





SAMSUN



Sevgi Bridge





Lake Simentit

Samsun in northern Turkey is in the middle part of the Black Sea. Exploring Samsun located between the deltas of Yeşilirmak and Kızılırmak where the rivers flow into the Black Sea, means to live the existence spirit of a nation, to find all the beauties crowned with nature's generosity all together and to be fascinated.

Samsun is an icon city where wide green and blue will permeate your soul with the waves and the sounds of the birds, where you will encounter the glorious historical heritage on each corner of the city. In Samsun you are welcomed by nature's entrust birds, taking you from the lengthy coast drawing a border between blue and green to their nests, lakes and reeds. Introducing you along the way to the plains, created by the rivers, extending to reach the Black Sea, to the valleys and the plateaus, presenting the mountains, and the thermal springs. The birds, while showing you around this city full of mounds, monumental tombs of thousands of years and modern museums besides to the-

se natural beauties, whisper you the sound of the past.

If you want to start to explore the city with its history you have to go back to 5500 BC. The first human existence enlivening its geography goes back to these ages. The existence of the area on the stage of the history as a city begins in the 6th century BC by Milesians building a market place in a little site called "Amisoss".

Even though the civilizations established dominance gave all different names to 'Amisoss', those names couldn't live in the minds of people and the city remained being called Amisos until the Turks have settled in here conquering the Canik Sanjak near Amisos and give the name Samsun evoked from Amisos.

Although the region went fully under Turkish domination with the Ottoman conquest in 1419 by Çelebi Mehmet Han, in the 12th and the 13th centuries it is referred as Samsun in the Turkish sources and as Sampson in the western sources.

Samsun developed around Amisos, as a trade city with shores, have been for centuri-

Road to Liberation, Tütün Wharf





A view from Samsun

es always the focal point and its adventure started with Hitites reached today enriched by the traces of many civilizations from Eretna people to Milesians, from Persians to Romans, from Genoese to Pontus.

Today, this heritage of archaeological documents and artifacts can be seen all together in Samsun Museum located in the city center.

The archaeological trip in Samsun is of course not limited with the museum. Barutane Tumuli, Tekkeköy Caves, Garpu Castle, Esentepe Tomb, İkiştepe Mound and Asar Castle are only some of the world heritage sites allowing us to observe the life of Samsun from the 6th century BC till today. Samsun, with its importance in the War of Independence, with its historical mission, having a quite special importance for Turkey, unveils these values and the recent history especially in Gazi Museum, Bandırma Ship Museum and War of Independence Open Air Museum.

Evlia Çelebi who is one of the most successful narrators in

the world history literature, while describing the Samsun of the 17th century, points grandeur of Samsun Castle built of stone. The people of Çelebi's Samsun are occupied with shipping and hemp business, live in houses built of tiles with a garden. In later years, tobacco cultivation has become widespread, and together with the establishment of steamboat business in Black Sea, the city has developed by increasing its mercantile power.

Even though the city has survived great difficulties and dearth with the raids and large-scale urban fires, it did not lose the dynamism, reached today getting stronger as the

Treasure of Amisos, Golden Earring, Hellenistic Period



Salıpazarı,
Çağlayan Village
Waterfall





Amazon Statue

icon city where the spark of War of Independence has lit. Today with its fertile plains, dams, sea trade, tobacco production and tourism, it plays an important role for the national economy.

One of Samsun's cultural heritage is being the home of the legendary female warriors known as Amazons. It is known that the Amazons have lived in Themiskyra near Terme district of Samsun, and today each year Terme festival is held on behalf of the Amazons. When we examine the prosperity brought by its geographical fetures to Samsun, the lush green hills covered with pine woods, the beaches strip along the coastal line, natural lakes and dam lakes where freshwater fishing can be done, healing hot springs, vast plateaus tailored for hiking and camping are fronting us. Samsun which can be easily visited in every season thanks to its temperate climate, is also striking with the mountain elevations offering winter sports facilities and where also grass skiing can be done.

Samsun, besides the wide alternatives it offers with the nature tourism and historical tourism, serves also the gourmet tourism with seafood,

fresh water fisheries and authentic flavors.

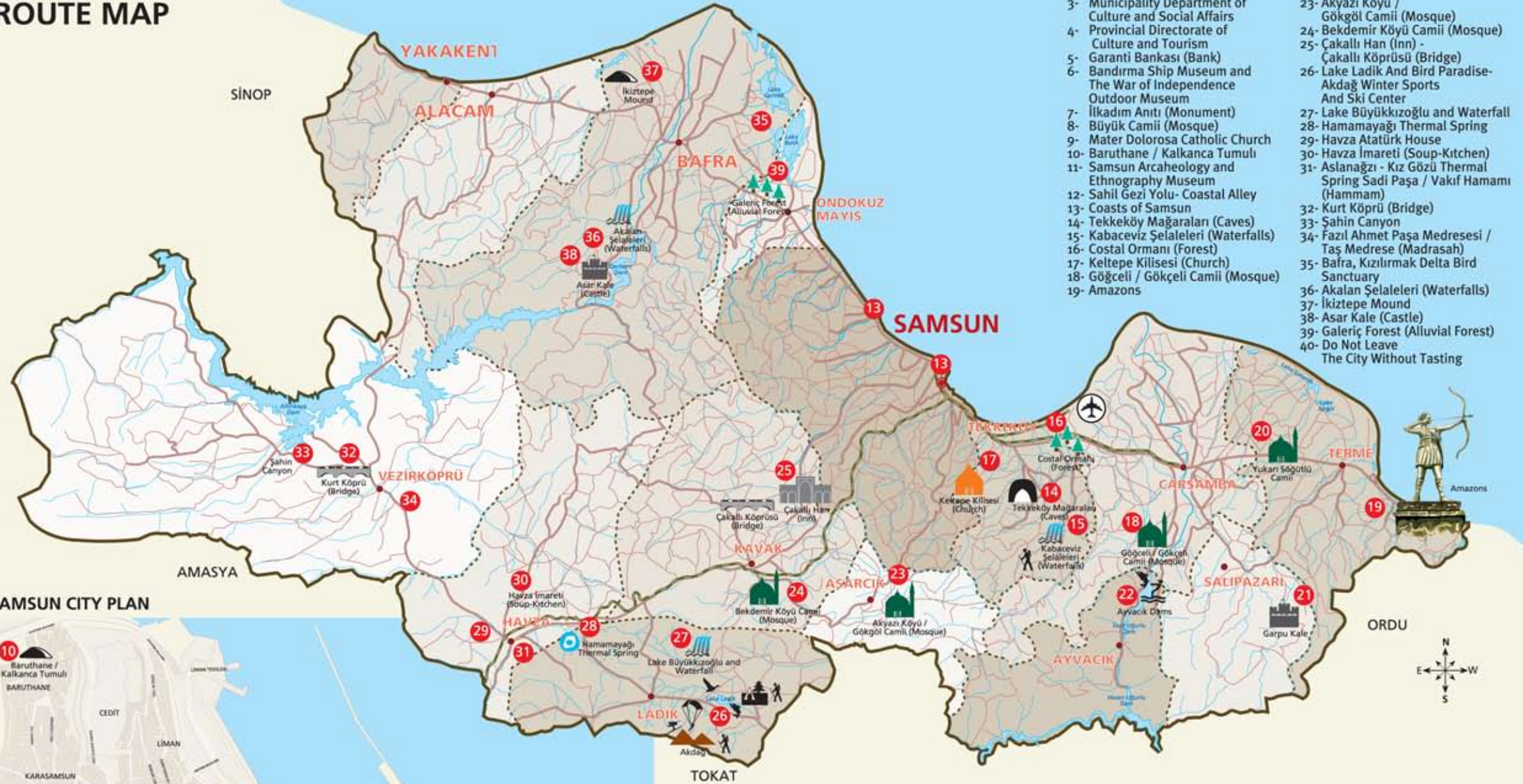
"Coastal Alley" where you can visit Yalova Ferry which has been renovaded, Kurupelit and Muşta private beaches, where you can swim, do water sports such as sailing and surfing, Kabaceviz Waterfalls, Galerıç Woods, Ladik Lake – Bird Sanctuary giving life to 140 different species, where you can do trekking, picnic and photo safari and Aslanağzı Thermal Spring where you can relax in its healing water, are just a few of the beauties you shouldn't leave without visiting in Samsun. In this route of rich 40 steps we chose for more details, you will find the opportunity to explore Samsun.

Atakum Coast



samsun

SAMSUN ROUTE MAP



- 1- Atatürk Anıtı (Monument)
- 2- Gazi Museum / Mantika Palas Hotel
- 3- Municipality Department of Culture and Social Affairs
- 4- Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism
- 5- Garanti Bankası (Bank)
- 6- Bandırma Ship Museum and The War of Independence Outdoor Museum
- 7- İlkadım Anıtı (Monument)
- 8- Büyük Camii (Mosque)
- 9- Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church
- 10- Baruthane / Kalkanca Tumulu
- 11- Samsun Arcaheology and Ethnography Museum
- 12- Sahil Gezi Yolu- Coastal Alley
- 13- Coasts of Samsun
- 14- Tekkeköy Mağaraları (Caves)
- 15- Kabaceviz Şelaleleri (Waterfalls)
- 16- Costal Ormanı (Forest)
- 17- Keltepe Kilisesi (Church)
- 18- Göğceli / Gökçeli Camii (Mosque)
- 19- Amazons
- 20- Yukarı Söğütü Camii (Mosque)
- 21- Garpu Kalesi (Castle)
- 22- Ayvacık Dams
- 23- Akyazı Köyü / Gökğöl Camii (Mosque)
- 24- Bekdemir Köyü Camii (Mosque)
- 25- Çakallı Han (Inn) - Çakallı Köprüsü (Bridge)
- 26- Lake Ladik And Bird Paradise- Akdağ Winter Sports And Ski Center
- 27- Lake Büyükkızıoğlu and Waterfall
- 28- Hamamayağı Thermal Spring
- 29- Havza Atatürk House
- 30- Havza İmaretü (Soup-Kitchen)
- 31- Aslanağzı - Kız Gözü Thermal Spring Sadi Paşa / Vakıf Hamamı (Hamman)
- 32- Kurt Köprü (Bridge)
- 33- Şahin Canyon
- 34- Fazıl Ahmet Paşa Medresesi / Taş Medrese (Madrasah)
- 35- Bafra, Kızılırmak Delta Bird Sanctuary
- 36- Akalan Şelaleleri (Waterfalls)
- 37- İkiztepe Mound
- 38- Asar Kale (Castle)
- 39- Galerici Forest (Alluvial Forest)
- 40- Do Not Leave The City Without Tasting

SAMSUN CITY PLAN



0 4 8 km





Atatürk Monument

1- ATATÜRK ANITI (MONUMENT)

The monument which with the initiative of the people of Samsun has been built by the Australian sculptor Heinrich Krippl has been opened to with a ceremony held on January 1, 1932. The bronze sculpture has a height of 4.75 m without the base, and 8.85 m with the base.

It is possible to see Atatürk with all his solemnity on the horse rearing up on a high base.

This monument describing Atatürk precisely became the symbol of the Samsun city, as the symbol of strength, determination and distinction. The-

re are reliefs on both sides and epitaphs on the front and the back side of the base. On one of the reliefs there are people carrying missiles and munitions during the war on the other one Atatürk is standing hand in hand with the nation. On both sides of Atatürk, the young and old, village man and townsman, the Turkish nation is to be seen. The inscriptions on the base are as follows:

“Gazi has landed Samsun on May 19, 1919 to start the Turkish War of Independence in the homeland.”

“Sculpturing has been started by the people of Samsun in November – December 1931.”



Gazi Museum

2- GAZI MUSEUM / MANTİKA PALAS HOTEL

The building serving today as Gazi Museum has been built in 1902 by Jean Ionnis Mantika as a hotel. This building is the the first place where Mustafa Kemal Paşa had stayed in Samsun when he came on May 19, 1919 as 9th Army Inspector and the place he stayed during his following visits. The keys of the Mantika Palas Hotel were presented to Mustafa Kemal in 1926 for the memory of his visits. With the undertaking of Samsun Municipality it has been opened to the visitors as Gazi Museum in 1940. The collections of Atatürk Museum that was open to visit since 1968 have also been included to the Gazi Museum. After the extended restoration, Gazi Museum is opened to the visitors in 2006 with the renewed display arrangement, confirming to the modern museum understandings.

In Gazi Museum, the items used by Atatürk and photos, the bedroom and the study room of Atatürk are displayed. In addition, in the hall on the upper floor, there are wax sculp-

tures of the eighteen fellow soldiers arrived Samsun together with Mustafa Kemal Paşa.

3- MUNICIPALITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (FORMER POLİHRON HOTEL / MILITARY HOSPITAL)

For the military hospital serving as the Municipality Department of Culture and Social Affairs, it has been stated in the deed registry that it was used as the Polihron Hotel before. After the population exchange the building has been assigned to the treasury. This

Municipality Department of Culture and Social Affairs



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Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism Building

building used as court house between the years 1930-1940, has served as Military Hospital after that. After restorations carried out, the building has started operating as Municipality Department of Culture and Social Affairs. The façade of the four-storey building is ornamented. Its long balcony, windows and arch usage is striking.

as residence until 1936. In the following periods it has been used as the Trade School, Namık Kemal School, Public Education Center, Teacherage and Teacher's Health Center. Today, the two-storey building, serving as the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, attracts attention with its façade ornamented with pillars.

4- PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATE OF CULTURE AND TOURISM (BORLUOĞLU HOUSE / TRADE SCHOOL / THE FORMER TEACHERAGE)

The building built by the banker Borluoğlu in 1890, is carrying the affects of the 19th century French architecture. After the population exchange, it has been assigned to the General Directorate of National Real Estate and has been used

Garanti Bank

5- GARANTİ BANKASI / FORMER OSMANLI BANKASI (BANK)

Bank-ı Osmanî-i Şahane (Osmanlı Bankası) established in 1863 was an important bank which had in 1914 over 80 branches in many cities. The Samsun branch of the bank has been opened in 1891. The most attractive part of the bank building is that the monumental entrance in the middle is extending in the form of a tower.

On the door, the statement "Banque Imperial Ottomane" which is the French translation of Bank-ı Osmanî-i Şahane is to be read. The building with its four rounded windows, façade ornaments, wrought irons, roof coating and of course its tower, has a special place in the architectural texture of Samsun.



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Bandırma Ship

6- BANDIRMA SHIP MUSEUM AND THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE OUTDOOR MUSEUM

The ship which had carried Mustafa Kemal and his eighteen friends who were going to Anatolia to start the War of Independence - the first and the most important step of the foundation of modern Turkey, was SS Bandırma. SS Bandırma was built in 1878 in England as a cargo and passenger ferry. Afterwards it has been sold to a company in İstanbul and named as "Panderma". When the ship was assigned to Ottoman Maritime Lines its name has been changed as "Bandırma". The SS Bandırma rebuilt in accordance with its original shape, is being transferred to the next generations as an important symbol of the recent history.

In the Ship-Museum the wax sculptures of Atatürk and his fellows are exhibited.

In the War of Independence Park and Outdoor Museum, there are ceramic reliefs representing the war starting from the battle of Çanakkale until the liberation of İzmir by the Turkish Army, casualty epitaph where the names of 1200 casualties from Samsun and its districts who died as martyred, bronze reliefs, War of In-

dependence Monument and the sub-munitions (cannon, torpedo, mines etc.) used during the War of Independence.

7- İLKADIM ANITI (MONUMENT)

The monument standing at the place where Mustafa Kemal Paşa has first stepped in Samsun on May 19, 1919, has been sculptured by the sculptor Hakkı Atamulu between 1981-1982. The three frontal figures of the Monument, let built by the people of Samsun on his 100th birth anniversary, while symbolizing Atatürk and his fellows stepping in Samsun for the first time, expresses that the Turkish War of Independence has been started here. The man figure holding a pigeon in the hand symbolizes the faith in the peace, and the girl holding laurel wreath symbolises the victory.

İlk Adım Monument



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Büyük Mosque

8- BÜYÜK CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

It is in the city centre on the Saathane Meydanı (Square). It has been built upon orders by Hacı Ali Efendi from Batum on September 9, 1884. As it has been repaired by the mother of Sultan Abdülaziz, it is also called Valide (meaning 'mother') Camii. The mosque, built of ashlar stone, has two minarets. The big central dome is constructed with cupolas around. As it has many windows it's well lightened an spacious inside. The apse is high and built of light pink marble.

9- MATER DOLOROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH

The construction of the first

Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church



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church is carried out in 1846 by the Kapusen Monks. This church was a small building with the dimensions of 8x12 m. With the permission of Sultan Murat in 1876, the church of today has been built. In 1885 a cemetery and a cloister have been built next to the Mater Dolorosa (Mother of Sorrows-St.Mary) Church. The church is open to visitors.

10- BARUTHANE / KALKANCA TUMULI

The two tumuli located in Kalkanca Quarter, on the Samsun-Sinop highway, 4km from the city, in Baruthane, are superimposed hills and are the graves where the noble people were buried in the ancient ages.

At the end of the scientific excavations performed by the Museum Directorate with the support of Metropolitan Municipality of Samsun, two graves have been discovered. The tumulus in the south has a height of 15 m and diameter of 40 m. Underneath of this tumulus, a cream color plastered grave with two rooms has been found. In the front room, there is a decoration with two



Samsun Archaeology and Ethnography Museum

red colored lines to be seen as in the back room there is a deathbed to be seen. Under the tumulus on the north which is 8 m height and has a diameter of 30m, a grave structure consisting out of 3 rooms aligned one after the other, has been found. The walls of the rooms are decorated with fake pillars. As the graves have been burgled before, only, findings such as broken pot pieces, bronze nail and bones could be captured. According to the findings and the building characteristics of the grave, the date of these is determined as the 3rd century BC.

11- SAMSUN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM

Samsun Archaeology and Ethnography Museum brings the citizens of Samsun and its visitors together with the rich history of the city since 1981. The first artifact noticed in the museum is the floor mosaic discovered in 1958 in Amisos ancient city.

It is dated from Alexander Severus period (222-235). Amisos floor mosaic consists of 10

panels. It has the dimensions of 7x8 m. The importance of the Amisos mosaic is that it's the only example of the Achilles cult trace found on the south coasts of Black Sea. Right behind the mosaic the Treasure of Amisos is displayed. The sepulcher foundlings discovered during road extension works in the Samsun city centre in 1995, are forming the group called Amisos Treasures. Among the golden artifacts, woman headed bracelet, 10 appliquéés, 13 buttons, a ring, a crown with laurel leaves and necklaces are the primary ones. Again in the central hall coins belonging to the Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Ottoman and Republican periods are also displayed. In this hall on the right the foundlings belonging to the Chalcolithic Age, Early Bronze Age and Hittite, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Republican periods are exhibited. In this hall the bronze athlete sculpture dating from the 1st century is striking. In the ethnography section artifacts with ethnographical value representing the so-



Samsun Coastal Alley

cial, religious and commercial life of the region are displayed. And in the garden of the museum tombs, stells, reliefs and tablets are displayed.

12- SAHİL GEZİ YOLU - COASTAL ALLEY

Coastal Alley, thanks to its new arrangement one of the most beautiful walking-tracks of Samsun, is becoming ever popular place due to its entertainment and recreation facilities. The coastal alley which can be toured around by phaetons in the summer months, locates between the East Park and the West Park. On the east of the coastal alley, there are Lake Sevgi and the Zoo.

Lake Sevgi and Park: There are walking-tracks, cafes, restaurants, sitting and rest areas around the lake. In the area arranged as artificial lake, there are various water birds as swans and ducks being in the first place. The sculptures placed on the coastal road and around the Sevgi Lake are meeting the walkers as little surprises.

The Zoo : At the Zoo located on the east of Coastal Alley there are lions, tigers, monkeys, camels, ostriches, pheasants, various water birds, peacocks,

deer, goats, bears, ponies and dogs.

Kurtuluş Yolu (Road to Liberation) and Tütün Wharf: In the middle of the coastal alley “Sahil Gezi Yolu” there is the Kurtuluş Yolu (Tütün Wharf) composition. A modern exhibition of SS Bandırma and the sculptures of Mustafa Kemal Paşa and his eighteen fellows are presented on this berth outdoors.

The road starting from here, passing by Yabancılar Pazarı (bazaar), extending into the city center, is arranged according to the modern urban planning.

Yalova Gemisi –Yalova Ferry: 1948 Dutch production Yalova Ferry has been cruising between İstanbul-Yalova as İstanbul Cityline Ferry. It has been bought in 1998 by the Metropolitan Municipality of Samsun and within the contents of the Coastal Alley it has been arranged as a cafe-restaurant without interfering with the authentic shape of the ship.

13- COASTS OF SAMSUN

In Samsun which has a long coastal line of 35 km, 90% of the coastal line situated between Samsun- 19 Mayıs district, is suitable for swimming.



Atakum Coast

In Atakum, Kurupelit, Atakent, Çatalçam İncesu, Dereköy, Taf-lan, Erenköy, Engiz and in Muşta there are private beaches, camping areas and accommodation facilities. On this coastal line alternative water sports opportunities such as sailing, windsurfing, jet skiing are available. Many entertainment centers on the coastline offer entertainment until late into the night.

14- TEKKEKÖY MAĞARALARI (CAVES)

Located 14 km east of Samsun, within the borders of Tekkeköy

district. During the researches done in 1941 there has been many prehistoric caves, shelters and plain habitation discovered.

Foundlings belonging to Paleolithic Period, Bronze Age and the Hittites have been obtained. These foundlings are now in the Samsun Museum.

Another massif rock which is located where the Çınarcık and Fındıcak valleys join each other and has a good view on both of the valleys, is known as “delikli kaya (holey rock)”. As the result of the researches done, it has been understood that this is a Phrygian Castle.

Tekkeköy Caves





Kabaceviz Watterfall

15- KABACEVİZ ŞELELERİ (WATERFALLS)

The Kabaceviz waterfalls, which has a distance of 32 km to Samsun and 22 km to the Tekkeköy district centre, is one of the beautiful areas of the region which is worth to see. The area consisting of the three staged waterfalls combination provides travel, trekking, mountaineering, picnic and photo safari facilities. In the waterfall, which has a fall of 60 m on the second level, there is stream until the end of the month August. The best period to visit the region is end of May – beginning of October

16- COSTAL ORMANI (FOREST)

The Costal Forest locating at Gelemen in Tekkeköy is a beautiful example for the rare coastal forests at the Black Sea. This place has been determined as one of the places with high natural value in Samsun.

17- KELTEPE KİLİSESİ (CHURCH)

Even though a part of the dome of the church built of stone is demolished, the architectural characteristics of the building still show themselves. The pillars and the arches in the building, reveal the old lo-

Keltepe Church





Göğceli Mosque

ok of the building without the need for imagination.

18- GÖĞCELİ / GÖKÇELİ CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

Göğceli Mosque, which is one of the most important representatives of wooden architectural tradition in Anatolia, is located within the Göğceli Cemetery. In the dendro-chronological studies it is understood that the building has been constructed in 1206. It is not known by whom it has been built. Göğceli Mosque is an important building due to its

wooden architecture as well as its characteristic of being one of the oldest wooden mosques in Turkey which has been able to reach today.

The building which is quite big is surrounded by porches on the three sides except the apse wall. On the beam and the roof woods of the building there are handmade rich ornaments. The structure of the compositions consisting of palmette and rumi motifs, curvy belts and leaves in different shapes resemble the Seljuks samples.

Göğceli Mosque





Amazon Statue

19- AMAZONS

The most important myth related to the history of Terme is the Amazons. The most important characteristic of the Amazons is that they were warriors. It is acknowledged that also the name Terme originates from Thermodon (Terme brook of today) on the shores of which the Amazons have established their city called Themiskyra. Today, it is possible to find ancient art works des-

cribing the heroism of Amazons from Terme at many museums of the world. On the area close to the sea between Terme district and the Black Sea, Lake Akgöl and Lake Simentit (Simenlik) are located which through natural channels are connected to each other. The reason for both of the lakes being rich with fish habitation is that sea water floods in. The lakes Akgöl, Simentit and Silindir and their surroundings are wetlands sheltering hundreds of bird species within their scopes. The lakes specified as Wildlife Protection Area by the Directorate of National Parks are not too deep.

Yukarı Söğütlü Mosque



20- YUKARI SÖĞÜTLÜ CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

This mosque located in the



Ayvacık (Suat Uğurlu) Dam Lake

Terme district is also known as Karacalı Mosque. One storey wooden building has been constructed by masonry technique.

The mosque is rising on a platform consisting out of wooden logs. On the north façade the narthex and on the east and the west the porches are located. Some of the ornaments are simple and geometrical.

These ornaments are colored with red ochre.

In some ornaments there are engravings. The oldest of the dates inscribed on the walls of the mosque (1700) is being accepted as the construction date.

21- GARPU KALESİ (CASTLE)

The castle also called Garfu or Gerfu is located between Konakören and Kuşçuağız villages in Salıpazarı.

There are no significant architectural remains in the castle which is suggested to belong to the 7th century BC. The entrance is made by carving and the stairs by sculpturing the rocks.

22- AYVACIK (HASAN - SUAT UĞURLU) DAMS

In Ayvacık there are two dams on Yeşilirmak.

Hasan Uğurlu Dam has been built between 1971 and 1981 for the purpose of electricity power production. Suat Uğurlu Dam, which is the second dam, 18 km further, has been built both for the production of electricity and for the purpose of irrigation between 1975-1981.

23- AKYAZI KÖYÜ / GÖKGÖL CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

The construction date of the mosque located in Akyazi-Gökgöl village is not certain. However, on a plank in the mosque, the date '1870' and the word 'repair' in Ottoman are seen. So it is understood that the building has been built before this date.

The perfect work on the double door of the mosque which is interesting with its woodworking evokes admiration. The woodworking on the carrier girders are good samples for woodcarving.



Bekdemir Mosque

24- BEKDEMİR KÖYÜ CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

The mosque located in Bekdemir Village in Kavak district with its wooden architecture and original ornaments, is a historical mosque which certainly must be seen.

It is known that the mosque was at another place when it was first built and has been moved to its place of today at some time later. The year 1596 is considered as the construction date and 1876 as the removal date.

The mosque built of oak tree by using log house and wood masonry techniques, has a two-storey façade appearance. The mosque with almost square plan has three façades surrounded by porches. The yard is entered through an or-

namented imposing double door. The mahfil (elevated logge) to be seen in the yard is carried by eight pillars. The apse and mimbar are original and have rich ornaments. The ornaments of the mosque are divided in three as handmade ornaments, engraved-painted ornaments and colored openworks. In the paintings madder is used and the ornaments have usually botanical characters.

25- ÇAKALLI HAN (INN) – ÇAKALLI KÖPRÜSÜ (BRIDGE)

Çakallı Inn on the Samsun-Amasya pack-trail, in Çakallı Village in Kavak district, is one of the important buildings in the Mid Black Sea region dating from Anadolu Seljuks Pe-

Çakallı Han (Inn)





Çakallı Bridge

riod. Çakallı Inn in terms of its plan characteristics belongs to the lodgings consisting of indoor (stable) and outdoor (courtyard) sections. The indoor section consists of three parallel naves. The upper cover is vault. The only ornaments which can be seen on the building are the ones on the both sides that are reaching the half height of the portal of the inn. Çakallı Inn is dating from 1210-1265.

Additionally, Çakallı Bridge located nearby the Çakallı Inn has two arches, has a height of 10-12 m. The bridge still maintains its architectural characteristics.

26- LAKE LADİK AND BIRD PARADISE- AKDAĞ WINTER SPORTS AND SKI CENTER

Lake Ladik, the source of Tersakan River is at a distance of 10 km to Ladik. There are trout

and bowfin in the lake. Reed provided from lake Ladik possessing a wide reed land is used in the reed mat production. At Lake Ladik many bird species are living in their natural environment. Among these, night heron, squacco heron, little egret, grey heron, purple heron, black stork, stork, mallard, black-winged stilt, peewit, black-headed gull, common tern, little tern, white-winged black tern are counted. On the mountainside around Lake Ladik on the other hand birds like rock pigeon, crested lark, lark, red-backed shrike, and ring ouzel, finch, and sparrow, raven are living.

Akdağ Winter Sports and Ski Center which is at a distance of 7 km to Ladik, has long ski runs. The area covered with natural grass, is able to offer the alternative for grass skiing in the summer time.

Lake Ladik





Akdağ Mountain

27- LAKE BÜYÜKKIZOĞLU AND WATERFALL

Driving from Büyükkızıoğlu Village 3km towards the plateau, the waterfall in the woodland with a spectacular view and the natural lake surrounded by high trees are genuinely worth to see.

The surrounding of the lake is suitable for picnic. The source of the waterfall is on Akdağ. For that reason the water is very cold and clean. It is very suitable for trout farming as well.

Hamamayağı Thermal Spring

28- HAMAMAYAĞI THERMAL SPRING

The thermal spring which is 75 km to Samsun and 15 km to Havza is located 13 km in the north of Ladik. Hamamayağı as the most important tourism area of the district is a popular resort with its healthy water, picnic areas and recreation facilities. The water of the thermal spring, in regards with the containing minerals, is among the famous thermal springs of the world. The water has a temperature of 37°C.



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Atatürk House

29- HAVZA ATATÜRK HOUSE

The three-storey building assumed to have been built at the beginning of the 1900s, while serving with the name of “Mesudiye Hotel”, has been assigned to Mustafa Kemal Paşa with his arrival to Havza on May 25, 1919. His room has been preserved together with its furniture and opened to visitors as “Gazi Room”. The entire building has been restored in 2002 and received a new arrangement as Atatürk Hou-

se. While the lower floor is being used as an exhibition area, the second floor has been rearranged as Atatürk’s study room, bedroom, Havza room and lounge with the furniture used at those times. On the third floor there are Amasya, Sivas, Erzurum and Ankara rooms. In these rooms the works done in those periods are represented by means of photos and scripts. Again in the rooms the ethnographical artifacts collected in Havza and its region are displayed.

Atatürk House





Havza İmaret (Soup - Kitchen)

30- HAVZA İMARETİ (SOUP-KITCHEN)

The imaret building located in İmaret quarter in the west of the thermal springs, has been built in 1429 during the period of Murad II by the mayor of Amasya, Yörgüç Paşazade Mustafa Bey. For many years the poor, the dervishes, the soldiers have been eating and lodging here. Later the surroundings of the imaret has been damaged, the building of which the domes have fell down has been devastated. The building which has been restored in 1938 reached with its state till today. The building used as “District Public

Aslanağzı - Kız Gözü Thermal Spring

Library” between the years 1940-1982, is today still being used according to its purposes.

31- ASLANAĞZI - KIZ GÖZÜ THERMAL SPRING SADI PAŞA / VAKIF HAMAMI (HAMMAM)

According to the foundation registries, it has been built by the Seljuk Sultan, Mesut II in 1256. The hammam located in İmaret Quarter in Havza is known as Sadi Paşa Hammam or Sultan Mesut Hammam as well. Today the big basin of the hammam is called Aslanağzı and the pillar next to the basin is called “kız gözü” (meaning ‘girl’s eye’). According to the myth, when rebels attack while three girls were taking bath in the hammam the girls said “My God, change us either to a bird or to a stone... But please don’t leave us into the hands of these peop-





Şahin Canyon

le!”. And two of them became birds but the other one became stone and remained in the corner of the hammam. Out of the hole on the pillar the tears of the girl started to flow down. There are still drops flowing out of the pillar.

32- KURT KÖPRÜ (BRIDGE)

The bridge, built on İstavroz Creek which is at the border of Veziroköprü and Havza, is 40 m long and 15 m high. It is situated on the ancient Silk Road and dated back to the 12th – 13th centuries.

33- ŞAHİN CANYON

It is 14 km away from the district centre of Veziroköprü on Altınkaya Dam Lake. Awaiting all of your visits with its untouched nature. It is also possib-

le to reach the canyon from Bafra.

34- FAZIL AHMET PAŞA MEDRESESİ / TAŞ MEDRESE (MADRASAH)

The Madrasah which is in Veziroköprü district centre has been built upon orders by Fazil Ahmet Paşa in 1662. Although there has been cracks during the earthquake of 1943, it has been restored and its authenticity has been kept. Taş (meaning ‘stone’) Madrasah which has been used for several purposes until 1964 has been used after that date as the service building of the Directorate of Public Library which is assigned to Ministry of Culture. There are 20.000 books in the library.

Fazil Ahmet Paşa Madrasah





Bafra, Kızılırmak Delta Bird Sanctuary

35- BAFRA, KIZILIRMAK DELTA BIRD SANCTUARY

Kızılırmak Delta, possesses three of the most important criteria of European Bird Areas Inventory. The Delta with its large and small lakes, reed lands and the rare alluvial fields, wetlands of over 10.000 hectares and with the species it shelters, comprises one of the most important natural systems of Turkey. In the Kızılırmak Delta Bird Sanctuary, it is possible to observe 320 different bird species all together.

36- AKALAN ŞELELELERİ (WATERFALLS)

The group of waterfalls located at a distance of 10 km to Kolay town in Bafra consists of 16 successive waterfalls. With its untouched nature it is ideal for photo-safaris, and adventure tourism

37- İKİZTEPE MOUND

İkiztepe, which is one of the mounds of the Black Sea Region as of Turkey, giving the

most foundlings, is near the İkiztepe village 7km northwest of Bafra. İkiztepe in fact consists of four rises. As the result of the excavations done on Hill 1, cultural layers belonging to Chalcolithic Age, Early Bronze Age stages I-II-III and Early Hittite Period are discovered. The settlement in İkiztepe sustained until 1700 BC. The elaborated metal artifacts which are among the foundlings discovered in İkiztepe, carry the success of the area in metal processing to thousands of years before. From the many weaving loom weights and spindle whorls which are discovered, it is understood that they were developed also in weaving. As the discovered clay idols and pots are also added, it is understood that there has been an important civilization leading a life here. Because of the discovered female idols it is understood that the local people of İkiztepe who apparently were maintaining their lives by hunting, breeding and fishing, were worshiping the



Asar Castle

mother goddess which is the oldest cult in Anatolia. Additionally, from the clay bull figures and horn images it is also understood that the bull cult was also respected in İkiztepe.

The surveys performed on more than six hundred graves discovered here, have shown that the ones lived here were carrying the race characteristics of around the Caucasus, Rumenia and Bulgaria.

According to the holes seen on some of the skulls found in the graves, it is confirmed that in İkiztepe also some surgery applications (removing pieces from the skull) were performed. A group of operated skulls are exhibited in Samsun Museum.

38- ASAR KALE (CASTLE)

Asar Castle located on a high rock mass is on 30 km southwest of the Bafra district, within the Kızılırmak Valley and near Altinkaya Dam. It is acknowledged that the remains of the Asar Castle, which is thought to belong to the Hellenistic Age, were built for defense purposes. It is also assumed that the rock carved graves are

also belonging to the same period.

39- GALERİÇ FOREST (ALLUVIAL FOREST)

Kızılırmak Delta located in Ondokuz Mayıs, has a great significance regarding the bird species it is hosting. The Galerîç Forest on the delta, is one of the rare alluvial forests in Turkey. In the forest, rich in biological diversity, 35 passerine bird species are incubating. The most important place of the region with regards to wild life is the forest of which the bottom is covered completely by water in the spring and consisting of deciduous trees.

40- DO NOT LEAVE THE CITY WITHOUT TASTING

Don't leave the city without tasting the **BAFRA PİDESİ** (pita with minced meat, cheese, etc.), the **CORN BREAD**, which is baked in butter and turns into a delicious combination with Turkish feta cheese, **SEA FOOD**, which has a different fresh variety for each season, **BAFRA NOKULU DESSERT** and **ÇARŞAMBA KIVRATMASI** (kind of pastry with hazelnut) .