





**EXPLORE
CIVILIZATIONS IN
THE YEŞİLIRMAK
REGION**

Yeşilirmak





Yeşilırmak

Water is vitality, water is life; it is the necessary and the essential source of all known forms of lives. We have chosen the fertile waterfronts to settle. While learning to produce, our battle to overrule the water which is forming our lives has been a significant factor in the rise of civilizations. Big rivers such as Nile, Tigris, Euphrates, Amu Darya (Oxus) have been the lead actors of the human history. Just like Yeşilırmak River.

Since nearly 7500 years, the fertility is flowing in the riverbed of Yeşilırmak. The ones lived through Yeşilırmak's fertility once upon a time called it "Iris". "Iris" is the layer giving its color to our eyes. The goddess of rainbow in the Greek mythology ... The goddess with wings reflecting the colors of rainbow, carrying the messages of the gods to the people and so connecting the sky with the earth... She is also nourished by the rain, the snow and provides the water, essential for the persistence of life.

With that water, civilizations are being established since centuries. With that water, the

fields refresh. That water becomes the bread, the wine, the city, the flower, the apple, the fish, and the love. In other words life is reviving every time.

Yeşilırmak River Basin is a geography living with what it has saved since the Chalcolithic Period (5500 -3000 BC). When you try to study its history, you meet, even a little mystifyingly, many civilizations born with its water, with its land. You get charmed by the stories of the traces of some of these civilizations. Realizing the richness you are standing at, you would both get excited and yearn to know more. Just learning wouldn't be enough, you would want to see and touch those traces.

Yeşilırmak, with the length of 519 km, is the second longest river in Turkey. Yeşilırmak, springs in the booms of Köse-dağ in north of Sivas, uniting with several rivers, flows at Çarşamba into the Black Sea. Kelkit River brook is its biggest tributary. The alluvial deposit carried by Yeşilırmak together with its tributaries, form Çarşamba plain. Yeşilırmak, with

Yeşilirmak





Amazon Statue

the Almus, Hasan Uğurlu and Suat Uğurlu Dams built on it, has enriched the flora and fauna on the lands it passes through. This guide, including a significant part of the Yeşilirmak River Basin and providing route maps, which can help you to explore, is consisting of the cities Amasya, Çorum, Samsun and Tokat, that are the members of Yeşilirmak Basin Development Union.

THESE LANDS ARE THE LANDS OF THE FIRSTS

These lands are the places where the first civilizations of Anatolia have ruled. It is the name of the place where people believing that the mountains are carrying the sky were living and known as "folks of the thousand gods". It is the homeland of the Hittite Empire, established by the people forming the great political and military power, which beat Egypt's powerful Pharaohs; who have signed "Kadesh Treaty" the first written peace treaty of the history. The Hittites go on living on these lands still

waiting to be explored with their culture and monuments. These lands are the lands where "**Veni-Vidi-Vici**" (I came, I saw, I won) the famous words of Roman Emperor Julius Caesar are spoken.

These lands are also the homeland of the world's first geographer, Strabon, whose most famous work was "Geography" (Geographica), in which he describes the world geography. In the "Geographica" of Strabon, where he depicts the ancient world from the Atlantic Ocean, to the Indus River and which exists of seventeen books, not only geographical information but also information about the people living in that geography and their lifestyle are mentioned.

God Sarruma and Tudhaliya IV



yeşilirmak basin





Beyazid II Ottoman Social Complex

THESE LANDS ARE FULL OF MYSTERIES, FULL OF MYTHS

This land is the place of women warriors known as the Amazons. Hereabout you are told that tobacco sprout out of their hair, which Amazons have cut and buried to be able to hide easily and not to be recognized while fleeing from the attack of another warrior tribe. You believe in this myth when you see how much the processed tobacco looks like hair.

It is easy to believe in the legends in these lands. You believe that Ferhat has tunneled the mountains with the power of his love; that Ahmet and Melek couldn't come together because of the flood in Çarşamba due to Yeşilirmak's overflow; also that "Eğri Kale" is not man-made but created for Noah to moor his boat during the Flood.

THESE LANDS ARE FERTILE

These lands possess hundreds of artifacts produced by the people who build tombs for their kings in the rocks as stiff as a wall, heating the building by letting the heated water circulate in the walls through clay pipes. Castles, mosques, madrasas, tombs, bridges, baza-

ars, inns, hammam, are virtually evidences of the abundance of Yeşilirmak. The same abundance becomes vineyards and offers grape, becomes the tree and turns into muscatel apple, diamond cluster, becomes roasted chickpeas in skilled hands, becomes wine, becomes molasses the rice of the smky pilaf.

THESE LANDS ARE COLORFUL

The mysteries of the civilizations born in these lands blessed by Yeşilirmak, are still waiting to be explored. What are remaining are the stories of the civilizations: It is our cultural heritage which has been revived with the colors of Iris. The rock castle in Amasya, Misiket Apple, şehzadeler (sultan's sons).

The yellow roasted chickpeas in Çorum, and the shining sun of the Hittites. The blue sea in Samsun, yellow tobacco, white rice. The forests green, red wine, mahaleb, and molasses in Tokat.

Salute to the colors of the 7500 years brought together by Yeşilirmak!

Explore the civilizations in the Yeşilirmak Region.