





TOKAT



A view from Tokat

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Tokat is a special and precious city where the Mawlawi semah (religious dance) first lightened, where the Ottoman architecture built excellent samples, where the nature thrilled in diversity. What makes it valuable are its specific geography, deep-rooted history and its people who created them.

Tokat, not withholding the fertility of the plateaus formed in millions of years, lush forests rooted to the land, the mature rivers, has hosted civilizations, and has enhanced by integrating the different cultures. It was one of the most important cities in Anatolia during the 12th and the 13th centuries. Especially being located in an area where caravan routes pass through, Tokat developed in a short time, the buildings constructed thanks to this economic development and reached today, have carried characteristics and grandeur of the Seljuk and Ottoman architecture. Tokat is located in the inner part of Central Black Sea. Its neighbours are, Ordu and Samsun in the north, Sivas and Yozgat in the south, Sivas and Or-

du in the east, Amasya in the west. Tokat is also neighboring Central Anatolia.

It is known that the city has a history going back to 5500 BC. The region which was under the sovereignty of the Hittites around 2000 BC came under the rule of the Phrygians, the Persians, the Macedonia Kingdom and Cappadocia Kingdom. The region which came under the control of Pontus at the beginning of the 4th century BC, and Roma in the 1st century BC is joined to the Byzantines in 395.

The region added to the Danishmend lands after the Battle of Malazgirt (also known as Manzikert), was joined to the Seljuks in 1175. The city went under the control of İlhanlı State after the 1243 war of Köse-dağ, Eretna State after 1335, Kadı Burhaneddin in 1388, has been merged to the Ottoman territory in 1392. The region, coming out Ottoman rule for a period after the war of Ankara, has re-entered the Ottoman rule in 1413.

The legendary names of the world history, Romanos Dioge-



Lake Kaz

nes and Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia (Romania) aka Count Dracula, in Turkish known as 'Kazıklı Voyvoda' (meaning 'Impaler Prince'), have left traces in Tokat.

So, what is the origin of the name 'Tokat'? Tokat like many cities of Anatolia carrying the traces of different civilizations, there are different stories about the etymology of 'Tokat'. Some sources tell that the city got its name from Togayit Turks who once lived there, on the other hand it is suggested that it derives from 'Tok-hat' which in Turkish means the 'city with walls'. In the two copies of 'Tarih-i Al-i Danişmend' (history of the Danişmend State) written in Turkish, using colloquial language, in the 13th century, the name of the city stated as 'Tohiya', 'Toqia', 'Dokia', and in the third copy, the name stated as 'Tokat'. The city's name has taken place in Arabic as 'Dokat', in Ottoman Turkish as 'Tok-at'. If you have chosen to explore the city in spring or early summer, Tozanlı Creek welcomes you with its coolness and silence. When you look up

at Tokat Castle, on the steep rocks, it calls you with its utmost grandeur. Gök Madrasah, Taşhan (Inn) and Sulusokak (Street), are the most special visits to Seljuk heritage in terms of architecture.

Gök Madrasah with its museum section will take you back to the history of Tokat through 6000 years. With regards to meet the nature closely, Lake Kaz hosting many bird species, Niksar Plain, Almus Dam Lake offering water sports opportunities and Reşadiye Thermal Springs are first to remember. Tokat offers many flavors which you should certainly taste before leaving.

You have special reasons to visit Tokat for history, culture, nature, sports and flavor.

So, here are some of these reasons along with our selection of Tokat in 40 steps:

A view from Tokat

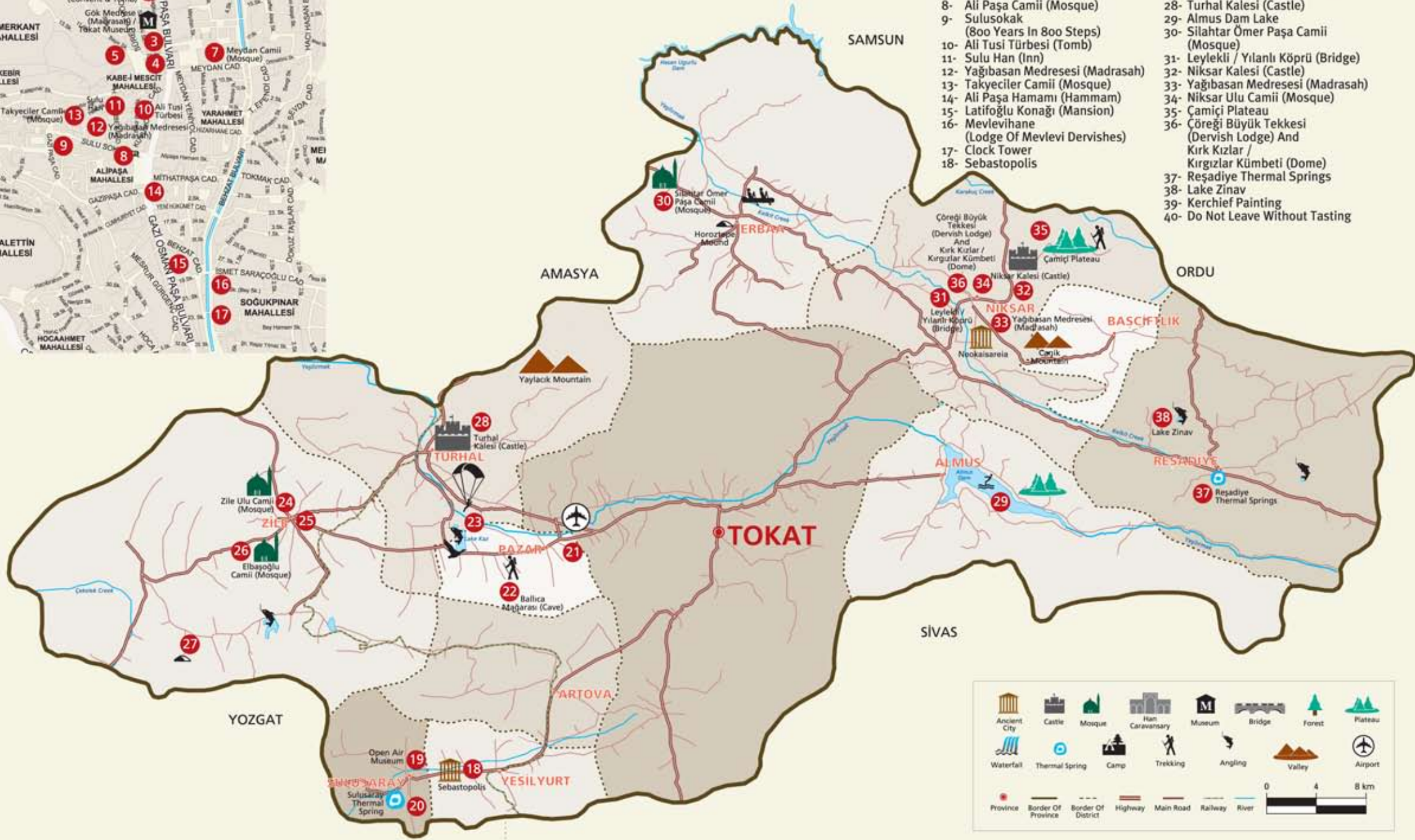


TOKAT ROUTE MAP

TOKAT CITY PLAN



- 1- Nureddin İbn Sentimur Türbesi (Tomb)
- 2- Sümbül Baba Zaviyesi & Türbesi (Convent & Tomb)
- 3- Gök Medrese (Madrasah) / Tokat Museum
- 4- Taş Han (Inn)
- 5- Tokat Kalesi (Castle)
- 6- Legend Of Count Dracula
- 7- Meydan Camii (Mosque)
- 8- Ali Paşa Camii (Mosque)
- 9- Sulusokak (800 Years In 800 Steps)
- 10- Ali Tusi Türbesi (Tomb)
- 11- Sulu Han (Inn)
- 12- Yağbasan Medresesi (Madrasah)
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- 36- Çöregi Büyük Tekkesi (Dervish Lodge) And Kırk Kızlar / Kırızlar Kümbeti (Dome)
- 37- Reşadiye Thermal Springs
- 38- Lake Zinav
- 39- Kerchief Painting
- 40- Do Not Leave Without Tasting







Nureddin İbn Sentimur Tomb

1- NUREDDİN İBN SENTİMUR TÜRBESİ (TOMB)

Tomb has been built by Nureddin İbn Sentimur in 1314. The building of ashlar stone with a square plan is covered by brick eight pointed star cone. The east window facing the street is ornamented with palmette motifs and compositions consisting of Rumi. At the east window on the inscription below, the verses of Firdevsi, the

Sümbül Baba Convent



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great master of Persian language, are read, which can be translated as follows:

“Let your mission be worship of God
Meditate so that you do not live in vain
Do not hurt anybody for fear of God
It is the straightforward course which you must take”

2- SÜMBÜL BABA ZAVİYESİ & TÜRBESİ (CONVENT & TOMB)

It is the most beautiful convent of the city that hosts an unseemly number of convents from 13-15th centuries. From the inscription it is understood that the building has been built by Hacı Abdullahoğlu Sümbül in 1291-1292. The building consists of a domed space



Gök Madrasah

with iwan opening to it, entrance hall and side rooms and a tomb. The most striking element of the lodge is the portal completely made of white marble. There are two niches on either side of the arc shaped opening of the portal with nine layers of muqarnas semi-dome.

3-GÖK MEDRESE (MADRASAH) / TOKAT MUSEUM

Gök Madrasah one of the important buildings of the Anatolian Seljuks, is accepted to have been built in the third quarter of the 13th century, considering the period when Muniddin Süleyman Pervane was most effective.

Vizier Pervane, managing the state affairs between the Mongols and Seljuk Sultans, has protected the scholars and sheikhs, is even described as "a person who has improved good relations with Mevlana Celeleddin-i Rumi". In the oldest two sources on Mawlawi, it's stated that Mevlana sent his caliph named Fahreddini Iraki to Tokat with the request of Muineddin Süleyman Pervane, that a convent has been built for him and that the Mawlawi sect has reached this city

while Mevlana was still alive. Out of the deed of trust records it is assumed that Gök Madrasah has been used as Şifahane (meaning 'hospital') until the 18th century. With the efforts of Halis Cinlioğlu, retired teacher, the historical artifacts were gathered and Tokat Museum was established in 1926 at Gök Madrasah on Gazi Osman Paşa Boulevard. Tokat museum has a coin collection

Statuette, Roman Period



Trefoil Jug, Iron Age



Bust, Roman Period



Mould Printing



Statuette of Apollon, Roman Period





Taş Han (Inn)

rich in quantity and diversity. The foundlings belonging to different civilizations of Anatolia and the finds of Ulutepe excavation can also be seen at the museum.

4- TAŞ HAN (INN)

Another name of Taş Han (Inn) located on the corner of the street next to Gök Madrasah, is "Voyvoda Inn". It is considered to have been built between the years 1631- 32. The building, one of the most important Ottoman monuments, has been severely damaged in the earthquake in 1939 and has been repaired. On the ground floor of the inn which has a small mosque there are 37 shops inside and 25 shops outside. These shops, for whatever purpose they are used, their arches and stone structure make you feel that you are in a historical building. On the upper floor there are 46 rooms/sections. It is the largest city inn among the similars of 17th century. This size gives an idea about the volume of the trade in the city.

5- TOKAT KALESİ (CASTLE)

Considering its location, the layout features, construction techniques and historical events its name mentioned in, it is decided that the construc-

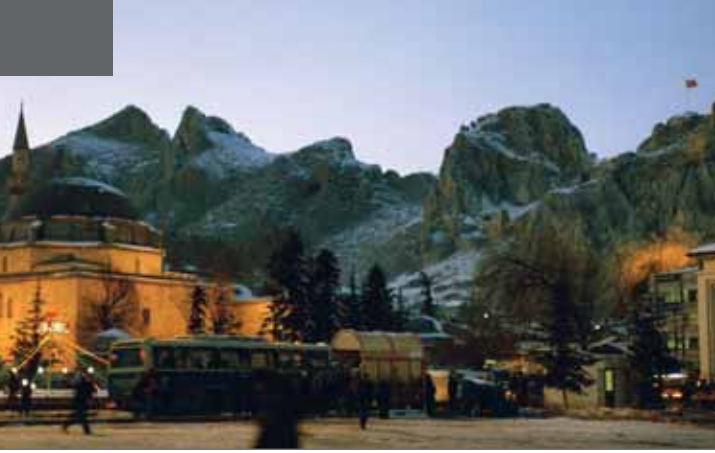
tion date in the 5th or 6th century BC. Names used for the castle 'Evdoksia', 'Endoksia', and 'Dokia' is attended to these evidences and conclusions. The cliffs where the walls are rising on, is in fact a natural fortress. Its towers, dungeons and part of its walls have been able to reach today. There are many places inside. The castle which has been restored and renovated during Ottoman and Seljukian periods with defense purposes, for a period has been famous with being a prison and a shelter for some rebels and administrators.

The Ottomans, who were the last sovereigns of the castle, called it "Çardak-ı Bedevi" meaning "shelter for the nomads", perhaps to emphasize this feature.

Tokat Castle



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Tokat Castle (The Silhouette of Count Dracula)

6- LEGEND OF COUNT DRACULA

The legendary hero of the horror, alias 'Kazıklı Voyvoda' (meaning 'Impaler Prince')!

Vlad II, that is to say Dracula, who was the prince of Wallachia (Romania) Kingdom, was defeated by the Ottoman and after being held under surveillance together with his brother, first in Kütahya Eğrigöz Castle then in Tokat Castle, has been sent to Edirne for Şehzade Mehmet's (Mehmet the Conqueror) auspices and has been educated for awhile. Who could guess that, away from Ottoman manners, he would become a vampire?

In the early evening if you hori-

zontally look at the bastion on the west of the Tokat castle from Hükümet Meydanı (Square) you'll see Dracula wearing his crown.

7- MEYDAN CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

Its real name is Hatuniye Mosque. The mosque, which Bayezid had it built for his mother Gülbahar Hatun dates back to 1485.

The building destroyed in the earthquakes in 1931 and in 1943, has been repaired with the help of the local people and re-opened in 1953. The mosque is a part of the complex consisting of a madrasah and imaret.

Meydan Mosque





Ali Paşa Mosque

8- ALI PAŞA CAMII (MOSQUE)

Ali Paşa Mosque is one of Tokat's most important Ottoman buildings. It is accepted that Kemer Ali Paşa, son in law of Bayezid Paşa had it built in 1572. The building damaged in the earthquakes in 1939 and in 1943, has been repaired in 1947. It has the characteristics of the 16th century Ottoman architecture. The square main room, the single dome and the single minaret of the mosque built of ashlar stone, are considered to be the signs of its simplicity. The narthex with seven domes is placed on eight pillars. The main room is surrounded by women's mahfil (elevated loge) from three directions except the apse direction.

Meticulously engraved marble portal is the most significant part of the architectural decoration of the mosque. The minaret seen as a plain mass from the south side of the mosque is built of ashlar stone. Before entering the gate must be examined, as the people of Tokat say "Ali Paşa's structure, the gate of the Meydan Mosque". Next to the building, there is the ruin of a structure again involved with the name Gülbahar Hatun.

9- SULUSOKAK (800 YEARS IN 800 STEPS)

The inns on this street were built in the Seljuk and Ottoman periods. However, it is known that the inn tradition in this region goes further back than this. Imagine such a street that there is no other like in Anatolia and where by 800 steps the architectural adventure of 800 years of the Turks in Anatolia should be able to be observed. One can see the monuments from every period starting with the Danishmend Period to the 20th century only on Sulusokak just in 800 steps. Ali Tusi Tomb, Sulu Han (Inn), Bedesten (Bazaar) are a few of these monuments.

Sulusokak (Street)



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Ali Tusi Tomb

10- ALİ TUSİ TÜRBESİ (TOMB)

According to its inscription, Ali Tusi Tomb was built in 1233 upon orders by the Seljuk statesman Ebul Kasım bin Ali Tusi. The roof of the square building was a dome on a octagonal frame inside and a pyramidal roof outside. When the pyramidal roof has collapsed the tiled roof of today has been built. On the upper part of the windows where purple, turquoise, azure-colored geometric decorations are seen, there are two verses of the Koran written in Kufic style by blue mosaic tiles on a yellow background.

Sulu Han (Inn)

11- SULU HAN (INN)

One of the monuments appears in integrity in Sulusokak is Sulu Han. As it has no inscription giving the exact date of the construction and has lost its original characteristics, it is not possible to determine its construction date. The monument built of wood and masonry has been built with the purpose of providing accommodation for the merchants bringing goods from the bedesten or getting goods from the bedesten. The two-storey building has a rectangular plan in north-south direction and the outer walls are blind. The only significant element of



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Yağibasın Madrasah

the inn is its portal protruding out. The inn which has served as a prison until 1930 has been repaired in 1957 and became a dormitory. It has been used until recently (2005) as Municipality soup kitchen.

12- YAĞIBASAN MEDRESESI (MADRASAH)

Yağibasın Madrasah or with its known name Çukur Madrasah, according to its inscription exhibited at the museum, has been built upon orders by Yağibasın Nizameddin. However, the fact that Yağibasın Nizameddin has died in 1164, shows that the inscription was faulty and the madrasah was built in 1151. It is an almost square building with a closed courtyard and three iwans. The building is entered through the door on the north. In the building of rubble stone, bricks have been used only in squinch arches and around the dome opening.

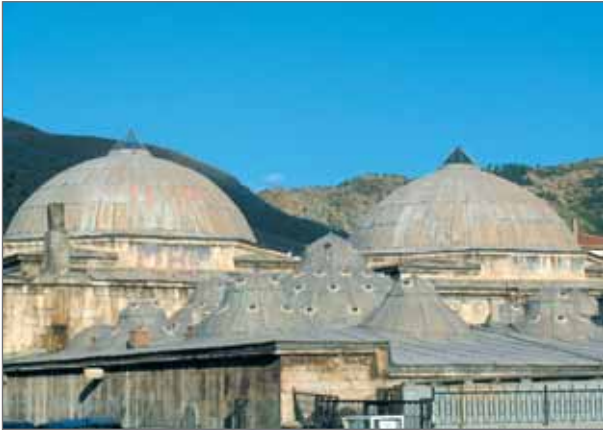
13- TAKYECİLER CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

The construction date of Takyeciler Mosque is unknown. Its plan is exact equivalent of the plan of Eski Camii (Mosque) in Edirne, except the narthex. It is

known that the mosque in Edirne has been built by Çelebi Mehmet. Therefore, it should be accepted that the mosque has been built in the first quarter of the 15th century. The main room built of rubble and ashlar stone, has a square plan and covered by multi-supported nine domes. Before the reparations the domes were covered by tiled roof. In its interior the octagonal ashlar stone feet and capitals are ornamented. The remains prove that the Baroque ornaments made during the 1871 repair and that couldn't survive, were blue. Relatively short minaret is of ashlar stone.

Takyeciler Mosque





Ali Paşa Hammam

14- ALİ PAŞA HAMAMI (HAMMAM)

It's accepted that Ali Paşa Hammam, a unit of the Ali Paşa Building Complex, has been built during the same period with Ali Paşa Mosque, in 1572. Ali Paşa Hammam which is clearly a classical Ottoman structure from outside is one of the important structures of the Ottoman Era. It has been built as double bath entirely of ashlar stone. It is of the four iwans and a corner room plan type. It has many features which can be considered as "the first" for the 16th century Ottoman

Latifoğlu Mansion

hammams, such as the lead coverage of the superstructure where bricks are used, for insulation purposes, the design of the changing rooms with mirrored arches, hiding of the entrance of women's section by a small room, division of the cool room in itself providing two separate rooms for the toilette and the shave room within the cool room, lightening on the façade in the men's section, in women's section providing the changing room and the private room within the iwan and building fountain at the façade.

15- LATİFOĞLU KONAĞI (MANSION)

Latifoğlu Mansion presumed to belong to the 19th century, is a good example of traditional Tokat houses. It is a two-storey building with the rooms around an open hall and with a plan in "L" shape. There is a large pool in its stone-paved courtyard. It also has a Turkish bath on the ground floor. The window system is more likely the 17th century and the 18th century examples.



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Mevlevihane (Lodge of Mevlevi Dervishes)

Wooden mansion is embellished by hand-carved and plaster material. Main Room in particular, shows the region's most beautiful wood work. In the shoe section of the room located in the upper south end, a mosque, a sailboat and sea are pictured side by side with a city landscape. On the skylights of the main room, "Mühr-ü Süleyman" (Süleyman's Seal) is ornamented.

16- MEVLEVİHANE (LODGE OF MEVLEVI DERVISHES)

As it is stated in Menakıb-ül Arifin, the oldest written source of the Mawlawi sect, Mawlawi sect for the first time started to spread in Tokat from the convent that Pervane had built in the 13th century when Mev-

lana sent his caliph named Fahreddini Iraki to Tokat with the request of Muineddin Süleyman Pervane. Probably this convent has been collapsed when Uzun Hasan burned Tokat in the 15th century and was rebuilt on the area at the entrance of Bey Street by Janisary Master Sülün Mustafa Paşa in 1638 during the period of Sultan Ahmed III. This building could not entirely carry its existence until today. The Mevlana Turkish bath next door, which is owned privately today, the stone gate at the entrance and the Turkish bath inside and the room next to it are from that period. Today with the recent restorations, it reflects the architectural characteristics of the 19th century Tokat architecture.

Mevlevihane (Lodge of Mevlevi Dervishes)





Clock Tower

17- CLOCK TOWER

The typical characteristic of the clock tower next to the mosque is that it was designed to be seen from almost every side of the old city.

On the epigraph that was mostly erased, only the date of construction of the tower 1902 can be read. The 33m tower was built to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Abdülhamid II's

Sebastopolis, Column Heading



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reign. In 1917 the clock mechanism was westernized. The tower with a square base and octagon body was made of cut stone. The clock continues to remind the city of the time every half hour at two -minute intervals.

18- SEBASTOPOLİS

Sebastopolis located in Sulusaray district, means "Great, magnificent city". It is also suggested that Heracleapolis mentioned on the epigraph of the bridge built on Çekerek Creek was the city's name. Cuiet V. , in his survey notes he studied between 1880-1892, has mentioned that Pontus King Mithridates VI Eupator has founded the city again as Nicopolis and Sebastopolis right after his defeat against Pompeius. It is told, that it has been called Sulusaray (meaning 'palace with water') because of the hot water springing



Mahperi Hatun Caravansary

out of the ruins of the city which was burned down during the invasion of Anatolia by Timur. Some of the artifacts unearthed during the excavations in 1987 are exhibited at the Tokat Museum. And some of them in the district center, in the Open Air Museum across the municipality building.

19- OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Architectural pieces and the mosaics found during the sampling and conservation excavations directed by Tokat Museum in Sulusaray (Sebastopolis) are on display in the building and its garden located across the Municipality building. There are approximately 60 artifacts here.

20- SULUSARAY THERMAL SPRING

The spring which is also called "Çermikönü Thermal Spring" is the region's most important thermal spring. The source springing out among the historical Sebastopolis ruins is on a height of 750 m above sea level. The cold and warm salty spring water is rich in sodium chloride, sulfate and bicarbonate. The water, having an average temperature of 32 to 44.3 °C is springing out a fault line. The thermal spring has

been effective in the Roman and Byzantine periods, as well as in the Ottoman and Seljuk periods. The thermal spring, where there are two hotels today, serves throughout the whole year with its private baths, pools, restaurants and casinos.

21- MAHPERİ HATUN KERVANSARAYI (CARAVANSARY)

The caravansary, located in Pazar is one the most beautiful examples of Seljuk caravansaries. Mahperi Hatun, the wife of Alaeddin Keykubat, had it built during the period of his son, Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev. The building constructed completely of ashlar stone is encircled by 16 reinforcement towers in around. Its portal is magnificent and remarkable with its ornaments. There are porches at both sides of the courtyard. The partly broken inscription on the main portal reads as follows: "Mahperi Hatun, queen of the wives to kings, had this monument built in 1238-1239 with the undertaking of Keyhüsrev Bin-i Keykubat Mükerrerem, the Great Sultan, the Almighty Ruler, the shadow of God on earth, and the Saviour of religion and the world."



Ballica Cave

22- BALLICA MAĞARASI (CAVE)

The Ballica Cave is one of the world's biggest and most fascinating caves. 680 meters long and 95 meters high, the cave has eight halls that have recently been opened for visit. The cave is estimated to be approximately 3.4 million years old. In addition to all the characteristics one would normally expect in caves, it is famous internationally with its Onion Formed Stalactites (Soğan Stalactites). Ballica Cave is formed of crystallized limestone. The cave has an average temperature of 18 °C and humidity of 54 % and its abun-

Ballica Cave

dant oxygen facilitates breathing. The small pools in the Great Stalactites Hall, the widest hall of the cave, are full of cave pearls. The relative humidity in the hall is high and there is four times more oxygen compared to the open air. Its giant stalactites and stalagmites are striking. The walking path going northwards and southwards from this magnificent hall reaches the Muddy Hall, forming of blocks, stalactites, stalagmites and small pools, the Fossil Hall, located at the uppermost point of the cave and one of the oldest halls of the cave, and the Bats Hall, living space of pipistrellus.

From here one passes to the Debris Hall called the Magnificent Gallery which is in north-south direction. The hall gets its name from the large blocks on its bottom. After the Debris Hall and the Cellar of Blocks one reaches the Columns Hall via a bridge. The cave's largest column, which is 18 meters height and 8 meters in diameter, is located in this hall.





Lake Kaz

23- LAKE KAZ

Lake Kaz with its altitude of 535 m and located within the borders of Pazar districts one of the most important natural sites to be seen. The Lake, is a very good example of wetland ecosystems. Lakeside, has in recent years rapidly gained importance as promenade as well.

Here, you can often see bird-watchers, because the lake hosts for about 108 species of birds. As a component of Kelkit Valley, this area is an important nesting area for a variety of bird species, especially for the small vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*). Besides the area is also important with regards to amphibian and butterfly species.

24- ZİLE ULU CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

The epigraph on the north side of Zile Ulu Mosque shows that the first building was built by Mehmed Zalüli Bin Ebu Ali in 1267 during Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev III period. The mosque went through renovations in 1591, has been named for a period after Nasuh Paşa who had the renovation done. In 1904, when it demolishes extensively, it has been rebuilt Neoclassic style with the efforts of

Süleyman Naci, Zile Governor, and the local people between the years 1904-1909. The main part of the cut stone building is quadrangle. The dome that is carried by an octagon drum that has sixteen windows is lead-covered. There is the public room with four marble pillars, three lead-covered domes at north of the building. The flattened vault of the door covered with a wood porch is made of keyed stone technique. There is a prayer epigraph on the quadrangle marble plate over the door vault. We can say that the crown door of the mosque is the most important of the monumental examples in Zile.

Zile Ulu Mosque





Zile Castle

25- ZİLE KALESİ (CASTLE)

The castle is located on Zile tumulus. The clock tower at the entrance of Zile Castle was once the watchtower or the guard tower. Later on it has been called "çan kulesi" (bell tower) and in 1875 Ziya Paşa has converted this tower to a clock tower. The epigraphs next to the short pillar believed to be dedicated to Caesar, are about various structures and events belonging to Roman period.

Elbaşıoğlu Mosque

The Roman Emperor Julius Caesar battles with Pharneke II, King of Basforos, a very bloody war, in Zile Altıağaç region. In the war both armies have great losses.

However, the Roman emperor Caesar wins the war. And he informs his glory to Rome with his world famous saying "Veni-Vidi-Vici" (I came-I saw-I won). A stone inscription, upon orders by Caesar, with the world famous saying of himself was placed after.

26- ELBAŞOĞLU CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

Elbaşıoğlu Mosque is at the east entrance of Zile along the Çaypınarı Creek. Elbaşıoğlu Seyit Ahmet (local of Zile) had it built in 1801. The monument built of rubble stone and ashlar stone has a square plan and tiled roof. One should pass through the concrete part, built in later periods, so as to see the Baroque-style marble portal of the building and its tongue and groove ornamented ceiling.





Turhal Castle

The arch of the door supported at each side by a thin pillar with a base and a capital, is interlaced with red, grey and white marble.

27- MAŞAT HÖYÜK (MOUND)

Maşat Höyük, Tapigga in Hittite language, near Yalinyazı Village in Zile, is one of the best preserved settlements reflecting the culture of that age. The excavations tell that there was an executive allied to the king in the capital city Hattusa. Therefore, we can say that Tapigga was an important center among the federations allied to the Great Hittite Empire.

In Maşat mound, cuneiform tablets were found in the palace of which today it cannot be determined by whom and exactly for what purpose it was built, believed to belong to a bey, and in the vicinity of the palace various ceramic objects belonging to the Bronze and Iron ages were found. In the palace thought to have belonged to an executive, cunei-

form tablets are found. Various ceramic objects are also found around the palace.

28- TURHAL KALESİ (CASTLE)

Turhal Castle and the surroundings of the castle are the historic center of the district.

A few remained from the castle dating back to the Roman Period, except the two bastion ruins and underground passages. The following monuments can be mentioned as worth to see in Turhal: Mehmed Dede Tomb dating back to the Ilkhanids period has been built in 1312. The tomb which has been built on behalf of Ahi Yusuf known as the master of the packsaddle artisans, dates back to 1324.

Tekkeşin Hamamı (Hammam) located nearby the entrance of the Çivril Village at a distance of 7 km from the district, town was named after the Tekkeşin Dervish Convent next to the Hammam. However, there is no information about the hammam.



Almus Dam Lake

29- ALMUS DAM LAKE

Almus Dam Lake which is a important trout breeding area nowadays, has been built as composite earth fill dam at the point where Yeşilırmak makes a slight curve towards the Omala Plain strait. The area surrounding the dam is a woodland. There are numerous coastal bays. The lake is an ideal track for water sports.

30- SİLAHTAR ÖMER PAŞA CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

The mosque located in Akça (Fidi) town in Erbaa District, dates back to the 17th century.

Silahtar Ömer Paşa Mosque

On the two copper candlesticks it is written that Ömer Paşa has donated the candlesticks in 1688 to the mosque. It is valuable as a mosque, which is mostly wooden, that preserved its original features.

It is built of one row of ashlar stone and three rows of brick. It's possible to observe both Seljukian and the 18th Ottoman styles in the ornaments on the wooden ceiling, wooden supports, the minbar and the apse in the mosque, that contains the most beautiful examples of Turkish art of ornamentation.





Leyleklî Bridge

31- LEYLEKLİ / YILANLI KÖPRÜ (BRIDGE)

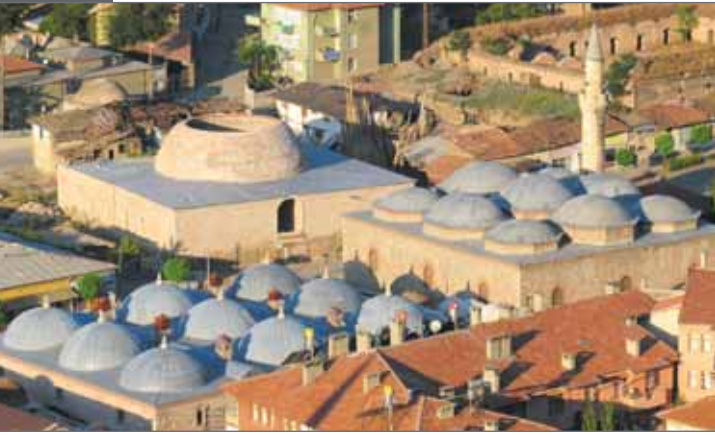
Nearly all of the bridges built on Çanakçı Brook in Niksar, date back to the Roman and Byzantine eras. Although Leyleklî Bridge does not have an inscription, it appears to have been built in the Roman period, and repaired in the Turkish period. It is the largest and most famous one among the semi-rounded arched, one-eyed ashlar stone bridges. The stork (meaning 'leylek') figure holding a snake (meaning 'yılan') in its beak, on the stone above the arch, names the bridge. Two other important bridges over the river are Çilhanane Bridge and Seymenli Bridge. Going towards Ünye Street we'll see a very old monument.

32- NIKSAR KALESİ (CASTLE)

Niksar's history is also valid for the castle. The first construction date of the castle goes back to the Roman Period. The ramparts identifying the acropolis, when first built, as the typical Roman defence plan, consist of three lines, interior, exterior and middle ramparts. The most famous one of the bastions is the one called "Kulaklı" by the local people. An important feature of this bastion is the sarcophagus lid dating back to the Byzantine period used as a plying material. It is known that there used to be a church, cisterns, stores and numerous rooms. Today the madrasah, the mosque and Yağlıbasan Tomb have been built in the castle during

Niksar Castle





Yağibaslan Madrasah

Danishmend period upon orders by Nizamettin Yağibaslan.

33- YAĞIBASLAN MEDRESESİ (MADRASAH)

According to records, there was a complex consisting of a mosque, a hammam, a hospital, a madrasah and a tomb in the castle. Yağibaslan Madrasah is a unit of this building complex.

The monument known as the first madrasah in Anatolia has recently been repaired.

The building served as a medical school until the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, has been visited by A. Gabriel in 1920-1921. His study notes are as follows: "The narrow barrel-vaulted section in the south is the entrance. There are two iwans, one in the south and one in the north, opening to the courtyard. At the both sides of the iwan on the north, there are two identical cells and next to those cells there are two rooms projecting outwards as they are built inside the bastions."

Theology, medicine, philo-

sophy, astronomy, linguistics, mathematics, were educated at the Madrasah.

34- NIKSAR ULU CAMİİ (MOSQUE)

Niksar Ulu Mosque located on the southeastern slopes of the Niksar Castle, near the creek, was built by Çenepnizade Hasan Bey. It is one of the oldest Anatolian mosques and has reached today in good condition. Evliya Çelebi called the structure Melik Gazi Mosque: "Mosque is reached via five or six steps down. It is a old mosque built longitudinal and named with the name of castle's conqueror."

At the corners and on the outer surfaces of the buttresses surrounding the mosque built of rubble stone, big blocks are used as plying materials.

Windows, piers and arches were also built of ashlar stone. The portal of the north façade, with its ornaments, is the most striking element of the building. The portal is surrounded by three bordures decorated with geometric motifs such as six-pointed star, arrow head,



Niksar Ulu Mosque

and tetra tenon. The inscription section is void. On the dome, on the main axis, there are four narrow windows. Wooden component remains indicate that there used to be a mahfil (elevated loge) in here. The mosque is located at the beginning of the old road reaching Erzincan, the center of the Ilkhanid State.

35- ÇAMIÇI PLATEAU

One should definitely visit Niksar Çamiçi Plateau on the highland of the mountains along Black Sea. This plateau, together with its accommodation facilities, has been the favorite place for many visitors in recent years. Especially, the Çamiçi Plateau Festival has increased the attention. Apart hotels and other accommodation facilities are open year-around.

36- ÇÖREĞİ BÜYÜK TEKKEŞİ (DERVISH LODGE AND KIRK KIZLAR / KIRGIZLAR KÜMBETİ (DOME)

The building located in Niksar, also known as Çöreği Büyük Mosque, is an İlhanlı monument, built in the 14th century during the reign of Ebu Said Bahadır Han. The square mosque, initially was planned as lodge and convent when it was

Çöreği Büyük Tekkesi (Dervish Lodge)





Reşadiye Thermal Spring

first built. However only the portal walls of the building, that was damaged by the earthquakes, have survived, and the divided rooms inside are demolished. It has an octagonal fountain in the courtyard. The porches are built with ashlar stone, and the other parts with rubble stone. The portal is ornamented with geometric and floral motifs and antelope-like animal figures. It's considered that two discs looking like cookies gave its name Çöreği Büyük (meaning 'big cookies').

The Tomb in Kırk Kızlar Quarter, unlike other buildings in Niksar, is a brick masonry monumental structure. Date of the construction, according to the inscription that is missing today, is 1220. A. Gabriel has recorded this tomb as "the monument of Architect Ahmed bin Ebubekir who had built the Sivas Keykavus I Hospital".

The octagonal pyramidal spire of the tomb is collapsed, only the eaves and the brick dome have remained. The funeral part of the structure is faced with ashlar stone. Funeral section has a separate door and

two small ventilation windows. The most important feature of the funeral floor is that there is a pier in the middle. This pier hasn't reached today.

37- REŞADİYE THERMAL SPRINGS

The thermal springs with curing water are the values for tourism in the district. According to the analysis result given by Medical Ecology and Hydro-Climatology Research Center at İstanbul University, Reşadiye drinking water of with a temperature of 40-49° C is slightly salty, sour, odorless and colorless. It is expressed to be good for rheumatism, skin diseases and various pain disorders.

38- LAKE ZİNAV

Lake Zinav is a fresh water lake in Reşadiye district, 3 km far away from Yolüstü Town. The Lake is fed by a brook coming from the mountains. It has an area of approximately 1.5 km². With the tributary discharging at Mansap it reaches Kelkit River. It has very tasty fishes called among the



Lake Zinav

local people as Kızılkanat (Mirror carp). The lake protected as an area for Natural Protection Area by Ministry of Forestry, is the living area of many bird species and the housing area of the migratory birds.

39- KERCHIEF PAINTING

Kerchief painting is an art of fabric ornament done by painting or pressing on cotton or silk fabrics with various dyes using carved wooden molds. Examples of this craft are often seen on the headscarves used by women. Additionally they are also used as bundle, table cloth, and counterpanes. In Tokat all kinds of kerchiefs are printed used in every region. However, the most significant characteristic of Tokat kerchiefs is that they are of Elvan Print. Their colors and designs are of unique value. There are two unique designs belonging to Tokat: 'Tokat İçi Dolusu' and 'Tokat Elmalısı' and many subdesigns of these main designs. In Tokat Yazmacılar market, you can find and purchase hand-painted kerchiefs all at one place one more beautiful than the other.



40- DO NOT LEAVE WITHOUT TASTING

Don't leave the city without tasting, **TOKAT KEBAB** during the fresh vegetable season, with its unique flavor, the appetizing **BAT** (an appetizer with green lentil, tomato and walnut), with its taste which you cannot find anywhere else, **DRIED PLUM DESSERT** to crown your meal, **ÇÖKELEKLİ** (bread baked with skim-milk cheese) and **YAPRAK DOLMA-SI** (vine leave rolls with meat).

Hand Painted Muslins



Mould Printing

A view from Erbaa



