919 to initiate the National Resistance.
- This statue was erected on 29 October 1931 by the people of Samsun.

First Step Monument (İlk Adım Anıtı)

The sculptor Hakkı Atamulu made the First Step Monument for the centenary of Atatürk's birth (1981-1982) at the Reji Docks, where Atatürk first set foot in Samsun on 19 May 1919.

The three figures on the front of the monument symbolize the landing of Atatürk and his comrades. The National Independence War was initiated at this spot.





PROMINENT RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

Great Mosque (Büyük Cami)

The Seljuk commander Hıdır (Hızır) constructed this wooden mosque in 1300 as the mosque of the Samsun Castle. The building was destroyed during the great fire of Samsun in 1869, and Hacı Ali Effendi of Batumi from the Menzilcioğulları family rebuilt the present



day mosque.

It was also called Valide Camisi (Sultana Mosque), since Pertev Nihal Sultan, Sultan Abdülaziz's mother, renovated the mosque; other names given to the Great Mosque are Hamidiye Mosque and Mosque of Kebir. The building has a single dome.

Because the building has many windows, the inside feels spacious and is filled with daylight. The windows are high and the ones in the congregation area have wide, round arches. Those at the other side are rounded. In addition, the high windows in the form of three-pointed stars are stained glass.

The inside of the dome is adorned with engravings. There are bas-relief star and medal motives on the pulpit wood.

The chamber where the shrine is placed, is the centre of the building. The shrine is pink marble and its height conforms to the height of the dome. This shrine has three faces and a protruding arch. This arch is placed on the high leg of the lower part and the short leg of the higher part. The niche of the shrine is curved and has simple decoration.

People enter the mosque courtyard through an archway. There were also two columns on each side standing on dark bases, but they no longer exist. The mosque has two minarets, which are made of stone. To go upstairs, one must climb 110 steps.

The Catholic Church of Mater Dolorosa (Mater Dolorosa Katolik Kilisesi)

Capuchin priests from the Georgian Church, which was built in 1661, founded and maintained the churches of Trabzon, Samsun and Erzurum. The church of Samsun, which was also built in 1661, was made of wood and it was 879.24 meters.

On 1 January 1845, Tsar Nicolas expelled Italian Capuchin priests from the Church of Tbilisi. The priests went to Trabzon and established the Santa Maria Church there. Some of them came to Samsun, and, with authorization granted by the Ottoman Sultan at the request of the French consul in Istanbul, the Catholic Church was rebuilt in Samsun in 1857.

Dr. Francesco Saveri O Marcoaldi from Samsun contributed to the construction of the Catholic Church of Samsun. His tombstone is preserved in the garden of the church.

The Church Today The Second Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church

Known by the public as the European (or rather French) Church for a time, the Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church is still active today with one priest and one nun. The church is located at the intersection of Baghdad and Kadıköy



Avenues and it is constructed from stone and brick. The front facade of the church is designed in three parts with columns. At the very top there is a triangular front plate. There are entrance gates in the middle and below. In the upper part, there are single and dual windows. In the side galleries, there are niches below and one circular arched window above. The church has a gable roof and a vaulted interior. The top of the vaults are decorated with circular windows.





Parks, Gardens and Walking Paths

The city centre of Samsun is filled with large open spaces, parks, gardens and walking paths thanks to recent coastline planning. However, there is still work to do. Within 2 years, it will be possible to travel from the eastern to western ends of Samsun without leaving the coastline.

The Kurtuluş Road and the Tutun Port

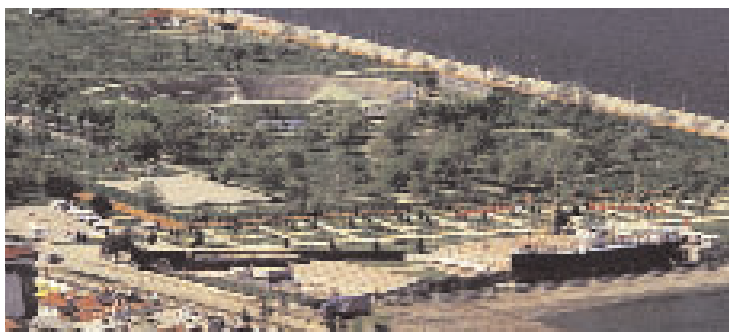
The piece of land the Great Leader Atatürk and 18 friends of him set their feet in Samsun to light the first torch of the War of Independence on 19 May 1919 has achieved the prestige it deserves. The road extending from the Tutun Port, on which Atatürk and his

18 friends set their feet, to the Mıntika Palas hotel was made into the “Kurtuluş Road” by the Samsun Metropolitan Municipality and was put into the service of our people on 19



May 2009. The Protokol Road; which was built by way of reconstructing the





Tutun Port, where Atatürk went ashore, and building a symbolic Bandırma Steamer, as well; is 45 meters in width and 400 meters in length. There are decorative pools representative of Atatürk and his 18 friends along the road and ceramic reliefs on the left side.

Atatürk Park

Right next to Cumhuriyet Square there is a park in the middle of which the Statue of Atatürk sits. This park was the first park in Samsun. With a nicely planned environment, fountains, and, of course, the statue of Atatürk, it is the first destination for travelers.

East Park (Doğu Parkı)

This area, on the eastern side of Samsun, between the coastline and the highway, has been reorganized. Playgrounds, sports fields, rest areas and small gardens full of flowers are in the area that lies between the mouth of the Mert River and the entrance to the harbour where the “Bandırma” steamer dropped anchor. The area is also largely forested. The recreation facilities of Samsunspor (the sports club of Samsun) are also here. In addition, nice walking and jogging paths attract people of all ages to this area. The Bandırma Steamer Museum is also here. (Check the Monuments and Museums part for detailed information.)

Fairground and Port

The coastline between the Mert River and the port of Samsun has also been reorganized. In the past, the Fairground was jammed between the port and the railroad. It was a recreation area, but it was not as beautiful as it could have been. In addition, it was seldom used through out the year, usually only in the summers. The coastline is now open to both cars and pedestrians thanks to the renewal work, and there are many paths for walking and jogging. The Sevgi Park lake and recreation area and the zoo are two important facilities recently constructed by the Metropolitan Municipality. Inside Sevgi Park there is a large pond surrounded by restaurants and rest areas. Moreover, the zoo is a new focus of interest



for the people of Samsun. Among the animals in the zoo, there is a lion, a tiger, a giraffe, an ostrich and a bear...



The New Strand

The port is no longer dirty. Thanks to the water treatment plants, the water of the port is once again clean. The area is now good for coastal fishing. It is significant that although Samsun is not rich in sculptures, a Fisherman's statue was erected there by the Metropolitan Municipality.

The road next to the sea is now called “the new strand” by the people of Samsun.

Horse carts travel along the strand, just like in İzmir. There are also restaurants and cafes there to satisfy popular demand.





The historic steamer "Yalova," formerly a ferry steamer of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, is a café-restaurant.
One of Samsun's famous fish restaurants is just ahead of the steamer.



West Park, cable car and Baruthane (Gunpowder Factory)

Restorations in West Park, the western edge of the port and the city, are continuing. The Sailing Club, formerly at the port, has moved to the new harbor with better sailing activities and club facilities. There carved up an island in memory of amazons which were an important figure in the history of Samsun.

Between island and the mainland touring with boats and canoes. West Park and Samsun have a new cable car that carries people from West Park to the tumuli and sightseeing terrace on Baruthane Hill, offering a panoramic view of Samsun.

The sightseeing terrace of the gunpowder factory also includes facilities constructed by the Metropolitan Municipality. Within these facilities, there are cafes and playgrounds. Right next to these, there is the excavation site of Baruthane and Kalkanca tumuli. It is enjoyable to see the historical remains in the excavation site. Even though they are not extremely important remains, the tombs and fortification remains are the only heritage of the 2000 years' history.

Baruthane Tumuluses ,the Archeological Park and Amisos Hill

Tombs located under two bulky hills called the Baruthane Tumuluses were revealed by way of rescue excavations with the support of Samsun Metropolitan Mayor, Yusuf Ziya Yilmaz in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Mausoleum

Mausoleums top-dressed with bulky soil built for kings symbolize the glory, divinity and immortality of the king. It appears that the Baruthane Tumuluses were built in the Hellenistic Period, in which the Mithridates dynasty reigned. Prof. Dr. Sumer Atasoy claimed the responsibility for the scientific consultancy for the scientific excavations carried out by the Samsun Museum and the Istanbul University together. As a result of the excavation works carried out in the tumuluses, two separate tombs were found and opened to visits.

The tomb under the southern tumulus is predicted to be the single painted coated example ever found in the coasts of the Black Sea and that it belongs to wealthy and elite people having lived in the city of Amisos.



The tomb under the southern Tumulus

A two-room carved tomb is located under the Southern Tumulus, which is 15 meters high and 40 meters wide. The total length, width and height of the tomb formed by carving the conglomeration layer are 6, 2.5 and 3 meters, respectively. The walls, ceiling and the floor of the rooms are coated with 3 cm thick cream coating.

An image of seven rows of stones was drawn on the walls of the front chamber scraping the plaster in order to make it look like a stone wall and then the scraped lines were filled with navy-blue paint. Two horizontal lines were drawn above these fake stone wall lines with red paint. Day beds lie along the side walls in the room. The door of the burial chamber is closed after the dead body has been buried and the friends of the dead person sit on the day beds and drink wine in memory of the dead person. Yellow painted niches were built on both sides over the top part of the door leading to the back room in order to place candles.

A 70 cm high death bed is situated in the back room. It is understood that the front part of the bed is decorated with eggs in black and red. Unfortunately, these decorations have been destroyed. There are two red horizontal lines on

the walls of the room. Pieces of pots and pans, jugs, scent bottles, bone decorations and bronze nails were found in the tombs during the excavations. The findings and their architectural structure show that the tomb was built during the Hellenistic Period (300-30 BC).

The tomb under the northern Tumulus: A tomb structure with 3 rooms one after another was found under the Northern Tumulus, which is 30 meters wide and 8 meters high. The total length of the tomb structure is 10 meters, its width is between 2.80 and 3.25 meters and its height is 2.50 meters. No plaster has been used in the rooms, they are just decorated with fake half columns. No findings were chanced upon in the tomb during the excavation. The architectural features thereof imply that this tomb belongs to the Hellenistic Period, too.





Beaches

Samsun is also a city of summer tourism. Do not believe those who say that the Black Sea summer is only 2 months or that half of August is winter. The best month is September; it is a warm and pleasant end to the summer. Summer residences started 30 years ago in the Atakum district. This region was called Matasyon. The sand between the west of the city centre and the end of the 19 Mayıs district offers high-quality beaches.

The Metropolitan Municipality has completed beach improvements, especially in the Atakum district, as well as Mert River, and East Park. Two areas near the

outskirts of the city center, Mertpark and East Park, opened in 2006. In addition to the beach and recreation facilities, Samsun's first aquapark opened in East Park. Together with new beaches which were opened in recent years, Samsun residents and visitors from all around the world will be able to swim at any point on the coastline around the city centre.

When these improvements are combined with those carried out by the 19 Mayıs district municipality, the new beaches will accommodate over 100,000 visitors with changing rooms, chaise-lounges, beach umbrellas, restaurants and cafes.



Beach Cabins (Hamams)

Beach cabins were set up in Samsun, Derbent, Fener, around the Government Mansion and at Gaz Dock, although locations changed from time to time, and they were placed as far away as possible from one another. Men and women walked over a wooden bridge to get to their section of the beach.

These beaches were surrounded by wood and people bought entry tickets from a cabin on the wooden bridge. There were cabins big enough for one person to stand up at each corner and they were used as changing cabins. Early on, men would go into the sea in their underwear or even wearing only a loincloth. There were 4-5 mossy wooden steps, which were very slippery; used for going into the sea. Sometimes drums and horns were brought to these closed beaches for entertainment.

Because sewage mixed into the sea and since there were dangerous holes in some places, the municipality made announcements from time to time about which places were safe for going in the water. Places prohibited for swimming included the front of the Government House, between the Electricity Factory and the Gashouse Dock, later on the front part of the Race Area, that is, the sea front until the mouth of the Mert River and the Castle ruins. Yet, a 75-meter area towards the Gaz Dock and the sea was determined to be a safe sea-bathing area.

Later on, the Municipality of Samsun replaced these covered areas with municipality beaches around Derbent and Gashouse Dock. On 25 July 1944 the municipality initiated passenger boats to the beaches for a fee of 30 kuruş, making it easy for the public. These boats would leave at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:00 from the Park Dock, go to the Merkez and Yolcu Docks and lastly to the Gashouse Dock. They would return to the Park Dock passing by the same docks at 11:00, 12:00 and 13:00.





Samsun step by step

Samsun city centre is around the bay spread out like a half moon. The topography of the city starts to elevate approximately 100 meters after the shore and rises up to 60 meters.

To get familiar with Samsun we start from the Cumhuriyet (Republic) plaza.

The history of Samsun that can be observed from various points within the city unfortunately goes back only 150-200 years. There are almost no remains of the historical Samsun fort. We will get to learn about the

important structures of this 150-200 years old history in our city tour. We will visit the Samsun museum of archaeology and ethnography (tek müze mi?), stop by the museum for the Bandırma Ferry which has become the symbol of our national





war of independence at the east park, go to the zoo that has just opened up at the entrance of the harbor, take a horse carriage tour (by the new kordon) along the shoreline, go up to Baruthane by a cable car at the west park, watch the excavations at the Baruthane and Kalkanca tumuli, say hello to 1500 years of history at the remains of the fort and tombs, and end our tour at the famous fish restaurants of Samsun. At lunch, we will make sure we try Samsun pide.



THREE NEW DISTRICTS

Three separate districts were founded in the Central District of Samsun in 2008. The names of these three districts in the borders of Greater Municipality of Samsun are Atakum, İlkadım and Canik. You'll find detailed information of the places to be visited in coming pages. Here, we would like to give some of the features of these three new districts collectively.

ATAKUM

Atakum District which lies between the districts İlkadım and 19 Mayıs has a population of about 106 thousand. 95% of this population is located in the city center and the rest is located in villages. A relatively planned urbanization is to be seen in the district which is placed on a flat



terrain on the Samsun-Sinop road. Excursion and entertainment areas and indispensables of the coastal areas: summer housings are placed on the district's beach area which has the longest coastline in the Central and Eastern Black Sea region. Beach volleyball and beach soccer tournaments and International Folk Dance Festival are the events which are organised every year.





ILKADIM

The population of this district which is founded in 2008 in the city centre of Samsun is about 312 thousand. The district is placed along a coastal strip which is approximately 7.5 km long and the main economic activity in the district is trade. Within the boundaries of districts there are two museums and two libraries about which you will find detailed information in the coming pages. Events of State Opera and Ballet under the Ministry of Culture, Samsun State Classical Turkish Music Chorus, Turkish Folk Music Choir, Youth Choir of Turkish Art Music and Turkish Folk Dance are maintained regularly.

Furthermore, the Samsun Stage of the State Theatre having been opened, plays will be staged on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in AKM.

Climate

Typical Black Sea climate features can be seen in Samsun city centre. Although the rainfall and the temperature differences can be seen continuously, summers are generally rainy and warm, and winters are rainy and soft. Spring is the season which receives the most rainfall. In the centre of the province where the average annual temperature is 18°C, the highest temperature in July is measured as 38,5°C and the lowest temperature is measured as -5°C.

CANIK

Its population is about 89 thousand. This word which is used as “Cenik” between the local people means hole area where flocks shelter in winter and more represents a geographical and administrative region. Canik name is lately given to Sancak whose center is Samsun. Canik District until 1960s was consisted of Hasköy, Hacıismail, Teknepınar villages and several farmers' homes as residential areas. These villages have been the areas where people coming from Balkans in the exchange after the Independence War were located. Following the development of Ordu-Ankara highway and establishment of small industrial sites önemli created an important movement in the region and residential areas have grown rapidly. 19 May Stadium, East Park, Amplifier Theater, Bandırma Ship Museum, Toptepe Tumulus are in the city boundaries.





Cumhuriyet Square

Cumhuriyet Square and its surroundings

1. Mevlevihane, 2. Reji and Reji Avenue, 3. Metropolitan Municipality Culture Directorate (the old Polihron Hotel and Military Hospital), 4. The Armenian Theatre, 5. Aristophanes Theater, 6. Gazi Museum (the old Mantika Palace Hotel). 7. Cumhuriyet Square, 8. Tekel Directorate (the old Austro-Hungarian Empire Consulate), 9. Istiklal Business School. Reji's Cigarette Factory

In 1867, the French Company Reji founded a cigarette factory in Samsun. Between the years 1887-1897, 500 workers and 12 supervisors were employed at the factory. It was the third largest cigarette factory (after Cibali and Izmir factories) in terms of production until the 1970's. The production was nearly 8,000 tons during the 1970's, but during the 1980's the factory's importance diminished and the production dropped to 2,000-3,000 tons per year. The cigarette brands of this



factory in 1991 were: Sipahi Ocağı, Madalyalı Mülkiye, Mebus, Galatasaray, Türk Ensari, Yenice, 19 Mayıs Hatırası, Asker, Bafra, Birinci, Bahar, Filtreli, Samsun and Filtreli Bafra.

This factory closed upon the opening of the Ballica Factory of Samsun on 14 June 1997.

After the factory buildings are transferred to Samsun Metropolitan Municipality they have been started new facilities. There also planning a new shopping mall.

Metropolitan Municipality Culture Directorate (the old Polihron Hotel and Military Hospital)

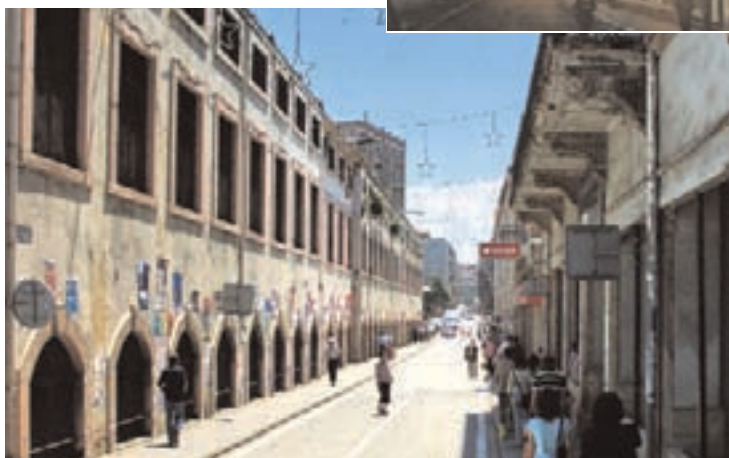
The old military hospital, which now functions as the Culture Directorate of Samsun Metropolitan Municipality, was in the title record of 1890 as follows: Formerly a lot, then a building with a masonry building (Hotel Polihron) above and seven shops below. Americans managed the building under the name "Rum Dar'ül eytami" ("the American friends of Greek children"). When the Greeks left Samsun after the exchange of

populations between Turkey and Greece, it was abandoned and left to the state treasury.

The building functioned as the Samsun Judicial Court between the years 1930-1940. After that, it was turned into a military hospital. When the military hospital moved to a new place, the building was renovated and turned into the Culture Directorate of the Metropolitan Municipality.

The four-storey building has a very showy frontispiece facing the avenue. The first floor is the entrance. It is separated into sections with rectangular windows. In the middle of the second floor, there is a large balcony. This floor has large spaces with rounded arches above them. The third floor also contains large areas, but these have oblate arches above them. On the other sides of the building, there are various kinds of windows. Some of the windows have rounded arches placed on small

Reji Street, today and before





Municipal Cultural Directorate

columns with a triangular facade on them. Others have either oblate arches or rectangular shapes.

Gazi Museum (the old Mantika Palace Hotel)

The building of the Gazi Museum was one of the grandest hotels (Mantika Palace Hotel) of Samsun in the past. The building's title deed was registered on March 1325 with the number 35, under the name Varani Nikolai (a citizen of Greece).

The manager of the hotel was Jean Mantika. European and Eastern cuisine was served at this hotel, which had a nice sea view. All foreign languages were spoken in this greatest and cleanest hotel of Samsun.

Architectural Features of the Building

The main entrance of the corner building is on the avenue side. The windows of the first floor are square and iron-grilled.

The windows of the second and the third floors are the same.

These floors have balconies on two sides with iron supports. On the left



Gazi Museum



and right of the balcony gates, there are stone-framed sash windows. Each floor has vents above the windows. A narrow eave roof covers the structure.

Tekel Head Directorate (the old Austro- Hungarian Empire Consulate)

The Austro-Hungarian Empire Consulate was in the building which now functions as the Tekel Head Directorate.

The imperial consuls had rights to engage in trade in Samsun. The consuls had representative offices and agencies like the Lloyd Partnership Company.

İstiklal Pilot (Numune) School

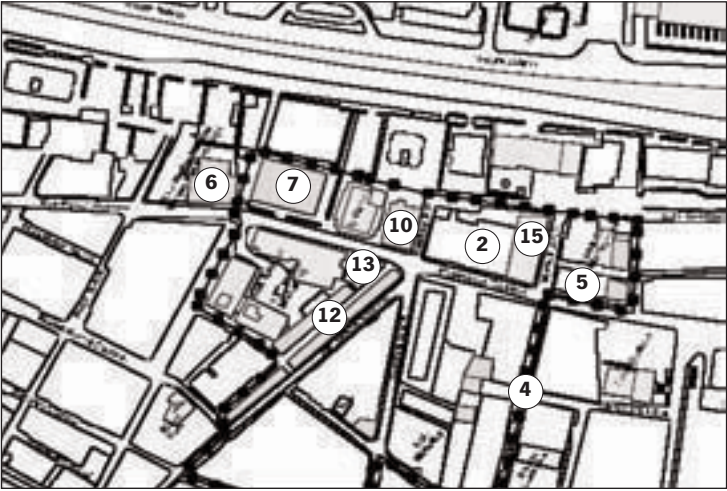
This is the place where Atatürk's famous words "The truest guide is science" were uttered.

In 1890, Samsun's first high school opened. In 1921, a primary school (İstiklal Pilot School) consisting of five classes, was opened in this building by the Special Administration in order to teach foreign languages and end the necessity for foreign schools in Samsun. The school taught in Turkish in the morning and in French in the afternoon. During his second visit to Samsun, Mustafa Kemal attended a tea party in his honor hosted by the teachers of the İstiklal Business School on 22 September 1924, which was a Monday. Delivering a speech at the party, he uttered these famous words:

"The truest guide for everything in the world, for civilization, for life, for success is science. It is a deviation from the way to the truth, negligence and ignorance to seek another guide."

*İstiklal Trade School (right), Austrian Consulate (below)
The Building is now used by Monopoly Directorate (below)*





2. Bankalar Avenue

1. Bankalar Avenue, 2. Selanik (Thessalonica) Bank, 3. Reji Tobacco Docks, 4. Duhan Market, 5. Varyete Cinema, 6. Ottoman Bank, 7. Central Bank, 8. Patlıcan (Aubergine) Market, 9. Meşrutiyet Theater, 10. Atina (Athens) Bank, 11. The Castle of Samsun, 12. Market (Bedesten: market where antiques, objets d'arts, jewelry etc. are sold) of Samsun, 13. Hotel Palace, 14. Kale Mosque, 15. Grand Hotel Mastika

Selanik (Thessalonica) Bank

On Bankalar Avenue, the three-storey Selanik Bank building was left to the state treasury because of disuse after the population exchange. The building is situated opposite the Tobacco Centre. There is a shop on the ground floor. The second floor has three rooms and the third one has four rooms. The building also has a basement. In the past it had been used as the Nemizade Bank and Hotel Ayla.

Varyete Cinema

Simyoniki of Çarşamba constructed Varyete Cinema in 1907. Koçu Effendi ran the cinema. The building is a rectangular masonry building consisting



*Old Thesselanoki Bank (left)
Old Varyete Cinema (below)*





*Ziraat Bank (Old Athens Bank)
Central Bank (right)*

of two-and-a-half storeys. The front of the building is on Kazım Pasha Avenue.

Ziraat Bank (the old Athens Bank)

Operating now as the Special Operation Centre of Ziraat Bank, the building was opened in 1909 as the Athens Bank with a capital of 50 million Francs. The bank had two other branches in the Black Sea Region, one in Trabzon, one in Giresun; but the central building was in Samsun. Jorj Aviyerino, a former director of the Samsun franch of the Ottoman Bank became director of the bank In 1923, during the republican period, the Athens Bank was closed and the Samsun branch of Selanik Bank, established in 1900, moved to that building. The Government Lending Agency also operated in this building for some time, and, later, Samsun's headquarters of Ziraat Bank.



The windows of this one-storey building's basement have oblate arches and stone frames. The entrance to the building is the monumental gate on the avenue side. The two columns on both sides of the gate form a square above it. The column capitals are square and adorned with herbal motifs. The bottom of the narrow eave is decorated with a stone frieze all through the building.

Central Bank

The entrance to this building, made of two-layered hewn stone, is through the large gate in the middle of the

Garanti Bank (Ottoman Bank)





frontispiece On the first floor, there are six windows on each sides of the gate. On the second floor, there are eight equally spaced windows. The eave of the building is narrow, and there is a dentil design surrounding the building.

Garanti Bank (the old Ottoman Bank)

The building of the old Ottoman Bank situated on Government Avenue (Hükümet Caddesi) was registered under the name of Monsieur Jules Vofe, a French citizen. After his death, his daughter Jan Dölamaji inherited the building, and in 1929, the building was registered under the

name of Ottoman Bank.

The building today the Garanti Bank was made of hewn stone and consists of a basement, a main floor and an upper floor. The interior plaster ornamentation on the ceiling and walls has been restored. The entrance to the main floor is round-arched and indented. The upper part of the top-floor entrance is shaped like a tower. There are two symmetrical round windows on either side of the tower. This side of the building has many bas-relief motifs.

Market (Bedesten)

Kâtip Çelebi (1608-1659) wrote in "Cihannüma" that a "Sûku Muhtasar-ı" (small bazaar) was present which means there was a market in Samsun in the 17th century.

There was a market next to the right side of the fortification of Samsun Castle, which contained twenty-two shops on both sides. There was an arched roof covering the



Two gates of historical Bedesten

Samsun Castle

Samsun Castle was first mentioned in history in a list of cities owned by Rüknettin Suleiman, who settled in the Tokat region and was one of sons of the Anatolian Seljuk Sultan Kılıç Arslan II (1156-1192), who



conquered the country of Danishment and distributed it among his eleven sons. According to this, it is clear that Samsun Castle was built after the Danişments laid siege to Amisos Castle and failed. The Danişments, not wanting to leave this coastline, built Samsun Castle on the coastline, in the middle of a swamp, in the opposite direction from Amisos Castle, a "stone's throw away" to watch the Amisos Castle.

The Castle, which constitutes the origin of today's Samsun, covered the area stretching from Saathane Square to the Bedesten and from the area on the coast where Ziraat Bank Special Operation Center is situated to the site near Maarif Café (Kiraathane). Expanded as need dictated, the Samsun Castle stood with its strong body, towers and loopholes; that is, in all of its magnificence, until the great Samsun fire of 1869.

The huge, high gates of the castle were solidly built, and its thick woods were covered with plaques of wrought iron and nails. Including the west and the east gates, there were three gates with the one opening to the sea named Kumkapı Gate. The walls of the castle on the coast side were strengthened by spurs put every 12 steps, so that the walls would endure the waves for a longer time. In the 1960's these spurs could be seen from one side of the Central Bank that overlooks the sea and from a little further away from the Great Mosque. In August 1869, a fire broke out in the madrasah just opposite today's municipality building. A great portion of the village was burnt down overnight. The Governor of Trabzon, Esat Muhlis Pasha, made attempts at rebuilding the city. A French engineer from Switzerland was invited and the plan of today's Samsun was drafted. With the implementation of this ground plan, all the walls of the castle, of which only one fourth remained, were demolished. Thus, the first castle that was built on the coastline by the efforts of the Turkish nation was destroyed.

market. In 1864, the market was renovated and some shops were replaced with gates to make the market more spacious. The seven gates included one opening to the inside of the castle, four gates to the east, and iron-clad gates at both ends of the market.

Even though there are spaces for epigraphs above the gates, none remain, so when exactly these gates were built is not known. There were shops selling objets d'arts, antiques, draperies, jewelry and gold and silver work. But in the course of time, some artisans left the market, moving their shops inside the bazaar and leaving the place to smaller-scale businesses.

The popularity of the Market gradually diminished. For some time the place was used as a Meat Bazaar. In 1910, the roof was demolished and some shops were integrated into big buildings after 1914. Today only two archway gates remain from the Market, in the Castle Quarters. One is the gate opening to Ziya Gökalp Avenue and the other one is the one opening to Namık Kemal Avenue. This area is still a commercial centre.

Palace Hotel (Saray Oteli)

The main entrance to the building is through an archway gate opening to Kazım Pasha Avenue. There are shops near the left side of the gate.

The facades of the second and third storey are the same. There are two large balconies protruding from the middle section of the frontispiece.

There are symmetrically placed rectangular windows on each side of the balconies. The corners of the window frames are designed with Corinthian columns. On the facades, there are stone moldings separating the floors, and there are various motifs used as decorative elements. These make the building look very rich in terms of decoration.



Saray Hotel

The Small Mosque (Mescit) of Castle Gate [Castle Mosque – Kuyumcular (Jewelers) Mosque]

The mosque is in the Castle Quarters, at the beginning of the open bazaar and at the end of Namık Kemal Avenue. Because it is situated just inside the western gate of Samsun Castle, it was called the small mosque of Castle Gate. Thanks to the Arabic epigraph above

○ There were 13 consulates in Samsun

Samsun had undergone rapid development in the second half of the XIXth century and had become an important commercial center. After Istanbul and Izmir, Samsun hosted the third-largest number of consulates.

These countries had consulates in Samsun: England, France, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Iran, Greece, Sweden-Norway, Italy, USA, Germany, Finland and Belgium.



Old German Consulate

the gate, we know that Emir Timurtaş Pasha, İlhanlılar's famous governor of Anatolia, constructed it in 1323. The epigraph is 53cm long and 48cm wide. There are four lines in Arabic.

Translation of the Epigraph

The thinnest person in the world, called Evhat, son of Mevlevi Mahmut, constructed this holy small mosque during the reign of Ebu Sait Khan –may God make his reign last forever- and the time of Timurtaş Noyan.

The structure has gone through many renovations, modifications and additions.

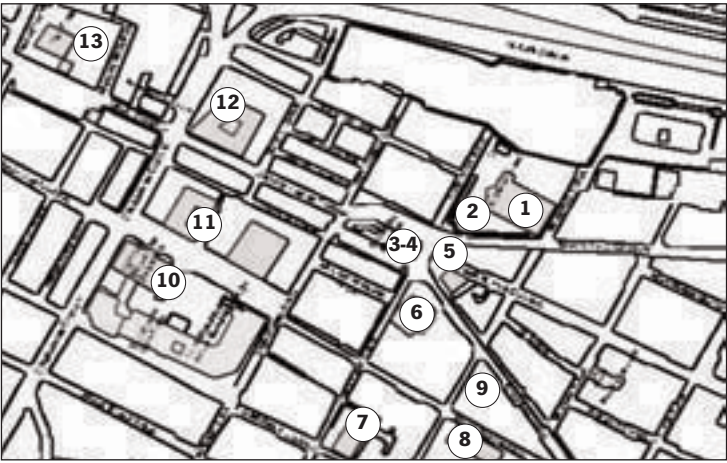
Remains of the Fortification

Few traces of the fortification remain today. You can see these remains in the construction site of a rooftop parking space, which was constructed by the Metropolitan Municipality.



Walls of Samsun Fortress
Grand Hotel Mastika (below)





SAATHANE SQUARE

1. The Mosque of Kebir,
2. Muvakithane, 3. Saathane Square,
4. Clock Tower, 5. The Building of İttihat and Terakki (Union and Improvement) Party, 6. The Bazaar Mosque, 7. Fazıl Kadı School (Dede Havlu), 8. Ottoman Healing Pharmacy, 9. Ahali Journal, 10. Samsun Municipality Building the Municipality Square, 11. Süleymanpaşa Mosque and Süleymaniye Madrasah, 12. Taşhan (the stone inn), 13. Yalı (mansion) Mosque and Abdullah Pasha Fountain, 15. The Old Passenger Docks 16. Hançerli Mosque

The Great Mosque

(See religious buildings section)

Clock Tower

A clock tower was built in the Docks Square of Samsun in 1886, for the twenty-fifth anniversary of Abdülhamit II's ascension to the throne. The Clock Tower was constructed by a French engineer of Belgian origin and the tower gave its name to the square.



The name of the square was recorded as the Docks Avenue or Fruit Bazaar in Trabzon's City Yearbook.

Apart from indicating the time, the building also functioned as a fire and observation tower.

It had a polygonal base and body. There was a prayer section [Şerefe: a small structure surrounding the minaret of a



mosque for the call to prayer (ezan) by the imam] up above and a light above the dome. A new clock, which was placed on the tower in 1933, operates with an electrical system and has a siren system used by the fire department. The tower is in the form of a minaret.

It suffered considerable damage in the earthquake of Samsun in 1944 and was demolished due to the fact that it could not be repaired; the clock was sold to the municipality of Ladik. The Saathane square did not have a clock tower until 1977, when the Samsun Metropolitan Municipality constructed one designed by architect Kemal Taner. The clocks on it were from Switzerland.

In 2001, Saathane Square was renovated by the Samsun Municipality and a clock tower very similar to the old one was constructed.

Bazaar Police Headquarters

The party building of İttihat ve Terakki (A former Turkish party, Union and Improvement)

Formerly the Samsun office of İttihat and Terakki and later the central headquarters, the building now serving as the Bazaar police headquarters has great significance in the history of Samsun. The first

storey of the two-storey lath-and-plaster (a type of construction with wood) construction is used as a shop.

Small Mosque (Mescit) of the Bazaar Gate (Bazaar Mosque)

The mescit called Bazaar Mosque today was built by the İlhaneliler in the 14th century.

Pazar Mosque



It was recorded in the army records of 1485 as belonging to the Quarter of Bazaar Gate Mescit.

In 1819, the mosque underwent a large-scale restoration initiated by Haznedarzade Suleiman Pasha. Inside the mosque, there is a rectangular gathering hall with a wooden ceiling and floor. The shrine is three-faced, and the simple niche of the shrine resembles a curved hull. The unadorned pulpit is also wooden. The main entrance of the mosque is the gate in the north side. The Mosque has another entrance in the northwestern corner but it is not in its original form.

This additional part of the building was connected to the main structure by altering the windows on the western façade. These windows are high, wide, and made of stained glass.

Dede Havlu (Fazıl Kadi) School

The entrance of the building constructed in 1903 is situated in the middle of the overhanging part, which is formed by round columns. These columns support the first floor. The part above the gate protrudes

about half a meter.

This part extends through the upper roof and forms a room. The middle part with Corinthian columns on the corners ends in a triangular facade ornamentation. The garnish on the edges of the ornamentation is very attractive.. The edges of the windows are marked with Corinthian columns. There are vents above the windows. The ceiling is high inside, and the floor, gates and ceiling are made of wood. Outside the wall in the Yeni Hamam (New Turkish Bath) Street, there is a fountain, which has strikingly beautiful stonework.. The plaster fountain's marble basin and taps no longer exist.

*Dede Havlu School,
today Fazıl Kadi School.*





Municipality Square and its vicinity

Samsun Municipality Building

In 1913, the mayor, Mustafa Necip Efendi, constructed this beautiful

structure from stone; it is now used as the Samsun Metropolitan Municipality centre.

The building has undergone some renovation, and the windows of the second floor were replaced with new ones. On the first storey, there is an

○ The Story of the Municipality Building's Opening

The story of the building's opening ceremony is quite interesting:

Many people attended the opening ceremony presided over by Mayor Gebilizade Mustafa Necip Effendi: civil officials and military

officers, intellectuals, religious leaders in Samsun, authorities from the Italian Consulate in Samsun, English Consulate Officer of Samsun, French Consulate Officer of Samsun, Samsun Consul of Austria-Hungary, Samsun Vice Consul of Russia, Samsun Consul of Iran, Samsun Vice Consul of Greece, Samsun Vice Consul of Belgium, United States of America Consulate Officer of Samsun, Samsun Vice Consul of Germany, Samsun Vice Consul of Sweden-Norway, and the public of Samsun. The ceremony started around 10 o'clock with the arrival of the Governor of Canik, Suleiman Necmi Bey Effendi. In front of the decorated municipality building, all the attendees joined the prayer of the madrasah teacher Sükrü Effendi by saying amen.





Süleyman Paşa Mosque

entrance marked by the columns that support the balcony of the second floor. There are shops on both sides of the entrance. On the second storey, there is a balcony in the middle and there are symmetrical groups of windows on each side. The upper parts of the windows are in the form of an arch.

Some windows lie on both sides of the projection on the third storey. The upper parts of these windows are in the form of an oblate arch, and there is a triangular facade ornamentation above them.

The face of the projection is marked by three point-arched openings. Such formations can be seen on the other sides of the building.

The epigraph of the building is as follows: "Constructed between the years 1329 -1331, during the reign of his Excellency Sultan Muhammed Reşit Han, during the chairmanship of Gebilzade Necip Efendi." The brief history of the construction is as follows:

Mayor of Samsun Mustafa Necip Effendi expropriated Nalbant Inn for a new municipality building by paying 1.700 (Turkish) liras in March 1911. The inn, which belonged to the noble family of Salih, stood on 563 meters (828 arşın). With an estimated cost of 539,300 kuruş (1/100 Turkish Lira), the construction of the building was put out to tender and

offers were submitted. An Italian engineer called Angelini, the engineer of Reji Monsieur Wilson, and Italian architect Monsieur Riçi (who introduced the first cinematograph in Samsun), bid 539,100, 534,124 and 539,050 kuruş respectively. Monsieur Riçi's bid was accepted and the building was completed on a Thursday, 26 December 1913.

Süleymaniye Madrasah

The building is used as the Charities Regional Directorate today.

The madrasah belonging to Hazinedarzade (head of the state treasury) Suleiman Pasha Charitable Organization was constructed by Lazeri Kalfa.

Suleiman Pasha Mosque (Madrasah Mosque)

Constructed in 1767 by Hazinedarzade Suleiman Pasha, the mosque is opposite the Samsun Metropolitan Municipality Service Building.

There is a mosque belonging to the same vakif (?) (charitable organization) across from the two-storey building, which is composed of one stone (the first) and one masonry (the second) floor, in the shape of a horseshoe. The only entrance to the building is in the



An old view of Samsun with Madrasah and Kulliye

middle of the facade and it opens to a large hall. Arched windows decorate the two facades of the building.

Against the gate, there are stairs going up to the second floor.

There is a large hall when you go upstairs, which overlooks the courtyard through the arched windows (an additional hall covers the front side). Straight corridors lie on both sides of the hall. The rooms on both sides open to a corridor.

There are no ornamentations on the building except the arched gate and windows. The added building spoiled the appearance, by covering the decorated facade.

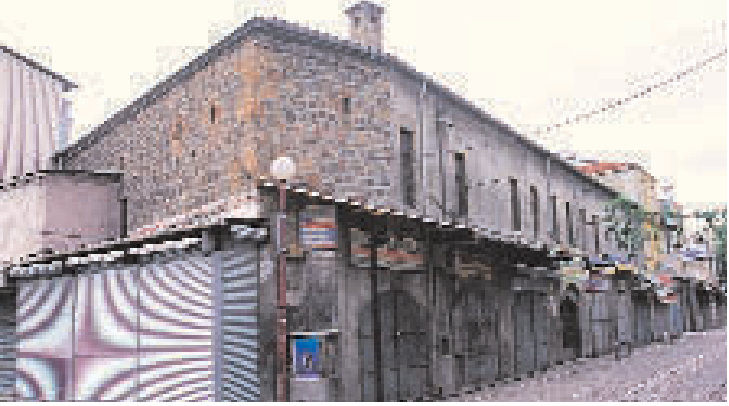
Even though there are no epigraphs to tell us the construction date of the building, we can assume that the structure is about 200 years old as its donation date is 1813 and the construction date must precede that.

Taşhan

Taşhan built around 1508, two-storey. It is on İskele (docks) Avenue and belongs to the Ali Pasha Charitable Organization. It was restored between 1974-1975, by the General Directorate of Charitable Organizations. The outer walls of the rectangular structure are made of brick planked rubble stone. The appearance of the building was spoiled when the facade on the avenue side was cemented over. The side walls are made of braided stone. There are cells (shops) with archway entrances lined up on the avenue side.

There is one other entrance at the back. This gate is made of iron and it is inlaid with nails. The central courtyard is surrounded by vaulted cells on each side. The stairs to the second floor were built later and are made of concrete. There are cells with overhanging parts on





Taşhan

the second floor. Columns of the overhanging parts are four-cornered and arched. (Made from brick, in the form of eaves) The entrance of the shops and the inn are round arched. Taşhan is a commercial center today.

Yalı (Mansion) Mosque

Yalı Mosque is in the Hançerli Quarter, Buğday Pazarı (wheat bazaar) District of Samsun. The two Arabic lines on the epigraph of the main part state that Hodja Hayrettin constructed the building

in 1485. The centre is single-domed, made from a layer of brick and a layer of stone. The entrance part of the mosque was renovated later. This part contains the arched windows. The mosque appears to be multi-storied because of the eave lines and ornamented stone moldings.

The inside of the Mosque includes a stone shrine, which is quite simple and unadorned. The structure is a square-shaped, single

○ Inns

Another important component in the commercial life of Samsun, apart from markets, cloth markets, bazaars and fairs, is the role of inns. Inns were usually next to the bazaars and market places. The inns performed multiple functions like sheltering travelers and their animals, providing various office services and storing goods and merchandise.

Inns were used for longer stays. Merchants who were in town temporarily would both stay and keep their goods here. Some small inns were just areas with a covered roof containing high divans along the wall. Travellers would sit on these sofas and the animals would rest in the middle area. In some inns, small windows would enable travellers to watch how their horses and camels were treated.





Yalı Mosque and in front Abdullah Paşa Fountain (old and new)

domed building. Because of the restorations it underwent, some parts of the Mosque have changed. The dome, which was previously covered with tiles, is covered with lead now. The honeycomb systems of pointed arches are also not original. A gathering place for the congregation was added to the northern side, but it does not fit the general style of the Mosque. The main walls of the building are made of one hewn stone and three horizontal brick layers. The eaves cornices are (kirpi saçak) eave, designed as three lines in the drum and two lines in other places. The lower windows are original. These are pointed arched, in a rectangle formed by a two-profiled molding. The systems are made of wrought iron.

The walls are unattractive on the outside because the stone and brick structure was painted over. Even its stone moldings are missing.

Its minaret has a base and a cylindrical body shape. Its honeycomb design collapsed and this collapse had formed some cracks, which were mended.

Hançerli Mosque

It is in Hançerli Quarter, on Necip Bey Avenue.

The mosque burned down completely in 1869 and was rebuilt by a man called Mehmet Reşit; the architect was Şahbazzade of Bafra.

The minaret of the mosque came down in the 1939 earthquake. In 1943, a bigger one was built in its place.

The old minaret was left untouched. It still exists as the oldest minaret of Samsun.



○ Historical Fountains of Samsun



The houses in Samsun had no water in the early times. Some neighborhoods had fountains. Those wishing to drink water would use copper or brass bowls, tied with a long chain to a place close to the tap of the fountain. The distance between the fountain and a house could be very long.



Alemdarzade Fountain

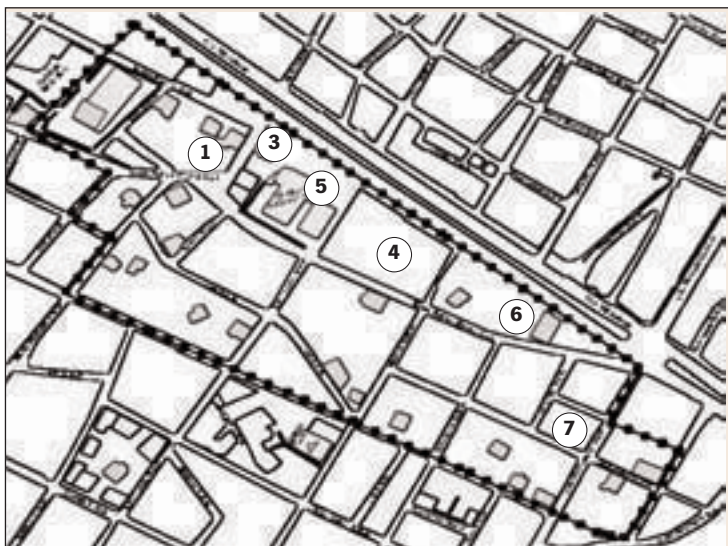
Therefore, there were water-sellers who earned money by walking around the neighborhood and selling water. They would sell water in tin pots loaded on horses, donkeys or mules. The best water of Samsun was Abdullah Pasha (Kocadağ) water.

When the Municipality of Samsun began water delivery, they put automatic fountains in some neighborhoods. They sold two tin pots of water for one kuruş. The Municipality also built fountains for the public for free water.

According to the 1870 Trabzon Province Yearbook, there were 54 fountains in Samsun. The register of Samsun numbered 1755 states that the fountains located in Samsun were “Hodja Yellow Fountain”, “Hodja Water Fountain”, “Yeni (New) Fountain” and “Abdullah Pasha Fountain”. Today Hodja Suyu Fountain is known as Gözsuyu Fountain and it is just below the stairway near Çarşı Police Station, situated on the Boulevard way.

Ilıca Fountain (Ismail Efendi Fountain)

Built in 1854 it was one of the fountains belonging to Es Seyid El Hac İsmail Effendi. Currently, the Municipality of İlkadım has built a new fountain in its place and the epigraph of the old fountain has been placed on the marble wall.



The Boulevard

1. City Museum Residences
2. Selahiye Quarter, the old Armenian Quarter, 3. Mikail Street and Venüs Cinema, 4. The old Armenian orphanage, 5. The old Armenian Saint Nigoğayos Catholic Church)
6. Acem Tekkesi (Persian Lodge).
7. Samsun Müdafai Milliyeye (National Defense) Barracks.
8. Kurşunlu Mosque.

Selahiye Quarter Residences

In spite of the damage caused during the construction of the boulevard, Selahiye Quarter residences can be seen in some streets. This

Armenian Catholic Church





City Museum Houses (old view in right)

was the old Armenian quarter. Armenian Saint Nigoğayos Catholic Church was situated in the place where the 30 Ağustos Primary School is now. There were many minority churches in Samsun. Armenian businessmen, the Gazaryan brothers, contributed much to the construction of the Armenian Saint Nigoğayos Catholic Church, which was built on high ground in 1849. In appreciation for their contributions, the names of the Gazaryan Brothers were written on the walls of the church.

City Museum Residences

There are two identical masonry buildings near 30 Ağustos Primary School. One of them collapsed; the other one needs restoration. After the restoration, the Metropolitan Municipality



will turn these identical kiosks into Samsun City Museum.

Acem Tekkesi (The Persian Lodge)

The Tekke is in Hançerli Quarter on 100.Yıl (100th year) Boulevard. Its frontispiece is on the avenue side. Double-sided stone stairs go up to the first floor (the building consists of one floor and a basement) there is also a hipped





Kurşunlu Mosque

roof on the square-shaped masonry building. There is an entrance, a kitchen that opens to it, a room and a large hall for religious services on this floor. The basement, which is connected to the Hall for religious services by a staircase, is empty. Wooden posts support the wooden floor of the first storey. The windows of the basement have oblate arches and the walls are quite thick. The building belonged to an Iranian, and then it was left to the treasury. Religious services were performed here every year. Rumor has it that a holy man is buried there.

Kurşunlu Mosque

Situated on Boulevard Street in the Bazaar Quarter around the İlkadım (first step) Municipality, Kurşunlu mosque was built in the 1810's by Sheikh Hacı Hikmet Efendi, son of Mullah Fahrettin.

The structure is a square-shaped, single-domed building. The main walls are made of smooth hewn stone. The central dome, supported by pendentives, is placed on an octagonal drum.. On the southern side, there are two windows with arches, and on the eastern side there are two and on the western side, three windows. The minaret is made of smooth hewn stone, adjacent to the northwest corner of the



building. Its body on the square pedestal has a cylindrical shape, and the minaret has one praying place (şerefe). The wooden pulpit is on the right side of the shrine. The Mosque underwent several renovations. The left side of the Mosque's entrance is an addition.

Adjacent to the mosque stands the Kurşunlu Tekkesi (Dervish lodge). In 1943, the finial of the minaret fell onto the dome because of the earthquake and bounced onto the roof of the congregation place, causing it to collapse. This damaged the entrance and the congregation place.

The public financed the repair work. The mosque also includes the graves of Müftüzade (mufti) Ahmet Effendi (1841-1890), Müftüzade Mehmet Şevki Effendi and Müftüzade Ahmet Hulusi Effendi in the boulevard side.

The Boulevard and the upper part of the Selahiye Quarter

**İsa Baba (Father Jesus) Mosque
Hamidiye Fountain, Hamidiye Hospital**

İsa Baba Mosque

In the past Christian sailors built small chapels on some of the shores they visited. There are the remains of a church built in the name of St. Theodora on the southeastern part of Toraman Hill. The Muslims later used this church as a small mosque. This building must be the İsa Baba Mescit in Cedit Quarter. According to information sources from the 1940's, there is a family tomb at the back of the small mosque. İsa Baba's tombstone and epigraph are there, together with his turban. The small mosque is older than the graves. Especially on Fridays, people flock to the

tomb of İsa Baba Türbe. Single boys and girls and the unemployed perform two rekats (a section in the namaz) and hope this will bring a special person or fortune into their lives. They also leave towels or rosaries here, pray and make wishes. In order to leave their wishes in the holy tomb (türbe) they tie threads, rags, and cloth pieces to the branches, binding their wishes tight.

Gureba Hospital (Hamidiye Hospital)

Today a mental hospital, Gureba began construction in 1895 by the order of Canik's governor Hamdi Simavi and was completed in 1902. It was a very beautiful hospital, considering the circumstances at the time. In honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Sultan Abdülhamit II's ascension to the throne, the hospital was named Hamidiye. [Hamidiye means (Abdül) Hamit's place]

After the official announcement of the second Constitutional Monarchy, the name of the hospital was changed to 'Canik

İsa Baba Mosque and Tomb





Gureba Hospital'. (The habit of changing names when periods change seems to have started then.) This name survived until the official announcement of the republic. The stairway entrance of the building is on the front and is enclosed with iron fences. The two columns that support the projection on the second floor reach down to the entrance.

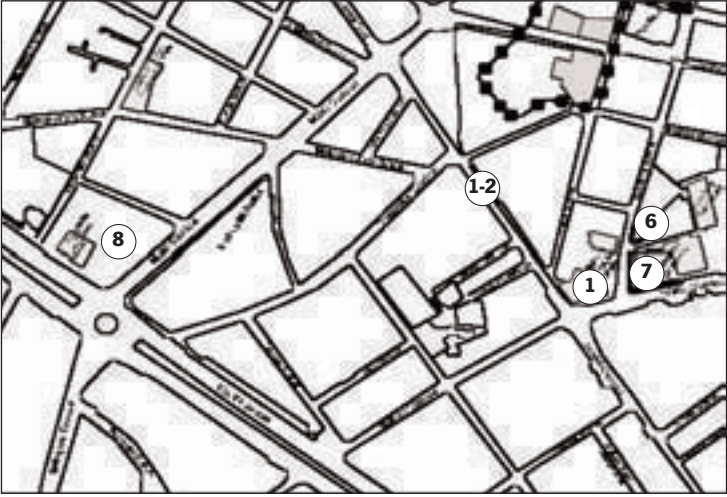
There are three windows with a pointed arch on the front side of the second floor's projection. The arches on the windows are covered with bas-relief wood and the downsideslower parts of the widows are decorated with crosswise bas-relief strips. There are columns made of hewn stone in the corners of the building with Marseille tiles, hipped roof and broad, wooden eaves. The building is integrated with other structures in the back.

The Story of Foundation

The son of Arzu Todoraki Bey (President) and Hüseyin Bey from the Yelkenci family (Second President) were elected to preside over the construction board of the Hospital; and Hamdi bey from Nemli family, son of Kaplan Kostaki Bey and Ciftciyan Bey were elected as members of the board. 15000 square meters of land were bought from Yakop Bey, son of Gülef.(The building was built on 865 square meters of this land and the rest was left as a garden.)

Urban architect Monsieur Valeri drew up the plan and the project of the hospital. The people of Samsun, some foundations, and fairs organized on behalf of the hospital financed the hospital.





The Bazaar District

1. Subaşı Primary School,
2. Subaşı Fountain, 3. Hacı Hatun Mosque
4. Mecidiye, 5. Latin Church, 6. French School,
7. Friars' Seminary School, 8. Kurşunlu Mosque

Latin Church (see religious buildings)

Hacı Hatun Mosque

The epigraph of the Hacı Hatun Mosque at Saathane Square in the Subaşı district tells us that Hacı Hatice Hatun, daughter of İbrahim, constructed the building in 1694.



The structure is square-shaped with a single dome. The dome covers the entire building. The building has been renovated and changes have occurred due to this. An additional entrance on the eastern side has been constructed;





Gaziler Square and Mecidiye

originally, the only entrance to the building was the old one on the north side. The additional entrance leads to the inside of the modern, house-like building.

The base of the minaret is inside the mosque, in the northwest corner.

The minaret stands on a dark base that carries its short, thick, cylindrical body.

The consoles that support the şerefe (prayer place) are three-leveled and are extraordinary to look at. Both the inside and outside of the mosque are quite simple.

There is not much decoration.

The pulpit is wooden. The handrail and pediment of the stairs are ornamented.

Bazaar district

Subaşı is considered the old commercial centre of Samsun. The region around Subaşı, Saathane Square and Mecidiye is still lively. The region has developed commercially thanks to the fact that the docks are near each other. The Old Market is also in this area. There are also many bazaars.

Mecidiye

This is the busiest bazaar in Samsun. The avenue and the streets that join the avenue are also full of shops of all sizes. You can find anything you want, from the cheapest goods to the highest quality.





İstiklal Avenue (Çiftlik), Ülkü Street, Osmaniye Avenue

1. İstiklal Avenue, (the old Church Street), 2. Yol İş Trade Union Building (the old French consulate)
3. Health Center, 4. Metropolithane, 5. Social Sciences High School (the old School of Greek Çinekliyon, 6. Greek Nursery School, Greek High School for boys), 7. Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 8. Türk Ocağı (gathering place for Turkish nationalists), 9. Tourism Directorate (old Borluoğlu Residence), 10. City Club

Yol İş Trade Union Building (the old French Consulate)

The building belonged to Efeniye, the daughter of Yeşef, and Anastas, the son of Simonaki from Çarşamba. Then it fell into disuse when the Greeks left Samsun because of the population exchange. Therefore, the building



Churches

It can be seen that the Christians, especially the Greeks, settled in Canik and the vicinity in the second half of the 19th century. The Greek population started to increase in the second half of the 19th century. According to the 1869 Trabzon Province Yearbook, there were 22,286 Greeks, 5,021 Armenians, and 64,770 Muslims in Canik and its vicinity.

In the same year, Çarşamba, which was half of this region, had a population of 26,763 Muslims, 1,036 Greeks, and 4,034 Armenians. In 1872, the population of Canik, excluding Çarşamba, was 42,154 Muslims, 23,213 Greeks, 5,006 Armenians and 8,172 Caucasians.

This density of the non-Muslim population in Samsun brought with it an increase in the number of religious buildings, namely churches. One building that did not survive is the Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Çiftlik Street, formerly known as Churches Street. The cathedral, which used to be where today's 23 Nisan Primary School is, was built in 1872.



*Greek Cathedral and
old view of
Metropolitan*





Social Sciences Lycee (Old Çinekliyan High School)

became the property of the state treasury

The entrance to the old French Consulate was on the İstiklal Avenue side. The building is used as the Yol İş Trade Union building.

There are three rectangular windows on each side of the building's two-leaf gate. The overhanging second floor is supported by four mushroom columns. The triangular pediment projection has three windows in the front and a window on each side.

Social Sciences High School (Çinekliyan High School)

Today's Social Sciences High School used to be Çinekliyan High School. There were schools for Greek boys and girls near the Greek Cathedral (today the 23 Nisan Primary School) which was

situated on İstiklal Caddesi (the old name was Church Street among the non-Muslim people). In 1912, Çinekliyan High School was established, thanks to financial support from the tobacco merchant Hacı Dimitrakis Ağa and Çinekoğlu Effendi. The building was also used for some time as a Hilali Ahmer (Red Crescent) hospital with the consent of the Greek Métropolitite Germanos Karavangelis. In the republican era, the building remained an educational building under the name "Yeni İlk Erkek Mektep" (New Primary School for Boys). Then the building became the Republican Primary School, but before that, it had served as Anadolu Otelcilik ve Turizm Meslek Lisesi (Anatolian School of Tourism and Hotel Management) for some time before becoming the Social Sciences High School.





Culture and Tourism Directorate (old Borluoğlu House)

Provincial Tourism and Culture Directorate

(Borluoğlu Residence - Business School - The former teachers' guesthouse)

The building was constructed by a broker from Samsun, Borluoğlu (J.). It is a detached building, containing some characteristics of 19th century French architecture. It has a basement and two standard stories and it was made of hewn stone and rubblework. Of particular interest are the stonework on the fences of the stairs, the transition between the roof and the facade, and the capitals of the columns supporting the projection. The restrooms and lavatories are made from original marble. The interior of the building has remained mostly the same. Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism uses the building.

City Club

The building, owned by Arzuoğlu Todoraki and the English citizen Monsieur istefanos Ferankiyedis who owned a 2/3 share of it, was abandoned after the population exchange.

The first floor of the two-storey building, which was used as the Greek Merchants Club, is made of hewn stone; and the second floor is lath-and-plaster. Today it is used as the City Club of Samsun.



City Club

○ Civil Architectural Buildings



House of Abduşoğlu İzzet



House of Andavallioğlu



House of Ağabali



Cemaatoğlu House: *This house was left by a Greek called Cemaatoğlu. It is a two-storey masonry structure built on a basement.*



Eski Çarşambahılar Club House: *It is situated at the corner of İnce Street and Osmaniye Avenue.*



Yeni Çarşambahılar Club House:

Left to the Treasury, due to disuse after the population exchange (of Greeks and Turks), the building was sold to Ahmet Şahin, the son of Şahinzade Remzi Bey. Çarşambahılar Club House is in this building on Sanat Street now.



○ Civil Architectural Buildings



Kökçüoğlu Stationery:

The first floor of this two-storey building is completely changed and it is used as an office. It is situated on the corner of Mecidiye Avenue and Şafak Street.



Paşahoğlu Sarafim House: The building belonged to Trandofile and Marika, the daughters of Paşahoğlu Sarafim before it was abandoned. Osmanoğlu Ahmet Effendi, who was an immigrant from Kavala, his wife Safiye Hanım, his son Ahmet Effendi and his daughters Ayşe and Kerime Hanım were placed in the building afterwards.



Kuleli Ev



Sütunlu ev

Tarhanlar House
Situated on Hamdi Pasha (Çiftlik) Avenue, the abandoned building belonged to Vasil, Son of Arapoğlu Simyon, and his wife Pişmani. Today, the restored, building is used as a restaurant.





Ülkü Street Houses (Art Street)

Ülkü Street

Ülkü Street is one of the most important and most beautiful historical streets of Samsun. There are many old houses on this street. Most of them are protected. You can find a section about these buildings in the pages of "Civil Architecture in Samsun".

The Committee for Protecting Cultural and Natural Values building

After the Greeks left Istanbul because of the exchange, the building was allocated to Ahmet Kamil and his family (his wife Zeliha, their children Akif, Hüseyin and Nilüfer), who came to Samsun from Drama after the exchange. Later, the building was purchased by the state treasury.

Directed of Social Services



Osmaniye Avenue, Cumhuriyet Avenue

1. Boduroğlu Cinema,
2. Social Police Headquarters (Abacıoğlu Yanko Residence Provincial Community Service Directorate)
3. Park cemetery,
4. Government Mansion,
5. Samsun Jail, 6. DDY (State Railways) Guesthouse

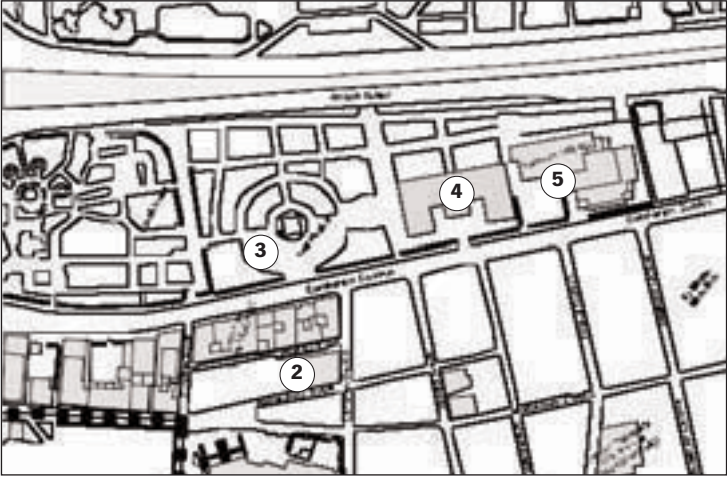
Social Police Headquarters

(Abacıoğlu Yanko Residence Provincial Community Service Directorate)

Built by Abacı Yanko (the cloth seller) in 1900, the building was later left to the state treasury, after Yanko was condemned to death by the Independence Court for being a Pontic partisan.

There are four rectangular windows, on the side of the first floor that overlooks the courthouse passage; one window in the middle, on the left side of the gate; the other three on the right side. There are iron fenced rectangular lamps above the entrance gate and windows.

Beneath the narrow eave, some bas-relief motifs were used as decorative elements.



Atatürk Park (Old Park Cemetery)

The site, which includes Atatürk Park, was the old Park Cemetery. The boundaries of this cemetery, opened in the early 1800's near the sea, begin in front of Government Mansion, enclose the avenue, pass through the front side of Tekel Head Directorate building, takes in all of Cumhuriyet Square, the Ziraat Bank Provincial Directorate building and Vidinli Hotel. The cemetery was turned into a park in 1924, during the Mayoral term of Şefik Avni (Özüdoğru) and the Governorship of Kazım (İnanç) Pasha. This is the brief history of this park,



which is situated in the centre of Samsun and contains the famous Gazi Statue.

The old Government Mansion (Provincial Administrative Court)

According to an 1858 map, the first government mansion known in Samsun was situated near Yalı Mosque. The mansion burned down completely in the great Samsun fire of 1869.

The two-storey Abdullah Pasha Mansion (today's Abdullah Pasha Primary School) was used as the Government





*Old Governor's office (Above and below) Now District Administrative Court.
New Governor's Office (below)*

Mansion. Vizier Emin Pasha (governor of Samsun in 1875) built a government mansion on Bankalar Avenue, where the post office had been situated. In the fire of 1883, the Mansion was greatly damaged. In 1884 Osman Pasha from Trabzon, the governor of Samsun, constructed a Government Mansion (today's Provincial Administrative Court). The fortification of the Amisos Castle was used in the construction of the building. Tophane Bastion was situated on the park side of the building. Next to it was the Samsun

Muslim Cemetery. A well was situated between Tophane Bastion and Government Mansion. The well was then turned into a pool. The seaside of the building was directly on





Houses of Railway Adm. (above) Railway Directorate (below)

the sea and the waves used to hit the walls of the old Mansion. Samsun Prison was there too, on the judicial courtside of the Government Mansion. Because the capacity of the prison was not adequate, the ground level of the Government Mansion was used as a prison cell until the 60's.

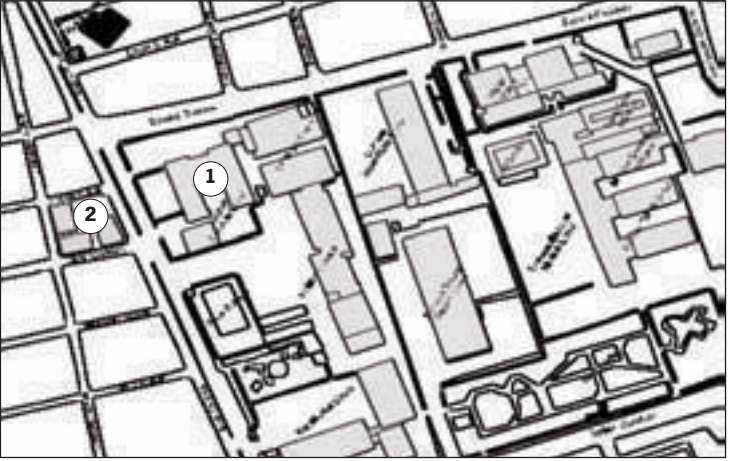
The building, which served as the Government Mansion of Samsun for years, became inactive after the new governorship building was constructed. Then it was used as a health center for teachers. Today the place is the

Provincial Administrative Court of Samsun.

TCCDY (Railroads Directorate) Building.

The two-storey building on Irmak Avenue was built on a stone basement. Wooden supports hold the projection in the middle of the second storey. The middle of the side facade is overhanging on the first and second floors. There is a balcony supported by the stone backing situated in the entrance part of the first and second floors. The entire building was covered with wood.





High School Avenue Lise Avenue

1. Samsun Business High School (Samsun High School-Atatürk Anatolian high schools)

In 1908, Samsun became an autonomous city, the first Directorate of Education was formed, and in 1911 the construction of Samsun High School (today's Atatürk Anatolian High School) was initiated.

Samsun High School was turned into a business high school. The new building served as a military hospital when World

War II broke out.

After two semesters (one school year), the business high school was turned into Mekteb-i Sultani in 1914 and moved to the monastery building (This building, once used as the Military Division Commanding Office, now functions as an Army Officers' Camp).

In the 1926-1927 term, the school moved to the building that was abandoned (today's Atatürk Anatolian High School) after the Orphanage, Dar'ül eytam, was moved to Amasya. The two-storey school building's first floor served as the business school and the second floor as secondary school in the school year of 1926-1927.

The building was constructed as a two-





*Municipal Concert Hall (above)
Seyyid Kutbiddin (below)*

storey masonry over the basement with indents in the middle and projection on the side. The front part of the building includes three windows on each corner and on each storey. In the main entrance, there are rectangular windows narrow in the middle and wider on the sides.

Inside the building, there are stone stairs on both sides. There is a large rectangular hall surrounded by classrooms. The ceiling and the floor in the rooms are made of wood.

2. Şahinzade Remzi Bey Mansion (Municipal Conservatory)

It was the house where Mustafa Kemal Pasha stayed during his second visit to Samsun in 1924. Two symmetrical buildings are joined together with a balcony. It is now used as the municipal conservatory.

Other major buildings

Seyyid Kutbiddin

The tomb is inside the Old Cemetery (Seyyid Kutbiddin Cemetery) in Unkapanı Avenue in the southern part of the city.



One of the sons of Abdülkadir Geylani (Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani) of Baghdad, Seyyid Kutbiddin's real name was Ibrahim. Fighting for God had become his custom.

On 15 February 1322 he died a martyr and was buried there. Young girls and their mothers seeking miracles often visit the Tomb of Seyyid Kutbiddin.

Memduh Bey, the grandson of Suleiman Pasha from the Haznedar family, built the Seyyid Kutbiddin Mosque in 1895.



Old English Consulate now Military Recruitment Office

The British Consulate

The British Consulate is one of the oldest consulates in Samsun.

Seven people worked full-time in this consulate, which did not have any sub-units.

This building in Kadıköy, Samsun, was then used as a recruiting office. In a record dated 1302, from the Archives of Samsun Land Registry and Cadastre District Directorate, the title deed numbered 7 and dated 7 Junenamed the proprietor of the lot as Arif Efendi, son of Mehmet.

The building is a two-storey symmetrical lath (bağdadi) construction. The first floor is the cellar. The overhanging part of the second floor covers this facade. The front column carries the overhanging part. At the center of the overhanging part is a wood door, with a low arch. On both sides of the door there are fourteen (seven on each side) low-arched and rectangular windows. Decorative elements are above the door.

The two Corinthian columns in the gate of the garden, which is surrounded by iron balustrades, are particularly striking.

Historical Hotels of Samsun

Sahil Palace

It was built as a stone building in 1930. Still used as a hotel, the building is situated on a corner where two streets meet; therefore, the building has three facades. The entrance is through an arched door on the narrower side.

The wide windows next to the entrance gate and on the other facades of the building have been restored.

On the second floor, there is a circular balcony above the door. The third floor has the same structure, and the windows on the other faces are rectangular and have some decorations on them. The entrance sections of the second and third floor are overhanging. The overhanging part is supported by half-buttresses. In the third floor, over the balcony is a brow-shaped frontal.



Turkish baths (Hamam) of Samsun and Şifa Turkish Bath

The Turkish Baths in the city were around Kale İçi, Hançerli neighborhood, Saman Bazaar and the Market. The biggest of these were Yıldız Hamam, Çifte Hamam,



Grand Hamam (Büyük Hamam), Tahtalı Hamam, also known as Yeni Hamam. For the women of Samsun, the Hamam meant getting together and entertaining as well as having a bath and cleaning up. Arrangements would be made a couple of days before, and various food and drinks would be prepared at home for the hamam day. Then they would go to the hamam, together with their children and bags. One child would be sent to the Turkish Bath earlier in the morning to reserve one or two of the hottest parts of the hamam (halvet). Upon arrival in the hamam, they would hang their towels on the doors of this section.

After being nicely scrubbed by a female bath attendant (natır), the ladies would sometimes go out to sit on the heated marble platform for a couple of hours. Then, when it was time to eat, they would serve and eat the food they brought with them, laying them out on a tablecloth they would put on the heated marble floor. As little children blew soap bubbles, young ladies, prospective brides would sing and keep a tempo on their exquisite and silk Keşan cloths stretched between the bronze and copper bath bowls: The hamam is yours! Marble basin ours! Let us sit in pairs.

Samsun 19 Mayıs University

Installed in 1975. The Ondokuz Mayıs University conducts education and instruction totally in 10 faculties such as a Medical Faculty, a Dentistry Faculty, College of Literature and Science, Agriculture Faculty, Divinity School, Education Faculty, School of economics and administrative sciences, Veterinary Faculty and Faculty of Laws and 1 conservatory where 89 licence program are conducted, 2 colleges, 9 vocational high schools (of 2 years) by conducting 62 two-year degree programs are conducted and, 4 institutes (Social Sciences, Science, Medical Sciences and Fine Arts).

Furthermore, The Canik Basari Foundation University of which the foundation was laid in the Canik district of the Samsun Province shall also ensure Samsun to become one of the prominent centres of our country in the field of education.

Promenades of Samsun

The promenades in Samsun today are the Hasköy Sylvan (Meşe Tesisleri) operated by the Municipality of Canik in Top hill, Çakırlar grove which is a resting are very close to the sea and on the Samsun- Bafra road. Alaçam Forest Lake and Vezirköprü Kunduz Forest Region are also nice excursion places.



Campus of Samsun 19 Mayıs University



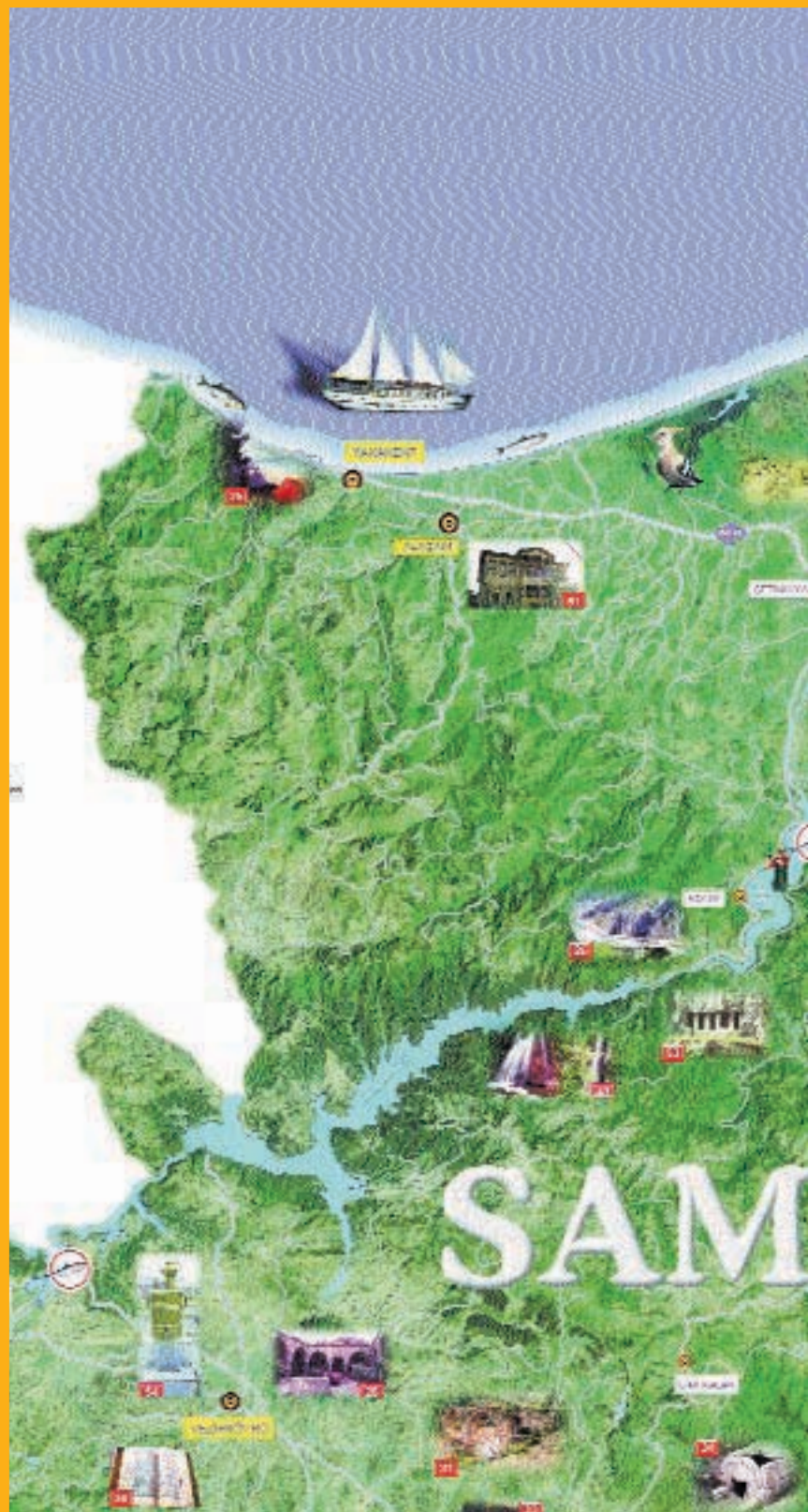


Atakum

Atakum is the summer resort of Samsun in the west, along the Samsun Bafra road. The two storey summer resort houses along the coast, turned into the new residential area, with settlement moving west; the number of storeys increased and it developed towards the mountain ridges. Those wishing to escape the city center are choosing housing complexes with two storey houses, overlooking the sea, and this demand is increasing the settlement density on the mountain ridges of Atakum and 19 Mayıs.

Residents of Samsun still raid the coast and beaches of Atakum, especially in the summer months.







Yakakent, a view of the district

YAKAKENT

Yakakent, the most westerly district of Samsun, is 79 km away from the city centre and also neighbours the city of Sinop. Heavy traffic may await you on the Samsun- Sinop highway, as Yakakent is situated along it, 6km from Alaçam and 33km from Bafra. Approximately 10,000 people live in the district,

with the population equally divided between the city centre and rural areas.

No signs of settlement have been detected, other than tumulus known as Pilavtepe, as enough research has not been carried out in the town of Yakakent. With reference to the other examples in the area, the Pilavtepe

Pilavtepe Barrow



Yakakent factcard

Population	9.560
Area	150 km ²
Yakakent District Office	611 24 38
Municipality of Yakakent	611 21 04





tumulus can be dated back to the Hellenistic Period (33-30 BC).

In the 1500's Byzantines ruled Yakakent, or 'Kominos' as it was

called at the time.

It is widely thought that Ottoman emperor Yavuz Sultan Selim pillaged Kominos in 1514 on his way to one of the greatest ground battles of all time, Çaldıran, when the Byzantine townfolk refused to recognise his empire. The Ottomans, after capturing Kimonos, renamed it Gümenez, and the town was known by that name until 1963 when the establishment of a municipal presence led to its contemporary name, Yakakent.

Yakakent earned district status in 1991.

Founders of Yakakent

Yakakent gradually became a settlement in the 1800's when a few families immigrated to Gümenez from the Sinop district of Gerze, but it was during the years of the Russian occupation, 1893-1895, that Yakakent saw a great rise in population, as a stream of refugees from the Eastern Black Sea coast flowed into the area, followed by a second wave of immigrants from Salonica in 1922.

A view of Yakakent from the sea





Sunset

Legend of the ancient castle

Yakakent residents believe an ancient castle exists hidden amongst the dense foliage of the mountainous areas in the south, but this claim is yet to be verified as no detailed studies have been carried out in the area.

District centre

Travellers immediately find themselves in the town square, which boasts an Atatürk statue

facing away from the sea. To the right of the square is the town hall, and to the left are five-storey buildings with shops on the ground floor. The only thing reminiscent of the past in this square is a two-storey wooden building with a coffee shop on the ground floor.

A promenade, running in front of the five-storey buildings on the left, is ideal for long walks along the beach.

Yakakent town hall



Yakakent Atatürk statue



Yakakent coastline



*Yakakent beach*

Yakakent beach

If you are looking for some peace and quiet by the sea, then you have come to the right place. Yakakent boasts a 14km-long pristine beach, embracing the perfectly clear waters of the Black Sea. Yakakent's natural beauty makes it one of the key areas in Samsun with tourism potential. The private sector has



already embarked on a series of investments in the area to develop touristic trade, and Kumluk Beach is one of them. Kumluk Beach offers an ideal opportunity to relax by the sea. You can take long walks in nature and come back to taste delicious seafood by the water while viewing a mesmerizing sunset.

Bars, clubs and cafes and live music awaken the sleepy resort





Fishermen's port

at night, a real treat for those looking for a bit of traditional fun.

Turkey's largest fishing-boat harbour

Yakakent has the largest fishing-boat harbour in Turkey, as even the jetty can accommodate six 25-meter boats docked alongside it. The crescent-shaped bay opening to the sea has a warm atmosphere, with quaint boathouses lining the water, offering safe shelter for the boats during the harsh winter months.





Some of the boathouses have small wooden piers extending into the sea.

There are three seafood restaurants along the bay, perched on the top floor of the boathouses.

If you decide to eat there, make sure you sample turbot: the exquisite taste will make an impression.

It seems Yakakent's seafont is to gain importance in years to come, as a marina project is under way.

Yakakent is to become a key stopover for yachts sailing the Black Sea.

Towards Çam Lake

If you are at Yakakent, then we recommend you take a short trip to Çam Lake, just 4km away from the centre. The road running parallel to the waterfront offers guesthouses and restaurants on the left-hand side. When the wind allows, it is also possible to set up camp with tents.

Çam Lake

If you are up for some swimming and dining outdoors on wooden tables under the cover of ancient pine trees, then Çam Lake is the place for you. The complex is open all year round and the excellent footpaths are ideal for

Çam Lake facilities





Çam Lake picnic area



walks. The area is packed full of people when the weather is nice.

Kunduz Fish Lake

Kunduz Fish Lake is a favorite place for campers, especially in spring and summer. The spot is ideal for both caravan owners and those with tents.

If you prefer to stay away from the heat, why not take advantage of the cool breeze blowing through the mountain pastures? Uzunkız, Elikbuyran and Necati Bati high plateaus offer the perfect opportunity for picnics and nature walks. We guarantee the experience will be a memorable one.

Guesthouses in Yakakent

You can find plenty of family-run guesthouses in Yakakent. In addition to the 20-bed municipality-run hotel and restaurant, there is a 12-room motel right next door. Another



Family-run guest house, Yakakent

option for overnight stays is one of the motels and guesthouses situated by the Çam Lake promenade entrance.

The crystal clear waters of Yakakent are abundantly stocked with fish, and even an endangered species, sturgeon, continue to breed in the area.

Seafood exports to Japan and France are an important source of income here. Stingray, shark, scallop and whelk products are processed and frozen before they are shipped abroad. Yakakent is especially alive during the month of July when the town plays host to several cultural events and activities.

A view of Yakakent festivities



The last week of July sees an influx of tourists from neighboring districts. Sports tournaments, concerts, and culinary competitions liven up Yakakent, with Japanese-

Turkish friendship activities and stands adding another dimension to the festivities. Yakakent is officially twinned with the Japanese town of Kushimoto.

○ Turkish-Japanese Friendship



Sultan Abdülhamit returned a courtesy visit to Japan in 1880, following the Japanese Emperor's uncle's visit to İstanbul. The Sultan sent the "Ertuğrul" frigate to

Japan under the command of Osman Paşa as a goodwill gesture but the ship was doomed. The Ottomans received a warm welcome to Yokohama harbour by a local crowd, but during the return journey, the "Ertuğrul" was caught in a severe typhoon near the Funakara coast, eventually crashing into rocks near the Pacific coastline of the Kushimoto (Kashino) island. Although 581 sailors lost their lives in the accident, 69 were saved by islanders who fought the waves to bring them back to land.

Two Turkish parliamentarians, who were members of the Japanese-Turkish parliamentary friendship committee, visited Kushimoto in 1963 when the idea of a special friendship tie between the fishing towns of Yakakent and Kushimoto emerged. The two towns and their local primary schools were officially twinned in 1997 after a formal agreement was signed.

Traditions

Customs and traditions are important to Black Sea folk, but they have undergone certain adaptations to fit in with the times.

Most weddings at Yakakent used to be held at boathouses or wooden shacks 40 years ago, but now people opt for weddings in teahouses, wedding halls and gardens.

Bridal Veil Day

A special custom in the area is bridal veil day when friends of the new bride visit her home the day after her wedding.

The bride, wearing her wedding gown, serves food and displays her trousseau for close examination by her friends, and the women dance.

In the old days, five or six recently married women would host the bridal veil day together with the new bride, all dressed up in their wedding gowns.

Wedding Gift Collection

Forty years ago, wedding gifts were collected on a special brass tray which was carried from door to door to pick up presents from friends, relatives and neighbours in the village. People would place a note with their names on their gifts and cover them up with coloured scarves before sending the tray off to the next house.

A young boy from each house would carry the tray to the next collection point until all the presents were gathered. The

crowd would then walk to the groom's house, where the new couple would be living, to present the gifts.

In the meantime the groom-to-be would have a pre-wedding shave in his garden during which people would attach money to his outfit. These traditions, however, are no longer in existence.

Culinary delights

The most famous local dish is "içli mantı", a special type of ravioli with walnut filling, served on a bed of garlic yoghurt. Seafood is exquisite all year round, and fish is prepared in a variety of ways ranging from pan-fried to steamed. Chicken and duck dishes feature heavily on the menu and "tirit" is another local delicacy.

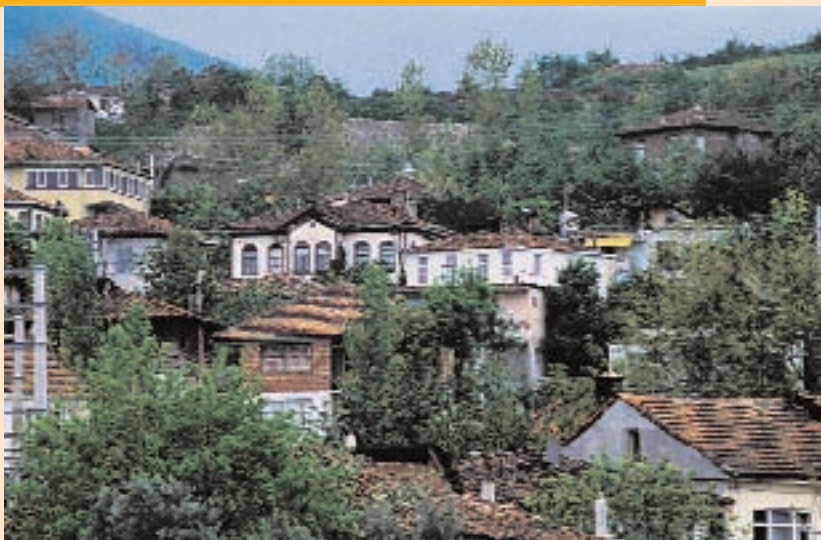






LEGEND	
	City center
	Districts center
	Town center
	Dam, Lake, River
	Brook
	State highway
	Road
	Transp. Codes
	State Railway
	Fish Hakchery
	District
	Town

Alaçam





ALAÇAM

If you head east past Yakakent on the Samsun - Sinop highway, you will eventually reach Alaçam, which lies 78km from Samsun city centre. The district has a total population of 30,000; two-thirds

of whom live in rural areas, the rest in the district centre. Alaçam summers are cool and the winters are cold.

In July, temperatures can top 35C, while the month of January can be as cold as -5C.

Alaçam factcard

Population: Approx.	30.351
Area	632 km2
Alaçam District Office	622 00 21
Municipality of Alaçam	622 00 02

Begining to History Chalcolithic Age (BC. 5500-3000)

The history of Alacam dates back to the ancient times. During the



surface surveys carried out in this area; 3 mounds, 1 flat settlement and 2 tumulus were located. Mound style settlements in the south of Alaçam, chalcolithic first and middle bronze age iron and medieval ages in Dedetepe in the village of Yenice, the first and middle bronze age in the Gökceboğaz hill or Aliosman hill in the village of Gökceboğaz , chalcolithic first and middle bronze and stone age.

Seljuks took over the region around 1100AD, followed by the Bafra Principality.

Alaçam was a subdistrict of Bafra, until 1944, when it was given district status.

Four cultures – four names:

Alaçam's first known name is Zelikus, as Miletians called it in the 5th century BC, when they settled in the area after emigrating from central Asia. Then the Danişmentliler used the name Tralköy after taking over the district and the Seljuks later changed the name to Uluköy.

The İlanlılar finally named it Alaçam in 1385.

Historic Rum Houses



The history behind the name of Alaçam

The ancient pine trees lining the Uluçay brook are thought to have given rise to the name Uluçam (grand pine) which eventually became Alaçam.

District centre

Alaçam district center is reached by turning left from the main highway and continuing uphill. The entrance to the district is lined with two- and three-storey houses with shops on the ground floor. The road gently curves to the left as you drive on. The mosque, named after the Anatolian Principality chief Sadi Bey, can be found in the centre of town. Its exterior is completely covered with modern mosaics, which makes it difficult to identify it as a historical monument. Beyond the Sami Bey Mosque lies a typical town square, with an Atatürk statue on the south side and shops on the west side

Alaçam Square



Municipality-run Geyikkoşan Motel



Sadi Bey Mosque

bustling with trade. The square is also used as a bus terminal providing transport to surrounding districts and cities.

Geyikkoşan

The road into central Alaçam is lined on one side with planted pine trees

Geyikkoşan Hıdırellez Festival





over 2.5m tall. The other side of the road, which faces the sea, is called Geyikkoşan, an ideal leisure spot with a pristine beach, and tables, as well as poplar, cherry and laurel trees overlooking the water. It is possible to camp here, as there is a specially designated camping area and a guesthouse, Alaçam Geyikkoşan Öğretmenevi, which is

A table used for drying tobacco



Alaçam Geyikkoşan seafront

near the seaside. Daytime guests are also welcome here and are able to dine at the restaurant and make use of the beach.

Vital sources of income: farming and fishing

Most Alaçam residents make a living by farming and fishing in the area. Major crops grown in the region are



tobacco, wheat, hazelnut, barley, and rye as well as various sorts of vegetables and fruits.

Fish stocks are abundant in Alaçam waters where fishermen catch anchovy, horse mackerel, bonito, blue fish, grey mullet, red mullet, whiting and turbot.

Town architecture

A number of old houses still stand, which typically have two floors. The ground floor is made of stone, whereas the top floor is usually wooden.

They are ideal candidates for boutique hotels, as they tend to have large gardens as well.

A beautiful example of Alaçam architecture

Horon and Rumeli folk dances

The majority of the residents are immigrant from the Balkans and therefore Rumeli folk dances such as Zigoş, Debreli Hasan, Vardar Ovası, Topal Ağa are popular, especially for weddings.

Local handicrafts

The locals are skilled in kilim weaving, wickerwork and woodcrafts, as wood, reed and wool are abundant materials in the area.

Alaçam weddings

There is great importance placed on weddings in all sections of Turkish society, and the joining of two hands in matrimony and creation of a new





family is celebrated by various colourful rituals.

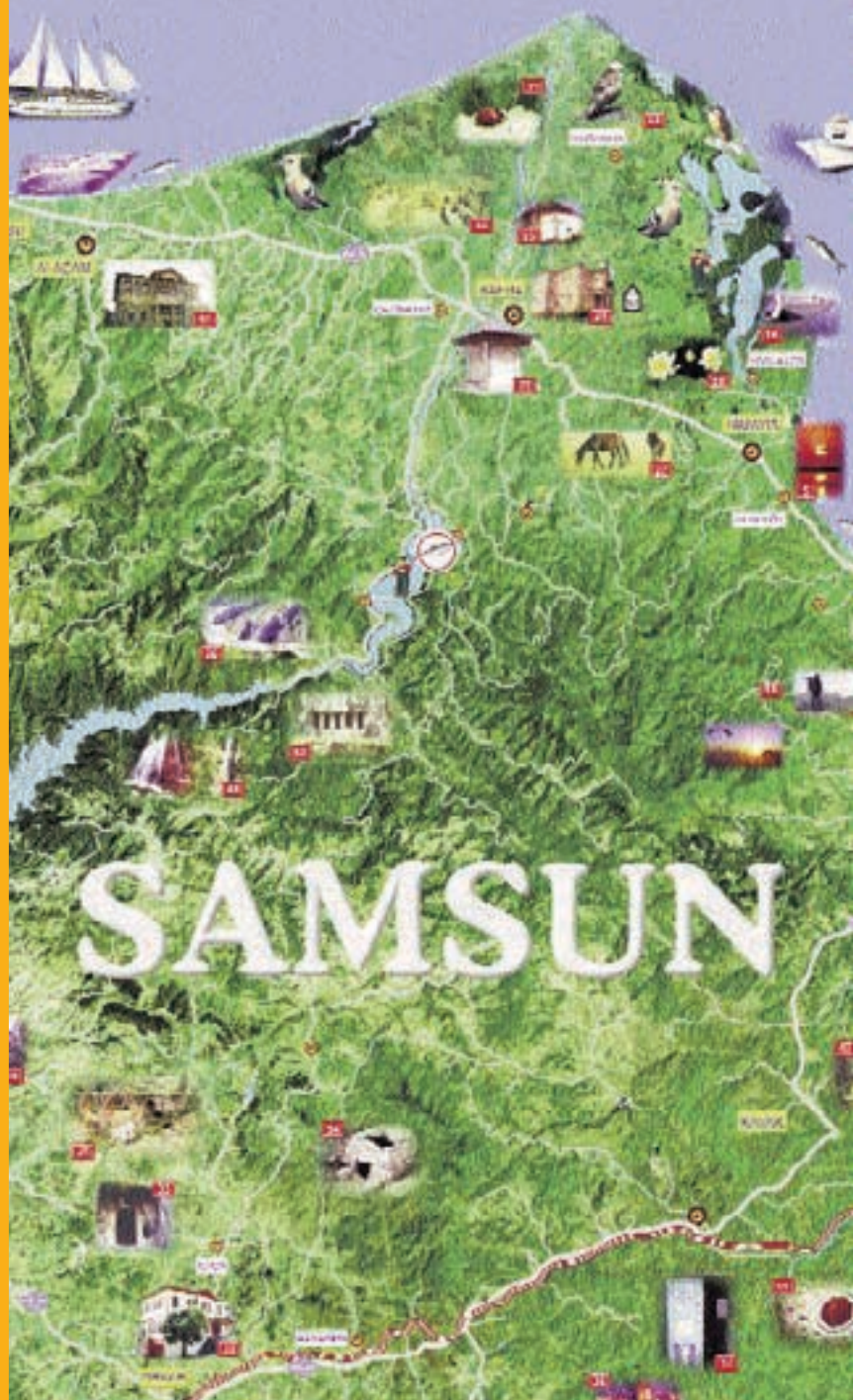


Wedding traditions

There are various traditional rituals for the bride and groom, and the wedding may last several days. Many of these rituals are slowly dying out because of changing life styles in the area. One of these customs, Güvey Çimdirmе (Hamam Day), for the groom is now a thing of the past. Most people opt for a shave and taking bath at the local barber nowadays rather than a day of festivities at the hamam (Turkish bath)

Alaçam Cuisine

Herse, a chicken dish; the Circassian specialty Aluş; Kapaklı pide, made with raw mince meat and spices; and stuffed vine leaves with bonito are all worth tasting. In the spring months, a special cheese made with sheep's milk is delicious.





BAFRA

If you continue eastwards past Alaçam, you will get to Bafra which is 51 km from Samsun city centre. Bafra opens up to the Black Sea coast on the north and borders with Kavak in the south. Bafra plain covers the Kızılırmak delta and is surrounded by the 1225m tall Mount Nebiyan in the south, which extends from the Canik mountain range. Bafra's history stretches back to 2000BC as excavations in the İkiztepe ruins confirmed. The area continuously hosted human settlements for 2300 years, until 1700BC. Various artifacts were recovered in İkiztepe, dating back to 2000BC.

Bafra, a view of the district

It is widely accepted that Paphlagonians inhabited the Kızılırmak valley around 670BC, but the area was taken over by the Lydians in the 6th century BC, followed by the Persians in 546BC. İkiztepe also boasts a mausoleum belonging to the Hellenistic period (330-30BC). The Romans took over the area in 47BC followed by the Byzantines. Seljuks captured Bafra in the 1071 Malazgirt battle, and Seljuk ruler İzzettin Keykavus brought over Turcoman tribes to settle in the area.

Mongol invasions, starting in 1243, led to the downfall of the Seljuk empire and instigated the rise of the Turkish Principalities, resulting in the establishment of the small Bafra Seljuk Principality. This principality then came under the rule of the Ottomans in 1460, and was recorded as a county of Canik

Bafra factcard

Population	145,393
Area	1,413 km ²
Bafra District Office	543 10 01
Municipality of Bafra	543 23 20



Sancağı in Trabzon, and then as a county town near the end of 1841, following administrative reforms.

From Bafira to Bafra

In Phoenecian times, the trade houses built in the bays surrounding the mouth of the Kızılırmak delta were called Bafira, which eventually gave rise to the name Bafra.



Bafra through the eyes of Evliya Çelebi

Evliya Çelebi's famous travel journal, "Seyahatname", mentions Bafra and the Kızılırmak River cutting through it and adds that it houses two mosques, two hamams.



An old Rum house in Gazipaşa



Efraimağa Mansion

The Hittite heritage

The Hittite civilisation, which ruled Anatolia around 2000BC, positioned their capital in Hattuşaş (Boğazköy) on the wide meander of the Kızılırmak River. It seems the Hittites accessed the Black Sea coast via a road through Havza - Ilica - Demiryurt – Çakıralan-Kapıkaya, and finally Bafra along the sea. Archeological studies revealed that another Hittite city called Zalpuwa (Zalpa) existed in the area, and the majority view among archeologists is that it could have been positioned near İkiztepe.

Bafra's Cumhuriyet (Republic) Square



Central Bafra

It is obvious that much thought and effort has gone into the layout of the road and surrounding areas as you enter Bafra. The pine trees and flowers pleasantly welcome you into the district centre as you enter Bafra and the houses alongside the road increase in number as you drive down a slight incline. The pleasant and well-maintained entrance to Bafra immediately reflects the well-developed nature of the area, as the district is a leading agricultural centre, with highly developed tobacco, vegetable and fruit farms. Red cabbage, watermelon, honeymelon, and rice, as well as Virginia tobacco, are grown here. Virginia is a large-leaved species of tobacco and needs watering. Turkish tobacco, on the other hand, has smaller leaves, and does not need watering. Bafra is one of Samsun's most developed districts. Cumhuriyet

Bafra tobacco shop

We came across a narrow and long tobacco shop in a side street of Bafra, where sacks of various types of tobacco were lined up in the shop's interior. The owner is clearly very fond of his job and happily recommends suitable tobacco products for individual tastes. The pavement in front of the shop is brimming with eager shoppers awaiting their turn. Even if you are not a smoker, we definitely recommend a visit to the shop for a friendly chat and look around.



Square is the most active spot in the area, as the park in the square centre and the shops surrounding it are continuously bustling during the day. The park boasts an Atatürk sculpture in its centre.

Many old houses still stand, and are generally two-storey buildings made of stone, but there are also some made of wood.

Bafra locals tend to opt for 19 Mayıs and Yakakent districts for summer holidays and people tend to travel to 'Kolay' resort for day trips.

İkiztepe sheds light onto ancient Anatolian civilisations

Kızılırmak estuary and its surroundings have a 7000-year-old history, dating back to 5000BC and the area is the cradle of many bygone civilisations. A 1971 exvacation unearthed İkiztepe ruins, 57 tumuli, six ancient settlements,

25 antiquity ruins, five rock tombs, three cemeteries, one castle, one public bath and a bridge.

Largest ancient cemetery in Anatolia

Anthropologic and medical studies carried out on the 690 skeletons recovered from the İkiztepe cemetery, which date back to



2300-2100BC, revealed that skillful skull surgery was carried out on eight of them. It appears some were able to survive 10 years or more following surgery while others died immediately. The spot where the cemetery stood, the highest hill in İkiztepe, was later used as a mausoleum in the Hellenistic period (330-30BC). The mausoleum here is made of hewn stone and boasts one large and one small burial room after passing through a 9m-long vaulted hall. Excavations also revealed that people used to live in wooden houses near the site and sustained themselves by hunting, breeding cattle and fishing. The mausoleum has been pieced back together and is open to the public.

History of mining in Anatolia

Guns, tools, jewelry, ovens and stone molds recovered in excavations reveal that İkiztepe's



ancient folk played an important part in the development of mining in Anatolia. Metallic objects have been also unearthed, which were made using a mixture of arsenic and copper. It appears the copper was extracted from the Merzifon area whereas arsenic was mined in Gümüşköy.

The collection of copper-arsenic

○ Mounds and Tumuli

There are various mounds and tumuli found in the area, baring traces of a number of ancient civilisations. A few of these historical sites have been studied by archeologists, but a large portion remains untouched. A list of these mounds and tumuli sites in the Bafra area are as follows: Böğürtlen Höyüğü, Elmalık Tepe Höyüğü, Hacıibaba Tepesi Höyüğü, Tepecik Höyüğü, Tepe Tarla Höyüğü, Tödügün Tepe Höyüğü, Zahna Höyüğü, Külcüler Hill, Hacıibaba Hill, Hill Area, Som Hill, Sorgunlu Hill, Özü Büyük, Aşağı Hill and Tingiller Hill.





artifacts recovered from İkiiztepe is one of the oldest and most important collections of its kind in Anatolia.

The İkiiztepe ruins and the surrounding area have come under the protection of the Government, as it was made a first-degree archeological heritage site.

Excavations also unearthed weaving tools, confirming that weaving was a popular trade in the area.

Over 6000 artifacts recovered

İkiiztepe, the largest tomb in Anatolia

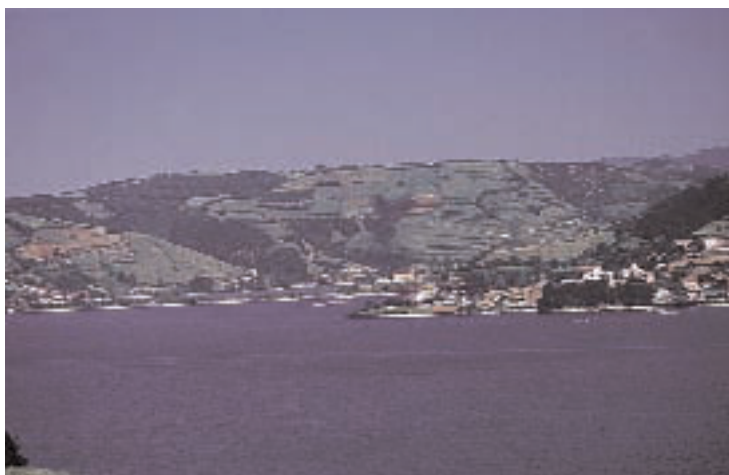
from İkiiztepe including bones, earthenware, stones and horns, are now on display at the Samsun Archeology Museum.

Changing landscapes

İkiiztepe was initially placed immediately at the mouth of the Kızılırmak River on the west side, but the settlement now stands 7km away from the Black Sea and 2km further in than the river.

İkiiztepe ruins





Kolay, Derbent Dam and lake

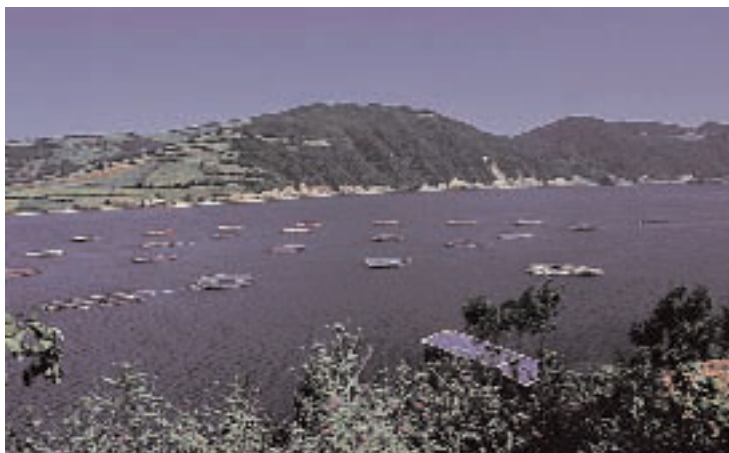
Derbent Dam

To reach Derbent Dam you pass the Çetimkaya Bridge and follow the directions to Kolay, and continue for 35km to get to Asar Kale. New waterways alongside the road accompany the road all the way, and farmlands continue right up to the mountain peaks, unfortunately not leaving any room for the forest. If you see the Kızılırmak River on your left,



it means you are getting close to the dam and will see organic corn crops along the way. Be careful, there may be several tortoises crossing the road in this area! The Derbent Dam lake is surrounded by farmland and the tombs carved into the rocks are a sight to behold.

Fish traps in the dam lake





A close-up view of Asar Kale



Asar Kale entrance via a tunnel



Kolay

There are fish farms in Derbent. If you follow the side of the dam, you get to the Kolay resort, where the Neyzen Tevfik festival is held

Rock tombs in Kolay

every year.

There's also a touristic complex by the lakefront, with several restaurants serving delicious trout. There are also two attractive mosques along the road with only 150m between them.

Asar Castle

Asar Kale is a structure built upon a giant mass of rock. Stairs carved into the entrance of the cave gradually lead you up.

Zalpa (Zalpuwa)

Zalpa was the third-largest city of the Hittite civilisation (2000BC) after Hattuşaş and Kaneş. A cuneiform belonging to the Hittite era mentions the city of Zalpa where the Kızılırmak River meets the Black Sea.

There is no concrete archeological evidence to confirm the existence of such a city, but initial investigations have pointed to an area encompassing the four mounds in the İkiztepe village as the possible location of Zalpa.

Büyük Mosque (Cami-i Kebir)

Central Bafra hosts the Büyük Mosque, which was noted by Evliya Çelebi in his journals of 300 years ago. Bafra Principality head Emir Mirza reputedly built the wooden mosque to provide a central space for worship to the townspeople. The inscription on the mosque wall today, however, states it was built by Köprülü Mehmet Pasha's daughter, Ayşe Hatun, in 1670.

Merkez Tayyar Paşa Mosque

This mosque was commissioned by Tayyar Paşa in 1801-02 and an extension was built in recent years to increase space for worshippers. The single-balconied minaret has kept its original beauty and the mosque is soon to undergo a restoration project to expose and protect the original wall decorations.

Bazaar

A 17th century vaulted bazaar stands on Hacınabi neighbourhood's Tekel Avenue. The structure has entry points from the east and west, and also holds three rows of outdoor shops.

Do you know Tevfik Kolaylı?

The real name of the national poet Neyzen Tevfik is Tevfik Kolaylı. The surname Kolaylı means 'from Kolay', referring to the Kolay resort near Bafra. This poet's father was born in Kolay.



Cami-i Kebir

The bazaar is still in use today, with butchers, fishmongers, jewelers, clockmakers and various other shops. Public fountains were of great importance during the Ottoman era and till 1960, as most of the townspeople obtained their water from local fountains. The local fountains which have survived to the modern day are as follows: Ali Bey Fountain, Mescit Fountain, Taçlı Fountain, Taşlı Fountain ve Aynalı Fountain.

Merkez Tayyar Paşa Mosque



Bafra's oldest fountain: Alibey

Alibey fountain was built in 1751 and has undergone restoration recently. Alibey stands next to the Kaymakam's office by Cumhuriyet Square. There are two inscriptions on either side of the fountain.

Kadı Fountain

Sahib-ül Hayrat Kadı Ali Efendi commissioned this fountain in 1778 and it is situated at the intersection between Tekel, Alaçam and Bulvar Avenues. Locals believe people who drink from this fountain will not be able to leave Bafra.

Hüseyin Bey Fountain

Hüseyin Bey fountain is situated in the middle of Cumhuriyet Avenue and its delicate form catches the eye at once. It has a hexagonal structure and its corners are made of helical columns while each of the six sides has a small envelope-shaped niche with a plant motif

painted on it.

The inscription on it states that it was built by Hüseyin Bey, and commissioned by Kazan Hacı Abdurrahman Agha.

Mescid Fountain

This fountain was commissioned by Bafra chief Haznedar-Zade Necebetlü Hamdi Beyefendi.

Taşlı Fountain

Taşlı is the second fountain commissioned by Bafra chief Haznedar-Zade Necebetlü Hamdi Beyefendi in 1840 and is situated at the top of Hacı İzzet Ağa Street.

Emir Mirza Bey Tomb

The Emir Mirza Bey shrine is situated 5km away from Bafra centre, in the village of Türbe. At first sight, the shrine grounds resemble a family burial site. It was built by Bafra's chief of the time, Emir-Mirza Bey, about 600 years ago.

The building is made with unhewn stone and is closed off with a tent-like dome. The

Ali Bey Fountain



Hüseyin Bey Fountain





Emir Mirza Bey Tomb

inscription on the wall indicates that it was built in 1381 and that the people buried here had died of the plague.

The shrine itself is hidden among trees and its interior has been badly damaged by treasure hunters and quietly awaits restoration.

Emir Efendi Tomb

Bafra Municipality restored this old tomb in 1995. The interior is covered with Turkish style motifs on tiles (Çini), all the way up to the domed roof. Emir Efendi's sarcophagus is placed in the centre of the structure, where you are likely to come across praying visitors throughout the day.

Hızır Bey Tomb

Hızır Bey Tomb is situated in Kümbet Tepe northwest of Çetinkaya, 2km away from Bafr

○ Turkish Bath (Hamam) Culture

Houses did not have bathrooms in the old days, and only the wealthiest of the townspeople had private hamams in their homes. The prominent Hacikabaşar family was one such family who had a domed hamam with floor heating and three marble basins.

The hamam in homes usually tended to be inside the large cabinets of chimneyed rooms, where a stove would boil water which was then mixed with cold water to bathe.

Even those with hamams at home would visit the hamam once a week. People would sweat, and then tellaks (attendants at hamams) would scrub them down from head to toe with a special exfoliating cloth (kese) followed by loofah. The cleansing ritual would end when the tellaks called for towels.

The bathers would then be wrapped up in towels and shown to a relaxation area where they would be offered coffee.

The hamams would be most crowded on Friday mornings.

In time, the ritualistic aspects of the hamam culture faded away, as people started having bathrooms in their own homes.

district centre. Another name for the tomb, therefore, is Kümbet Dede. Hızır Bey, son of chief Candaroğlu İsfendiyar Bey, Hızır Bey, lies here. Constructed in 1411-20.

Şifa Turkish Bath (Old Hamam)

This hamam is a typical domed structure built 15th century. The holes in the ceiling, especially created to let in the sun rays, looks just like the surface of the moon when viewed from above. Although the bath is quite narrow, it is one of the largest hamams of this time. Şifa bath has stood the test of time, but the acacia tree growing towards the middle of its dome, urgently calls for preservative action.

Çetinkaya Bridge

This 650m-long wooden bridge was used to connect the banks of the Kızılırmak River until 1937. A new 250m bridge was built in 1937 with the support of the then transport minister Ali Çetinkaya. The structure, which boasts a total of seven arches, is one of the great examples of early republican architecture.

Çetinkaya Bridge



Emir Efendi Tomb



All newly-weds cross the Çetinkaya Bridge

All couples who wed in Bafra and newly circumcised boys, cross Çetinkaya Bridge for good luck and throw stones into the Kızılırmak River to fend off bad luck.



○ Hamams in Bafra

There are three hamams in Bafra. These are: Paşa Hamam in Cumhuriyet Square, Eski Hamam, opposite the electricity plant and Uzun Hamam situated next to the Büyük Mosque, which was called Han Hamam until 50 years ago. Eski Hamam belonged to Lawyer Mahmut Nedim, but was actually run by Emin and Nihat Bey who immigrated to Bafra from Boyabat. Uzun Hamam was managed by Toduklar.

Bafra's Kızılırmak

Kızılırmak originates from Sivas Kızıl Mountain and meanders through Central Anatolia, and then cuts across Bafra to reach the Black Sea. Several lakes line the river mostly on the east side of Kızılırmak. They are: Duldibi, Liman, Hayırlı, Çernek, Uzungöl, Tombulgöl, and İncegöl. There's also Karaboğaz Lake on the west side.

The lakes are mostly surrounded by marshland and reed, but some areas also are under forest cover.

Kızılırmak Delta fish lake

Kızılırmak Delta

Kızılırmak Delta, stretching out over 60km of the Black Sea coastline, is one of the most bountiful agricultural lands in Turkey. The delta is dotted with fish lakes, islets, grasslands, muddy flats and farmland. The delta provides key shelter for the bird population, especially in the winter months.

Lakes

Top quality carp is farmed in the 33 lakes scattered around the delta, including Karaboğaz, Balık, Liman,





Dutdibi, Uzungöl, Hayırlı, İnce, Çernek, Tombul lakes. The region is one of the key water ecosystems in the country and is an important ecotourism spot. Bird watchers are particularly fond of the area, as the marshland and reeds surrounding the lakes provide ample opportunity to observe birds in their natural surroundings.

Local and international seafood exports

The region has a major crayfish industry, exporting entirely to foreign markets since 1985,

Reeds of Kızılırmak Delta

while they supply fish for various parts of Turkey.

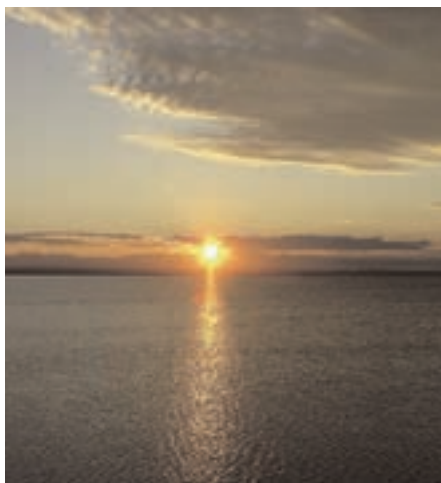
The lake that meets the sea

Liman Lake, very near the Black Sea coast, sometimes meets seawater in windy weather, the large waves of the Black Sea crashing into the sweet waters of Liman.

Various salt-water fish are therefore able to survive in the lake.

○ Bafra's southern wind: Dağyeli

Dağyeli (meaning mountain breeze) is what the Bafra residents call the south and southwestern wind blowing past their district. Bafra's humidity level is relatively low compared to the surrounding districts, as the dry and cool mountain breezes disperse the humidity. In the summertime, it is a northwestern and northeastern wind called Poyraz that keeps the heat at bay in Bafra.





The Kızılırmak Delta Bird Paradise

The town which is a "bird paradise" is the biggest wetland of the Kızılırmak Delta that has achieved to protect the natural properties of the Nord Sea Cost. The fact the life medias such as sea, river, lack, sand dune, reed bed, marshy ground, forest and agricultural fields take place in a healthy ecosystem ensures the "Bafra Bird Paradise" to have biologically a huge richness and variety. It is ascertained that 340 ones of the 420 bird genders in Turkey leaves in this delta and 140 ones of these genders realize their population in this field. Of the 24 bird gender under risk all over the world, 24 bird genders were ascertained in this delta.



From these genders, only big sea sandpipers, North Pearl Bird (Kuzey incikuşu), Little berry bird (küçük kiraz kusu) and White Berry Bird (Akkiraz kuşu) are seen only in the Kızılırmak Delta for the last 20 years. Some of the bird genders of which the generation is under risk and which are seen in the "Bafra Bird Paradise" are respectively: Dalmatian Pelican, Dwarf Cormorant, Goose having red neck, Bird with vertical tail (dikkuyruk), Shah Eagle, Sea Eagle, Little Kestrel, Tarda. Among them, Sea Eagle, Dalmatian Pelican, Black Stork, Stork, Crane, Kingfisher, Duck Yagmurcan and Singer Bird Passeriformes take also place. The fact that 100.000 birds leave therein is the best indicator showing that the delta is rich in respect of food substract and fauna elements.

The Kızılırmak delta harbors 1 piece Visitors Centre, 1 piece Administration Centre and 2 piece Bird Observation Towers. A person visiting the delta for purpose of excursion is supplied information about the delta through Image Monitoring Centre in the Visitors Centre, the Exhibition Hall and the Sale Stand where particularly regional products are promoted. The images being obtained in the image monitoring centre by four piece cameras placed in different points of the delta may be seen by a desiring visitor and also a curious bird observing person may also watch such birds from the Bird Monitoring Tower.



Kızılırmak Delta and bird paradise





Fishing boats of the delta



Lake Tourism: Altinkaya and Derbent Dam Lakes

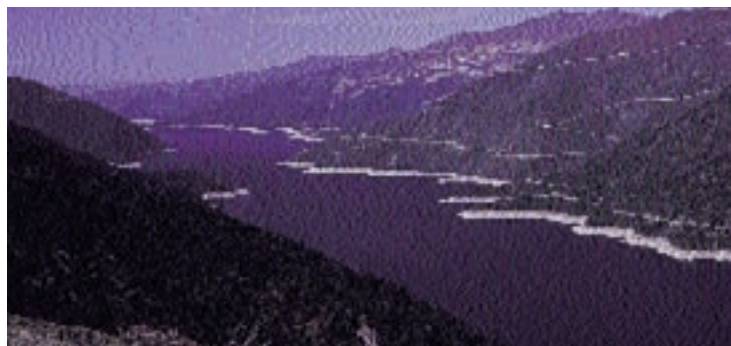
Altinkaya and Derbent dams, built over the Kızılırmak River, are popular spots for rod fishing enthusiasts. The lakes host carp, rainbow trout, sweet-water seabass, sheatfish, grey mullet, rudd among various other species. If you can spare the time, a 3.5km trip up the waterway will allow you to fish on the Kızılırmak River itself, where an annual fishing competition is held.

There are also lake safaris held throughout the season.

For those who want to rest, a

Altinkaya Dam, Şahin Canyon





Altinkaya Dam lake

trout restaurant is open year-round by the lakeside.

Şahin Canyon

Şahin Canyon, which extends from Altinkaya River, is truly a natural wonder to behold. The rock canyon barely allows a four-car capacity ferry to zigzag through the narrow passageway. Once the ferry comes out of the canyon, you will be greeted by the breathtaking view of the Kunduz Forests of Vezirköprü. One of the most awe-inspiring things about the ferry crossing is the 80-meter-long stairway carved into the rocks. People use the stairway to fish for carp

and sheatfish these days. It is also possible to camp with caravans and tents on the hillside overlooking the canyon.

Fun, Bafra-style

The night of the 14th day of Ramadan is when the Sele-sepet festival is held and it very closely resembles trickortreating on Halloween night.

Parents buy their young ones paper lanterns called 'sele' and the children visit houses in their neighbourhood one by one, where they are offered candy, small change and fruit.

Restaurants by the dam lakeside





Outdoor leisure sports and festivals

Agricultural Fair- a special occasion

The fair is held in July every year and melon-growing competitions are held.

May 7 tradition

Bafra locals hold celebrations all day long on 7 May in the countryside and throw stones in the Kızılırmak River in the morning to make their wishes come true.

○ Zembil: a local handicraft

1. Gathering reeds from the delta

The local handicraft of zembil used to be popular in Köytepe especially until 20 years ago, but now it is on the verge of dying out as only a few people practice it today. Zembil is weaved out of reed and corncob leaves with the help of a 50cm steel wire bent in half serving as a needle. Natural dyes obtained from onion peel and green walnut shells are also used.

Weaving zembil

Corncob leaves are softened with water, and after being cut into three equal longitudinal pieces, they are woven around the reed stalks. The leaves are dyed and even decorated with patterns.



Woman harvesting tobacco.

Henna Nights

It is long-standing tradition to host henna nights the eve of a wedding when the groom's family (women only) come to the bride's home bearing henna, flour, butter, sugar and halva as well as a dress for the bride. Candles are lit on plates and henna is applied first to the sole of the bride's right foot and then the palm of her left hand. In the meantime, guests throw money into the henna tray placed in front of the bride-to-be. The candles are waved above her head in rhythmical moves before the rest of the guests apply henna to their hands and form queues and dance along to live music.

Bafra Cuisine

Bafra is well known for its pide (Turkish pizza), meatballs, nokul (made with walnuts and dried raisins wrapped in dough) and honey and cream ice cream.

An exquisite prune dish made in the local area is unfortunately fast becoming a thing of the past. It is diced red meat fried with dried prunes and butter, which is very easy on the stomach.



Henna night





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19 Mayıs, view of the district

19 MAYIS

If you drive eastwards past Bafra on the Samsun - Sinop highway, you will get to 19 Mayıs district with a population of 25,000, 33km away from Samsun. 19 Mayıs boasts a 20km-long Black Sea coastline and is

therefore a popular holiday spot for the people of Samsun, and is renowned for various festivals.

The district centre is situated east of the Kızılırmak delta and resembles a meadow. The presence of hundreds of bird species living by the nearby lakes gives the area a special atmosphere.

The region saw three waves of immigration, the first from the Caucasus and Dagestan regions between 1877-78, followed by an influx of people from the Mediterranean and Aegean regions in 1905 and finally a 1912 immigration

19 Mayıs factcard

Population:	24.959
Area	362 km
19 Mayıs District Office	511 31 00
Municipality of 19 Mayıs	511 44 88



wave from Greece and Yugoslavia. Some Turcoman tribes settled in the area after the Malazgirt battle in 1071 and the region came under the rule of



19 Mayıs shoreline

the Melik Danişment Gazi principality set up after the war, but was passed

History

The mound in the village of Beylik dating back to the first Bronze Age and the Hazir ilyas mound takes the history of the town back to 3000 BC. And the other historical places are the Kofteroglu tumulus in the village of Cetinlipinar, the tumulus in the mountain village, the tumulus near the town of Yorukler.

19 Mayıs, views of the district





19 Mayıs Aqua Park

back and forth between the Danişments, Byzantines and Seljuks until it became part of the Ottoman empire in 1428, during the Çelebi Mehmet era. The area saw a second wave of immigration following the 1877-78 war when Caucasians and Dagestan emigrants settled here. Finally, the Ottoman Turks set up home in the villages in 1915, following the Balkan wars. There were also Salonica Turks who arrived in the area after the Independence War, as part of a population exchange with the Greeks.

District Centre

A sculpture of Atatürk and the town hall welcome you to the district centre. The old and delicate clock tower is in 19 Mayıs Square. To reach the seafront, take a U-turn from the right side of the town hall.. The coastal road is wide, but in poor condition. About 1km along the shoreline is the Balıca Tekel Factory and the road eventually ends at the beach, which stretches as far as the eye can see in either direction, and then you are facing the energetic waves of the Black Sea. This is a great place to sunbathe as the wind takes the edge off the heat. The Municipality water park along the shore is a popular fun spot for local kids, who dive into the sea via waterslides installed on a long wooden pier. Traces of 19 Mayıs' past can be seen in

the Ahşap Mosque, Yörükler Hamamı (Turkish Bath) and Taş Bridge.

Ahşap Mosque

The mosque situated on Fatih Avenue is made entirely of wood and was probably constructed in the 19th century. The structure is quite plain and devoid of any decorations.

19 Mayıs Square clock tower





Nebiyen Forests

Yörükler Hamamı (public bath)

This hamam is found near the fish river by the Yörükler neighbourhood.

Taş Bridge

The stone bridge was built in the Yörükler - Kalaba neighbourhood in the 19th century by the Ottomans. The bridge boasts a single arch and a major portion of its supports are not covered in earth.

Climate in 19 Mayıs

The local climate is influenced by the surrounding sea and lakes, and is therefore mild and wet in the winter and cool in the summer. Frost is unheard of in this region. 19 Mayıs is a rare spot where mountains, sea, lake and forest are all positioned side-by-side. It's only on the hillsides of Mount Nebiyen that four distinct seasons can be felt. The land to the north of the district centre forms part of the meadows created by the Kızılırmak





Galenic Foest in the Yörükler neighborhood

River. Engiz brook, originating from Mount Nebiyan, feeds the meadows, and flows into the Black Sea.

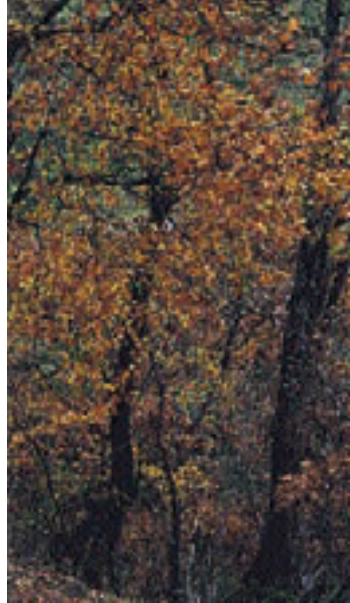
hazelnut, tobacco and corn cultivated in the area. Hand-weaving handicrafts are also quite well developed here, especially kilim-making.

Economic overview

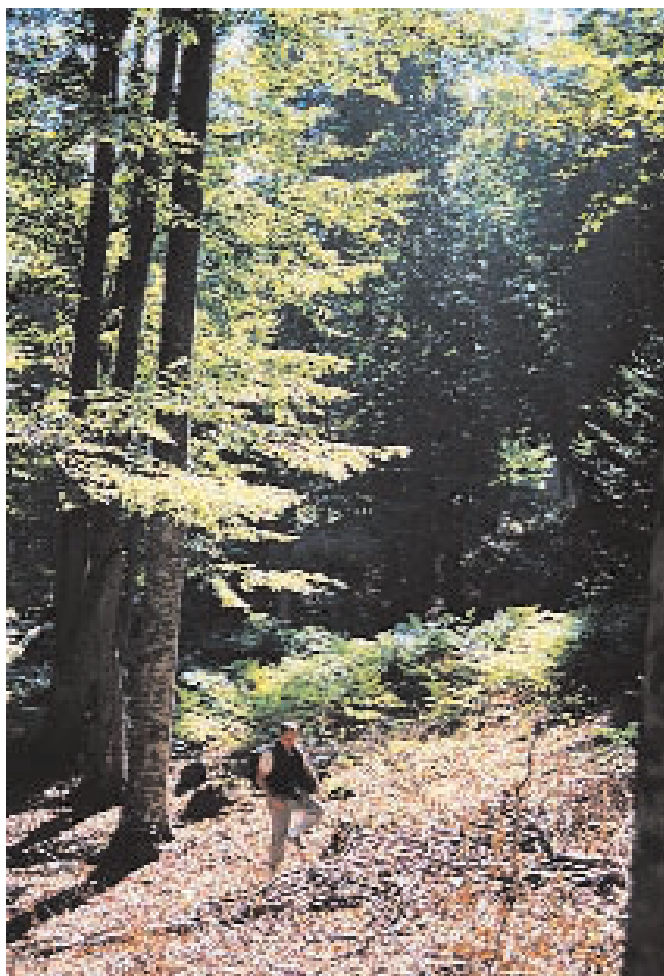
The 19 Mayıs region has a varied economy with locals earning a living from various trades including fishing, cattle, farming and even producing rush mats near the lakeside. Farming, though, is the backbone of the local economy here, with

Nature's generosity

The highest peak of the 19 Mayıs district is ideal for excursions and picnics, as it is surrounded by the Nebiyan forests. Many festivals take place at the top of this hill. You can swim in the cleanest water of the









Sunset in the Yörükler neighbourhood

region here and the Kızılırmak delta, which is just beside 19 Mayıs, provides an excellent opportunity for ecotourism as wetlands, marshlands, dunes, lakes and the sea co-exist in ecological harmony. The large number of birds inhabiting the area creates an excellent opportunity to promote Turkey on an international scale, carry out scientific studies and contribute to environmentalism.

Nebiyan Forests



A reflection of a rich culture

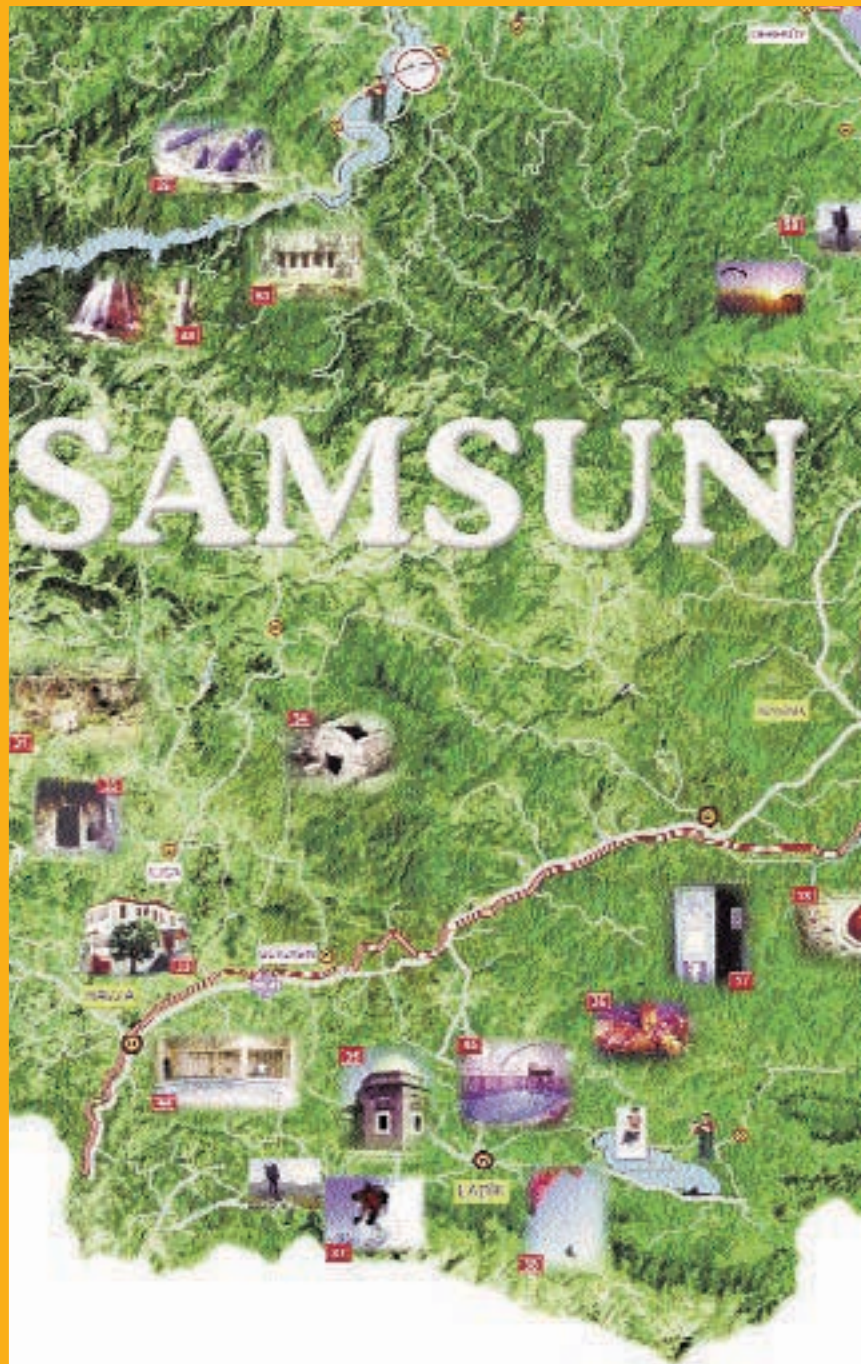
The district people are an interesting cultural mix, as three waves of immigration—from the Caucasus, Thrace, Eastern Anatolia and Eastern Black Sea regions—brought their own folk songs and dances to 19 Mayıs.

Do not leave before tasting the delicious börek

There is a rich food culture here, and the region is best known for its keşkek and Pıtıl bread dishes. The böreks (pastries) from the Balkans, meat and rice, tarhana soup, dried meat and liver dishes, and somun bread are specialties of the area.



SAMSUN





Tekkeköy, a view of the district

TEKKEKÖY

Tekkeköy is a new district in the eastern part of Samsun, overlooking the Black Sea, situated at the 13th km of the Samsun-Trabzon highway, east of Çarşamba. Tekkeköy is an easy ride from Samsun by road, with plenty of transport options. The new district has a population of

around 49,000, half of whom live in the centre, while the rest are distributed among villages. A third of the district is taken up by the Çarşamba plain, its rich soil used for intensive farming of tobacco, corn and other vegetables.

From the paleolithic era to the Ottomans

First signs of civilization in the area, just south of Tekkeköy, are dated back to somewhere between 400,000 years to 10,000 years BC, during the Paleolithic era. Archeological studies have also revealed remains from the Hittites and the Phrygians, before Pontus ruled over the area in the middle of the



Tekkeköy factcard

Population	49.462
Area	241 km ²
Tekkeköy District Office	256 04 65
Municipality of Tekkeköy	256 03 24



3rd century BC. Later, the Romans, Byzantines and Seljuks claimed it as their own. In an effort to convert the local folk to Islam and assimilate them, the

Seljuks appointed a holy man, Sheik Zeynuddin, thought to have lived between 1250-1330, to care for the needy in the area. Zeynuddin built a shrine where he fed the poor. It is thought that the name Tekkeköy has its roots in that very shrine, as the literal translation for “tekke” is “holy man’s lodge” .

In 1399 the Ottomans reigned over Tekkeköy but briefly gave way to the Kubatlıoğulları clan in 1402 following the Ankara war. However, the area became Ottoman territory once again in 1419 through Celebi Mehmet’s war efforts. Turks and local Greeks (Rum) co-existed peacefully during the Ottoman era until after the Lausanne Treaty, which required the Turks in Western Thrace to swap places with Greeks. As a result, the inhabitants of Tekkeköy today fall into three main categories: indigenous folk, immigrants, and the Western Thrace Turks who managed to preserve their cultural heritage following the population exchange.

Altinkaya Church



On the way to Tekkeköy: Kutlukent

A stone church, Keltepe, awaits travellers in the Altinkaya quarter, which is situated on the route towards Tekkeköy, a fair climb off the Kutlukent turn alongside the Kirazlık brook. The church dome, partially in ruins, is in urgent need of restoration, but the view from the church lays the city of Samsun virtually under one's feet. The local folk in Altinkaya are mostly of Western Thrace origin.

Windmill



A replica of Atatürk's house in Salonica



It is a good idea to head back to the main road after seeing the church as not much else lies beyond it.

Replica of Atatürk's house

An exact replica of Atatürk's birth home in Salonica can be seen on the way back from Keltepe Church, at the main road intersection

Çıkarman Windmill

If you follow the main road on the way back from Keltepe and take the first right after the traffic lights to reach Çıkarman cemetery and then take the first left after going through the burial ground, and you will come across a windmill made of stone, partially hidden behind the trees. Constructed in 19th Century.



Tekkeköy town square



Şeyh Yusuf Zeynüddin Mosque

Şeyh Yusuf Zeynüddin Mosque interior



Central Tekkeköy

The Government Hall features a sculpture of Atatürk in front of it and is situated beside the town hall.

Şeyh Yusuf Zeynüddin Mosque and Shrine

Islamic holy man Sheik Yusuf Zeynüddin, who lived during the Seljuk era, had the mosque built in 1285, and his shrine can be found in the mosque garden. Sadly, the mosque has lost its historical authenticity as all its exterior surfaces have been covered with mosaics.

Government Hall





Delikli Kayalar (Perforated Rocks)

Tekkeköy Caves (Delikli Kayalar)

Caves of varying sizes and shapes are scattered among the rocks towering along the valley fed by the Findıcak and Çınarlı streams. These natural structures belong to the Chalcolithic era (Copper Age), and some of them have been carved to extend the interior. A 1941 excavation in the area, headed by Ankara University Professor Tahsin Özgüç led to the discovery of several prehistoric shelters and yielded many prehistoric artifacts including axes, cutting tools, knives, bracelets and even needles exemplifying advanced craftsmanship. A large piece of rock overlooking the intersection between the Çınarcık and Findıcak valleys is known by the name 'Delikli Kaya', meaning "perforated rock". Delikli Kaya features a series of man-made steps, which have been traced back to the Phrygians.



Çınaralan Church and mosque

An uphill trek on a narrow and rough pathway from the rocky skirts of Delikli Kaya leads to Çınaralan village, where a converted church now serves as a mosque.

The only standing wall of an ancient church was incorporated into the local mosque by the villagers in 1994. Unfortunately, the redevelopment work left much to be desired, preserving no traces



Çınaralan church and mosque

of the ancient past.
The structure is now in need of skillful restoration work.

Costal Forest and seafont

Follow the signs to Çarşamba Airport off the Samsun - Ordu highway, and take a turn once

Antyeri Church



again by following the signs to Yeni Mahalle and Kurtuluş to reach the Costal Forest. Following the brook on your left side once at the forest, will eventually lead you to the sea where a virginal stretch of beach is dotted with holiday houses hidden among the pine trees.

The Hacı Osman grove stretches alongside the coastline; and Kapaklı Pınartepesi, Kırantepe, Azman, and Asarağaç hilltops at 700-800m altitude are popular spots for picnics and other leisure activities.

Coastal forest and seafont



Tekkeköy Cuisine

Rice with goose meat, yufka (a very thin sheet of dough) with meat, mincemeat pastries (börek) and oven kebabs are popular dishes in the area. Moreover, the local delicacy, Black Sea anchovy (hamsi), features heavily on the menu, as it is incorporated into various dishes such as rice and bread, but is also popular served pan-fried.



Fishermen in the Çakmak Dam lake.



Coastal waterfront houses

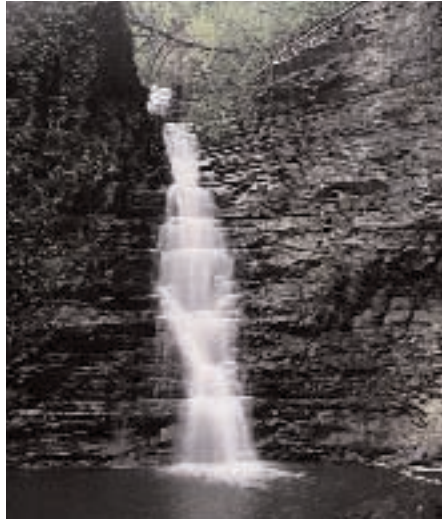
Çakmak Dam

Çakmak is the only dam in the area used to supply Samsun with drinking water. The water is purified in a water management complex before being distributed to the city.

Samsun has enough water resources to last until 2035, and the high quality of drinking water in the area places Samsun in first position in terms of the drinking-water quality in the region and also managed a place in the top ten nationwide.

Kabaceviz Waterfalls

Probably the most prominent natural beauty in Tekkeköy is the Kabaceviz Waterfalls. The waterfalls are found near Kabaceviz village, 35km from Tekkeköy. The road to Kabaceviz is easy and smooth, and the forest cover and greenery make it an ideal destination for day trips. Picnic tours, trekking and mountaineering are popular activities in the area and the three mesmerizing waterfalls are a year-round attraction for travelers. The area is now mostly known only to Çarşamba and Samsun residents, but it seems Kabaceviz will play a major role in attracting foreign visitors as well as Turkish tourists from across the nation. Holidaymakers and travellers can find restaurants in Kabaceviz village, where they can also choose to overnight, provided they bring their own tents.



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A view of the district from the riverbank

ÇARŞAMBA

Çarşamba district is 36 km from Samsun city centre along the Samsun-Ordu highway, in the Çarşamba plain. The only way to this district is by road. The historic railway running through the area has unfortunately been dismantled.

Çarşamba borders with Terme, Tekkeköy, Ayvacık, and Salıpazarı districts and opens up to the Black Sea coast, and is the second most populous district in Samsun.

Like Bafra, Çarşamba plain was created by the deposits of the Yeşilırmak River, which cuts it in half. Mountains extending from the Canik mountain range are situated to the south of the district.

Although the Canik mountains are under forest cover, the woodland area in the Çarşamba plain is by Çaltı Burnu. Yeşilırmak, which is one of the longest rivers in Turkey, flowing 416km from its point of origin in the Köse Mountains (2801m) in Sivas to Civa Burnu where it meets the Black Sea.

Delta lakes have formed along Yeşilırmak River where it approaches the Black Sea coast, and they are: Dumanlı Lake, Akarak Lake, Akmaz Lake and Kocagöl Lake. The lakes are mostly surrounded by reedbeds and marshland.

Çarşamba factcard

Population	138.527
Area	708 km ²
Çarşamba District Office	833 10 07
Municipality of Çarşamba	833 4685



No more floods in Çarşamba

There is a famous folk song about the spring floods in the Çarşamba plain, but this has now become a thing of the past because of two new dams, Hasan Uğurlu and Suat Uğurlu, which now control

District park



the water supply. In the old days, melting snow and spring showers would flood the area. Nowadays small-scale floods occur from time to time when floodgates release excess water, but the widespread damage brought on by the flooding is no longer a worry for the locals.

Çarşamba: Amazon Country and Miletus Colony

Çarşamba district used to be part of the Amisos (Samsun) trade colony which was run by sailors from Miletus round 6th century, who named the Yeşilirmak River and its surroundings 'Iris'. The Ordu village and Kurşunlu area, south of Çarşamba, was called 'Miskere' during their reign.

According to Greek historical sources, Çarşamba Plain was home to Amazons (women warriors) in the 8th century BC and then came under the rule of Persians in the 6th century BC. The Roman Empire took over the area in 63 BC, but it was left to the Byzantines in 395 AD after the Empire broke into two.

Çarşamba: the history behind the name

Sarıcalı district and Kuşdoğan villages were on the site of modern-day Çarşamba. A large fair was organized in the region on Wednesdays (Çarşamba) starting from 1370. It was called the 'Çarşamba Market', and the district eventually took the name of the historical market.



District Centre

When Seljuk Sultan Kılıçarslan II shared his empire among his 11 sons in 1185, Çarşamba fell under the rule of Rüknettin Süleyman Şah. After the fall of the Seljuk state, the area became part of a Canik Principality called Tacettinoğulları before the Ottomans arrived in 1428. During the Ottoman era, Çarşamba was overseen by Yörgüç Pasha, Hacı Ali Pasha and Hazinedaroğulları. The district also bears traces of early Bronze Age settlements in İlçede Tepecik, Kilise Tepe, and Tünbütepe mounds.

District Centre

Life in the town of Çarşamba has always been defined by the river Yeşilırmak, as it cuts straight through the centre of Çarşamba, dividing it into two distinct halves. Locals have always lived with the notion of the 'other side' over the river, with only one wooden bridge, built in early 20th century, connecting the two banks. This wooden bridge had to be converted to stone because of frequent flooding but even the stone bridge had trouble withstanding the harsh floodwaters. Now there is a



*Old wooden bridge and the historic stone bridge built in its place (top).
The bridge today (bottom)*





District Centre

second bridge along the Samsun-Ordu highway, outside of the district centre, and construction for a third bridge is under way. This new bridge, south of its historical counterpart, will connect the old neighbourhoods with the new. It is expected that the town will extend towards the south with the addition of the new bridge as Çarşamba is currently boxed in by the Samsun-Ordu highway.

The town centre is situated on the east bank, and all governmental offices and municipality buildings are found here. The west bank settlement started around the old train station and grew from there. Çarşamba middle and high schools were also built on the west side.

Examples of local architecture



Bazaar door (top), Ferhan Şensoy house (bottom)





District center

Very few examples of historic Çarşamba houses survive to this day. Çarşamba was a green district with one- or two-storey houses with gardens thirty years ago, but four- or five-storey apartment blocks quickly took over the area, creating a real eyesore in the area.

The best place to visit if you want to see some historical houses is the Çay district where famous Turkish

actor Ferhan Şensoy was born. Şensoy's father was the mayor of Çarşamba and Nabi Şensoy cultural center, named after him, is open all year round.

Bazaar and Göğceli Mosque

The Bazaar, which was built in 1826, has kept its original architectural characteristics and still serves as an important trade centre in the area.

Bird's eye view of the Bazaar





Göçeli Mosque in the old days



Göçeli Mosque now and an interior view



Göçeli Mosque, in the grounds of the Göçeli cemetery, is a great example of Anatolian wooden architecture and was built in 1206. No one knows who commissioned the building of the mosque. The structure is single-storey and elevated and can be moved in its entirety to another location. The exterior of the mosque is lined with planks which are 12-18 cm thick, 50-70cm wide and 12-20cm long. These planks set the mosque apart



District center

from its contemporary counterparts.

Göğceli mosque, which survived through centuries despite humidity, sun and rain, was restored last year and the wood decorations inside were brought back to life. There are seven mosques in total, dating back to the Ottoman era: Rıdvan Bey (1781), Abdullah Paşa (1847), Değirmenbaşı (1908), Yeni Keten Mosque (end of 19th century) and Kanarya Mosque. A wooden mosque, Sheik Habil, thought to have built in 1619 stands in Yayalar village. There are

also various tombs and dervish lodges found in the area from the Ottoman and Seljuk eras. They are: Yeşil, Çıban, Semail, Yeşil, Ülfî, Sarlık, Yel Lodges and, Gazi Hasan Bey Tomb.

It is also possible to visit the remains of the Eski Kent (Old City) Church from Byzanthian times in the Gülören village and Sivritepe has an ancient underground bazaar which is worth seeing. Kestane Pınar and Ulupınar caves are also worth a visit as are the old city ruins in Göller Mevkii.

Yeşilırmak bank





District center

Recreation along the Yeşilırmak banks

Yeşilırmak used to be a historical transport route, but these days river boats are not able to make their way into it as the water levels have dropped significantly.

Fifty years ago, the same rafts used for transport in the Fırat river were used here, but now the dikes built along the river banks to prevent flooding are being used as recreational areas for jogging and walking, with teahouses positioned along the walkways.

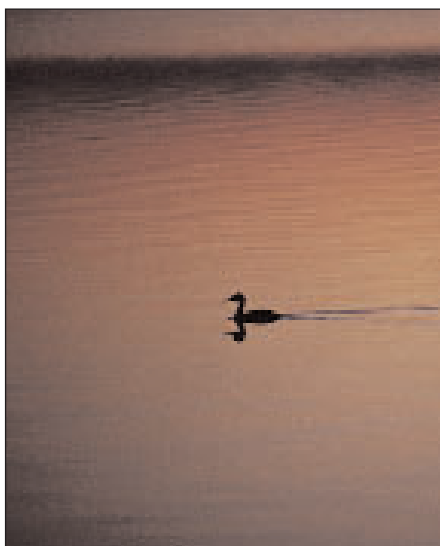
The patch of land which used to be surrounded by the two branches of the Yeşilırmak River, then called 'island', is no longer surrounded by water, and Çarşamba municipality has plans to build recreational facilities there.

Karadeniz shoreline, beaches and wetlands

Çarşamba district centre is situated 10-15km away from the sea, and therefore most locals prefer to visit surrounding districts Terme, Ünye and Fatsa for seaside

trips. In fact, Çarşamba has a 50km-long coastline and an endless stretch of sand beaches interweaving with lakes and wetlands. The district shoreline is a natural wonder waiting to be discovered, even by the locals themselves.

The shoreline towards Civa Burnu, situated 10-12km from the district centre, is especially worth seeing as it boasts fine, white sand





Virginia tobacco

beaches. The Çarşamba Lakes, surrounded by reed beds, are abundant in fish stocks and shelter rich bird life, which makes them an attractive spot for hunting and fishing enthusiasts.

An agricultural hub

The Çarşamba plain, irrigated by the Yeşilırmak River, is a major agricultural centre, mostly responsible for Samsun's 40% contribution to corn production in Turkey. There are various other crops grown in the region including wheat, barley, rice, beans, soy, chickpeas, sugarcane, sunflower, peach, hazelnut and apple. A 450km² area of farmland is used for tobacco production, yielding 42 tons of tobacco a year on average. The large arable land area in

Çarşamba also allows local farmers to grow vegetables.

Secondary industries have also developed in the area, as there are three hazelnut processing plants which ship to the USA, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and United Arab Emirates. There are also two seafood processing plants exporting products to France.

Rich cultural heritage brought on by migrations

Following the Lausanne Peace treaty, many people from Salonica, Kavala, Caucasus, eastern Black Sea coast and Georgia settled in the area, creating a rich melting pot of cultural heritage. The local Greeks (Rum), on the other hand, left the area for a life in Greece.



The folk dances of the area therefore vary greatly in nature, including the typical Black Sea dance, horon, accompanied by kemençe, Rumeli dances

Cherry tree



accompanied by drum and horn and Caucasian dances accompanied by accordion music.

Corn and 'Pide', the dual crown of Çarşamba cuisine

Corn cake, corn soup, keşkek, kaz tiridi (a goose dish) and kale soup and stuffed leaves. You simply must try Çarşamba pide (similar to calzone pizza) made with wheat flour. In the big cities, this pide is known as either Samsun or Bafra pide, but it actually originates from Çarşamba. Wood ovens in local restaurants are used to bake thin-crust pides stuffed with cheese, minced meat and herbs. There are open-pides as well (just like regular pizza) with egg and salami toppings.





LEGEND	
	City center
	Districts center
	Town center
	Dam, Lake, River
	Brook
	State highway
	Road
	Transp. Codes
	State Railway
	Fish Hakchery
	District
	Town

Terme





Terme Brook

TERME

Terme is situated 58 km from Samsun and 22 km from its nearest neighbouring district, Çarşamba.

Terme opens up to the Black Sea coast in the north, borders Ünye and İkizce in the east, Salıpazarı and Çarşamba in the west and neighbours Akkuş in the south. The Terme brook cuts straight through the district, dividing Terme into two equal parts, before flowing into the Black Sea.

Akgöl and Simenit Lakes in Terme are situated near the Black Sea coast and are connected to one another via a series of natural canals. The lakes have salt water and therefore are not used for irrigating farmland. Instead Akgöl and Simenit are popular fishing and bird-watching sites, as both lakes shelter various species of bird.

Terme factcard

Population	77.178
Area	678 km ²
Terme District Office	876 10 03
Municipality of Terme	876 10 02





Many civilisations fought over Terme

Hittites were the earliest civilisation to have ruled over Terme soil, followed by the Phrygians and then the Cimmerian Amazons.

The mountains near Termedon (Terme Water) are sometimes

referred to as the Amazon Mountains (Amazonius Mous) in certain encyclopedias and maps because of its past female inhabitants. Old Greek colonisers who once occupied Terme's coast, also spoke of a women-only society ruling over these parts.

The Medes, Persians and Romans reigned over the region successively until 395, when Terme became part of the Byzantine Empire. Then came the Seljuks, who ruled over the entire stretch of the Anatolian Black Sea coast between 1219-1236. Eretna Amasya Bey, who was the regional mayor in Seljuk times, eventually set up his own state claiming Amasya, Samsun, Tokat, Sivas and Kayseri. When the Ottoman Sultan, Yıldırım Beyazıt, took hold of the Black Sea region, Taceddin Oğulları and Canik Principality chiefs accepted Ottoman rule. From then on Terme was part of the Canik administrative rule until the rise of the Turkish Republic.

Terme coastline



○ Legendary Female Warriors: The Amazons

Amazons belonged to the legendary female-warrior tribe which is thought to have dwelled near the banks of the Terme Brook (Themiskyra) around 1200BC. The Amazons used to ride horses and were skillful with the arrow and bow. It is said that they cut off their left breast to be able to aim their arrows more precisely, and also used spears, axes and shields. The word Amazon means “unbreasted” in Greek, and “moon woman” in Armenian, but also has a secondary meaning of “man killer”.

Amazons used to worship head Goddess Kybele, and led an extraordinary lifestyle by modern cultural standards. The female-only tribe, used men as servants and workers, and mated with captured prisoners of war before killing them off. They are also thought to have killed any emerging male offspring while raising their daughters with utmost care to turn them into strong and able warriors. The Amazons served as a buffer entity between the Hittites and the Greeks, but three large kingdoms joined up to stage a major offensive against them, resulting in their fall.

Greek geographer Herodotus, Strabon and famous Turkish writer nicknamed “The Fisherman of Halikarnassos” all mention the Amazons in their stories. Herodotus talks of Amazonian battles against the Greeks and the Scythians and describes how the female tribe crushed the Scythians, who shockingly realised they had fought against women when they saw the dead bodies on the battle field.

Strabon, on the other hand, focused on the cultural roots and identity of the Amazon women in his accounts, claiming the ancient cities of Ephessos, Smyrna, Kyme and Myrina were named by them.

The Fisherman of Halikarnassos tells a similar story in his writings, claiming many of the major cities in the Agean region were set up by the Amazons. In one of his stories, he tells the story of an Amazon queen called Mirin, who captures

the city of Serne. The queen kills all the men and keeps the women and children as slaves, and later on builds a city for them bearing her name. Mirin also founds the cities of Kyme, Prienne, Pitane, and Mitilin in the Lesbos Island. One day, the Queen’s fleet gets caught in a severe storm on the way to the Lesbos, and is saved by Goddess Kybele who safely guides the ships to Semadirek Island. Queen Mirin builds a temple on this uninhabited island, as a sign of deep gratitude to her Goddess.



District centre

Multi-storey houses greet us as we enter the district centre. Most of these buildings have shops on the ground floor and the road eventually leads you to the district square which opens into five different roads. The town hall is situated by the square and there is also a clock tower in the middle. You need to cross over the Terme Brook and continue along the main road to reach the Amazon statue and picnic areas. When you see a sign which reads 'welcome to Evcı Beldesi',

take a left, and you should see the Amazon statue right in front of you.

Çamlık camping grounds

Çamlık has a beach in front and pine forests towards the back of the campgrounds, where tents and caravans are allowed. It is also pretty child-friendly here as slides and swings have been set up in various spots along the beach. Çamlık is also a popular destination for those who prefer day-trips rather than stayovers.



Çamlık camping ground

Typical Black Sea climate, forests in abundance

Terme is rainy throughout the four seasons and has cool summers and mild winters, which are the two major characteristics of the Black Sea climate. Nature here has had a chance to flourish because of heavy rainfall, but unfortunately a significant portion of the forests has been converted into farmland in the last 30 years due to population explosion in the area. It is only the poplar and hazelnut groves which have resisted change. Gölardı Poplar Grove is one of the rarest poplar groves of its kind in the world. The hilly landscape in the south now hosts hazelnut plantations rather than natural forest cover.



Aşağı Söğütlü Mosque

Söğütlü villages

The settlement areas on either side of the main road are called Aşağı (Lower) Söğütlü and Yukarı (Upper) Söğütlü villages. If you head towards Ayvacık on the main road and turn off into Aşağı Söğütlü village, you will come across a coffehouse, a few shops and a municipal building on the right-hand side. You can reach the Aşağı Söğütlü Mosque by walking past the gardens of wooden-fenced houses.

Yukarı Söğütlü Mosque

Aşağı Söğütlü Mosque

The mosque boasts a minaret well-proportioned to its size, but the locals have built an additional minaret, twice the height of the mosque itself. The local imam says this new minaret has more 'character'. There is a nice surprise in the back garden of the mosque, where you will come across a one-storey, wooden mosque. This building has been painstakingly maintained and preserved by the locals and nothing has been altered inside it. The mosque undergoes





Yukarı Söğütlü Mosque door

annual maintenance work, where the wood work is covered with special protective materials to keep it from rotting. Constructed in 19th Century

Yukarı Söğütlü Mosque

You need to backtrack all the way to the main road and drive into the opposite road to get to Yukarı Söğütlü Mosque which sits in the grounds of an old cemetery. You will reach the mosque if you travel along

Terme Pazar Mosque



the brook and reedbeds for approximately 5km. The mosque has not undergone any restoration work, but it is open to the public for worship.

Pazar Mosque

Pazar Camii was built in 1840 in typical Ottoman style. It is a single-storey building, entirely made out of wood, and has a tomb right next to it, which bears inscriptions on the south side. The minaret of the mosque collapsed in 1939, and a new one was built in its place in 1961.

Historic Miliç bridge





Miliç Canal

Miliç Pine Grove

If you are after a bit of swimming and relaxation under the shade of pine trees, then Miliç Grove could be the ideal place for you. The Miliç pine grove extends from Terme's Yalı neighbourhood to Akçay and boasts a natural beach where the trees meet the clear-blue sea. It is a popular weekend holiday spot for Terme locals and people from nearby districts.

National park grounds

Tomb of Cüneyd-i Bağdadı

This tomb is situated in the village of Dibekli, and there are two theories about who is actually buried here. Some think it is Cüneyd-i Bağdadı from Baghdad, and other believe the tomb is the final resting place for Cüneyt Bey, a Kubatoğulları commander. Nevertheless, the tomb is crowded on weekends with visitors who also make use of the surrounding green spaces for picnics.





Simenit and Akgöl lakes



Akgöl, Simenit and Silindir lakes

Akgöl, Simenit and Silindir lakes are natural wildlife reserves, under the protection of the National Parks Directorate, and are situated between Terme and the Black Sea. These lakes, which have relatively shallow waters, serve as nesting grounds for hundreds of bird species.

Terme Cuisine

Just as in all the other districts of Samsun, the most famous local dish here is keşkek.

Homemade deserts are also popular in Terme and dishes such as anchovy rice, tirit corn soup and lepsi feature heavily on the menu. We also highly recommend the Terme pide (resembles pizza); you should not leave these parts without having tasted it.

Recipe for Terme pide:

The dough is made using water, and the pide is baked in a stone oven using oak wood. Unlike pides in other parts of Turkey, Terme pide is distinctly soft and rich in toppings.







KAVAK

Kavak, 51 km from Samsun, is situated along the Samsun-Ankara highway which connects the middle Black Sea Region to Central Anatolia. Approximately 22,000 people live in Kavak, with 13,000 concentrated in rural areas. Kavak, surrounded by Asarcık, Havza, Samsun, Bafra and Ladik, is built upon a hilly terrain. The Murat River, originating from Mount Hac, and

the artificial ponds surrounding it supply water to nearby areas for home use and irrigation.

The local economy is dependent on farming and cattle and the majority of farmers grow cereal crops such as wheat, corn, barley and rye. Highland villages, on the other hand, are mostly dependent on forestry in addition to chalk, brick and tile production.

History of Kavak

Excavations carried out in the area in 1941 yielded artifacts dating back to between 3500-2000 BC, in Kaledoruğu Mound, north of the Kavak district centre. Kaledoruğu Mound was an early cradle for civilisation starting from the 1st Bronze era. Various

Kavak factcard

Population:	21.559
Area	653 km ²
Kavak District Office	741 30 07
Municipality of Kavak	741 33 12



artifacts belonging to the
Hitit, Hellenistic, Roman,

Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods were also recovered here. Followed by the Phrygians in 1200BC and then Miletians in the 7th century BC. Pontus took over the area from 333BC, until the Romans' arrival. It was Yıldırım Beyazıt Han who took control over a portion of the area from the İsfendiyaroğulları, and the whole area was under Ottoman reign by 1410 during the rule of Çelebi Mehmet.

Kaledoruğu Mound

It seems that Kaledoruğu Mound, which was given national heritage status in 1941 after an initial archeological study under supervision of Prof. Dr. Kılıç Kökten. The area, was used as an army point to keep watch over the road between Amasya and Samsun, because of its strategic significance.

Çakallı Bridge and Mosque

Çakallı Bridge, a surviving stone structure, stands 1km away from Kavak and provides an entry point into the district. The wooden Çakallı mosque is placed right beside the bridge where a restoration project is under way. The mosque was built on large wooden columns as it stands near the river.

Çakallı Bridge





Taş Inn

Bekdemir village mosque





Taş Han (Çakallı Hanı)

Taş Han (Inn), a Seljuk building, used to host travelers along the Ankara-Samsun road, but now it is only home to wild birds and a few beehives. The inn boasts a grand entrance and the 3.5m-tall door stands wide open. The interior has a semi-circular shape and boasts arches to the left and right of the structure.

Bekdemir village mosque

Bekdemir village is 15km from Kavak. The village mosque, a wooden structure, is one of the best-preserved mosques of its time, as the decorative figures painted on the interior walls with natural root colouring have remained intact. Constructed in 16th Century.

Excursion spots and Yaşar Doğu festival

Kavak is surrounded by picnic spaces and leisure spots and the Yaşar Doğu Festival is a social

Interior view of the Bekdemir village mosque





Kavak excursion and picnic grounds

highlight in the area, held in honour of the national hero who was born in 1913 in Kavak. Kavak folk have a special place in their hearts for the wrestler and the wrestling competition, and the festival held in his

○ Yaşar Doğu

Yaşar Doğu, born in 1913 in Kavak, was one of the all-time great Turkish sportsmen. Doğu represented Turkey in various international wrestling competitions and won the Balkan and European Championships countless times, followed by a gold medal in the 1948 Olympics. Doğu is still etched in the memory of the Turkish people for his accomplishments half a century ago.

honour sees people from across Samsun flock to the district every August.

"Keşik" – an old tradition

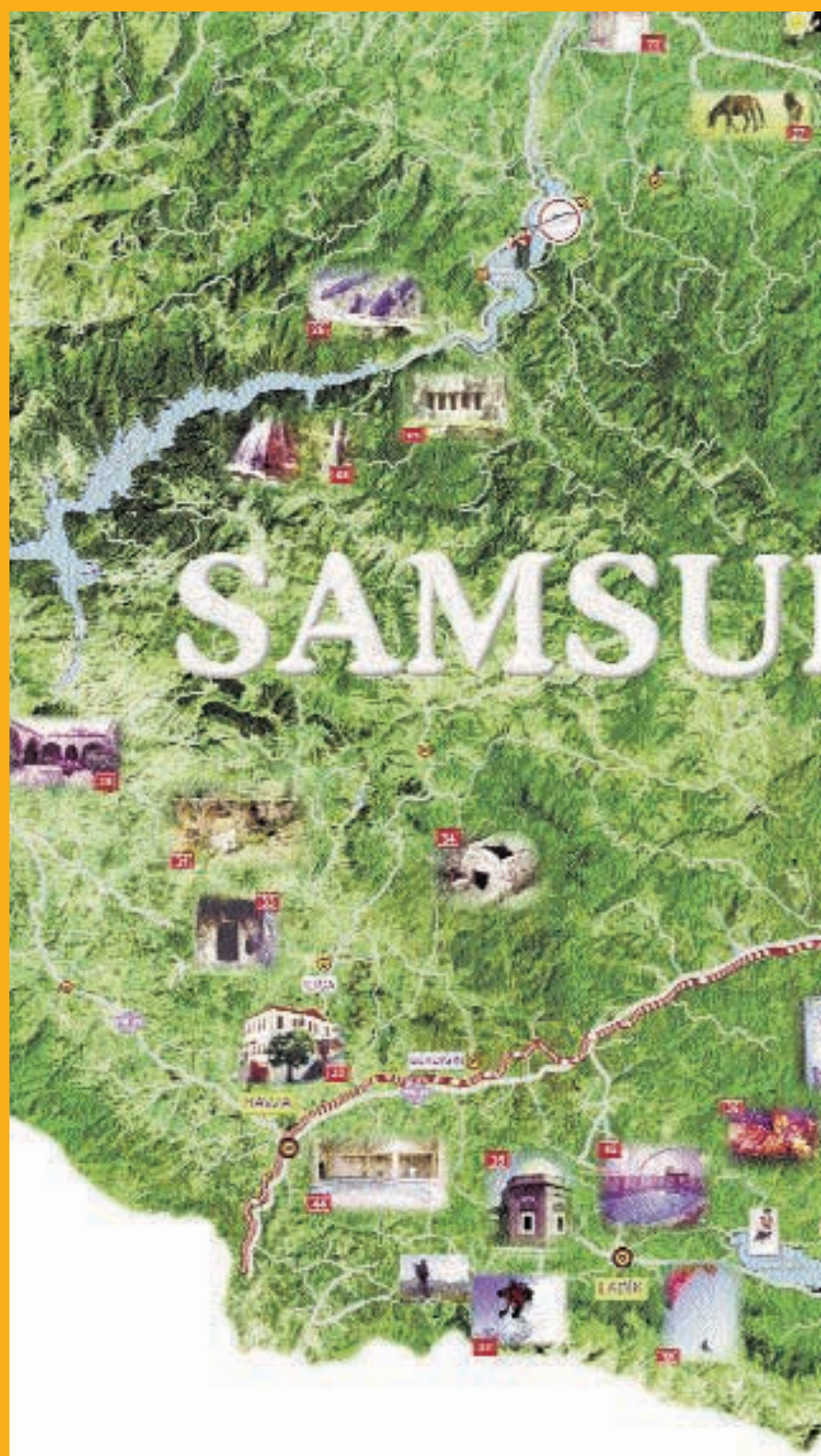
'Keşik' is an old tradition in Kavak, whereby every family takes a turn ('keşik') hosting breakfast, lunch and dinner for all the villagers on the same day. In this way everybody eats well and no food is wasted.

Goose meat tops the menu in Kavak

The most famous dish to emerge from the Kavak area is 'selit', thin strips of pastry (yufka) dipped in goose fat and served with bulgur wheat and pieces of goose meat.



SAMSUN





LEGEND

- City center
- Districts center
- Town center
- Dam,Lake,River
- Brook
- State highway
- Road
- Transp. Codes
- State Railway
- Fish Hakchery
- District
- Town

Havza





Havza, view of the district

HAVZA

Havza is situated along the Ankara-Samsun highway and railroad, which connect the central Black Sea region to the Aegean, Mediterranean and Marmara regions. Havza is 84km from Samsun city centre and 54 km from Amasya. Neighbouring districts: Merzifon lies 24 km

away from Havza, while Suluova is 15 km and Vezirköprü lies at the end of a 30km journey. The other neighbouring districts, Ladik and Kavak, are respectively positioned 32 and 33km away from Havza centre.

It is possible to reach Havza via railroad and car and a portion of the district is on flatland, while the rest is built over a hilly landscape. The district centre sits in a valley which is surrounded by mountains on three sides. The area sees less rainfall than a typical Black Sea town, as it is placed further inland, away from the coast, and

Havza factcard

Population	45.933
Area	793 km ²
Havza District Office	714 10 13
Municipality of Havza	714 20 34



Havza Meydan Park

therefore has a transitional climate, bearing certain characteristics of both the Black Sea and midland Anatolia regions. In the winter time, snowfall, frost and fog are not uncommon conditions.

District centre

The journey into the district centre takes us through farmlands and green open spaces followed by a row of two-storey houses with shops on the ground floor. Havza town square has an Atatürk statue, which stands directly in front of the entrance to the Büyük Termal Hotel. This is a colourful area situated on a

The role of thermal springs in Havza's development

When the Ottomans took over Havza, it was a small settlement on the west side of the Tersakan river. Havza's thermal spring waters, which are situated in the west, in time started attracting significant number of visitors, as it was believed the waters in this area could cure various skin diseases and other illnesses. The Turks, therefore, wasted no time in building hamams and guesthouses to serve the needs of visitors. Sultan Mesud and Şadi Pasha Hamams were built one after the other, and the latter bears distinctive features of Seljuk architectural style.



Ataturk House and Museum

hillside, with an original architectural style and various thermal springs.

The outdoor stands at the market have bathing suits and lifesaver tubes on display for unprepared visitors.

The historical hamams (public baths) have unfortunately lost their distinctive style due to various rounds of restorations and repairs.

Diverse regional economy

Tourism is an important source of income for locals, as there are several motels, hotels and guesthouses which serve spa visitors, but the district is not entirely dependent on tourism as the locals are also involved in farming, cattle breeding and forestry. There are also active brown coal (lignite) mines in the Eski and Yeni Çelték regions.

The mayor who gave the district its name

It is thought that the area inherited its name from a Hittite-era mayor called Kavuzhan, which eventually morphed into its modern name, Havza. Historical documents dating back to 1174, refer to the area as Hevize, but writings dating back to 1524 referred to the area as Havza.

Before the Seljuks

According to the research carried out on the mounds in the area, the history of the basin dates back to the first Bronze Age. Later, settlements belonging to the middle bronze age and to the roman period were located. Having been invaded by the Romans in 1 BC, the basin was included in the lands of the Byzantine Empire upon the division of the Roman Empire into two.

The Seljuk era

Even though the Turks arrived in the region in 1071 after the Malazgirt battle, Havza frequently changed hands because of the crusades. The Seljuks took control in the

Ataturk House and Museum





Ataturk House and Museum

8th century AD, and Havza was ruled by the Canik principality after the collapse of the Seljuk Empire.

Havza became part of the Ottoman Empire in 1414.

The Republic era

Until 1881, Havza was ruled by a

muslim judge (kadi) and mufti, but 1882 saw a kaymakam and a municipal mayor appointed to the area, giving it district status. In 1925, Havza became a district of Samsun, breaking away from Amasya.

Mesudiye Hotel which was used as headquarter of Atatürk is now Atatürk Museum

Hotel Mesudiye: Atatürk's command centre. Hotel Mesudiye, a 3-storey structure built in early 1900's, served as a command centre for Mustafa Kemal Pasha between May 25 and June 13, 1919, Atatürk's room has been preserved in its original form, and was opened up to public visits and is now called "Gazi Odası", meaning "Veteran Room".

The building also housed the local fire department for a while, before becoming a museum. The ground floor is used to exhibit handcrafts. The second floor houses Atatürk's bed room, study and restroom while the third floor has special rooms dedicated to Ankara, Erzurum, Amasya and Sivas where the seeds of the resistance movement were first planted.

A waxwork of Atatürk is a popular attraction in the museum for both foreign and local tourists.



Lokman Hekim Apart Hotel

Healing waters

The spring water reaches the surface at 55 degrees C and contains sulfates, bicarbonate, chalk, sodium, arsenic and silica. Most of the 100,000 people who come here annually do so to improve various skin conditions,

nervous system gynecological, liver and stomach problems, as well as muscular pains, kidney conditions and impotence.

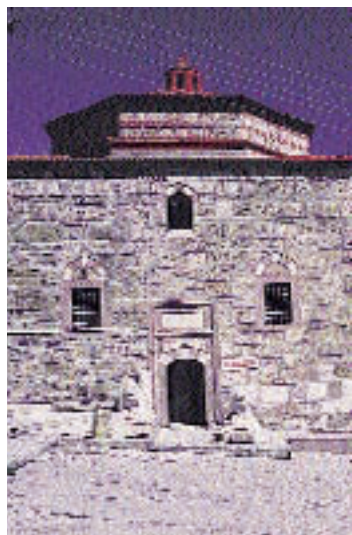
Sadi Pasha Hamam (Büyük Hamam)

This structure was built by the Seljuks in the Mesut II era in

○ The miraculous story behind Havza thermal springs

The story behind the five thermal springs in the İmaret neighbourhood, which lies 1km away from the Samsun-Ankara highway, is a pretty interesting one. According to the legend, there was a church situated where the springs are now. An earthquake, 2000 years ago, destroyed this church, and hot water erupted from underneath it. Since this earthquake, many people have believed the waters here have special healing qualities. The area soon became a historical tourism spot, and its ancient health centres still serve the public today. Aslanağzı-Kız Gözü, Maarif and Şifa hamams were built in the old days, but two new spa resorts were added in 1986, Modern Turkish Hamam and Lokman Hekimi.





Sadi Pasha Hamam (Büyük Hamam)

1256, and is also referred to as the Büyük (large) hamam.

Kızgözü- Aslanağzı Spa- Hamam

15th Century - 17th Century.

A Byzantine spa from the Constantine II era collapsed in an earthquake.

The new spa was then built upon the ruins of the old one, taking its name from the legend of Kızgözü. Many people consider the spa to be holy and that they will be protected from any disease by drinking or bathing in the water 20 times.

The hamam has three sections, changing, bathing and cooling areas, and boasts a typical hamam dome. The bathing section has a pool in the centre of the room. The main marble basin of the hamam is Aslan Ağzı, and the legendary Kızgözü column stands to its right.

The drops of water flowing from the cavities and holes in the

Kız Gözü legend

The column on the right-hand side of the Aslanağzı basin, is called Kızgözü (girl's eye) and is believed to be a holy spot. People come here to light candles, pray and offer cattle for sacrifice and bathe in the waters of the spa to make their wishes come true. The legend is as follows: three beautiful girls were bathing in the hamam when a group of men entered the hamam with ill-intentions. The helpless girls desperately prayed to Allah to turn them either into stone or birds so that they could flee from their touch. Their prayers were answered and two of them were turned into birds while one of them became stone. The column is believed to house the tears of this girl, as the holes in the stone column drip with condensed water. The story has been passed on from generation to generation.



Küçük Hamam (Şifa Thermal Springs)

Kızgözü column are most likely part of a condensation system built in by the hamam architect, as there is no condensation dripping off the dome roof, but some people still believe there might be a small coral placed inside the column which gives off water.

The hamam has a capacity of 100 people and is open to women in the daytime, and men in the evenings. There are 22 private baths situated right next to the public bath.

Maarif Hamam and Hotel



A steady bathing program is a must to obtain results

Prof. Kerim Ömer Çağla, from central Hıfzısıhha Institute states that people need to bathe in the spring waters 21 times over seven or 14 days to improve their health.

Küçük Hamam (Şifa Thermal Spring)

This hamam was built as an extension by Amasya emir Mustafa Bey in 1429.

Vakıf Hamam

The old Byzantine hamam was demolished and rebuilt in 1256 by Seljuk Sultan Mesut II, and became a symbol of the Havza region.

Maarif Hamam

This hamam was built between 1890-1894 by Abdülhamit II's internal affairs minister Mehmet Memduh Pasha when he was the mayor of Sivas.

It is 12 km from Havza and the Musulcuk water is believed to cure kidney problems.

People using this water over a period of three to five months see the kidney stones disappear. The iron pipes which deliver the water to the hamam are replaced every two years, as the water itself wears them away.

The 571 year old soup kitchen

The old soup kitchen (Imarethane) was built in 1429 by the then mayor of Amasya, Mustafa Bey, in the İmaret neighbourhood to the west of the spa buildings.

The soup kitchen served dervishes, soldiers, the poor and needy and tourists for hundreds of years. The domes collapsed eventually, and the building underwent restoration in 1938 and served as a district library until 1982. Now it serves food once again.



Taş Mektep (Central Primary School)

The school was built by engineers Hüseyin Yakup, Süreyya Sami and Nazif Bey, who drew plans for the structure after their scouting trips for the Samsun-Sivas railroad project, and soon got the construction off the ground with the help of Sivas Mayor Muammer Bey in 1911. The school also served as a meeting place for national resistance meetings during the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Constructed in 1882-83.

Historic soup kitchen (Imarethane)



Yörgüç Mustafa Bey Mosque

The mosque stands beside the Küçük Hamam in the Seljuk architectural style and was commissioned by Yörgüç Mustafa Bey. The mosque, which underwent a period of restoration, sometimes lends its name to the thermal springs nearby.

Emir El-Hac Veliüddin Bin Berekat-Şah Mosque

This mosque in Dereköy was commissioned by Seljuk Emir El-Hac Veliüddin Bin Berekat-Şah in 1249, under the rule of Seljuk sultan İzzeddin Keykavus II.

Sivrikese Mosque

This mosque was built in the Sivrikese village in 1903 by master craftsman Tudot, under the patronage of Ali Osman Ağa. Sivrikese mosque has a square plan, and was built using rough hewn stone and boasts a la turca tiles on the roof. There are two rectangular

windows positioned on each facade and a minaret added later seems much too high for the mosque itself.

The flat vaulted entrance door has been decorated on each side with delicate columns and framed by floral and geometrical patterns.

An Arabic inscription can be seen in the centre of this frame. There are four wooden columns support the gathering space. The ceiling is also made of wood and you can see that its central belly was built in several tiers.

The most striking part of the mosque is the pulpit made out of walnut wood. The excellent woodwork was made by a Rum (Greek) master craftsman and has several floral carvings on it. The fountain in the mosque garden was added later on.

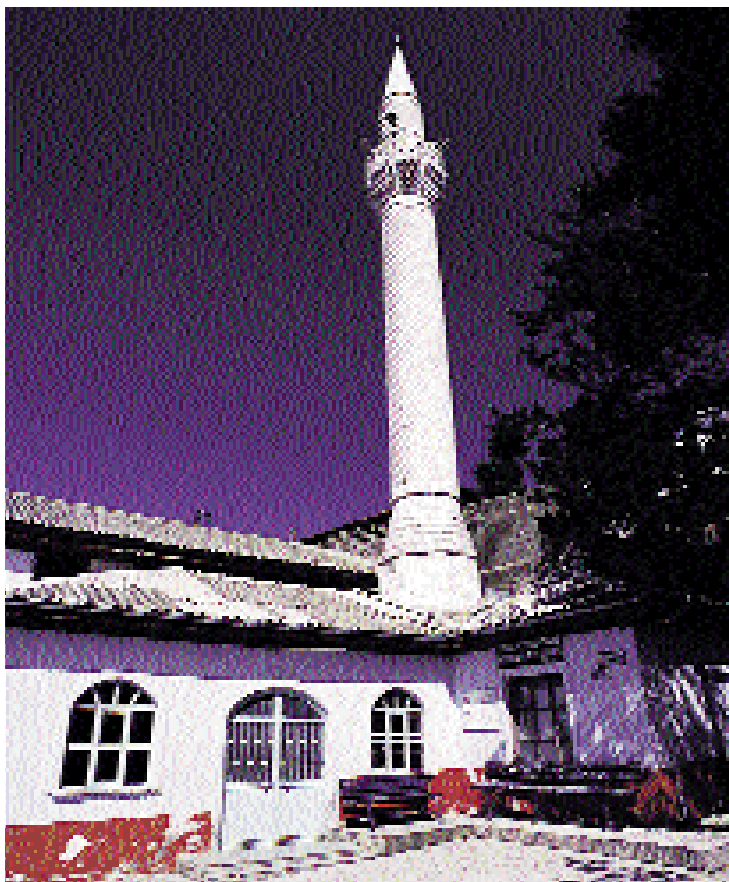
Emir El-Hac Veliüddin Bin Berekat-Şah Tomb

The tomb of Emir El-Hac Veliüddin Bin Berekat-Şah stands next to the mosque of the

○ A Latin inscription can be read on one of the walls of the Taş Mektep

The translation is as follows: After having spent a year in the Havza thermal springs, I now offer my thanks to the deserving god ASKLPEIOS, having returned to my good health. I thank head priest Xandrasa and everyone's friend Silius Lipidus for having recommended the waters to me. I, Piso, am now returned back to my homeland, having recovered fully, and may the eternal gratitude of my family last forever.

“PILANCIUS PISO”



Mustafa Paşa Mosque

same name and locals refer to it as the Dereköy Saint.

Hundreds of people visit this tomb to pray and offer sacrifice to realize their dream of having a son. Constructed in 1249-50

Mustafa Bey Tomb

This tomb was built in 1429 and has a square plan. Hewn stone was used for the ground floor and stone bricks were used for the second floor.

The geometrically shaped decorations on the bricks along the dome base are striking.

Sheik Savcı Tomb

There are several schools of thought on who lies in the Sheik Savcı Tomb. According to some, Taceddin Altınbaş Gazi Çelebi, the son of one of the last Seljuk Sultans, Mesut II, has rested here since 1355.

This theory was thrown into doubt when another tomb belonging to Taceddin Altınbaş Gazi Çelebi was discovered in Sheik Safi village cemetery, indicating he was alive in 1355.

○ Rich historical heritage

There are numerous mounds and tumuli in the area, most of which date back to the First Bronze Age. They are: Çamtepe, Tepecik, Höyük Tepe, Çeşmetepe Ceviz Bağı, Ören Tepe, Gargo Tepe, Yusuf Tepe, Kayalı Tepe, patlağuş Tepesi Dökme Tepe, Hakim Tepe 1-2, Cin Tepe 1-2, Manevra Tepe, Anıt Tepe, Sivrikese Village and Lerdüğe Mounds.

Lerdü e Tumuli

These tumuli, which most likely date back to the 1st century AD, were damaged by treasure hunters in 1946. The mound is 16m high and has a burial room at the hilltop which is accessed by a 40x45cm miniature doorway. The burial room itself is 2.7x1.85m and has a 3.15 high ceiling. The corridor and the room itself are decorated with ivy and deer murals and near the entrance you will come across a picture of two peacocks and a horned goat as well as an animal resembling a horse.

Ankara Archeology Museum Exhibits

The 16 artifacts recovered from the tumulus were first under the protection of the Havza district and now they are exhibited at the Ankara Archeology Museum, including two small golden rings, gold pieces, three full urns containing human remains, a bronze candlestick, and lead panels. There are also earthen pottery items in the collection such as a red jug and 11 teardrop bottles.



25 May celebrations

Now, a second theory has emerged, claiming the tomb in question belongs to Sheik Savcı and another possibility is that Sultan Taceddin's son, Kılıçarslan Bey, lies there.

The tomb has undergone various restorations in the past, the last of which was carried out in 1900 under the patronage of Çonoğluzade Mahmut Efendi, who restored the structure to its original Seljuk roots.

The multi-faceted tomb is built with stone and has a conical exterior roof and an interior dome.

Atatürk Festival

Until 1989, 25 May was celebrated as a national day to commemorate Atatürk's 18-day stay in Havza when he worked towards establishing a resistance movement against the occupying forces after the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

Nowadays, it is no longer a national day but is still celebrated.

There are various activities planned for 25 May every year, including youth cycling competitions, general knowledge and singing contests, as well as an oil-wrestling festival to mark the special day.

Havza undeniably has one of the best outdoor wrestling grounds in the country and the 25 May tournament is one of the top oil-wrestling competitions in Turkey in terms of organisation and turn-out.

Havza Cuisine

As in all the other districts in Samsun, Havza's most famous local dishes are keşkek and tirit, but pastry making is also quite popular in the area.



SAMSAT

SİNOP

ÇORUM

MAKİ DOĞRUK

YATIRILMIŞ

YATIRILMIŞ

12.000.000 TL

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LEGEND	
	City center
	Districts center
	Town center
	Dam, Lake, River
	Brook
	State highway
	Road
	Transp. Codes
	State Railway
	Fish Hakchery
	District
	Town

Vezirköprü





Vezirköprü, view of the district

VEZİRKÖPRÜ

Vezirköprü is the second largest district in Samsun, located 116km from Samsun city centre and neighbouring Havza, Bafra, Alaçam, Sinop and Çorum. The district currently holds 106,000 inhabitants, 79,166 of whom live in rural areas. Vezirköprü's only connection to the surrounding areas is by road, and you can hop on a minibus from

Havza or Durağan to get there. There are also regular bus services to Samsun, Ankara, İstanbul and Bursa from Vezirköprü.

Kunduz Forest



Vezirköprü factcard

Population	105.890
Area	1.713 km
Vezirköprü District Office	647 10 01
Municipality of Vezirköprü	647 17 31



The district is enclosed by the Kunduz and Tavşan mountain ranges, as well as Kaletepe and Keltepe. Vezirköprü's hillsides, overlooking the Kızılırmak valley, are covered by dense forest. The



Graceful residents of the Kunduz Forest: deer

plateaus surrounding the district, such as the Kabalı plateau in the north, Kunduz in the west and Tavşan plateau in the southeast, are key touristic spots.

Vezirköprü possesses a transitional climate. It has neither the humid and mild conditions of the coastal Black Sea region, nor the harshness of the landlocked internal sections of the Black Sea region. The winters are colder and summers are warmer here than on the coast.

Kunduz Forest complex





Little ducklings on the road to Adatepe

Vezirköprü economy

Vezirköprü's economy is largely dependent on agriculture, supported by cattle breeding and forestry. The district farmers grow all sorts of cereal crops, fruit and vegetables.

Traditional art and crafts such as handwoven carpetbags, samovars, threads and ropes are specialties of the area.

Vezirköprü, a 7500 year old history

The district hosted various civilisations for 7500 years as the

From Evliya Çelebi's pen

Evliya Çelebi described Vezirköprü in his journals as a popular summer residence for pashas and Ottoman princes.

presence of rich underground springs and the Kızılırmak river made the area ideal for human settlement.

Until recently, it was believed Hittites were the first civilisation



to settle in Vezirköprü, but new archeological studies have revealed human presence in the area dating back to 5500BC.

The first settlement: Adatepe

Remains dating back to the Chalcolithic era from 5500BC to 3000BC were found in Adatepe, which makes it the earliest settlement in Vezirköprü. The ancient settlement, situated on a single body of rock, was probably chosen because it was easy to protect as 368km² of the 1380km² hilltop was walled in to fend off attacks. Recovered artifacts in the area include arrows, digging and cutting tools, spearheads and axes, mainly used for hunting and protection. There's also evidence of simple land cultivation in Adatepe and it

appears cereals and plant roots were ground with the use of stone mortars. An ancient temple was also found in the centre of the ancient settlement surrounded by human shelters and cultivated land.

During the Bronze Age (3000BC-1200BC), a new settlement emerged just beside the current Adatepe settlement, which was a weaving centre.

Holy City of the Hittites: Oymaağaç Höyük Tepe

Oymaağaç Höyük Tepe, thought to have been a cradle of civilisation for at least 1,500 years, was a popular stopover for trade caravans and was dedicated to the wind god Hatti and given the name Nerik by the Hittites.

Adatepe village road





Municipality Park

An Iron Age City: Esenköy

Vezirköprü and its surrounding area also served as important settlement spots during the Iron Ages, starting from 1200BC. The architectural ruins and Paphlagon-type tombs carved in rock in Esenköy, 15km southwest of the district centre, are important proofs of an Iron Age presence.

Sagylion Castle

A Pontus-era grand castle used to stand in what's called 'Eğrikale' in the Kocakaya village of Vezirköprü.. This castle was called Sagylion.

The city named after Claudius

Vezirköprü was undoubtedly a rich and well-looked-after town under Roman rule. The area was called Andrappa or Neoclaudiopolis by the Romans, named after the Roman

Emperor Claudius, who systematically built the town between 41-54 AD. It was during the reign of Emperor Antonius Pius, however, that the city lived through its golden age. Vezirköprü came under Byzantine rule when the Roman Empire was divided into two, east and west. The city, then called Fezimon and Teokliopolis by the Byzantines, continued to prosper under their reign.

Seljuk's Gedekara

When the town came under Seljuk rule, Sultan Mesud renamed it Gedekara, and the settlement lived through several phases of demolition and redevelopment until it was finally taken over by the Ottomans. Ottoman vizier Köprülü Mehmet Paşa gave the town its current-day name Vezirköprü, and great importance was placed on the town by the Ottomans, who developed the area further.

District centre

Fortunately modern-day Vezirköprü residents have taken an active role in preserving their rich cultural heritage and the district centre is full of historic monuments in excellent condition: Vezirköprü is not just rich in history but also shops, serving your every need in the bustling district centre.



Clock tower



Bedesten Samovar

Bedesten



Municipality park

The Municipality Park in Vezirköprü hosts several tea houses where it is possible to cool off under the shade of plane and pine trees, even when temperatures top 35C.

Bazaar and arasta

The bazaar and arasta (a row of shops) in the centre of Vezirköprü were constructed by Yusuf Ağa in 1660. The bazaar has interior and exterior sections and houses 110 shops.

The bazaar interior used to be an inn, and the exterior section is surrounded by the arasta. Most of the shops sell a special type of



Vezirköprü Taşhan lodge

samovar, which has a flattened shape compared to the typical design. Shoppers can choose between cheaper tin versions and the more expensive galvanized steel ones.

The arasta hosts various types of shops including restaurants, agricultural tool stores, coppersmiths and saddle shops. The shopkeepers are very hospitable and kind.

Taşhan Inn

Taşhan Inn is situated along Taceddin Street, past the bazaar, 100 Yıl street and Ortacami neighbourhood. The historic inn, currently under restoration, was built in the late Ottoman era. The two-storey Taşhan was built on wooden columns carved out of a single block of timber and those will stay in place during the restoration. The columns were reinforced with stone fillings during the construction.

Clock Tower

The clock tower was commissioned by Sivas Mayor

Reşat Akif Pasha in 1906, but sustained serious damage in the earthquake of 1943, leading to its restoration in 1959. The clock is still in good working condition and is looked after regularly and wound up once a week.

Adnan Menderes Park

Another park in Vezirköprü is Adnan Menderes Park, at the corner of Orgeneral Faruk Cömert Avenue. The park is covered with centuries-old pine and plane trees and is a popular relaxation spot for the locals.

The park boasts a samovar

Adnan Menderes Park





Vezirköprü civil architecture

sculpture in the centre, as the samovar has become a symbol of the area.

Civil Architecture

Rows of old houses and Yeni Hamam (Turkish Bath) along Faruk Cömert Avenue take one centuries back. The wooden houses were constructed using a special plaster technique using a chalky substance that hardens upon contact with water. The houses are still in use.

Kale Mosque

Kale Mosque, built in 1696, is

Interior view of the Kale Mosque



situated in the Mehmet Paşa neighbourhood, and just adjacent to the Kale Turkish Bath. The mosque courtyard boasts a hexagonal fountain and the tiny mosque instills a sense of peace as you enter it. The stained glass above the mihrab catches the eye immediately. There is even air-conditioning installed inside the mosque for those who want to worship in hot weather.

Kale Hamamı (Turkish Bath)

The Kale Turkish bath, next door to Kale Mosque, is still in use to

Kale Hamam (bath)





Fazıl Ahmet Paşa Madrasah

this day. The structure was built using rubble, and has a particularly attractive tile-covered dome above the changing rooms.. The bathing area itself is made of cut stone and bricks. Constructed in 1696.

Fazıl Ahmet Paşa Madrasah (Taş Madrasah)

The first library in Vezirköprü was built in 1662 by Fazıl Ahmet Pasha and served scholars out of a single room in the Madrasah,

Fazıl Ahmet Paşa Madrasah courtyard

which was heavily damaged in the 1943 earthquake and later restored. The Madrasah was a multi-purpose space until 1964, when it became a public library. The building underwent a second restoration in 2002 and now houses 20,000 books. The library is definitely a must-see if you are in the area.

Taceddin Paşa (Kurşunlu) Mosque

Taceddin Paşa mosque, situated in the Çanaklı neighbourhood, was built in 1494 and had a dome ceiling until the 1945 earthquake completely destroyed





the structure. The mosque was later covered by a flat conventional roof during repairs. The Taceddin Paşa (Kürşunlu) fountain in the mosque courtyard belongs to the late Ottoman period.

Taceddin Paşa Hamamı (Turkish Bath)

Taceddin Pasha also built this Turkish bath between 1491-1495, but the structure unfortunately did not survive and was not rebuilt.

Abdulgani (Namazgah) Mosque

Köprülü Mehmet Pasha built the Abdulgani (Namazgah) Mosque, which is situated in the Mehmet

Library section of the Fazıl Ahmet Paşa Madrasah

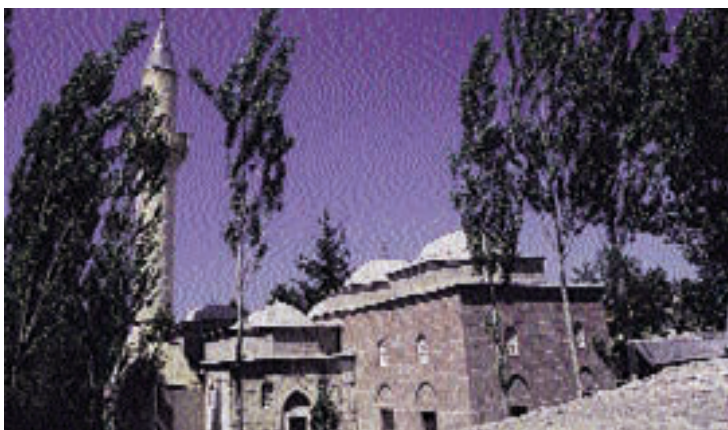
Paşa Neighbourhood. The mosque was completely destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, and was rebuilt by the locals in 1915.

Çifte Hamam (Turkish Bath)

Çifte Hamam was built immediately beside the south wall of the Vezirköprü Bazaar in 1660 by Ayşe Hanım.

This Turkish bath, which has separate sections for women and men, is still in use today; The two sections are almost identical in architecture.

Tacettin Paşa Hamam (bath)





Çiftehamam

Namazgah Fountain

This fountain, commissioned by Köprülü Mehmet Paşa beside the Namazgah Mosque, still serves the public today.

Şifa Hamamı (Turkish Bath)

Mehmet Paşa reportedly built the Şifa Bath for the exclusive use of his family, but now it serves the general public. The changing spaces, made of wood, were apparently later

Yukarı Nalbant Mosque

additions. Constructed in 17th Century.

Ganioğlu Fountain

The Ganioğlu Fountain on Hacıköy Avenue was constructed in the late Ottoman period.

Yusuf Ağa Hamamı (Turkish Bath)

This public bath was constructed by Yusuf Ağa, Vezirköprü's chief at the time, during rebuilding efforts after the district had been practically



destroyed by riots. The hamam eventually collapsed and was not restored.

Esenköy Rock Tomb

An Iron-Age tomb carved into the rocks at Esenköy is a must-see. It is situated 12km from Vezirköprü and was built in the Paphlagon style, consisting of two rooms and three columns. In addition, fine examples of Turkish civil architecture can be seen in the surrounding area.

Abdülkerim Ağa Madrasah

The 20-room Madrasah was commissioned by Abdülkerim Ağa in the 17th century. The Madrasah was destroyed by an earthquake and was not rebuilt.

Süleyman Ağa Madrasah

Bostancıbaşı Köprülü El-Hac Süleyman Ağa commissioned this Madrasah in the courtyard of Taceddin Paşa Mosque. The 24 rooms in the building served as classrooms and dormitories until it was completely destroyed by the 1943 earthquake.

Atatürk Monument

A brass 260cm-tall sculpture of Atatürk, completed in 1981 by sculptor Rahmi Ertemiz, was placed upon a pedestal designed by engineer İsmail Sevcan.

Mehmet Paşa Monument

The Köprülü Mehmet Pasha monument in the Municipality Park was commissioned and completed in 1958 with local financial support

Kurt Bridge

The 40m-long ancient Kurt Bridge connects the banks of the İstavroz brook which borders Vezirköprü. The reticular architectural style of the bridge with four large arches suggests that it was probably built in the 14th or 16th century AD, as there are Greek writings carved across the structure. There are also three small rooms housed in the bridge supports. What makes the bridge stand out is the fact that there are no clear pathways or roads on either side of it. Even though sections of the arches and supports have been pilfered by treasure hunters, the bridge remains sturdy and is still in use today.

Havza Kurt bridge





Life in high pastures

Seasonal migrations to uplands and mountain pastures

It is mostly farmers with cattle who opt to move to the highlands in the summer months, as there is normally not enough food for the animals in the villages.

Highland Festivities

Fun in the mountains comes in various shapes and forms. Bullfights are the highlight in Susuz village where the youth dance a special dance, 'Çingırsak'. There is also plenty of food served to liven up the festivities.

Lodging

People tend to live in tents or special wooden bungalows called 'kelik'.

Wintertime in the mountain pastures



Upland Traditions and Customs:

- The herdsman, who is hired to keep wolves and other cattle predators at bay, is usually offered a spoonful of freshly churned butter every week to keep him alert.

- Because most of the transhumants are old women, young girls and brides travel to the uplands every week to churn butter and yogurt.

- About 20 days after moving up to the high plateaus, village folk travel to the pastures for celebrations.

Migration seasons

Cattle are usually taken to the uplands in May and brought back in September at the latest. Herdsmen and women spend days preparing for their return to their villages as the sheep and goats are sheared beforehand and their wool washed in nearby rivers.

Mound and flatland settlements

There are countless hills, mounds and barrows in the region and many of them bear traces from Bronze Age civilisations. Several pots and crockery items linked to the era were recovered in archeological digs. The main hills and mounds are as follows: Do an Tepe, Kurudere, Ya inözü - Çakmak, Keltepe, Ya basan Barrow, Çeltek Barrow, Aşa 1 Narlı Barrow, Avdan Köyü Mound, Çal Köyü Mound and Maltepe Barrow. An excavation is still ongoing at Höyüktepe-Oymaa aç Tepe.

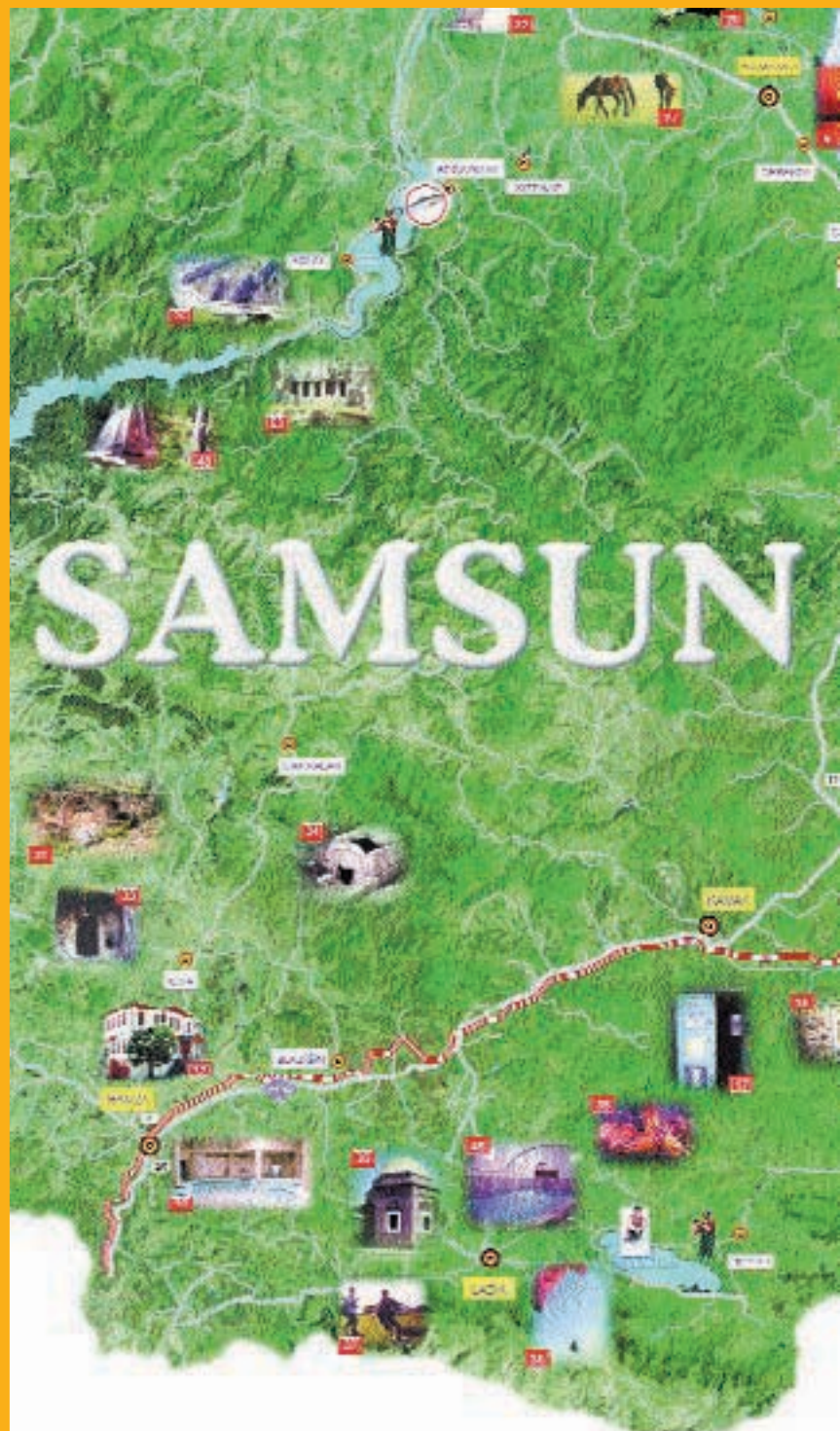
Food Culture

Vezirköprü cuisine is dominated by beans, chickpeas, corn, vine leaves, cracked wheat, and bulgur. Red meat, rice and pastries also feature on the menu. Poultry meat is also heavily used in the area, as goose, chicken, duck and turkey are used in cooking. Tirit, goose rice, spit-roasted goose, fried chicken are all popular dishes. Plants such as kaldırık, madımak, beetroot, nünük are used for stir fries and soups. A specialty of the region is a börek (pastry) called ‘katık’ made of coarsely ground corn and dill, a taste you won’t find anywhere else.

Oymaağaç Kebab

Oymaa aç kebab is a seasonal specialty of Oymaa aç village, only prepared between May and November. It is made with kid meat painstakingly spit-roasted in a special oven for three to four hours; the fat dripping off the meat is collected in a bowl. The kebab is served both hot and cold and is eaten with Tridin dipped in the kid fat. This kid kebab is a regional delicacy that has been around for many centuries.

SAMSUN





LEGEND	
	City center
	Districts center
	Town center
	Dam, Lake, River
	Brook
	State highway
	Road
	Transp. Codes
	State Railway
	Fish Hakchery
	District
	Town

Ladik





Lâdik, view of the district

LÂDİK

Lâdik is situated 82km away from Samsun and neighbours Kavak in the north, Taşova in the east, Havza in the west and Amasya in the south. This charming district is famed for the various festivals held in its mountain pastures. Ladik sits on a low slope of Mount Akdağ in the north, just on the edge of a meadow. The population of the district is 18,022, of whom 8,316 live in the

district centre. Winters in Ladik are long and harsh and the summers are cool. The main sources of income for the area are agriculture and cattle breeding. Tersakan Brook, which flows into the Yeşilirmak River, is the life source of the area. Tersakan originates from Ladik Lake, follows westwards and southwards and finally eastwards to meet the Yeşilirmak River. Ladik is an easy access point from Samsun, as there are plenty of transport options available.

Local economy

The regional economy relies on industry and forestry in addition to cattle-breeding and farming. A large variety of crops can be grown in the area as there's plenty of rainfall

Lâdik factcard

Population	18.022
Area	575 km ²
Lâdik District Office	771 30 11
Municipality of Lâdik	771 30 30



through the four seasons. Wheat, barley, corn, oat, sugarcane and sunflower cultivation takes up the majority of farmland in the area. Cattle breeding has also developed in the area, because of Ladik's access to upland grazing areas, and beekeeping and fishing are carried out on a small scale. The district boasts 18,585 hectares of forest, and a portion of it is available for harvesting.

The surface surveys carried out in the mounds and flat settlements in the town of Ladik reveal that the area was inhabited during the chalcolithic age, the first bronze age, the middle bronze age, the iron age, the Hellenistic Rome and the last antique age. The town of Ladik was founded by the wife of Mithridates V, Laodika.

120-111 The area fell under the hegemony of the Roman Empire, upon the victory of the Romans over the people of Pontus in 71 BC and Ladik was included within the borders of the East Roman Empire when Rome was divided into two in 395 BC.

The Arabs seized the area in 705, followed by the Seljuks who took control in 1071 after the Malazgirt battle. Another theory on the origins of the Ladik name is that the Seljuk commander Ahmet Danişment Gazi Melik, who took control over the surrounding area including Amasya, named it after his daughter İleduk or İlduk Hatun in 1075.

Following the fall of the Seljuk Empire, Ladik was ruled by a Turcoman principality, Kabatoğulları, and finally the Ottomans from 1428 until the rise of the Turkish Republic. Ladik was a part of the city of Amasya, which in turn belonged to the Sivas subprovince until 1925, when it became part of Samsun.





Lâdik Lake surroundings

The cultural heritage lies unexamined

Very few archeological studies have been carried out in Lâdik, despite its history stretching back to 3000BC. The primary archeological sites in the area are: Çakılası, İnkaya Mezar and Ören Yeri,

Lâdik Lake surroundings



Kale Tepe, Dökme Tepe, Dedealtı, Köyiçi, Devşel Kaya, Tompul Tepe, Kilise Tepe, Kümbet Mounds. Ruins of an ancient castle stand to the southeast of Lâdik Lake, south of the Lâdik district centre. Lâdik used to be a popular vacationing spot for royals and high society of Amasya in Ottoman times, its mountain pastures, forests and healing waters drawing them to the area. As a result, there used to be summer palaces, mosques, bazaars and a public bath in Lâdik, but unfortunately most of them were damaged beyond repair during the 1943 earthquake.

District centre

The town square is surrounded by shops and coffeehouses and is also the location of the town hall and municipality office. The few historical monuments which managed to survive the 1943 earthquake are still impressive.

Clock Tower

The clock tower was built in 1889, and was rebuilt true its original form after the 1943 earthquake, which left it heavily damaged.

Bülbül Hatun Mosque

This mosque was commissioned by Bülbül Hatun, the wife of Ottoman Emperor Beyazıt II. This structure also sustained extensive damage during the 1943 earthquake, but has been restored to its original form.

Avcı Sultan Mehmet Mosque

This mosque was commissioned by Sultan Mehmet IV during the Ottoman era and had to be entirely rebuilt following its collapse in the 1943 earthquake.

Kümbet

Kümbet, an Ottoman monument, is also known as the Sunullah Paşa Tomb.

Tomb of Seyit Ahmet Kebir

Seljuk commander Seyit Ahmet Kebir, who lost his life in a Ladik battle, was buried here, according to his wishes. The tomb, made of bricks and hewn stone, hosts seven sarchophagi inside. Besides the tombs and the mosques,



Tomb

there are also Seljuk and Ottoman dervish lodges (tekkes) which are open to the public. These are: Süt Pınarı, Gülabdal Tekkesi, Sanlık Tekkesi, Karaoluk Tekkesi, Kılıçaslan Tekkesi, Kara Abdal (Sultan) Tekkesi, Işıklı Tekke, Zeyfe Baba Tekkesi, Dikilitaş Tekkesi, and Dikmen Dede Tekkesi.

Avcı Sultanahmet Mosque



Seyit Ahmetkebir Tomb





The new dearest attraction of the Black Sea Region: Akdağ Ski Center

Ladik Akdag Ski Center is the single ski center in the the Central Black Sea Region. Akdag Summer and Winter Sports Center is 84 km from the town center, 24 km from Samsun- Ankara highway and 7 km from the center of Ladik. The length of the track is 1400 m and the length of the chairlift is 1360 m. One can ski at an altitude interval of 1500 to 1770. The snow efficiency reaches an average height of 1 meter between November and March

Lâdik Lake

Ladik Lake is 10km away from the

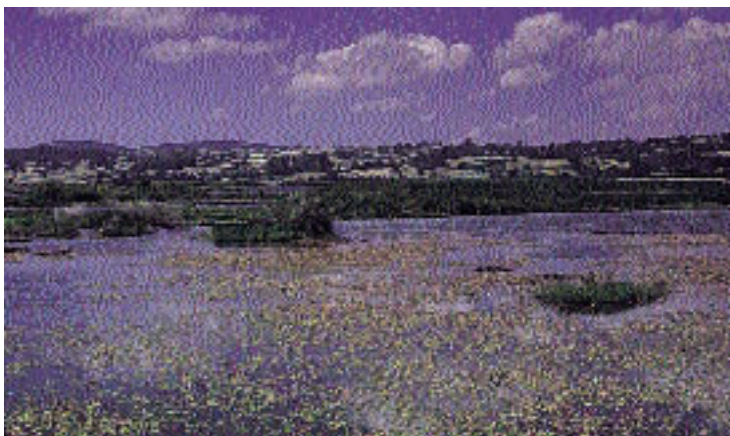
Hamamayağı Thermal Springs



district centre and is surrounded by reedbeds, which are harvested for wickerwork. The lake is also Tersakan stream's point of origin. Trout and pike live in its waters and sailing competitions are held regularly here. The surrounding grasslands are used for grass skating.

Hamamyağı Thermal Springs

Hamamyağı (Hallaz, Hirlaz, Hilyas) thermal springs and its surrounding areas are the most popular touristic spots in the area, providing a valuable source of income for the locals. The spa is placed 10km away from Ladik centre and boasts a picnic area near a small river and a spa building. The thermal in Ladik and Havza were renowned in historical times as well as today. In the Roman era and preceding periods, the area served as a health centre, as its waters are now proven to help with rheumatic illnesses, muscle and nervous system exhaustion, calcification of joints and low-energy following surgery. The outdoors is also ideal for relaxing, as Ladik Lake is nearby and there are plenty of high meadows on nearby Mount Akdağ.



Büyükkızıoğlu Waterfall and Lake

The Büyükkızıoğlu natural lake is surrounded by forest, and a wondrous waterfall hidden among the trees is worth seeing.

There are picnic areas all around the lake's circumference and the water feeding into the lake originates from Mount Akdağ and is clean and cold enough to host trout.

Lâdik Lake fauna (Type of Birds)

The following bird species have been observed at Ladik Lake:

Birds of Lâdik Lake

Lâdik Lake water lilies

Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
 Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)
 Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)
 Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
 Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)
 Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)
 Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
 Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)
 Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)
 Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)
 Blackheaded Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)
 Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*)
 Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
 Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)
 White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)





Lâdik pasture waterfall

Sailboats on Lâdik Lake



The following bird species have been observed in the areas surrounding Lâdik Lake

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*), Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*); Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*); Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*); Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*).

The following species have been observed in oak forests and mountainous areas near Lâdik Lake: In the oak forests: Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*); raven (*Corvus corax*). In the mountainous areas near the lake: House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).

Lâdik upland festivities

Lâdik overflows with visitors during the summer, who travel from all four corners of the country. The festivals serve as a way of sharing the touristic potential of Lâdik with the neighbouring districts.

The summer festivals take place in July and August every year in the mountain pastures and include events such as grass-skiing competition, honey, kite and cattle



A snapshot of the Lâdik high pastures

competitions and paragliding and glider shows.

Akdağ Plateau

This pasture lies at an altitude of 950 m and 9km from central Lâdik. It is mainly used as an excursion spot as it offers views of Lâdik Lake and forests.

Lâdik pasture fairs and cirit (a type of polo) competitions (middle and below)





These icicles are melted by the Akyel wind

Küpecik Plateau

At 1600m altitude, this upland lies 23 km away from the district. Only 9km of the road to Küpecik is paved; the rest is graveled, but it is possible to reach Küpecik with any type of vehicle.

Büyükkızıoğlu Plateau

This pasture is at 1600m altitude and lies 10km away from the district centre.

Folk dances and wedding traditions

Various types of horon dances (folk dances of the Black Sea region) are popular in Ladik and surrounding areas such as: Düzyayak, Makinalı, Sarıkız, and Sanlama. Semah, Şeyh Şamil, Sesen, Zefak are other folk dances which are popular in the Budakdere region.

Ladik weddings are classically Anatolian in nature, but variations do exist in certain rural villages. Both the bride and the groom are taken to the hamam (Turkish bath). The bride is taken there during the day by relatives and friends, where she celebrates her imminent nuptials, whereas the groom is accompanied to the hamam at night time with drums and horn.

Akyel

The wind that melts the snow Even though Ladik is in the Black Sea region, its climate is more reminiscent of the harsh conditions of central Anatolia. The winters here are cold and long and the summers mostly cool. In the wintertime, a wind called 'Akyel' speeds up the melting of the snow, and you will feel the 'Poyraz' wind in the months of July and August. It snows in the winters and rains for the rest. Steep terrains in Lâdik are mostly covered with woodland and shrubs.



Various views of the Lâdik high pastures

Pastries and pasta dominate Ladik cuisine

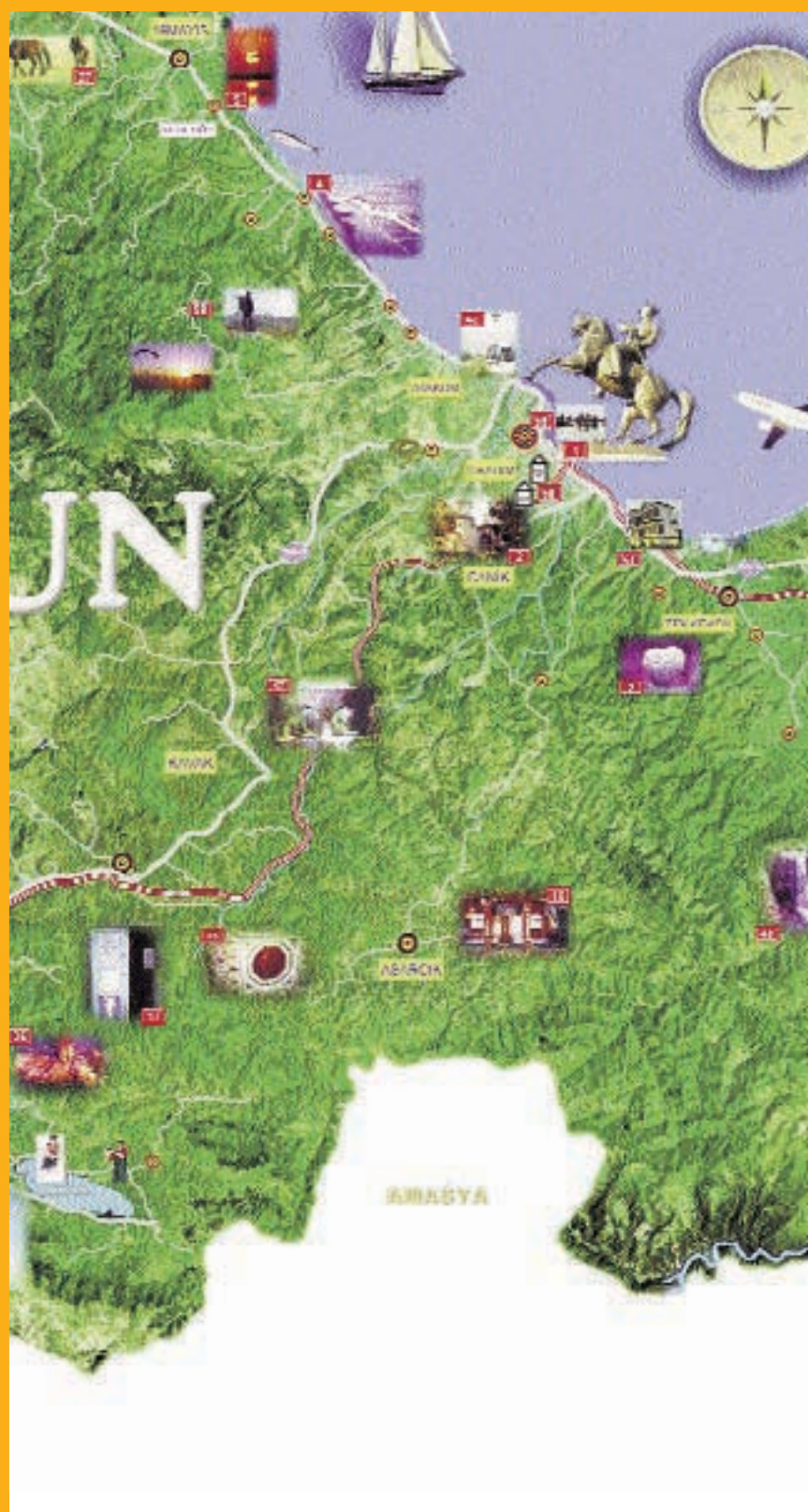
Regional culinary specialties of Ladik are mostly pasta and pastry dishes including:

Erişte, Tutmaz Aşı, Mantı, İşkefe Tatlısı, Kaz pilaf, Çerkez Halüğü, Çerkez Şibsisı, Dabusun, Malakto, Gobi Lobiya, Loby, Höşmerim, and Kadayani.

The breads of the region are also varied: Somun,

Hamursuz, Parmaklı, Lavaş Pide, Dökme, Döndürme, Samsa Ekmeği, Cırlak (Pırıl), Akıtma, Yufka, and cornbread. Tandoori Kebab is another famous regional dish.







LEGEND

- City center
- Districts center
- Town center
- Dam,Lake,River
- Brook
- State highway
- Road
- Transp. Codes
- State Railway
- Fish Hakchery
- District
- Town

Asarcik





Asarcık, view from the district

ASARCİK

Asarcık, situated 44 km south of Samsun city center, is one of the smallest districts in Turkey. The preferred route to get to Asarcık from Samsun is the 73km-long Kavak road, as the shorter alternative via Kaman is full of challenging turns. Poultry farms and a chalk factory can be seen along the road to Asarcık. The roads linking villages to the town centre can be blocked during the winter months due to heavy snowfall, but the closures do not normally last for more than 45 days a year.

Asarcık is surrounded by Kavak and Çarşamba districts and the city of Amasya. The district is clearly under the influence of the typical Black Sea climate, and makes a warm impression at first sight, as



Asarcık town square

Asarcık factcard

Population	18.068
Area	180 km²
Asarcık District Office	791 22 21
Municipality of Asarcık	791 22 50



the fields and the houses dotted among them come into view from the hillside. The ancient minaret of the local mosque is visible as well as the highway cutting the district in half. The tumulus situated in the Kocayusuf Bacak location of the Kuyumcuoglu Village was firstly inhabited in the bronze age, in 2000

Town square



years ago and in the hellenistic era. As for the tumulus in the Narli Quarter location of the Kilavuzlu Village, the Horoztepe tumulus of the Emir Musa Village and the tumulus situated in the Satiba location of the Bicincik Quarter are some of the ones surviving as from the ancient age.

A Circassians village first

Asarcik was founded by Circassians in the 1800's after many of them had to flee from the Ottoman-Russian war, 1877-1878. The village eventually grew in size as immigrants settled here from nearby areas, and Asarcik received district status in 1987. A municipal presence was established two years later, in 1989, following local elections.

Cultural synthesis

Asarcik was a melting pot of Caucasian and Turkish heritage following the Ottoman-Russian war, and the Circassians still keep their traditions alive by performing Caucasian folkloric dances and playing their native accordion and harmonica at special times of the year such as holy days and weddings.



Ayaklı Ayan church

District centre

The town square features a fountain in the centre and is lined by restaurants and shops as well as a bus terminal on one side. Farming is a major source of income in Asarcık, with villagers growing a range of produce including corn, wheat, hops

Kılavuzlu mosque

and sugarcane. Small-scale beekeepers also keep hives in the area.

The historic mosques and churches have withstood the test of time

An ancient mosque stands next to a church in the village of Ayaklıalan, but sadly the church has been looted.





Ayaklı Ayan church

The mosque, built in 1180, is made of wood and has undergone only two restorations in its lifetime, the first in 1291, and the other in 1970.

Picnic grounds

The forest in the centre of Asarcık, Ayaklıalan church grounds and the green spaces around Yarımca village



Wrestlers at the Asarcık Fair

provide plenty of opportunities for picnics.

58 year old tradition: Asarcık Fair

The month of September plays host to a long-standing tradition. Horse

races, wrestling competitions and free concerts are held in the fairground, and a large bazaar is set up nearby. People from surrounding districts flock to Asarcık to take part in the celebrations.

Asarcık Cuisine

Poultry dominates the menu in Asarcık and local delicacies include Circassian chicken and kaz tiridi (pastry with goose meat filling).





LEGEND	
	City center
	Districts center
	Town center
	Dam, Lake, River
	Brook
	State highway
	Road
	Transp. Codes
	State Railway
	Fish Hakchery
	District
	Town

Ayvaci





View of the district from the seafront

AYVACIK

Ayvacık Tokat, situated 62 km away from Samsun, neighbours with Amasya, Asarcık, Çarşamba ve Salıpazarı ile komşu. Ayvacık is perched on the northern foot of the Canik Mountains, along the artificial lake created by the Suat Uğurlu Dam. You can reach Ayvacık by following the highway between Samsun and Ordu until Çarşamba district and then continuing along the city road for 28km.

Ayvacık used to be a Greek Roman town until the foundation of the Turkish Republic, as Turks only started settling in the area

after majority of the Greek Roman population left shortly after the end of the Independence War. Ayvacık used to be village until 1990 when it merged with Keskinöğlü Köyü to become a district.

District center

The road to Ayvacık running along the dam lake is full of bends. An Ayvacık neighbourhood stands on the other side of the lake and regular ferry services connect the two sides to one another. There is no town centre in Ayvacık. Instead shops and café houses are lined up around the water. We highly recommend having a cup of tea or coffee here, while taking in the view.

Ayvacık factcard

Population	24.275
Area	522 km2
Ayvacık District Office	811 40 01
Municipality of Ayvacık	813 20 22

Forests

A large proportion of the district is under forest cover and the dam is surrounded by hazelnut groves. About 90% of locals earn a living



Transport between the two waterfronts



by farming hazelnuts, corn, wheat and barley, while the rest engage in commerce and fishing. The lake is a breeding ground for a variety of fish including Japanese sea bass, sheatfish, gray mullet and carp.

The Hasan Uğurlu subterranean

Ferry running across the Hasan Uğurlu Dam Lake





Hasan Uğurlu dam and lake

power plant and Suat Uğurlu hydro-electric power station, completed in 1982, are major supplier of electricity for Turkey.

Pine forests

The pine forest and promenade situated along the Hasan Uğurlu dam is a popular spot for picnic

lovers during the spring and summer months.

Local dances and oil wrestling

Ayvacık residents have two special types of folk dance called 'köçek' and 'kaba ceviz'. It is also customary for the wedding host to organize oil-wrestling competition as part of the festivities.

A snapshot of the meadows surrounding the lake





Suat Uğurlu dam and lake

The traditional Öndül festival



The traditional Öndül festival is another highlight of the year when the buffalos and cattle are go up against one another in various tests of strength.

Cecim

'Cecim' is a special type of hand-woven tapestry made of pure wool which are used as rugs on the floor. Cecim is also the name of the belt string worn by women and children in the area.

Ayvacık Cuisine

'Haluç' and 'keşkek' are traditional dishes of Ayvacık. Keşkek is quite a time consuming dish to make, but the taste makes it all worthwhile. Wheat is boiled while continuously being stirred to soften it down to a cream-like texture after which boneless chicken meat is added to it and the dish is stirred until the chicken meat to tenderizes into little pieces. Once ready, keşkek is served with melted butter poured on top.





Salıpaazarı, a view of the district

SALIPAZARI

Salıpaazarı is situated where the Yeşilçay and Terme streams intersect and the district is characterised by the three bridges connecting it to nearby villages. Gökçeli village can be reached via the Kurt Bridge, whereas Yavaşbey village sits on the other side of the Maviren bridge.

Salıpaazarı is 54km away from Samsun city centre and neighbours Erbaa and Akkuş on the south, Terme in the east and Ayvacık in the west, while it borders with Çarşamba in the north. The population of the district is approximate 21,000 in total, 6,156 of whom live in central Salıpaazarı. Samsun is connected to Salıpaazarı by road, via the Çarşamba and Terme districts which lie in between.

The Yeşil and Ayazma streams near Salıpaazarı are famed for their dotted trout. The local climate is mild in the summer and cold in the winter and shows the characteristics of a transitional climate as the Black Sea

Salıpaazarı factcard

Population	20.941
Area	165 km ²
Salıpaazarı District Office	821 21 00
Municipality of Salıpaazarı	821 20 19



air meets terrestrial conditions. Snowfall, therefore, is common in the winter and reaches up to 1.5m.

District center

The entrance to central Salıpaazarı is lined with hazelnut gardens and you will soon come across a Government hall on the left-hand side. A pebble road eventually gives way to a narrow square, which serves as the main shopping area in Salıpaazarı.

Salıpaazarı is a relatively new settlement

Salıpaazarı is a relatively new settlement, as only a few houses used to stand in the area until quite recently. The area became a stopover for villagers travelling between the Canik Mountains and the bazaars in Çarşamba and eventually developed into a permanent settlement area. As the number of inhabitants increased, a new weekly market was set up on Tuesdays, and the area gradually became synonymous with the name Salıpaazarı, (Tuesday market). Armenians and Rum (Greeks living in

Hazelnuts in Salıpaazarı





Garpu Castle

Turkey) lived in the area until the 1st World War, and the district currently has Georgian, Circassian and Laz populations forming a key part of Salıpazarı's cultural mosaic.

Local agriculture is dominated by hazelnuts and fruits

Hazelnut and fruit production is the key driver of the local economy. Apple, pear, cherry, strawberry, plum, date, bean, tomato, aubergine, pepper, onion, leek and rice are grown in the area, in addition to

A view from Garpu Castle



Çağlayan village Waterfall

hazelnuts. Local produce is sent to city and district markets in surrounding areas, and villages in the mountainous regions of Salıpazarı are known for their handicraft products including baskets and chestnut.



Salıpazarı old mill

Garfu Castle

Garfu Castle is between Cevizli and Konakören villages and is also known by the name Gerfu. The castle is thought to be from the 7th century BC, and some believe the structure belonged to the Amazons. The castle has two wells which are now covered over by stone and it is not a characteristic castle, as its entrance and stairway are carved into rock.

Çağlayan Village and waterfalls

Çağlayan Village, situated 7km from Salıpazarı, was built on a riverbed and is surrounded by numerous waterfalls.

Hasan Tekke

This hill overlooking the district centre was given the name of an



Kızılot village mosque





Yeşilköy mosque

Independence War hero, Hasan Tekke, who was laid to rest on the hilltop.

Mill

A 500-year old hewn-stone mill in the Gökçeli neighbourhood is still

A century-old tree in Kızılot village



in good working condition is used to grind wheat into flour to this day.

Old wooden mosques

Çatak Ahmet Ağa village has a 115-year-old mosque, whereas several old mosques, ranging from 300-400 years of age, still stand in Yeşil, Kayadibi and Kızılot villages. The Saint Samzama Kadem and Saint Topal Hacı tombs in Salıpazarı are revered by the locals.

Çatal Ahmet Ağaköy Mosque





Feasting on delicious fish in natural surroundings is a memorable experience

Resting under the shade of 200 year old plane trees

A trout farm is situated at the intersection of Alan, Karacaören and Kestanepınar villages. Hasan Tekke, Adacık on the way to Yeşil Village and Çobandüzü situated near Terme are all popular excursion and picnic spots. Resting under the shade of 200-year-old plane trees in the district centre is a pleasure like no other.

Local cultural mosaic exemplified

The Georgian and Caucasian cultures have blended in with Black Sea customs and traditions. Celebrations in

○ From Pide to Italian Pizza

Genose tradesmen who used to dock regularly along the Black Sea coast about two centuries ago, liked Black Sea pide so much that they brought the recipe to their homeland and adapted it to local tastes, giving rise to one of the Western world's favorite snacks: pizza. Pizza and pide dough are practically identical, with minor variations in toppings and sauces.

the district are usually accompanied by drum and horn music and Black Sea folk dances such as Çiftetelli and halay, but also Georgian folk dance.

Salıpazarı's culinary specialties

Zagi yani, Makaktu, Bileki bread, Circassian pastry are among the fabulous dishes of the Salıpazarı region, and their easy recipes are below:

Zagi Yani: mutton meat, rice, flour, butter, walnut, saffron, ground chile, garlic, **HÖĞMEN** and **ÇOROTU** are the main ingredient of this dish.

Makaktu: green beans, walnut, fresh coriander, garlic, **KORUK**, **İRHAN**
Bileki Bread: corn flour is mixed with boiling water and bay leaves and **TAHNAL** is sprinkled on top of the bread mix before baking.

Circassian pastry: corn flour, milk, egg and butter are used for the batter, which is fried and served with a meat stir-fry.

OUR TOURISM AREAS

The regions declared as tourism centers within the provincial borders of Samsun are as listed below:



- 1) Havza 25 Mayıs Thermal Tourism Center
- 2) Havza Thermal Spring Area İmaret Mahallesi Tourism Center
- 3) Ladik Akdağ Tourism Center
- 4) Ayvacık Tourism Preservation and Development Area
- 5) Vezirköprü Tourism Center
- 6) Bafra-Kolay Tourism Center

The regions within the Havza district are important with regards to the development of thermal tourism and also for the development of one-day touristic activities. Places appropriate for thermal tourism and hotel areas have been determined in these tourism centers. There are thermal water sources in this area where water temperature is 50°C. Investments will start in the areas where the necessary zoning arrangements have been made.

The Ladik Akdağ Tourism Center which is 87 km away from the city center and 7 km away from the Ladik district center is an appropriate area for the zoning of winter tourism facilities. The





roadwork, electricity and water infrastructure works of the region have all been completed. A chairlift is functional in the skiing area.

This area also possesses appropriate opportunities for tableland tourism besides being a place for winter sports. The Akdağ Tourism Center which is located along the valley at the border of Amasya-Samsun, is appropriate for scouting, camping and mountain climbing with its rocky mountains and pine forests. There is a plan of constructing a skiing training center, mountain hotels, valley resting houses and picnic areas inside the forest of this region.

The tourism region located in the Ayvacık district borders is made up of a 3000 hectare area that is outside the borders of

the municipal boundary. The Suat Uğurlu Dam Lake is found inside the borders of this region.

The planning studies for touristic investments in the centers of Vezirköprü Kunduz Forests, Bafra Kolay, 19 Mayıs Nebiyan, Çarşamba Hürriyet and Terme Gölyazı are continuing.







Nature Tours from Samsun

Samsun is one of our cities with a high potential of Nature Tourism. As a result tourism can be developed with nature tours.

The culture of Samsun can be witnessed with one-day and short-period overnight-stay tours.

You can see the sample tours below.

Travel Agencies may have different tour programs.

Samsun-Amasya-Tokat(Overnight-stay, with Bus);



- Breakfast in Çakallı after leaving from the overnight-stay establishment. Touring the Taşhan-Bridge and Ahşap Camii (Hardwood Mosque)

- Arrival in Amasya. Amasya is one of the historical cities of our country. The Yalıbozu houses, Museums, King Kaya Cemeteries and The Amasya Castle can be toured in the

city center.

- You can taste the regional food of Amasya which has a rich cuisine variety.
- Departure for Tokat after lunch.
- Touring the city, historical places, samples of civil architecture, mansion, etc.
- Regional handicrafts,
- Dinner in restaurants serving regional food, and overnight-stay.

Samsun- Sinop(1 night overnight-stay, with Bus);



- Departure after breakfast. Visiting the Bafra Museum, the Alaçam Mübadele Museum and Alaçam Mansions.

- Lunch in Yakakent (fish)

- Arrival at Sinop. City tour. The Historical Sinop Prison – Hamsilos Cove.

- Overnight-stay and dinner, time on the beach and return to Samsun.

Samsun-Çorum (One-day, with Bus);



- Breakfast in Çakallı after leaving from the overnight-stay establishment. Touring the Taşhan-Bridge and Ahşap Camii (Hardwood Mosque)

- Arrival at Çorum. Visiting Hattuşa, and lunch with regional food in the City Center

- Çorum müzesinin ziyareti ve dönüş. Visiting the Çorum Museum, and return.

Trekking

- You will be able to witness trekking tracks in nature filled with history, and that will take you away from the noise of the city.

- Ladik, Salıpazarı, 19 Mayıs, Vezirköprü, Bafra-Kolay, Terme-Gölyazı and the Ayvacık tracks are waiting for you with their natural beauties, endemic plant life, waterfalls and its historical views.

The Şahin Canyon (Vezirköprü)



- Kızılırmak runs through the perpendicular slope. Now it seems like a lake because of the dam. It is covered with green forests. You will be able to have a green tour with ferries.

The Kızılırmak Delta and Fish Lakes (Bafra)



A one-day delta tour to witness the rich variety of birds, animals and the vegetation cover. The track is very comfortable

- A cultural project; the foot marks of the Amazons
- Recently, paragliding is developing in Samsun.

Ladik Akdağ Kocadağ(Central)

- You can participate in the Jeep Safari Tours by driving the jeep you want. Requestors will be accompanied by drivers. It is usually made in the forest tracks.



- Ayvacık, Vezirköprü, Bafra-Kolay, Salıpazarı, Terme-Gölyazı, Ladik Akdağ Plateau, Küpecik Yaylası, and the Aktaş Plateau are the most important tracks.
- Offroad tracks: Vezirköprü Kunduz Forests, Ayvacık, Salıpazarı, Terme-Gölyazı, etc.

Trekking with Horses;

- Riding horses in the forest: Termez-Gölyazı, Salıpazarı-Karacaören, Bafra-Kolay are the most ideal tracks.



Ornitology:

- The Bafra Kızılırmak Delta is waiting for the Bird Sanctuary enthusiastic. There are 340 bird species in the 56 thousand hectare area. You are also able to do trekking.





GUIDE



SAMSUN GUIDE



► EMERGENCY

Country Code : 90

Province Kodu : 362

Governership of Samsun

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Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate

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Metropolitan Municipality

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cm@samsun-bld.gov.tr

Provincial Administration

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Alaçam District Governership

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Asarcık District Governership

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Kavak District Governershhip

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Salıpazarı District Governershhip

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Tekkeköy District Governershhip

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Terme District Governership

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Vezirköprü District Governership

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Municipality of Canik

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Municipality of Terme

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Municipality of Tekkeköy

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Municipality of Vezirköprü

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► Harbour Master

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► Coast Guard:

Tel: 445 03 33 - Fax : 445 02 51

► Tourism Information

Tel: 43112 28

► Customs Authority

Tel : 445 01 96 - Fax : 445 01 66

► Coach Companies

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Mesa Denizcilik

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Rota Gemi Acenteliği

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Fax : 0 (362) 4452553

Ulusoy Denizcilik

Tel : 0 (362) 4451625

Fax : 0 (362) 4452221

Vıra-M Gemi ve Konteyner Acenteliği

Tel : 0 (362) 4450733

Fax : 0 (362) 4450731

Yaşat Nakliyat

Tel : 0 (362) 4357813

Yelken Denizcilik

Tel : 0 (362) 4474108

Fax : 0 (362) 4474398



► State Hospitals

Hospital of Gynecology and Pediatrics

Tel : 0 (362) 230 91 00

Fax : 0 (362) 230 03 96

Hospital of Physical Treatment and Rehabilitation

Tel : 0 (362) 440 00 37

Gazi State Hospital

Tel : 0 (362) 311 30 30

Fax : 0 (362) 231 07 89

Samsun Training and Research Hospital

Tel : 0 (362) 311 15 00

Fax : 0 (362) 277 90 39

Hospital of Mental Health

Tel : 0 (362) 431 78 53 - 54 - 57 - 59

Samsun Thoracic Diseases and Thoracic Surgery Hospital

Tel : 0 (362) 440 00 44

Fax : 0 (362) 440 00 43

Mouth and Teeth Health Center

Tel : 0 (362) 440 00 45

Fax : 0 (362) 440 54 17

19 Mayıs University Health Research and Application Center

Tel : 0 (362) 312 19 19

► Private Hospitals

Private Atasam Hospital

DEREBAHÇE MAHALLESİ BAHÇIVAN SOKAK NO:14
55030 SAMSUN

Tel : 0 (362) 230 88 98

Fax : 0 (362) 231 64 83

Private Büyük Anadolu Samsun Hospital

İSTİKLAL CADDESİ NO:48 SAMSUN

Tel : 0 (362) 435 27 00

Fax : 0 (362) 432 56 28

Private Büyük Anadolu Meydan Hospital

KALE MAHALLESİ SAHİL CADDESİ NO:160 SAMSUN

Tel : 0 (362) 435 78 00

Fax : 0 (362) 435 27 90

Private Medibafra Hospital

ALTINYAPRAK MAHALLESİ HASTANE SOKAK NO:27/33
BAFRA/SAMSUN

Tel : 0 (362) 542 80 00

Fax : 0 (362) 543 22 22

Private Medicalpark Samsun Hospital

MİMARŞINAN MAHALLESİ ALPARSLAN BULVARI NO:17
ATAKUM/SAMSUN

Tel : 0 (362) 311 40 40

Fax : 0 (362) 311 40 50

Private Mediva Hospital

ATATÜRK BULVARI YALI MAHALLESİ 35. SOKAK NO:2
ATAKENT/SAMSUN

Tel : 0 (362) 438 98 00

Fax : 0 (362) 439 02 93

Private Romatem Physical Treatment and Rehabilitation Hospital

YENİ MAHALLE 7. SOKAK NO:35 CANIK/SAMSUN

Tel : 0 (362) 444 23 87

Fax : 0 (362) 432 82 32

Private Medicana International Samsun Hospital

YENİ MAHALLE ŞEHİT MESUT BİRİNCİ CADDESİ NO:85
CANIK/SAMSUN

Tel : 0 (362) 311 05 05

Fax : 0 (362) 240 20 40

► Cargo Companies

MNG KARGO 444 06 06

ARAS KARGO 432 00 75 - 435 59 64

YURT İÇİ KARGO 4357990- 2337464

► Cinemas

Galaxy Sineması I0 (362) 230 68 30

Konakplex (Konak Sineması)0 (362) 431 24 71

Afım Yeşilyurt Sineması0 (362) 439 20 70

Afra Moviezone Sineması0 (362) 465 63 33

Galaxy Sineması II0 (362) 234 36 66

Belediye Cep Sineması - Bafra0 (362) 532 32 89

Vabartum Sineması – Vezirköprü . . .0 (362) 646 16 63

► Museums

Gazi Museum0 (362) 431 28 91

Archeological and Ethnography

Museum0 (362) 431 68 28

Bandırma Vessel Museum0 (362) 238 00 23

Havza Atatürk House Museum0 (362) 714 13 59

Tekkeköy Atatürk House Museum . . .0 (362) 266 84 10

Bafra Museum0 (362) 542 77 13

(Under Renovation. To be opened soon)

Alaçam Commutation Museum

(Under Renovation. To be opened soon)

► Art Galleries

Atatürk Cultural Center Art Gallery . . .0 (362) 432 76 55

Metropolitan Municipality Art Gallery .0 (362) 435 11 18

Ziraat Bankası Art Gallery0 (362) 432 94 69

District Office Culture and Art Gallery 0 (362) 437 08 48

► Shopping Mall

Makro Market Avm0 (362) 465 59 01

Yeşilyurt Avm0 (362) 439 2525



► Hotels

BÜYÜK SAMSUN OTELİ★★★★

Tel: 432 49 99 ♦ Fax: 431 07 40

www.buyuksamsunoteli.com.tr

ANCERE TERMAL OTEL★★★★

Tel: 714 77 00 ♦ Fax: 714 77 05

www.ancerethermalhotel.com.tr

GRAND ATAKUM OTEL★★★★

Tel: 439 05 55 ♦ Fax:439 35 95

www.grandatakumhotel.com

VIDİNLİ OTELİ★★★

Tel: 431 60 50 ♦ Fax:431 21 36

www.otelvidinli.com.tr

SAMSUN MARIN OTEL★★★★

Tel: 437 00 25

www.samsunmarinbutikotel.com

SAMSUN AIRPORT RESORT HOTEL★★★

Tel: 256 33 65 ♦ Fax:256 33 68

www.samsunairportresorthotel.com

NORTH POINT OTEL★★★

Tel: 435 95 95 ♦ Fax:435 70 35

www.northpointhotel.com

HOTEL AMİSOS★★★

Tel: 435 94 00 ♦ Fax:435 44 05

www.hotelamisos.com

SAMSUN TUANA OTEL★★★

Tel: 457 80 05 ♦ Fax:457 80 15

www.tuanaotel.com.tr

YAFEYA OTEL★★★
Tel: 435 11 31 ♦ Fax:435 11 35
www.yafeyaotel.com

YILDIZOĞLU OTEL★★★
Tel: 4351355
www.yildizogluhotel.com

SAM MY HAUSE OTEL★★★
435 13 55 ♦ Fax:431 24 69
www.myhouseotel.com.tr

MAARİF OTELİ★★
Tel: 714 10 10 ♦ Fax: 714 42 03
www.maariftermalotel.com

Facilities with Tourism Investment Licence

GRAND DELUX AMİSOS OTEL★★★★★
EVİN OTELİ★★★★
GRAND SOĞANCI★★★★
AMİSOS MEYDAN OTELİ★★★★
ARMONİA HOTEL★★★
FOR YOU OTEL★★★
DAS ONUM OTELİ★★★
GRAND ASOS OTELİ★★★
GLORİA TIBİ OTEL★★★
VENN BUTİK OTEL
SAMSUN TURİZM HOTEL★★★
AYÇA HOTEL★★★

► Restaurant with Tourism Establishment Certificate

Gülhan Lokantası457 68 81
Samsun Kale Restaurant438 30 86
Samsun Oskar Lokantası431 20 40
Karadeniz Sahil Tesisleri437 53 18
Kerimbey Konağı266 40 52-53
Rama Lounge230 62 19
İtimat Balık Lokantası420 05 24
Renk Gazinosu233 01 73
Baran Turistik Tesisleri749 00 55
Pamuk Kardeşler Balık Restaurant445 03 44
Mercan Balık Lokantası231 62 22
Şehir Kulübü Restaurant431 37 36
Karadeniz Balık Restaurant233 57 17
Cadde Mangalbaşı Restaurant

► Travel Agencies

YAVUZ TRAVEL AGENCY	.431 36 32
KARTUR(ULUSOY)TRAVEL AGENCY	.431 30 60
LAMİRJEN TRAVEL AGENCY	.543 15 00
LORESİMA TRAVEL AGENCY	.833 10 66
METRO TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	.435 45 15
EFNAN TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	.432 43 38
E.AKÇA TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	.646 29 96
PİRAY TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	.433 00 29
AY-BİKE TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	.435 69 42
19 MAYIS TRAVEL AGENCY	.231 39 07
YILDIZOĞLU TRAVEL AGENCY	.435 83 84
DİLEM TRAVEL AGENCY	.431 19 63
YETKİLİ TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	
FAZEMON TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	
59 CSC TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	
STK TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	.873 32 81
TAVACI TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	
KÖKTEN TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	
KİMPA TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	
İ.F.D TRAVEL AGENCY	
STT İSTANBUL TRAVEL AGENCY	
HİZMET TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	
ŞAHMER TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	.432 31 01
TURGUT TOURISM	
VİÇE TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	.231 67 13
TRİA TRAVEL AGENCY	.23 369 89
VETSER TRAVEL AGENCY	.435 45 10
ERGÜNTUR TRAVEL AGENCY	.230 53 48
RASİBUTUR TRAVEL AGENCY	.230 01 61
SOYDEMİR TRAVEL AGENCY	.234 08 87
ALAÇAM TRAVEL AGENCY	.622 08 03
YEŞİLIRMAK TRAVEL AGENCY	.832 01 81
TUR CNT TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	



► Rent A Car

SAMSUN KADIOĞLU RENT A CAR	.233 57 78
SAMSUN YSR OTO KİRALAMA	.233 32 88
SAMSUN YETKİN RENT A CAR	.234 00 01

BLACKSEA RENTACAR	233 50 52
DOĞAN RENTACAR	431 63 41

► Festivals

- Melon Watermelon Festival/Bafra 22-23 July
- Hidirellez (Old Turkish Celebration of Spring)/Samsun 6 May
- Culture-Art and Tourism Festival 19 May - 7 August
- Tekkeköy Municipality International Culture,
Nature and Tourism Festival/Tekkeköy 30 - 31 July
- Traditional Oil Wrestling and
Horse Racing Festival/Asarcık In September
- 25 May Commemoration of Atatürk and
Thermal Tourism Festival / Havza 25 May
- Ayvacık Nature-Water Sports-Culture Tourism and
Wrestling Festival / Ayvacık 3-4 September
- Akdağ Plateau Festival / Ladik 02-04 July
- Yakakent Culture, Art and
Sea Games Festival / Yakakent 8 - 9 - 10 July
- Circumcision Feast / İlkadım 24 June
- Blacksea Countries Theatre Workshop/İlkadım 20 - 27 March
- Bicycle Festival / İlkadım 19 June
- Kite Festival / İlkadım 25 September
- Samsun International
Folk Dances Festival / Samsun 15-30 July
- 19 Mayıs Youth Culture and
Art Festival / Samsun 17-20 May