

# TURKEY

## BLACK SEA

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Cover: A village on the Black Sea Shores

Photo : Sonia Halliday





# BOLU

The province of Bolu is situated in the western part of the Black Sea Region. The mountain ranges of the North Anatolia stretching from East to West, cross the province of Bolu in nearly parallel lines.

In the coastal section a mild climate prevails, which gets harsher the further one goes towards the interior. A great part of the province is covered with forests since the average of yearly rainfall is high.

The most important plains of the province are Bolu, Düzce and Gerede plains. In the province, mostly cereals are grown. Tobacco has also an important place in the economy of this province.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Bolu had once been an integral part of the Hittite Empire. Afterwards it came under the domination of the Phrygians and the Lydians. In the VIth century B.C. the Persians subdued it together with the whole of Lydia. In the IVth century we see it under the rule of Alexander the Great, who annexed it to the Macedonian Empire. After Alexander's death, Bolu went to Bithynia and later on to the Roman Empire. Following

BOLU — Lake Abant

Photo : Hamza İnanç





BOLU — Winter in Abant

Photo : Ferit Apa



the partition of the Roman Empire. Bolu became a part of the Byzantine Empire.

The city of Bolu, known first as Bithynia, during the Roman period was called Claudiopolis. According to Pausanias, it was founded by the Arcadians.

Emperor Hadrianus attached great importance to this city which is also the birth place of Antonius. In the IVth century A.D. Theodosius II made Bolu the capital of the province of Honoriada. However later, under the Byzantine rule, it lost its significance.

The province was conquered by the Turks at the beginning of the XIVth century, by Orhan Gazi, the second of the Ottoman rulers. Yıldırım Beyazıt provided it with many new buildings.

#### **HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND EXCURSION IN THE TOWN AND ITS SURROUNDINGS**

**Ulu Cami:** This mosque located in the centre of the town was built by Yıldırım Bayezıt and it is one of the first specimens of the Turkish-Ottoman architecture. It has two minarets and a single dome.

**Other significant buildings are:** The Kadı Mosque, Orta Hamam (Baths, dating from the time of Yıldırım Beyazıt), Tabaklar Hamamı, the İmaret Mosque and the İlica Mosque.

#### **VICINITY**

**HOT SPRINGS:** On the Bolu-Çarşamba road, 5 kms. to the south of Bolu. The buildings are in Seljuk and Ottoman style. The waters have curative qualities against rheumatism and sciatica.

**DÜZCE:** It is on the İstanbul-Bolu road. In the ancient times it was known as Dusae pros Olympium.

**ÜSKÜBÜ:** 60 kms to the North - West of Bolu. The town witnessed both the Roman and the Byzantine periods.



It was founded by Prusias IV. king of Bithynia and was named Prusa ad Hypium after him.

Remains of an amphitheatre and of the Lions' Gate as well as diverse statues and mosaics, all from the Roman period, have survived to our time.

**GÖYNÜK:** This town is situated 100 kms to the South West of Bolu. Among the Turco-Islamiç buildings the tomb of Akşemsettin, the teacher of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror, along with a historical bath is most important.

**GEREDE:** 52 kms to the South of Bolu. During the Byzantine era it was called Cratia Flaviopolis, and was an important religious centre. This town, where no ruins of ancient times have survived, is surrounded by pine forests.

**Esentepe:** Near the town, on a hill called Esentepe by Atatürk, there is a summer resort, which is an ideal place for picnics. The slopes of the hill are convenient for skiing in the winter.

**MUDURNU:** The Çifte Hamam Baths and a mosque dating from the XIVth century are quite valuable.

**ABANT LAKE:** This is a crater lake, situated 35 kms to the southwest of Bolu, in the Abant Mountains, at an altitude of 1448 metres above sea level. Surrounded by pine and fir-forests, the lake has crystal-clear water whose surface is adorned with water-lilies. It is rich in trout. In November the mountains get covered with snow while the lake freezes. The surroundings are ideal for skiing. A first class hotel is at the disposal of tourists. The banks of the lake and the forests are suitable for camping.

**AKÇAKOCA:** A small town on the Black Sea coast 86 kms to the North-West of Bolu, it is connected with







BOLU — View of Lake Abant

Photo : Sonia Halliday

the Ankara-Istanbul highway by a 37 km. road in good condition.

Akçakoca, which is the only harbour on the Black Sea shore in the province of Bolu, is situated between the hills near the delta of the Melen river. The town stretches for 2 kms along the shore, where there are modern beach installations, hotels and boarding houses. The history of the town goes back to the XIIIth century

B.C. It is supposed that it was founded by Thracians. During the Bithynian, Roman and Byzantine eras the name of the town was Dia or Diospolis. During the first half of the XIVth century Akçakoca was conquered by the Ottoman Turks.

Apart from swimming facilities Akçakoca is famous for its fruits. Fishing and hunting is done in the region. 8 kms. to the west of Akçakoca, between the Melen Ri-



ver and Karaburun, there is the most beautiful natural beach of Turkey.

**Monuments worth visiting of Akçakoca are:** The Tomb of Ahmet Dede, the Evliya Mosque and Baths dating from the Ottoman period.

2 kms from the town, the Genoese Fortress and the caves in which seals live are also quite interesting.

# ZONGULDAK

The province of Zonguldak, situated in the western part of the Black Sea region, is completely covered with forests. The hills and plateaus reach the shores. The most important rivers are; Filyos and Bartın. A mild climate prevails in the coastal region, getting ever colder the more one goes inland. Rain occurs in all four seasons.

Of the industrial plants of the province the Iron and Steel-Works at Karabük are the most important.

The town, founded after the discovery of coal deposits, has developed rapidly. The second Steel-Work, built in 1965 at Ereğli, is the largest in the whole of the Middle East and is likely to change the face of this region completely.

Apart from this, Zonguldak is one of the most important ports of Turkey. Wheat, maize and flax are grown.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The town is, as pointed out, before, of recent origin. Twenty years after the discovery of the coal by Uzun Mehmet, in 1829, the first mines were opened for exploitation.

Zonguldak grew rapidly and became in 1920 the centre of the province.

Due to the fact that the town is of recent origin, there are no buildings of historical value. In the province it-

ZONGULDAK — View of the Port

Photo : Hüsnü Dirimen







ZONGULDAK — Photo : Faruk Caner

self, however, remains from the Roman, Byzantine and Genoese periods can be seen.

#### **HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND PLACES IN THE VICINITY**

**FILYOS (HİSARÖNÜ):** This little town, situated at the mouth of the Filyos Çayı is a much frequented resort. Ruins of town walls and a castle as well as gate and a theatre, all belonging to the Roman period, have survived to the present time.

The castle dates from the Byzantine times but was restored by Genoese in the XIVth Century.

Filyos, whose ancient name was Tion, is the birthplace

of Philetaurus, king of Pergamum (IVth Cent. B.C.).

**EREĞLİ:** 66 kms to the south-west of Zonguldak. Owing to its convenient position Ereğli offers protection to ships against the whims of the Black Sea. At the same time Ereğli is a shipping-port for coal. It has very nice beaches.

The town that was one called Heraclea of Pontus is said to have been founded around 560 B.C. by the Megarians. It has witnessed first the rule of Lysimachos, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, and then Roman and Byzantine domination. In 1360 it was seized by the Turks.

The most important monuments of the city are:

**Ayasofya:** A Christian basilica from the VIth Century, famous for its columns and marbles, transformed into a mosque during the Turkish era.

**The Castle:** Built by Genoese in the XIVth Century and restored by Ottoman Turks.

**Cerberus Caves:** These are three grottoes in the vicinity of Ereğli. According to legend, Hercules had descended through one of them to Hades, the infernal regions in order to bring up Cerberus, the three-headed dog to Eurystheus.

**BARTIN:** 87 kms to the east of Zonguldak, this small town on the bank of the Bartın Çayı, is connected by the mouth of this river with the sea. It is a summer resort with a wonderful scenery.

The ancient name of the town was Parthenium. Ruins of a Roman road connecting Bartın with Amasra, can be seen. This road was built by Roman Emperor Claudius.

AMASRA — A view

Photo : Sami Güner











**AMASRA (AMASTRIS):** Situated on a peninsula, between Zonguldak, and İnebolu, 105 -kms from Zonguldak, Amasra, with its charming scenery and a beautiful beach is one of the most popular summer resorts of Turkey. Its name owes itself to its founder Amastris, a nephew of the Persian Emperor, Darius III.

It has witnessed Roman and Byzantine domination. In 1458 it was annexed by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror to the Ottoman Empire. In the vicinity there are the ruins of a bath, a temple and a theatre belonging to the Roman period. The castle of Amasra, repaired by the Genoese in the XIVth Cent. dates also from this period.

Amasra has a museum of its own, where objects found in the vicinity are exhibited. On a nearby island there are the ruins of a Byzantine church.

Within the town are two beaches: Büyük Liman (The Great Port) and Küçük Liman (The Little Port); being separated from each other by a peninsula and protected against the cold north wind.

The "Great Port" which is 500 metres in length is distinguished by its fine sand. The beach of the little port is covered with gravel.

Amasra is also famous for its tree-nursery, mat and wire-plaiting.

**ÇAKRAZ:** This village situated at some distance from Amasra has a beautiful beach.

The forests of this region, which are ideal for picnics, are rich in game and offer many possibilities, so that hunting really pays.

**EFLÂNİ:** There are many buildings dating from the period of the İsfendiyoroğulları.

SAFRANBOLU — Folklore

Photo : Sonia Halliday







KASTAMONU — View of the city

Photo : Rıza Tuğcu



ABANA — View of the town

Photo : Hüsni Dirimen

# KASTAMONU

The province of Kastamonu is situated in the western part of the Black Sea Region. The country has a mountainous character, with mountain-ranges stretching from the east to the west, with plains between them extending in the same direction.

The mountain-ranges of the western part of the province belong to the İsfendiyar Mountains with the Yarılgözdağı as the highest peak. The most important watercourses are the Araç and the Devrez Çayı.

In the coastal region a mild climate prevails, getting ever colder the more one goes inland.

The province is rich in forests. Its economy is based on agriculture. Among the minerals the pyrit hauled up near Küre is worth mentioning. Fruit-culture, with apples, pears, almonds, hazelnuts and walnuts as the most important products, is fairly advanced.

Furthermore Kastamonu is known also for its home weaving industry. Almost every house has its own loom, on which colourful table sets, blankets and towels are manufactured. Copper ware and rope making are also important.





## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are different stories concerning the foundation of the town. However the most reliable appears the one which relates that the town was founded by the Byzantine Comnenus dynasty.

In the XIth century Kastamonu was seized by the Seljuks who were succeeded by the rulers of the Danişment Principality. At the beginning of the XIIth century the town changed hands several times between the Turks and Byzantines.

In 1291 a part of the Çandaroğulları principality, the town was in 1392 incorporated by Bayazid I. into the Ottoman Empire. Following the Battle of Ankara in 1402 Kastamonu was occupied by the armies of Tamerlane, who did much for its reconstruction. After the retreat of the Mongols the town became the centre of the state of the İsfendiyaroğulları, which after many internal struggles for power established itself. In 1459 Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror who defeated the İsfendiyaroğulları attached this region also to the Ottoman Empire.

## HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN

**Citadel:** The citadel located right in the middle of the town on an elevation rising 100 metres dates from the Byzantine era. Of the medieval town walls nothing remains. The citadel is built to fit the terrain on which it stands. Only the inner castle is partly preserved. It has 15 towers and is from the south to the north 155 metres long.

The way in which the castle is built reveals the characteristics of the Turkish style. Under the Seljuks and

the Çandaroğulları it was repeatedly repaired. The last big earthquake that destroyed Kastamonu did considerable damage to the castle as well.

**Atabey Camii:** It was built in 1273 during the era of Çobanoğulları by one of the Atabeys.

**İsfendiyar Camii:** This mosque is located in the town district of İsfendiyar. It is a foundation of İsfendiyar Bey of the ruling house of Çandaroğulları.

**İbni Neccar Camii:** It was built in 1353 during the Çandaroğulları-period. The wooden carved door stands today in the museum of Kastamonu.

**Yakup Ağa Külliyesi:** This ensemble of buildings consisting of a mosque, a poor-feeding house, a medrese and school for small children, dates from the XVth century.

**İbrahim Bey Camii:** It stands in the district of Deveciler. It was constructed by order of İbrahim Bey Çandaroğlu.

**Ferhat Paşa Camii:** It was built 1550 by Ferhat Paşa, the third grand-vizier of Sultan Soliman the Magnificent.

**Sinan Bey Camii:** A foundation of Sinan Bey, built in 1571.

**İsmail Bey Camii:** It was built in 1454 by İsmail Bey, the last ruler of the Çandaroğulları Principality.

**Yılanlı Darüşşifası (Hospital):** This most significant of all old hospitals of Anatolia was erected in 1271, in the period of Çandaroğulları. The entrance has Seljuk ornaments.

**İsmail Bey Hanı (Kurşunlu Han):** This inn dates from the XVth century, from the period of the Çandaroğulları. The Urgan Han, however, is a work of the XVIIIth century.







KASTAMONU — Wheat Fields      Photo : Sonia Halliday



**Karanlık Bedesteni:** This bazaar constructed in the XVIth century, at the time when Sultan Cem was governor, is still in use.

**The Dervish cloister and Tomb of Şaban Veli:** Both date from the XVIth cent

**Ev Kaya:** A typical tomb cut into the rock, dating from the VIIth century. The entrance is decorated with columns and the front with frescoes.

**Dwelling-houses:** The old wooden houses of Kastamonu are typical of this region. They are in good condition.

**Museum:** In the museum, located in the same building in which Atatürk announced the abolition of the Fez, historical objects found in Kastamonu and its vicinity as well as diverse costumes are exhibited.

#### **Architecture**

The wooden architecture with its characteristic carvings and coloured ornaments is at its best in the province of Kastamonu.

Examples of this art can be seen even in the villages. Many a mosque on the outside very modest is on the inside of an extreme charm.

#### **HISTORICAL PLACES AND EXCURSION SITES IN THE VICINITY**

**TAŞKÖPRÜ:** 44 kms far away from Kastamonu. Before the town, over the river Gökırmak, there is an old bridge with five arches. The bridge is 150 metres long. In ancient times the town was called Pompelopolis. Roman tombs and tumuli can be seen.

**Kale Kapı:** This is a rock-monument located two-hours drive from Taşköprü. Three subterranean entrances and a tomb cut into the rock can be seen. The entrance to

the tomb is decorated with columns and the front with reliefs.

**INEBOLU:** On the Black Sea. This small town has a municipal beach. Flax and cotton-weaving as well as the wood, stone and iron-manufacturing are the most important handicrafts.

**BOZKURT:** It is situated 102 kms from Kastamonu, near the sea shore.

**ABANA:** The village Abana, on the Black Sea, 3 kms from Bozkurt, commands a fascinating view. It has a beach with a hotel and a number of boarding-houses. The beach is 4 kms long.

**The Moonlight Valley,** the grottos of Igrova and the «Plane-Tree of Homerus» are the favourite excursion places of an area extending as far as the rocks of Hacıveli (2 kms to the south-west of Abana and 2 kms to the east of İlişi).

**CİDE:** Between İnebolu and Amasra. This very charming little town has a scenery of unique beauty. The sea is usually calm. The mosque built in 1510 is the only building of historical value.

**TOSYA:** This is the second-largest town of the province. There are numerous ricehusking workshops there. Weaving is the most important occupation of the people. The Yeni Cami Mosque erected in 1584 is worth seeing.

**ILGAZ MOUNTAINS:** 45 kms to the south of Kastamonu. The plateaux are ideal summer resorts.

**DADAY AND BALIDAĞ:** Summer resorts rich in forests and water:

**ECEVİT:** An attractive excursion place between Küre and İnebolu.





# SİNOP

SİNOP — View of the city from the fortress Photo : Ozan Sağdıç



The province of Sinop stretches over the eastern and western sectors of the Black Sea Region. The peninsula on which the town is situated shows all the characteristics of the Black Sea climate. The shore is almost for its whole length rocky and rugged. The Isfendiyar Mountains, the highest elevation of the province, traverse it in an east-west direction. Of the other mountains the Çangal and the Zindan are worth mentioning. The area along the river Gökırmak is flat. The difference in temperature between summer and winter is not great.

Forests cover almost one third of the province, those belonging to the Çangal and the Zindan Mountains being the most important ones. Wheat, maize, tobacco and flax are the principal crops.

Fishing is a significant part of the economy.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The foundation of Sinop goes very far back. The advantageous situation of the port and the fertility of the soil never failed to exercise upon the seafaring nations an irresistible attraction. The town which until the 11th century was either a colony or self-governed is said to have been founded before 1200 B.C. by the Amazons, from one of whose queens it derives its name. The town that the Hittite texts mention as «Sinova» is very likely Sinop.

In the 7th century B.C. Sinop became a Milesian colony. In the first half of the 4th century the famous philosopher Diogenes was born here. Since the 11th century an integral part of the Kingdom of Pontus. Sinop came in the year 63 B.C. under Roman domination, during which period it developed immensely. In the 13th century it was conquered by the Seljuks. who



were followed by the Mongols. After their retreat it became a part of the Çandaroğulları Principality. In the XVth century Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror attached it to the Ottoman Empire.

#### HISTORICAL PLACES IN THE TOWN

**Anıt (Monument):** This monument was erected in Commemoration of the naval battle, fought in 1853 in Sinop.

SİNOP — Local Costume

Photo : Sonia Halliday



**Serapis Temple:** The temple stands within the municipal park behind the building of the provincial authorities. Some parts are well preserved. Excavations have proved that the temple was built in the Hellenistic period.

**Citadel:** The story of the citadel goes as far back as the Hittite era. Its present form dates from 72 B.C. during the reign of King Mithridates IV. of Pontus, who ordered its construction. The western part and some parts of the inner castle, where Turkish buildings now stand are in a ruined condition. On the other hand the walls looking towards the port together with the towers have preserved their original form. The citadel has four gates. During the Ottoman rule it served as a prison.

**Alaettin Camii (The Grand Mosque):** It was built in 1214 in the name of Alaettin Keykubat by order of his vizier Muinuddin Suleyman Pervane. After the fall of its dome the mihrab, made of marble, was transferred to the Museum of Islamic Art in Istanbul.

**İbrahim Bey Türbesi:** This mausoleum with ten graves inside it belongs to the Çandaroğulları era.

**Alaiyye Medrese:** It was built in 1262 by the above mentioned Seljuk vizier Muinuddin Suleyman Pervane. At present it serves as a museum. Next to it there is the tomb of Gazi Çelebi.

**The Mausoleum of the İsfendiyaroğulları family:** The mausoleum stands on the northern side of the court of the Alâeddin Mosque. It was built in 1439. Inside it there are ten graves.

**Saray Mescidi:** This little mosque was constructed in 1339 by Kötürüm Bayazid Bey of the ruling house of Çandaroğulları.

**Fetih Baba Mescidi:** A foundation of İsfendiyaroğlu İsmail Bey, built in 1339.





SİNOP — View of the city

Photo : Sonia Halliday

**Çifte Hamam (Twin Bath):** It dates from the Beylik period.

**Varoş Hamamı:** Built in 1332. It is a foundation of İsfendi-yaroğlu İbrahim Bey.

**The tomb of Aynalı Hatun:** From the Çandaroğulları period.

**Seyyit Bilal's Mosque with Mausoleum:** The date of their construction is unknown. Presumably they date from the Seljuk era.

**Rıza Nur Library:** The library containing 4000 books was

founded by the well known historian Rıza Nur.

**Balat Church:** Built in the XIVth century

**Other buildings:** Medreses, Fountains and tombs both from Seljuk and Ottoman periods. The most important among them are: Aslan Camii, Kadı Mescidi, Hatunlar Türbesi (tomb), Yesarı Baba Türbesi, Aşağı Hamam (bath), Saray Çeşmesi (fountain) and Boyacı Çeşmesi.

**Seyyit Bilal Hill:** This is the highest point and at the same time the most attractive corner of Sinop.

**Zeytinlik:** Picnic sites of Sinop.







SİNOP — View of the city

Photo : Ozan Sağdıç





**Rüya Beach:** This is the beach of the city, having some installations.

#### VICINITY

**Durağan Han:** Between Boyabat and Vezirköprü;

**Ak Liman Koyu:** 15 kms from the town. The forests descend here down to the shore. In the bay there are a number of small islands.

**Ayancık:** This is a charming little town on the Black Sea. Fruit-culture is advanced. Flax is also grown.

# SAMSUN

The province of Samsun belongs to the central sector of the Black Sea Region. The town itself is situated on the important mercantile road used ever since prehistoric times. Samsun is one of the main ports of Turkey. The mountains of the province are in comparison with those of the eastern and western parts of the Black Sea Region much lower. The Çarşamba Plain through which the Yeşilirmak flows is together with the Bafra Plain, along the Kızılırmak, the widest.

The Kızılırmak and the Yeşilirmak are the greatest rivers. At the Delta of Kızılırmak there are a number of lakes, the Karaboğaz Lake, the Liman Lake, the Balık Lake and the Salt Lake being the largest.

SAMSUN — Atatürk's Monument

Photo : Hüsni Dirimen







SAMSUN — A view from the Samsun Fair

Photo : Sonia Halliday

The province shows all the characteristics of the coastal climate. Rain occurs in all four seasons. Maize is the principal crop. In the Bafra plain a good sort of tobacco is cultivated. In Samsun there is a cigarette factory. Fishing and cattle-breeding is much advanced. The Balık Lake, at the end of Bafra plain, is because of its richness in fish, a real treasure. Samsun is the most important port of the Black-Sea Coast.

#### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The town was founded 800 B.C. by the Milesians, who

gave it the name «Amisos» of which the present name is a derivation. The town witnessed successively Hittite, Cimmerian and Phrygian domination and was in the VIth century B.C. subdued by the Persians and in the IVth century by the Macedonians. Following this period it became incorporated into the Kingdom of Pontus and, upon its downfall, into the Roman Empire. In the XIIth century the town was seized by the Seljuks under the leadership of Kılıçaslan II.: in 1419 it was attached by Bayazid II. to the Ottoman Empire.



And finally Samsun, where Atatürk landed, on the 19th of May 1919 was the starting-point of the Turkish War of Independence.

#### HISTORICAL SITES AND EXCURSION PLACES

**Pazar Camii:** It was built in the XIVth century under the rule of the İlhanşahs. Of the other mosques the Hacı Hatun Camii and the Yalı Camii (an Ottoman work) deserve mention.

**Atatürk Monument:** The monument standing opposite to the government building is the most magnificent of all Atatürk monuments in Turkey. Erected in 1931.

**Archaeological Museum:** Objects found during excavations on the Dündar Hill are exhibited here. The eth-

nographical section also contains valuable objects.

**Seyyit Kutbettin Camii:** It was constructed in the 14th century by the Ottomans.

**Gazi Museum:** The hotel in which Atatürk, following his landing in Samsun on the 19th May 1919, stayed for one week is a museum today.

**Gazi Library:** Founded in 1930 by the order of Atatürk, the library contains 15 000 books.

The coast of Samsun is throughout its whole length a single natural beach, stretching for many kilometres. At a distance of about 7 kms from the town there is the beach belonging to the Authorities for Physical Training and also a camping-site of the Red Crescent. The beach is flat and distinguished by its white sand.

SAMSUN — Natural Beaches

Photo : Işık Bekman







Road between SAMSUN and ORDU

Photo : Sonia Halliday

#### VICINITY

**AKALAN:** 18 kms from Samsun. During excavations objects belonging to the 6th and 7th cent B.C. have been brought to light.

**BAFRA:** An important tobacco centre situated in the delta of the Kızılırmak. Caviar is also prepared here.

**Büyük Camii (Grand Mosque):** It was built in the 18th cent. in the name of Ayşe Hatun, the wife of Köprülü Mehmet Pasha.

**Tombs:** Some 5 kms from Bafra there are two tombs from the Çandarogulları period (15th cent.)

**HAVZA:** 86 kms from Samsun. The most important buildings to be seen are:

**Atatürk's Room:** The room used by Atatürk during his stay in Havza is a museum today. It is on the second floor of the town hall.

**Library:** The library of Havza contains 5000 books, mostly manuscripts. It has a historical value.

**LÂDİK:** One of the most attractive district towns of the province, it is, apart from the charm of its landscape, famous for its historical buildings. In the museums of Europe the carpets from Lâdik are well known.

**Hot Springs:** The Great and the Small Hot Springs of Havza and the Hot Springs of Lâdik are favourite health resorts.



**HUNTING - GROUNDS:** The hunting-grounds between Terme, Alaçam, Samsun and Kavak as well as those of Vezirköprü and Lâdik are rich in game. Hares, roes, wild boars, foxes, beavers etc. and plenty of birds of different kinds can be found here.

# ORDU

This province with its charming landscapes and hazel-nut groves stretches along the coast over the eastern and central sectors of the Black Sea Region. The highest peaks belong to the Canik Mountains, Here one finds traces of glaciers. The main river is the Melet. The province has on the whole a mild climate. As a consequence of the abundant rainfall the vegetation of the province is very rich. On the coast fishing is widespread.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ordu, the ancient Cotiora, was a Greek colony belonging to Sinop. During the excavations made at Yücele-Cevizdere, near Ünye, objects belonging to the Cut Stone and Polished Stone ages were found but still the history of the province connected with the Stone age is not sufficiently known.

The town of Ordu witnessed the Pontic, Roman and Turkish-Seljuk era and the rule of the Greek emperors of Trebizond. In 1462 the province was attached to the Ottoman Empire by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror.

## HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN THE TOWN

**Mosque:** It is of recent date.

**Basilica:** A building form XVIIIth Cent. standing in the west of the town.

**Cotyora (Bozukkale):** On the sea shore, near the city one sees traces of the Greek colony established in the VIIth Cent. B.C.

## VICINITY

**ESKİ PAZAR (Bayramlı):** Situated 5 kms from Ordu. A mosque and two baths are the only buildings of significance

ORDU — View of the city

Photo : Sonia Halliday









**PERŞEMBE:** A district-town amid hazel-nut groves and natural beaches covered with fine sand. 5 kms. to the north of the town, near the sea-shore, there is a small island called Kalecik. On this island, the remains of an observation tower from the Middle Age can be seen.

**Hoynat Kalesi:** This fortress is situated on a small island, 20 kms to the north-west of Perşembe. It is watch tower built during the Middle Age.

**Yasun Kenti (Jason site):** It is 22 kms from Perşembe on the sea-shore. According to the mythology, it was founded by Jason, who was searching for the Golden Fleece.

**FATSA:** It is situated in a small bay on a flat narrow strip stretching in an east-west direction. It is famous as a hazel-nut region.

**Bolaman Kalesi:** This fortress is situated on a peninsula, 7 kms, to the south-east of Fatsa, The ruins of



ORDU — View of the city

Photo : Edvin Rizi

ORDU — Natural beaches in the vicinity

Photo : Sonia Halliday





the fortress, well preserved. of a church and a Turkish palace, built two centuries ago, are worth seeing.

**Kız Kulesi:** It is a watch-tower, situated near Yalıköy, 15 kms to the south-east of Perşembe.

**ÜNYE:** It is an attractive little town on the Black sea. In the Classical ages it was called Oenoe. The coast of Ünye is full of natural beaches.

**Hükümet Konağı:** The Municipality building, which was erected at the end of the XVIIIth Cent., is considered to be one of the most beautiful works of the Turkish architecture. It called the attention of many foreign painters.

**Çamlık :** It is 3 kms far from Ünye. Its restaurants and beaches make it an ideal resting place.

At Fokfok, in the vicinity of Çamlık, there are caves in which seals live.

**Çalıoğlu Kalesi:** This fortress, standing on a volcanic hill 6 kms. from Ünye, is said to have been erected by Mithridates, the king of Pontus.

**Rock-cut tombs:** They are situated near the Çalıoğlu Fortress, and dating from the Pontic and Roman periods.

**MESUDİYE:** It is 125 kms. to the south of Ordu. In its surroundings, there are the ruins of the fortresses of Yastura and Gölköy, and many caves. The most famous of these caves is the Gül Kayası. 6 kms. far from Mesudiye, near Gölköy.

**ÇAMBAŞI:** On the bank of the crater lake Karagöl, 60 kms. from Ordu. The water courses of this region are rich in trout.

**ÇAKA:** It is 18 kms. from Ordu, on the sea shore. It is an ideal place for camping.

GİRESUN — Return of the fishermen

Photo : Sonia Halliday







GİRESUN — View of the city

Photo : Sonia Halliday

# GİRESUN

The province of Giresun is situated in the eastern section of the Black Sea Region. The central mountain-ranges of this region traverse the province. At higher altitudes small glacial lakes exist. The most important rivers are the Kelkit and the Harşit. The winters are mild.

Hazel-nuts an important Turkish export as well as diverse other fruits thrive here. Soya beans and maize are grown. On the coast fishing is well advanced. The water courses are rich in fish and the forests in game.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The town that was once called «Karasu» is said to derive its name from the many cherry-trees (Cherry - Kiraz). According to one version the Roman general Lucullus brought the cherry which hitherto had been unknown here.

The town was founded in the VIIIth century B. C. as a Milesian colony. In about 400 B.C., at a time also when the town belonged to the Principality of Sinop, the Greek auxilliary troops belonging to the army of Alexander the Great arrived on their flight from Cunaxa under the leadership of Xenophon at Giresun, where they stayed for a while.

King Pharnacus of Pontus who captured Sinop and then on his march eastwards also seized Ordu and Giresun, gave the town his name. Under Mithridates the Great considerably enlarged, Giresun passed in 63 B. C. after general Lucullus defeated Mithridates, into the hands of the Romans.

Following the partition of the Roman Empire, Giresun which during the Roman period maintained its importance went to the Byzantine Empire.

After the Crusaders seized Constantinople in 1204 establishing there the Latin Empire Alexius Comnenus fled to Trebizond where he founded the Greek Empire of Trebizond, to which Giresun was also attached.

The town was looted by the Genoese, and was in 1461, after Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror destroyed the Empire of Trebizond, incorporated into the Ottoman Empire.





TIREBOLU — A view

Photo : Sonia Halliday





### HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN

**Citadel:** The citadel encircled by walls stands on a hill in the middle of the town. Presumably it was constructed in the Pontian era. Within the citadel remains of a wall and a temple can be seen.

**Mausoleum:** Seyyit Vakkas, a saint and judging from his name a descendant of the Prophet, lies buried here. In the capture of the town by the Turks he played an important part. The gravestone was set in the XVth century, whereas the mausoleum itself was built only in the XIXth cent

**The Island of Giresun:** Here one can see the remains of a temple which was dedicated to the god of war.

### HISTORICAL PLACES AND BUILDINGS IN THE VICINITY

**ŞEBİNKARAHİSAR:** This is a town of historical importance. Its name owes itself to the mighty stronghold in the vicinity. Before the advent of the Turks the town was called «Colonia». Emperor Justinian ordered its reconstruction. Later on it became the seat of a bishopric. Shortly after the battle of Malazgirt, in 1074, this district too fell into the hands of the Seljuks.

**Citadel:** In the construction of the citadel consisting of the outer walls and the central fortifications kings of Pontus as well as the Romans participated.

**TİREBOLU:** Situated on the road of Trabzon. Formerly known as Tripolis. It was one of the most important places of the Greek Empire of Trebizond. There are some castles in the town which are built by the Genoese.

These are:

a) The Central Castle b) the Bedrofa Castle and c) the Andos Castle.

**GÖRELE:** An ideal summer resort. The beach is covered either with fine sand or with white gravel. The region

is rich in fruit vegetable and fish.

**KULAKKAYA:** A plateau covered with forests. Good air. Of the other plateau the Bektaş and the Kümbet are worth mentioning.

**KEŞAP:** Typical town on the Black Sea coast. In addition to its charming landscapes. Çamburun is worth seeing.

**BULANCAK:** It is a typical fisher village of the Black sea coast.



GİRESUN — Fishermen

Photo : Sonia Halliday





# GÜMÜŞHANE

This province is situated in the eastern part of the Black Sea Region. The southern spurs of the Trabzon Mountains traverse the province. The soil of the province is watered by rivers flowing in three directions. The most important road is that running from Persia via Erzurum to Trabzon.

The climate is characterized by mild winters and hot, though not too hot, summers.

The Harşit valley, is on both sides of the river, full of orchards. Agriculture and fruit-culture occupy, in the economy of the province, the first place. Apples and pears are the main fruits. The province was once famous for its silver too.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Gümüşhane has an old history. It is said to have been founded originally by the Urartus. Alexander the Great on his march toward the east also subdued this region, which later came under Roman, Byzantine and Arab domination. Gümüşhane was one of the first Anatolian town to be conquered by the Seljuk Turks.

After the emergence of the principalities the region became partitioned so that Bayburt and its surroundings together with the Çoruh basin was attached to the Saltıkoğulları and Gümüşhane with Kelkit to the Erzincan Principalities.

At one time Ilhans ruled over the region, however they



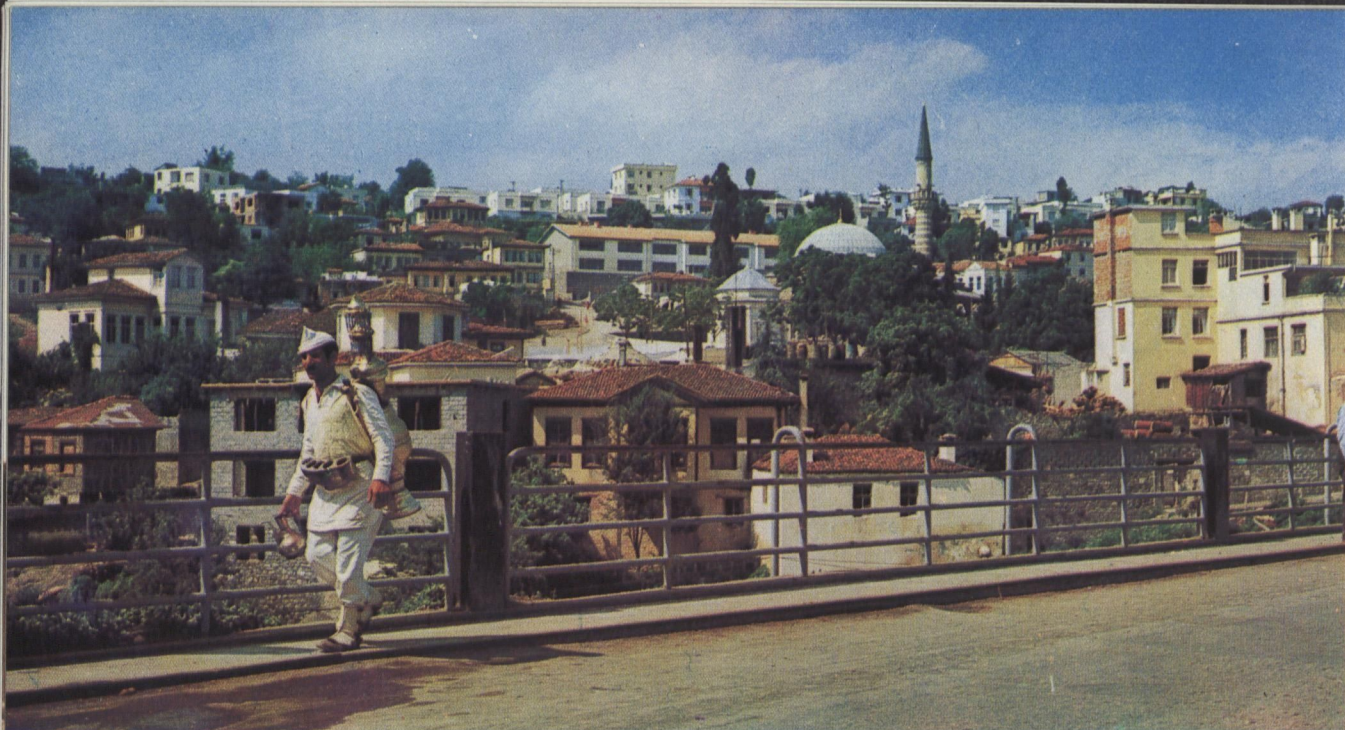
BAYBURT — The Fortress

Photo : Sami Güner

were driven out by the Karakoyunlus and these in turn by the Akkoyunlus. In 1514 Sultan Selim incorporated Gümüşhane into the Ottoman Empire. After that it became the seat of a Sancak belonging first to Erzurum and then to Trabzon. In 1916 Gümüşhane was occupied by the Russians; however, in 1918 it was liberated.







TRABZON — View of the city

Photo : Sonia Halliday

#### HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

**Süleymaniye Camii:** This mosque was renovated in the 19th century. Its minaret dates from the 16th cent. Besides this mosque, there exist six others as well as five baths and a number of tombs, all from the time between the 16th and the 18th centuries. In addition to that there are a number of desolate churches. Interesting old houses can be seen in the town.

Since the First World War the town has shifted gradually toward the place where it stands today, 7 kms distant from old Gümüşhane. The old town, having at present only a few hundred houses, serves today as a summer

resort. In recent times remains of Byzantine churches with very beautiful frescoes have been unearthed.

#### VICINITY

**BAYBURT:** This is a big district town of historical value. The Çoruh river flows through it making a wide bend. The history of Bayburt can be followed very far back almost to prehistoric times. In ancient times it was called Peipert and under this name we find it mentioned in Byzantine sources, too.

The greek auxiliary troops which, under the leadership of Xenophon, fled from Cunaxa to Trebizond. had used the



route Işis - Bayburt. Bayburt is spoken of also in the fairy-tales by Dedekorkut. Marco Polo passed through here. The famous Turkish poet of the 19th century, Zihni was born here. His tomb is situated just where the town begins. During the reign of Sultan Selim (1515) Bayburt was attached to the Ottoman Empire. In the First World War it fell into the hands of the Russians but on 21st February 1918 it was freed.

**Citadel:** It is situated on the rocks rising in the north of the town. Its towers are decorated with dark-blue and light-blue tiles. It was built in the 13th century by the Seljuks and has two gates.

**Ulu Cami:** This is a Turkish building of the 13th cent; one of the oldest mosques of Anatolia. Its minaret is decorated with tiles.

**THE TOWN OF SATALA (LADOR):** This ancient town situated near Bayburt was the most remote military post in the east of the Roman Empire. A legion was permanently stationed here. The aqueduct, the theatre, the agora etc. are almost wholly preserved.

**Buildings from the Period of the İlhans**

Of the numerous buildings which had been erected during this period one sees today in the villages around Bayburt only some sacred buildings together with tombs and gravestones.

**KALE:** It is situated 26 kms. to the south of Gümüşhane, on the Bayburt road. During the Middle Age, a fortress was built high on the rocks to maintain the safety of the transit road.

**TORUL:** This is a town situated on the transit road, 26 kms to the north of Gümüşhane. It has a very beautiful panorama. The Ardası Fortress, which stands on a high hill was built during the Middle Age and was restored during the Ottoman era.

TRABZON — Folklore Photo : Hüsnü Dirimen







TRABZON — Frescoes of the St. Sophia Church Photo : Sonia Halliday



# TRABZON

This province is situated in the eastern sector of the Black Sea Region. Trabzon is the busiest port and the most attractive town of the Turkish Black Sea coast. The fact that it lies on the old international route leading to Persia stresses the importance of this town. The highest points of the province are the mountains Değirmendere, Zigana and Trabzon. Between the hilly country and the sea a narrow and flat strip of land stretches. In the coastal region a mild and rainy climate prevails.

In the province maize is grown widely. Among the plants tobacco occupied the foremost place among the fruits the hazel-nut. The oil from Trabzon has a good reputation.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Trabzon, the ancient Trapezus, was at first a Milesian colony, founded in the 7th century B.C. However the assumption that the first foundation had taken place about 2000 B. C. is of strong probability. The 'Ten Thousands' of Xenophon saw the sea for the first time in Trabzon during their way back home from Cunaxa near Babylon. The town which in the course of time was subdued by the Pontian kings and then by the Romans, developed considerably during the rule of the Roman Emperor, Hadrian. Following the partition of the Roman Empire it became a part of the Byzantine Empire. Upon the seizure of Constantinople by the Crusaders, Alexius Comnenus fled to Trebizond where he founded the Greek Empire of Trebizond.

TRABZON — Mosque of Ortahisar (Fatih)

Photo : Sonia Halliday







With the capture of Sinop by the Seljuks under Sultan Izzettin Keykavus, the boundaries of the Empire narrowed to a great extent, and Trabzon itself was besieged twice.

Pressed hard on land by several Turkish Beys and later from the sea too by Sultan Murat II, the Empire had no other alternative but to pay tribute to the Ottomans (1465). Five years later Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror put an end to its existence.

One of the governors of the province of Trabzon was Yavuz Sultan Selim before he succeeded to the throne. Trabzon was also the birthplace of Suleiman the Magnificent.

#### HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN THE TOWN

**The Citadel:** Built during the Byzantine period it consisted of inner and outer sections. The walls of the inner section which are well preserved and reach the sea, protected the harbour during the time of Empire of Trebizond. The emperor's palace was located in the south-western part of the inner citadel.

Some Greek inscriptions and Byzantine reliefs can be seen on the street Kale Sokağı.

The Citadel was rebuilt during the Ottoman era and its sections are: Aşağıhisar Ortahisar and İçkale or Kulehisar. The ruins of the castle Güzel Sarayı, at the highest point of Aşağıhisar, are of recent date.

**Ortahisar Camii (The Conqueror's Mosque):** This mosque standing in Ortahisar is the former church of Panaghia Chrysokephalos (Golden Headed Mary), turned in 1461 by the Conqueror into a mosque. Its mihrab (altar) and minber (pulpit) are with regard to their ornamentations of great value

It is one of the most outstanding buildings of the city.



**Yeni Cuma Camii (St. Eugenius' Church):** Built in the XIIIth Century, it is a beautiful example of Byzantine architecture. Transformed into a mosque during the Ottoman era, some modifications were made and a minaret was added.

**Ayasofya Müzesi (Haghia Sophia):** Originally a church, transformed into a mosque it serves today as a museum. Built in the XIIIth Century it is the most important monument of the Empire of Trebizond. It was built on a hill outside the city walls. The wonderful frescoes decorating the walls, represent the scenes from the Bible. The western portal, which has pointed arches and stalactite ornaments, is a Seljuk work. The walls of the tombs near the church are also decorated with frescoes.

**Küçük Ayvasıl Camii:** Built in the VIIIth Century, this was the oldest church of the city. It has the form of a basilica with three naves. Transformed into a mosque it is famous for its frescoes and reliefs.

**Nakıp Camii:** Built in the XIth Century as a church, it has three naves and a semicircular absid.

**St. Gregory's Church:** Built in the XIth Century.

**Boztepe:** On the slopes of Boztepe, to south of the harbour, ruins of Byzantine and Ottoman buildings can be seen. The most important ones are: the Monastery of Panaghia Theoskepastos, built on the site of the temple of Apollo and Mithra; the Church of St. Philip, transformed into a mosque.

**Gülbahar Hatun Camii (Büyük İmaret Camii):** It has one single dome only. The semicircular arches supporting the dome are characteristic of the style which, in the mosque of Sultan Selim in İstanbul and Beyazid II. in Edirne, is shown at its best.



TRABZON — A view from the Inner Fortress Photo : Edvin Rizı



TRABZON — Fishermen Photo : Sonia Halliday





Next to the mosque there is the tomb of Gülbahar Hatun, the mother of Sultan Selim I. who is the founder of the mosque.

**Hatip Camii:** Constructed in the XVIth century.

**Pazar Kapı Camii:** This mosque built in the Baroque style has one minaret only.

**Iskender Paşa Camii:** Constructed in the XVIth century and restored in the XVIIIth century.

**Other Mosques:** Semerciler Camii (XVIIIth Cent.), Tekir Çayı Mescidi (XVIth Cent.), Çarşı Camii, Konak Camii.

**Baths:** Hacı Hamamı (XVIIIth Cent. Baroque style), Tophane Hamamı, Sekiz Direkli Hamam (XVIIIth Cent.), Alacahamam, Kral Kızı Hamamı, Paşa Hamamı.

**Taşhan:** Next to the Çarşı Camii. Built in the XVth Century, it is the most important inn of the city.

**Bedesten:** Built on a rectangular plan and covered with a dome. It is one of the best specimens of Ottoman architecture in the Eastern Anatolia.

**Tombs:** Of the Ottoman period the most important tombs are: The tomb of Gülbahar Hatun, mother of Sultan Selim I, the Tomb of Emir Mehmed (XVIth Cent.) and Açık Türbe (XVIth Cent.)

**Houses:** The most typical Turkish houses can be seen in some old streets of Trabzon.

**Kız Enstitüsü (Girls' Institute):** This building which is said to have been built to accommodate the Russian Tsar who was to visit Trabzon after the First World War, is a combination of Turkish and Western architectural styles and decorative arts. In the Republican Era it has been transformed into a school.

**Kale Parkı:** A beautiful place for peace and quiet near the landing-place. Formerly a bulwark, protecting the town against the sea, used to stand here.

TRABZON — Dockyards

Photo : Sonia Halliday





**Library:** In front of Municipal Park. It has a valuable collection of manuscripts.

**Gümüŝçüler Çarŝısı:** This is the Silversmiths' market where silver - ware is manufactured and offered for sale.

#### IN THE VICINITY

**SOĞUKSU GAZİ'S PAVILION:** The pavilion is situated on the Soğuksu Hill 7 kms to the south - west of Trabzon, In 1921 Mustafa Kemal Paŝa stayed for three nights here. The pavilion - a gift of the people of Trabzon to Atatürk-is a museum today, keeping the memory of Atatürk alive

Soğuksu is one of Trabzon's most beautiful summer resorts. It is covered with conifers.

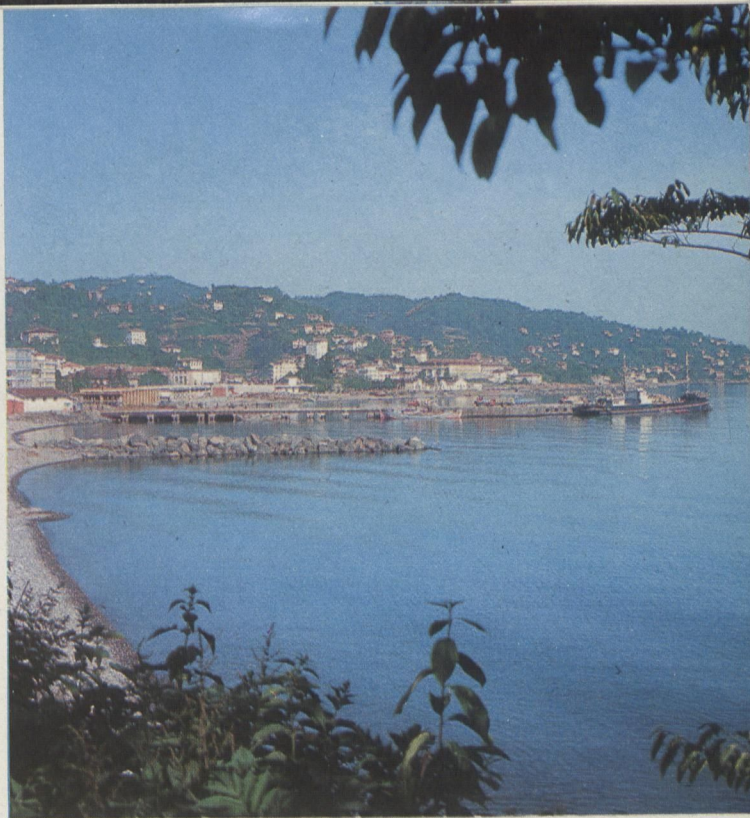
**SUMELA CLOISTER (St. Maria's):** It dates from the year 472 A. D. It is situated in the Altındere Plain, 54 kms to the south-east of Trabzon, on steep rocks encircled by the common spruce-tree.

This is the most important of all Byzantine buildings. With regard to its architecture as well as its frescoes, especially the image of the Virgin Mary, it is interesting. The cloister received its present form of four storeys in the 19 th century

On the walls traces of three layers of frescoes are visible. The wooden cells of the monks do not exist any more. The decorations dating from the 19th century are the work of artists from Istanbul.

The valley near the Monastery is a favourite picnic area. The stream running through the valley is rich in trout. The curative water from Sumela has a wide reputation.

**HIZIR - İLYAS CLOISTER:** 93 steps lead up to the cloister standing on a huge rock in the vicinity of Kuŝtul. It was burned but was restored and after that several times repaired.



RİZE — View of the port Photo : Sonia Halliday

**Other Monasteries:** The Vazelon Monastery dating from the Vth Cent. near Maçka and the monasteries at Sersa and Kosbitios are worth seeing.

**THE CASTLE OF DEREBEYLİ AT KESTEL:** This castle with its projecting roof is highly attractive. Its dungeons are interesting. The building is two - storeyed. The rooms of the second storey have wonderful decorations and richly ornamented fire-places. One of the rooms has a revolving ceiling that served as a ventilator. The



castle was constructed in the 18th century and is well preserved.

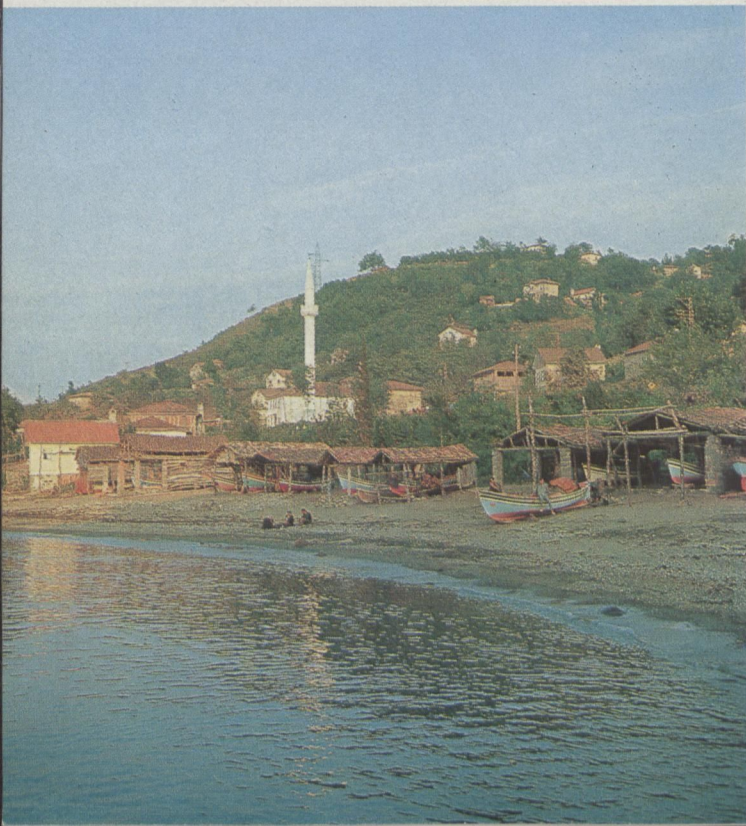
**KİSARNA:** The mineral waters of Kisarna, known already in the Byzantine era, are situated 9 km. from Trabzon, in the vicinity of Soğuksu.

**ZAFANOS:** It is an excursion spot, on a hill, ideal for camping.

**KANİTA BEACH:** Distinguished with fine sand and smooth sea.

KALECİK — View of the town

Photo : Sonia Halliday



**MAÇKA:** A charming little town at the foot of the beautiful Zigana Mountains that, with their forests of conifers and oaks, their rocks, rising hundreds of metres up to the sky, their deep gorges and valleys, offer many possibilities for mountain lovers.

**HAMSI KÖYÜ:** This is a typical mountain village in the Zigana Mountains, also called the Pontian Alps, which resemble Switzerland with their landscapes and villages. A stay of some days or even a short visit is highly recommended.

## RİZE

The province of Rize is situated in the eastern sector of the Black Sea Region.

Mountain-ranges rising gradually from the coast toward the interior traverse the province

The town itself, located at the foot of hills covered with trees, is very attractive. The Rize Mountains belong to the ranges of the Eastern Black Sea Region. Small glacial lakes are one of the peculiarities of these mountains. In the coastal strip a mild climate prevails.

Rize, is the most humid of all Turkish provinces. Due to this fact the vegetation of the province is very abundant. Tea, maize and rice are grown. Numerous tea-factories are in operation. In the Pazar district a good type of tobacco is cultivated. The oranges and tangerines from





Rize are delicious. The weaving industry is advanced. Cradles and baskets are manufactured as souvenirs.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Cimmerians coming down from Caucasia settled here in the VIIth cent. B.C. Scythians too had exercised their influence upon this region. In the VIth cent. B.C. Persians occupied the country. Following that period it became a part of the Kingdom of Pontus. In the 1st cent. B.C. under the Roman and, after the partition of the Empire. under the Byzantine domination, the province was, following the Battle of Malazgirt (1071), conquered by the Seljuks. Upon the decline of their state the country was successively attached to the principalities of Karakoyunlus and Akkoyunlus.

Soon afterwards, however, the new rulers were subdued by Tamerlans and then by Uzun Hasan. Finally Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror incorporated it into the Ottoman Empire.

#### HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND EXCURSION PLACES IN THE TOWN

**Citadel:** Situated near the town, at Küçük Kale. Ruins of a tower and a bastion from the Middle Age can be seen. There are also ruins of a church from XVIIIth Cent. and of a mosque.

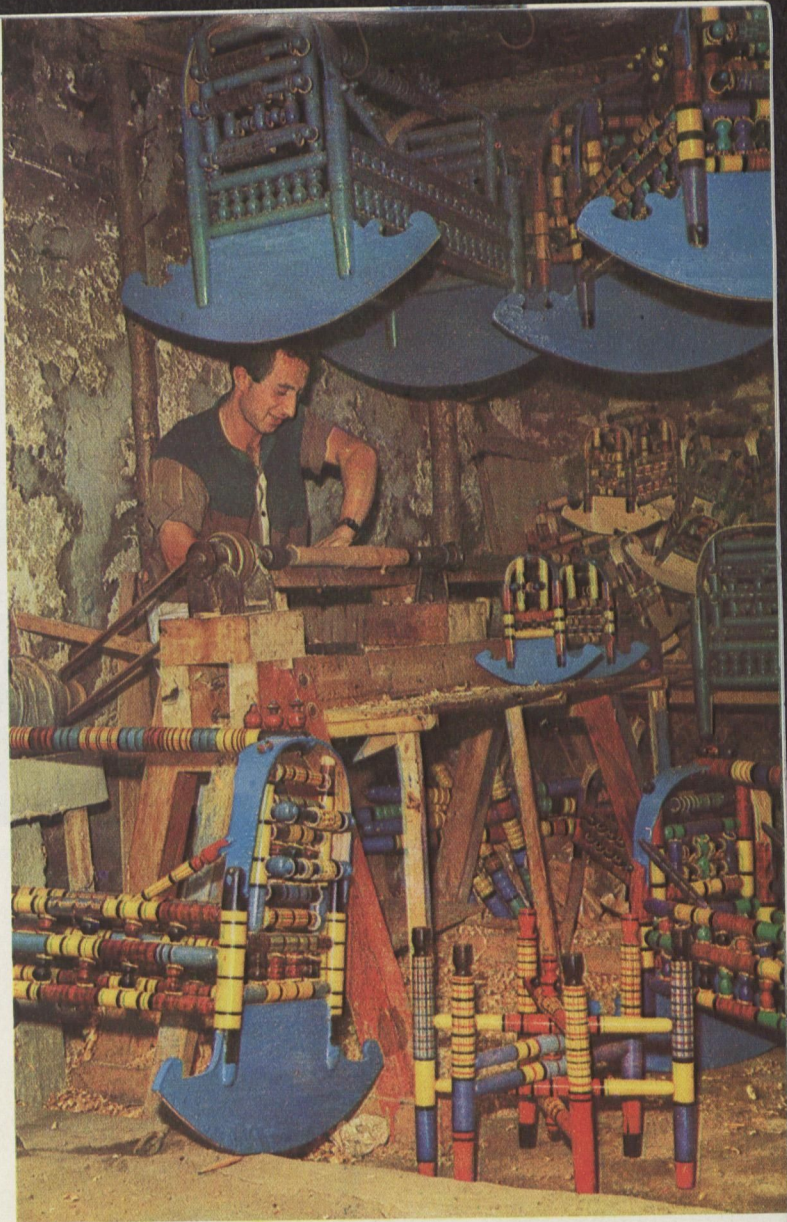
**İslam Paşa Camii:** Constructed in the XVIth Cent. by Sultan Selim. It is the most important mosque of the town.

**Ali Kaptan Camii:** It was built at the beginning of the XVIIIth Cent.

**Other Monuments from the Turkish Islamic period:** Kadioğlu Medresesi. Tuğrulşah Camii, Sultan Melik Mescidi ,They were built in the XVIIIth Cent.

RİZE — Handicrafts

Photo : Sonia Halliday







RIZE — View of the city  
Photo : Sonia Halliday

**Ziraat Bahçesi (Botanical Garden):** Situated on a hill commanding a view over the town. This is an experimental station for citrus fruits and tea.

#### VICINITY

**SCYTHIAN TUMULI:** Objects which threw light on the history of this region were found in these tumuli.

**ÇAYELİ AND PAZAR:** Tea is grown here in large quan-

ties. The greatest number of tea factories are to be found here.

**HOT SPRINGS OF ÇAMLI HEMŞİN:** 5 kms from Rize. These are the most important springs of the province.

**KAÇKAR MOUNTAINS:** Mostly covered by thick forests with peaks reaching 11.000 feet, these mountains constitute a beautiful excursion area and are a paradise for hunters.



# ARTVIN

The province of Artvin is situated in the northern section of East Anatolia. It is the most mountainous region in Turkey. All the mountains, especially those facing the sea are covered by thick forests.

The highest mountains which form a part of the North-Anatolian mountain range, are Kaçkar, Karcal and Yalnızçam. The main river of the province is Çoruh which flows into the Black Sea.

The climate of the province is mild and rainy. The coastal strip is the rainfall-richest corner of Turkey.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

Though the history of Artvin is not fully known, it is regarded as an established fact that the country from time immemorial was a transit region. After the 10th cent. B. C. it achieved a considerable significance. The Scythians had been the first settlers. Much later we see it belonging to the Kingdom of Pontus and following its downfall, to the Roman Empire. During the wars between the Romans and the Persians the country was the scene of many battles. In the 7th cent. A.D. we see Artvin under the rule of the Sassanids, but the Emperor

RİZE — Tea Plantations

Photo : Sonia Halliday





Heraclius recaptured it. In 1068 the Seljuks under Alp Arslan conquered the country.

Later on Georgian kings extended their influence and power to this region too. For a few centuries afterwards it witnessed successively the rule of Tamerlane, Karakoyunlus and Akkoyunlus. In 1337 it was attached by Suleiman the Magnificent to the Ottoman Empire. In 1878 Artvin fell after tough fighting into the hands of the

Russians. However on the 7th of March 1921 it came back to Turkey.

#### **HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN**

**Citadel:** It was constructed in the 16th century. It consists of a small fortress.

**Salih Bey Camii:** Built in 1793 it stands in Çayağzi. It is the foundation of Salih Bey, the governor of Sivana.

**Fountains:** Dating from the year 1783.

ARTVIN — View of the city

Photo : Hüsnü Dirimen







ARTVİN — Coruh River

Photo : Edvin Rizi

#### IN THE VICINITY

**ARDAHAN:** A citadel built in 1549 by order of Sultan Suleiman. The mosque of the citadel was built in the same year.

**THE ARDANUÇ DISTRICT:** At Adakale there is a church encircled by a wall. There is also a castle from the 12th century.

**BEREKET KÖYÜ:** Remains of a church and of a castle dating presumably from the 10th century.

**THE ŞAVSAT DISTRICT:** Here one sees the ruins of a church said to have been built by the Georgian king Asut. Nearby the district town there is a castle, which was used more as the residence of the ruling Beys than for military purposes.

#### EXCURSION PLACES

In the direction of the Russian frontier there are many Georgian settlements with numerous churches. Hopa, Sarp, Borçka, Maradit etc. are worth visiting. The moun-







ARTVIN — Folklore

Photo : Hüsnü Dirimen

tains are rich in game and rare plants and the water-courses in trout.

**The vicinity of Şavşat:** The Yarlık - Plateau offers many possibilities for picnics.

**The coastal region:** The coast between Arhavî and Sarp has many natural beaches. The village of Sarp, close to the Russian frontier, is interesting and worth a visit. The beach belongs half to Turkey and half to Russia,

a fact which, might be of special interest to tourist. Between Hopa and Artvin there exist bridges from the old caravan route.

The cuisine of this corner of Turkey is known throughout the country: Baklava (a kind of pastry) filled with hazel-nuts; beans with hazel-nuts; Lâz böreği (a kind of pancake - with fillings) etc. are among the famous specialities.



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