



Samsun





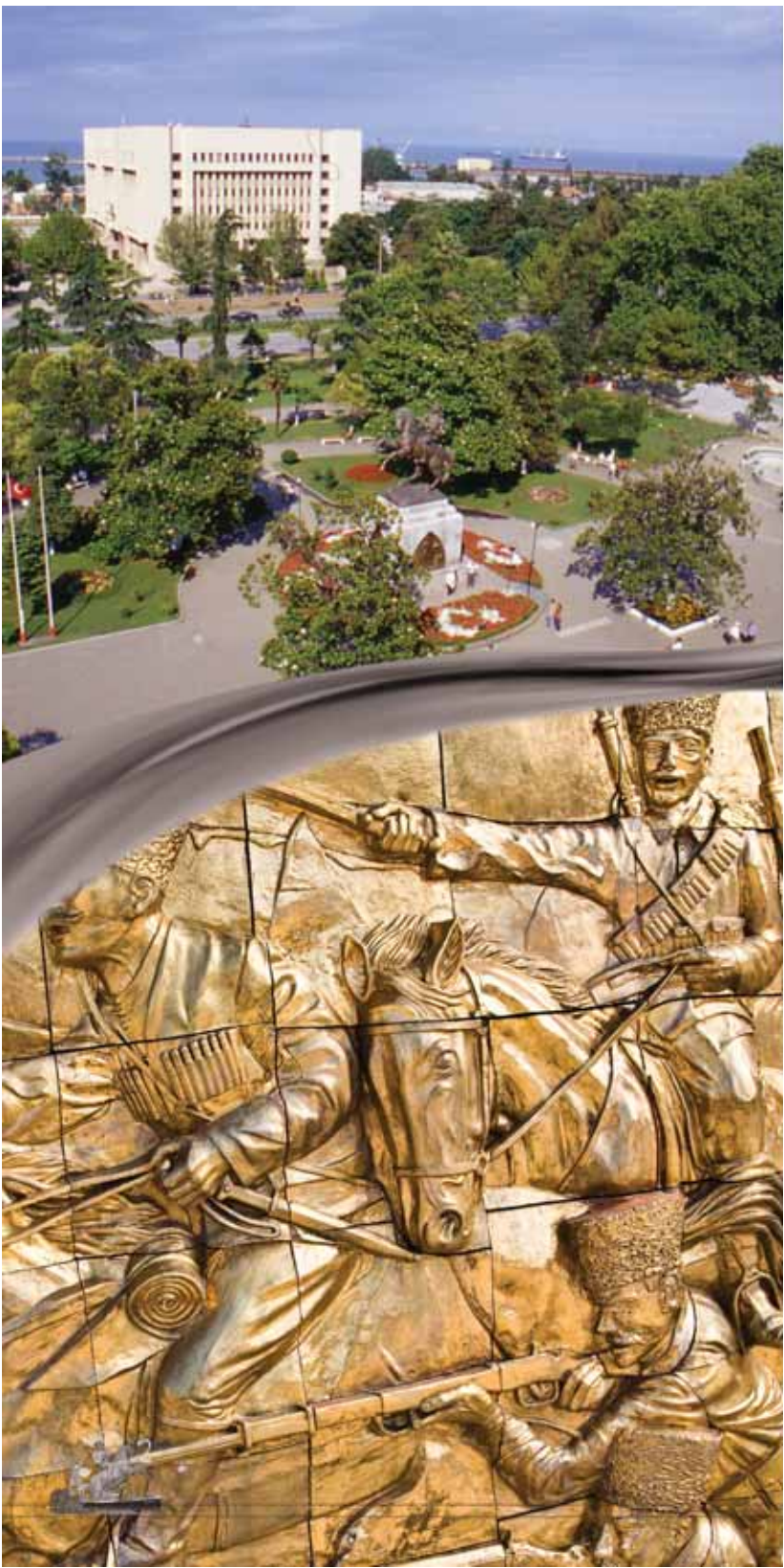
Samsun

Samsun is a distinctive and important tourism destination which is home to the thousand-year cultural heritage of the Anatolia and the Black Sea Region dating from the time of Amazons to the Ottoman Period. With its natural beauties including streams, waterfalls, lakes and forests, its therapeutic thermal springs, its local architecture, its rich cuisine and rousing festivals, Samsun is a place of great interest. Situated in the northernmost part of Anatolia, along the shores of the Black Sea, the Samsun region comprises a fertile land cut through by the deltas of the Kızılırmak and Yeşilirmak rivers. Samsun (ancient *Amisos*) was founded on a spot known colloquially as the 'Mesopotamia of the Black Sea'. Administratively it is subdivided into the counties of Alaçam, Asarcık, Ayvacık, Bafra, Çarsamba, Havza, Kavak, Ladik, Ondokuzmayıs, Salıpazarı, Tekkeköy, Terme, Vezirköprü, Yakakent, İlkadım, Canik and Atakum. The city is a hub for rail, air, sea and road transport systems, with easy links to the cities along the Black Sea coast as well as the central parts of Turkey.

DID YOU KNOW?

- that the legendary female warriors, the Amazons, lived in the Samsun,
- that Samsun has many ancient timber framed buildings with the original features still intact,
- that the mouth of the Kızılırmak River (Red River) is in Samsun,
- that Samsun provides facilities for winter sports and ecotourism as well as offering boundless sea, sand and sun,
- that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk launched the Turkish War of Liberation from Samsun...



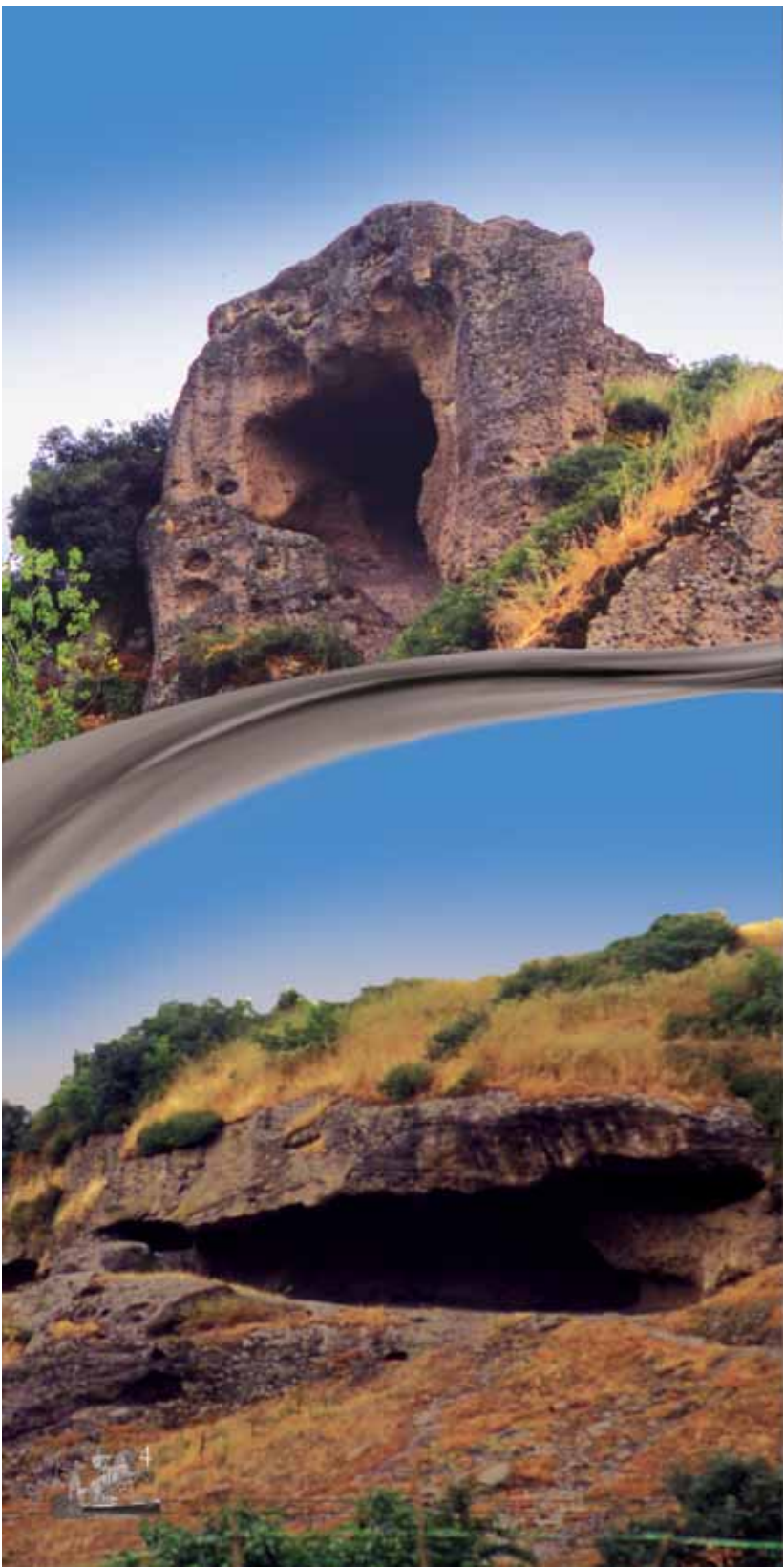




History

Samsun was one of the important cities of the region which was known as Paphlagonia in antiquity. The earliest settlements in Samsun dates back to the Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic Era) according to the findings from the caves situated to the south of Tekkeköy. Samsun also fostered settlements in the Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic Era) and the New Stone Age (Neolithic Era); and the Dünder Tepe Mound indicates that a civilisation flourished there during the Chalcolithic (Copper) and Bronze ages. The earliest known residents of Samsun were Kaskians as mentioned in Hittite sources. Following the Kaskians, who are believed to have inhabited the region during the Late Bronze Age, the legendary female warriors, the Amazons, settled in the region near the Terme River around 1200 BC. In the 6th century BC Amisos (Samsun) was founded as a colony by settlers from Milet (Miletus). Afterwards came the Persians, and they were followed by Alexander the Great and his successors, the Roman and Byzantine Empires, the Danişment Principality and the Anatolian Seljuk Sultanate; all in turn dominated the city. During the reign of Sultan Mehmet Çelebi it fell under the Ottoman rule. The most important role played by Samsun in recent history was to be chosen as the landing site for Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his close associates on 19 May 1919, at the initiation of the Turkish War of Liberation. Since 1936, when it was declared 'the Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day', 19 May has been officially celebrated with processions and festivities all over Turkey.







Archaeological Sites

Throughout its long history Samsun has accumulated a rich historical and cultural heritage, from prehistoric cave settlements to the beginning of urbanisation with the Neolithic mounds; and from the splendid Ottoman buildings to the monuments of the early Republican Period.

Vezirköprü Oymağaç Ruins

This settlement area is believed to be at least two millennia old. The Oymağaç Mound was an important stopping place for trading caravans; it was known among the Hattis and the Hittites as the holy city of Nerik.

Dündar Tepe (Öksürük Tepe) Ruins

At the site is a mound of 15 metres height which is situated three kilometres south-east of Samsun. Excavations have uncovered layers from the Chalcolithic, Late Bronze and Hittite ages. In the bosom of the mound various ceramics, flint knives, seals, small statuettes and bone needles were unearthed.

Tekkeköy Caves and Ruins

The caves, located very close to the centre of Tekkeköy County, are the earliest human settlements in the region, dating back to the Palaeolithic Era. Studies suggest that the naturally formed caves were dug out and expanded for human habitation by the hunter-gatherers of that epoch. Tekkeköy ruin is a significant archaeological site containing findings dating back to Bronze Age.

İkiztepe Ruins

Overlooking the Black Sea, seven kilometres north of Bafra, lie the ruins of İkiztepe. Archaeological



research suggests that there are the remains of settlements dating from the Late Bronze and Early Hittite ages. Artefacts uncovered here include ceramics, bronze rings, bracelets, bone needles, spears, javelin points, metal implements and terracotta jugs.

Kaledoruğu Mound

Kaledoruğu Mound is located in the Kavak County. During excavations conducted here between 1940 and 1942, artefacts from the Early Bronze Age were unearthed, notably ribbed terracotta pots, axes and daggers.

Lerdüğe Tumuli

Five tumuli have been discovered in the village of Lerdüğe, 21 kilometres east of Havza County. The artefacts found in the excavations that began in 1946 are now on display in the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations in Ankara. The walls of the burial chamber were decorated with human and plant images. Gold jewellery, bronze lamps and bottles of various sizes were also discovered in the tumuli.

Baruthane Tumuli (Archaeological Park)

The tumuli at Baruthane are situated in the Atakum County of Samsun; they consist of two mounds laid over burial chambers. The south tumulus has a rock-hewn tomb with two chambers. The north tumulus contains a tomb with three linked chambers. The area has been developed as an archaeological park and it can be reached by a 320-metre-long cable car. For ease of access, boardwalks have been laid around the tumuli. Here visitors can visit burial chambers and also savour a fine panoramic view over the Black Sea.





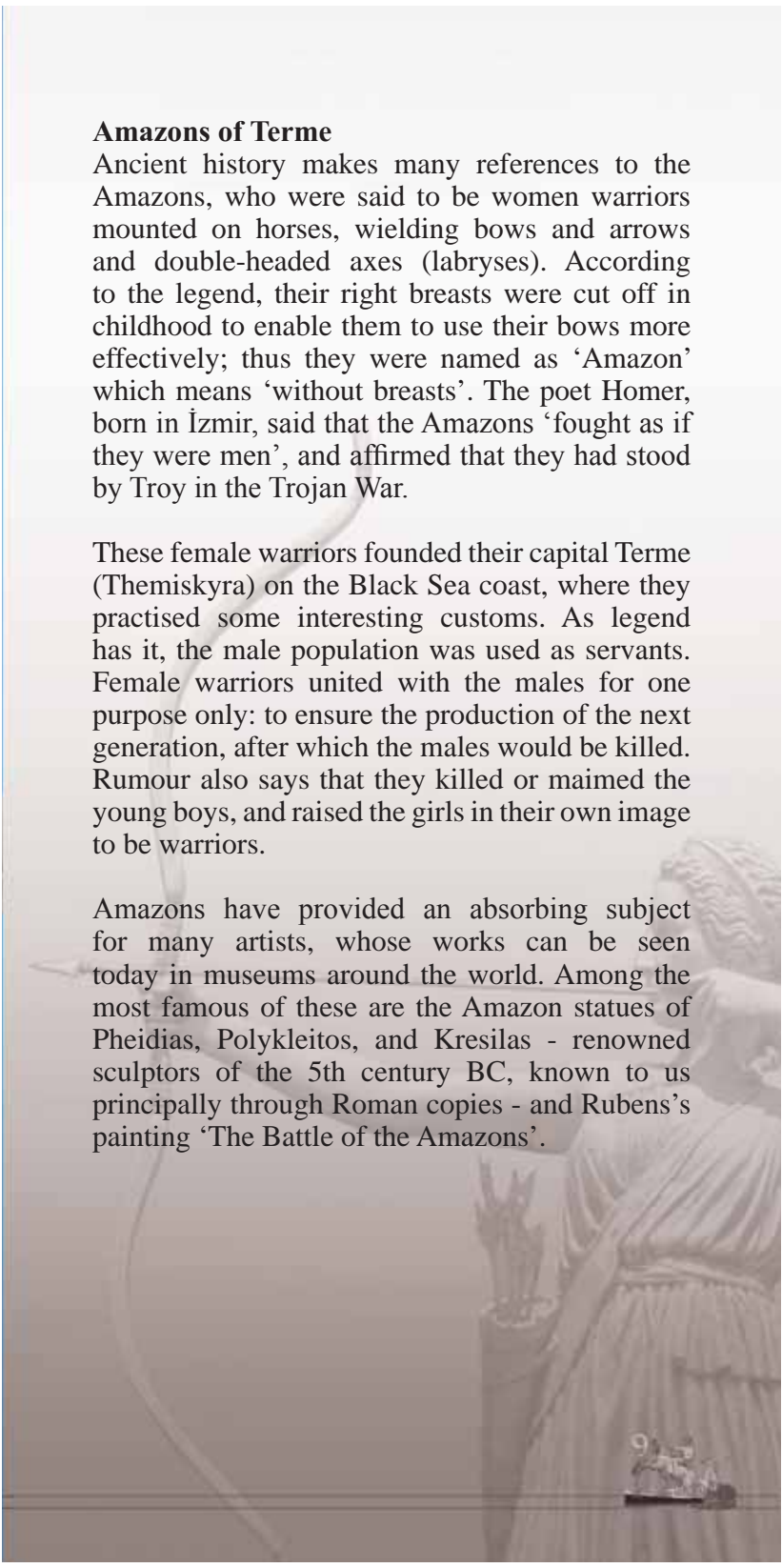


Amazons of Terme

Ancient history makes many references to the Amazons, who were said to be women warriors mounted on horses, wielding bows and arrows and double-headed axes (labryses). According to the legend, their right breasts were cut off in childhood to enable them to use their bows more effectively; thus they were named as 'Amazon' which means 'without breasts'. The poet Homer, born in İzmir, said that the Amazons 'fought as if they were men', and affirmed that they had stood by Troy in the Trojan War.

These female warriors founded their capital Terme (Themiskyra) on the Black Sea coast, where they practised some interesting customs. As legend has it, the male population was used as servants. Female warriors united with the males for one purpose only: to ensure the production of the next generation, after which the males would be killed. Rumour also says that they killed or maimed the young boys, and raised the girls in their own image to be warriors.

Amazons have provided an absorbing subject for many artists, whose works can be seen today in museums around the world. Among the most famous of these are the Amazon statues of Pheidias, Polykleitos, and Kresilas - renowned sculptors of the 5th century BC, known to us principally through Roman copies - and Rubens's painting 'The Battle of the Amazons'.





Antique City of Amisos

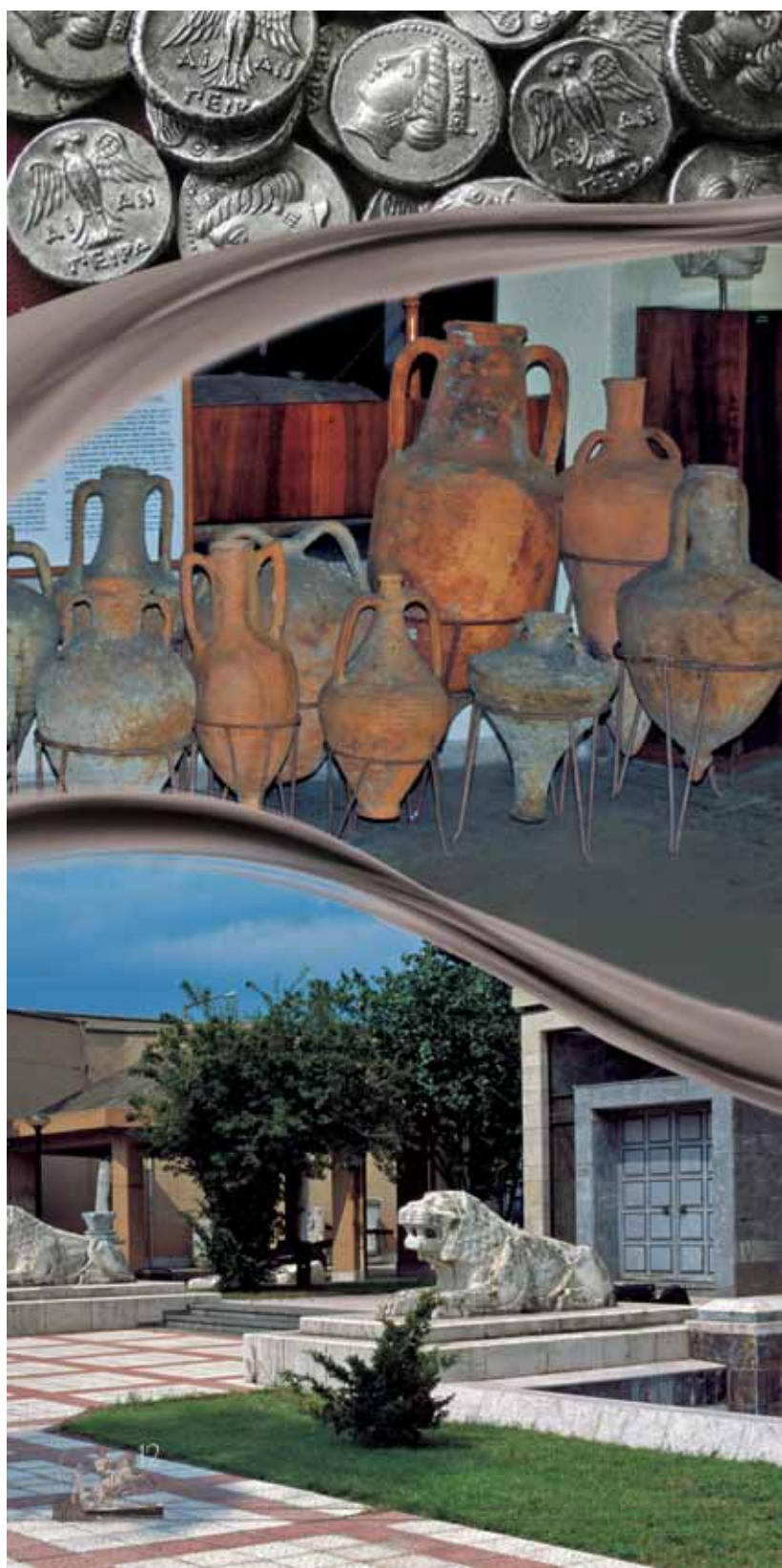
Samsun (Amisos in Antiquity) has always been the centre and focal point of the region. The city developed through several stages. Beginning as a small settlement in the 6th century BC, it later became a colony of Milet (Miletus) after which Cappadocian and Phocaeen people settled in the city. The fate of Amisos has been intimately connected to, and influenced by, the civilisations that have in turn dominated the region.

Samsun developed into an important trading port on the Black Sea. Archaeological research indicates that Samsun has been connected not only with the central parts of Anatolia, but also with other Black Sea ports, from the time of the Chalcolithic or Copper-Stone Age (approximately from the 5th to the 3rd millennia BC). Besides trading and seamanship, the Amisos of antiquity paid great attention to the arts. There is evidence that theatre groups were formed and masks were produced for performances. These masks symbolizing theatre are among the works surviving until today. The magnificent treasure and mosaic of Amisos are on display at the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Samsun. It is a must to visit Amisos in the tour of the Black Sea region to better know the Samsun.

Bafra Fortress and Rock Tombs in Ağsar

The remains of a fortress, with the remains of a defensive wall, cistern wells and an old prison can be seen at Ağsar Village, situated in the valley of the Kızılırmak River. Dating originally from the 1st millennium BC, the fortress is approached through an old tunnel adjacent to the asphalt road, and stairs hewn into the rock lead to the upper levels. The view of the sunset from the fortress is breathtaking, and not to be missed. Below the fortress are some splendid examples of Paphlagonia-style rock-hewn tombs. The tombs, carved from the rock-face to resemble a colonnaded temple, are among the most memorable sites worth visiting in the valley of the Kızılırmak River.







Museums

Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography

The museum is situated in the area of the old fairground next to the Atatürk Museum. It displays various artefacts from different periods, ranging from the Chalcolithic Age to the Ottoman and Republican periods, in chronological sequence. The building comprises a central hall and two symmetrical side halls. The Central Hall displays the renowned 'Amisos Mosaic', which was commissioned during the reign of the Roman Emperor Alexander Severus (222-235 AD) and later repaired in the 5th century. The mosaic depicts symmetrically laid scenes from mythology; the central image is an episode from the Trojan War, featuring Achilles and Thetis. There are pictorial symbols of the seasons on the boards placed at the four corners of the central scene and the Nereids and some sea creatures' depictions are on the boards interspersed among the seasons.

Another celebrated exhibition in the Museum is the 'Treasure of Amisos'. This is the fruit of an excavation in 1955 at a site within the boundaries of the ancient city of Amisos, resulting in the discovery of a family burial chamber containing funeral gifts of solid gold, terracotta cups and marble and glass artefacts. This priceless treasure dating from the end of the 4th century BC and the beginning of the 3rd century BC constitutes the most popular part of the museum. Among the precious remains in the museum are a bronze statue, sarcophagi, grave steles, reliefs and various ethnographic artefacts.

It also exhibits various terracotta items plated with gold, as well as jewellery of gold, silver, iron and bronze and domestic artefacts dating from the period between the 1st and 3rd centuries BC, excavated from two different graves in the Kalkancı Neighbourhood of İlkadım County.





Bandırma Steamship

A replica of the Bandırma Steamship that brought Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his entourage to Samsun on 19 May 1919 serves as a museum and is open to the visitors in the Eastern Park. It accurately replicates the Arrival Hall, Bridge, Exhibition Hall, Upper Deck and Guests' Cabin, all embellished with original artefacts. Surrounded with Milli Mücadele Parkı (National Struggle Park) it also displays life-size wax figures of Atatürk and his retinue.

Atatürk's House

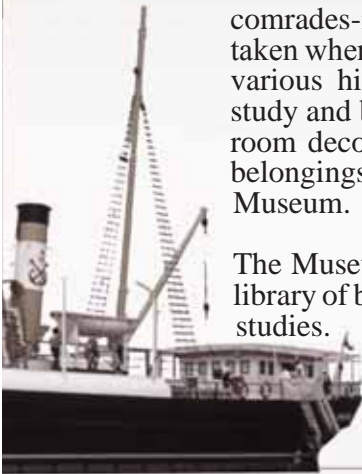
In the municipality of Kutulukent, on the highway from Samsun to Ordu, can be found a replica of the house where Atatürk stayed when he visited Samsun. The museum contains memorabilia of Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, and is well worth a visit.

Gazi Museum

The title Gazi (Ghazi) was bestowed by the Grand National Assembly on Mustafa Kemal Atatürk when he was wounded in a critical battle during the War of Liberation. The Gazi Museum is located in Mecidiye Street, in the Kale Neighbourhood of Samsun. External walls of the two storey building are brick masonry and interior partitions are built with plasterboard. Mustafa Kemal Pasha sojourned here for six days when he arrived in Samsun on 19 May 1919, at which time the building was known as Mıntıka Palace.

Life-size wax figures of Ghazi and his comrades-in-arms, photographs of them taken when they first landed in Samsun, various historical documents, Ghazi's study and bed room and the conference room decorated with original personal belongings are on display in the Gazi Museum.

The Museum also contains a specialist library of books associated with Atatürk studies.











Monuments

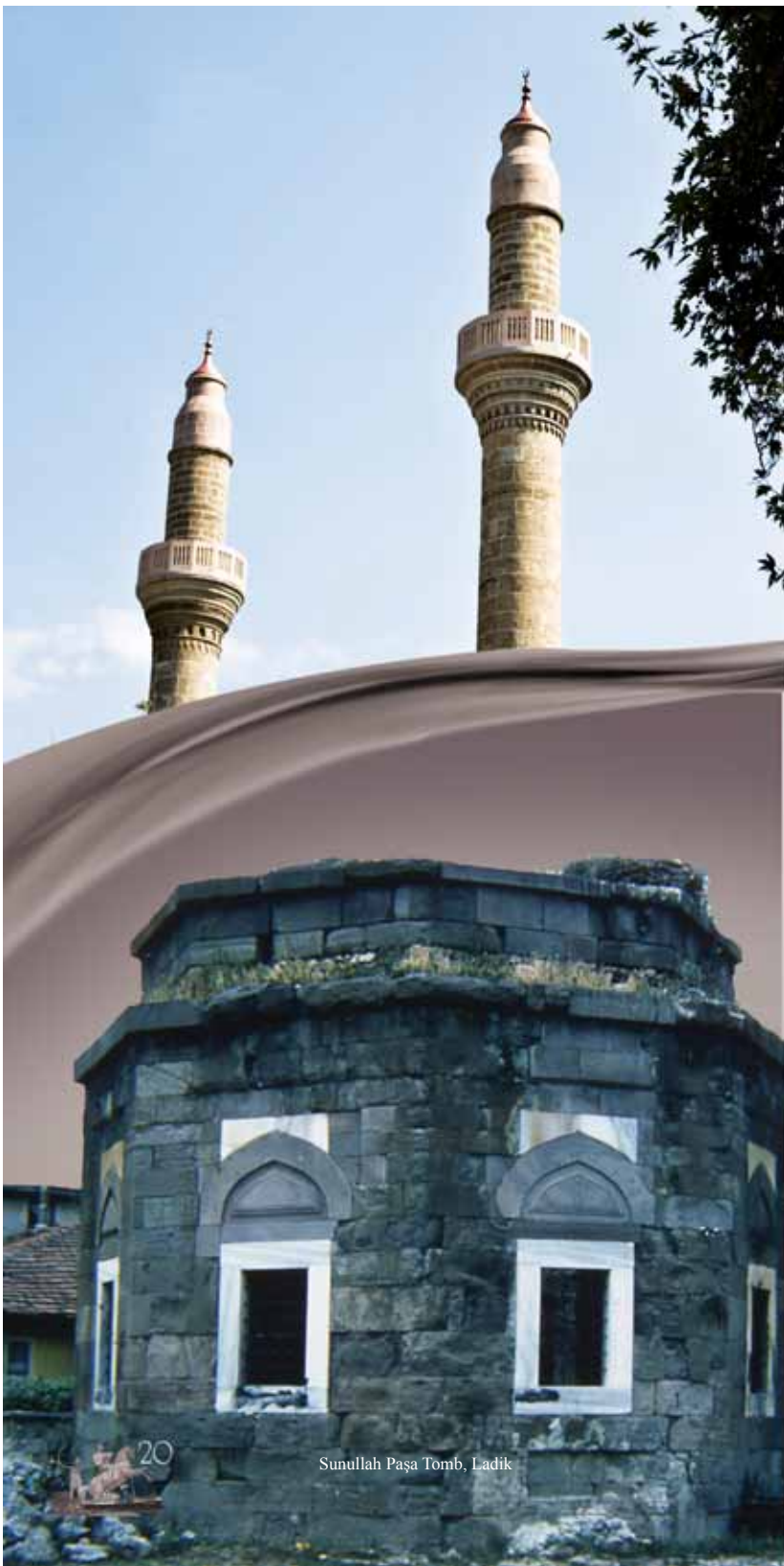
İlk Adım (the First Step) Monument

The monument, commissioned to commemorate the centenary of birth of Atatürk (born in 1881), is situated on the Atatürk Avenue in Samsun. It depicts the arrival of Atatürk and his entourage in Samsun, and emphasizes that the National Struggle was initiated in this city.

Atatürk Statue

Also known as the 'Monument of Honour' and commissioned for erection in the city park on Cumhuriyet (Republic) High Street, the statue was sculpted and positioned between 1928 and 1931. The high base has reliefs depicting Atatürk's landing in Samsun as well as important events in the National Struggle, while the statue itself presents Ghazi in military attire riding a curvetting horse. It is considered to be one of the most important monumental statues in the world. As it has been a symbol of the city it is the favourite spot for holiday snapshots.





Sunullah Paşa Tomb, Ladik



Historical and Cultural Buildings

The main construction material in the Black Sea Region is timber, and Samsun follows suit by using timber profusely, in both civic and religious architecture. In some of the buildings timber is only used for internal decorations, while in some other buildings the timber frame is the key to the whole construction. In whatever capacity it has been deployed, the quality of the woodwork is glamorous.

Büyük (Grand) Mosque

Situated in Saathane Square in the Kale Neighbourhood, the mosque was commissioned by Hadji Ali from Batumi in 1884. It was built with cut stone and has twin minarets. The dome is decorated with floral and geometric designs internally, and its marble mihrab and wood-carved minbar are spectacular.

Tomb and Mosque of Şeyh Seyyid Kudbettin

While the actual date of the building is uncertain, the mosque was commissioned by Sheikh Seyyid Kudbettin, the grandson of Abdülkadir-i Geylani (1078-1166). It is based on a rectangular pattern, covered with a timber roof. The square-shaped tomb, covered with a barrel vault, can be found to the south of the mosque.

Göğceli Mosque

The mosque, one of the most exquisite examples of Anatolian timber architecture, is situated in Göğceli Cemetery, in Hasanpaşa Neighbourhood of Çarşamba County. It was built in 1206, and extensively repaired in 1335. The single-storey building has masonry walls constructed with off-cut timbers. High-quality timber from elm, ash and chestnut trees was also used. The building is made entirely of wood, and the three-fold roof of the mosque rests on load-bearing walls and uprights. Despite its timber construction, Göğceli Mosque has remained intact for eight centuries.



Şeyh Habil Mosque

Located in the Şeyh Habil Cemetery in the Yaycılar Village of Çarşamba County, this centuries-old timber structure, like Göğceli Mosque, is of great architectural significance. Built on a rectangular plan, its walls are thoroughly constructed of dovetailing timbers especially of oak and elm. Known traditionally as the “Friday Mosque”, its main entrance is through a north-facing squat rectangular gate. The hip roof is supported by uprights, originally decorated with floral and geometric designs painted in ochre dye. The pulpit is original and the mihrab is strikingly simple. Since the styles are similar, the mosque is believed to have been built in the same era as Göğceli Mosque.

Büyük (Grand) Mosque

Bafra is renowned for its original civic, religious and domestic architecture. Its Grand Mosque, situated in Cemiloğlu Street, in the Büyük Cami Neighbourhood, was commissioned in 1670 by Ayşe Hatun, the wife of Köprülü Mehmet Pasha. Two inscriptions on its twin doors, as well as the decorations painted in ochre dye, are good examples of the pride Bafra takes in its buildings. The pointed roof building has attractive timber cassettes decorated with geometric designs.

Sivrikise Mosque

Built by Master Todor on the commission of Ali Osman Agha in 1903 in the village of Sivrikise in Havza County, the mosque has a square layout and was built with rough-cut stones which were lined along the edges with smooth cut stones. It has a hip roof as well as a remarkable minbar, carved from the single block of a walnut tree, and embellished with exquisite floral patterns.

Gökgöl Mosque

Located in an orchard in Akyazı Village of Asarcık County, and, according to its inscription in Ottoman script, repaired in 1870, the mosque has timber walls and is covered with a hip roof. The most striking feature of the building is the magnificent wood carving that was



masterfully applied to the twin doors and the first-floor load-bearing columns. This exquisite handcraft makes the Gököl Mosque one of the supreme examples of the art of Turkish wood-carving.

Other noteworthy timber mosques in Samsun are the Dere Mosque in Kavak County and the Bekdemir Village Mosque.

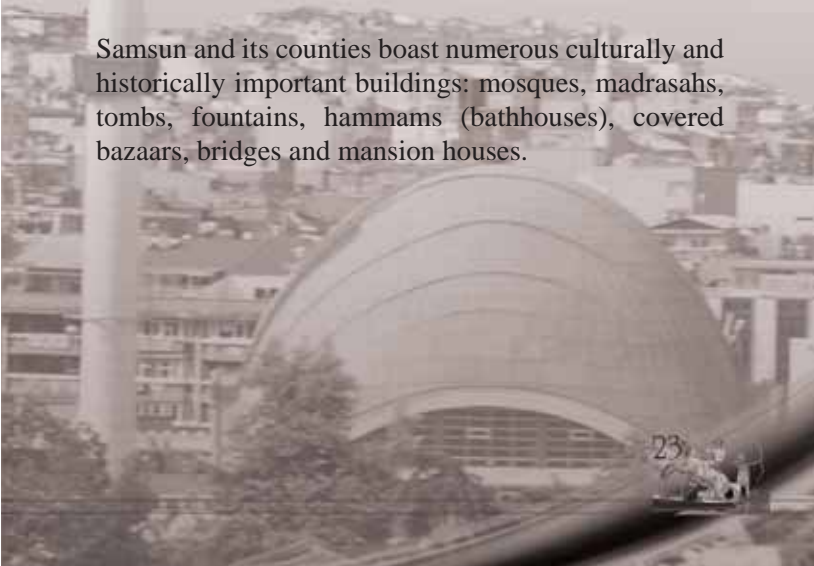
Italian Catholic Church

The church, built in 1846, is situated in the Ulugazi Neighborhood. The two storey stone masonry building has three divisions at the front facade. The gable roof rests on a facade with a triangle pediment. The barrel-vault ceiling is decorated with panels.

Fazıl Ahmet Paşa Madrasah

The Madrasah was commissioned by Fazıl Ahmet Pasha and was built in the county of Vezirköprü in 1661. The entrance is through a depressed arch, and the central open courtyard is surrounded by a portico and cells with pointed arches. The lecture hall, masjid and cells are covered with lead-clad segmental domes, and the internal and external walls are made of local 'Karacaviran' stone. The Madrasah was used for various purposes until 1964, when it was converted into a public library. The library houses a rich inventory of printed books as well as manuscripts in Arabic and Persian.

Samsun and its counties boast numerous culturally and historically important buildings: mosques, madrasahs, tombs, fountains, hammams (bathhouses), covered bazaars, bridges and mansion houses.







Civic Architecture

Samsun Houses

Generally having two storeys, these houses have brick masonry facing and plasterboard internal walls. The balconies on the second floor of the buildings are born by stone or timber pillars and in some buildings they are underpinned by bars. The hip roofs are covered with tiles in the Turkish style, and the eave soffits are out of timber. From the outside the traditional Samsun houses create a relieving and refreshing impression.

Samsun's civic architecture has many noteworthy historic public buildings. These include Taşhan Caravanserai, Old Municipality Building, Reji Cigarette Factory, Polihron Hotel, Military Hospital, State Monopoly Regional Building, Bedesten (Covered Bazaar) and İstiklal (Liberty) First Business College.

Alaçam Mansion Houses

Some of the old Alaçam Mansion Houses are still standing. They are two-storey buildings with a ground floor with stone walls and a first floor of timber-frame walls clad with timber sidings. They are generally detached houses ensconced in large gardens and with their bay windows and smartness they have great potential for conversion to new uses: boutique hotels, for example, which have great tourist potential.

Havza Houses

The houses of Havza County, famous for its pristine nature and its historical buildings, have a remarkable architecture. They tend to be two-storey buildings with brick masonry external walls, and with interior plasterboard. The first floors have one or two balconies. The floors are timber framed and boarded, and the ceilings are wood panelled. The internal design is based on a central hall with surrounding rooms opening directly onto the hall.







Thermal and Health Tourism

Havza and Ladik are the main centres of thermal tourism in Samsun. The thermal springs provide cures through drinking and bathing therapy; scientific studies have indicated that the waters of thermal springs in Samsun produce beneficial effects on many diseases and disorders. Apart from their therapeutic significance, the thermal baths are also historically important buildings.

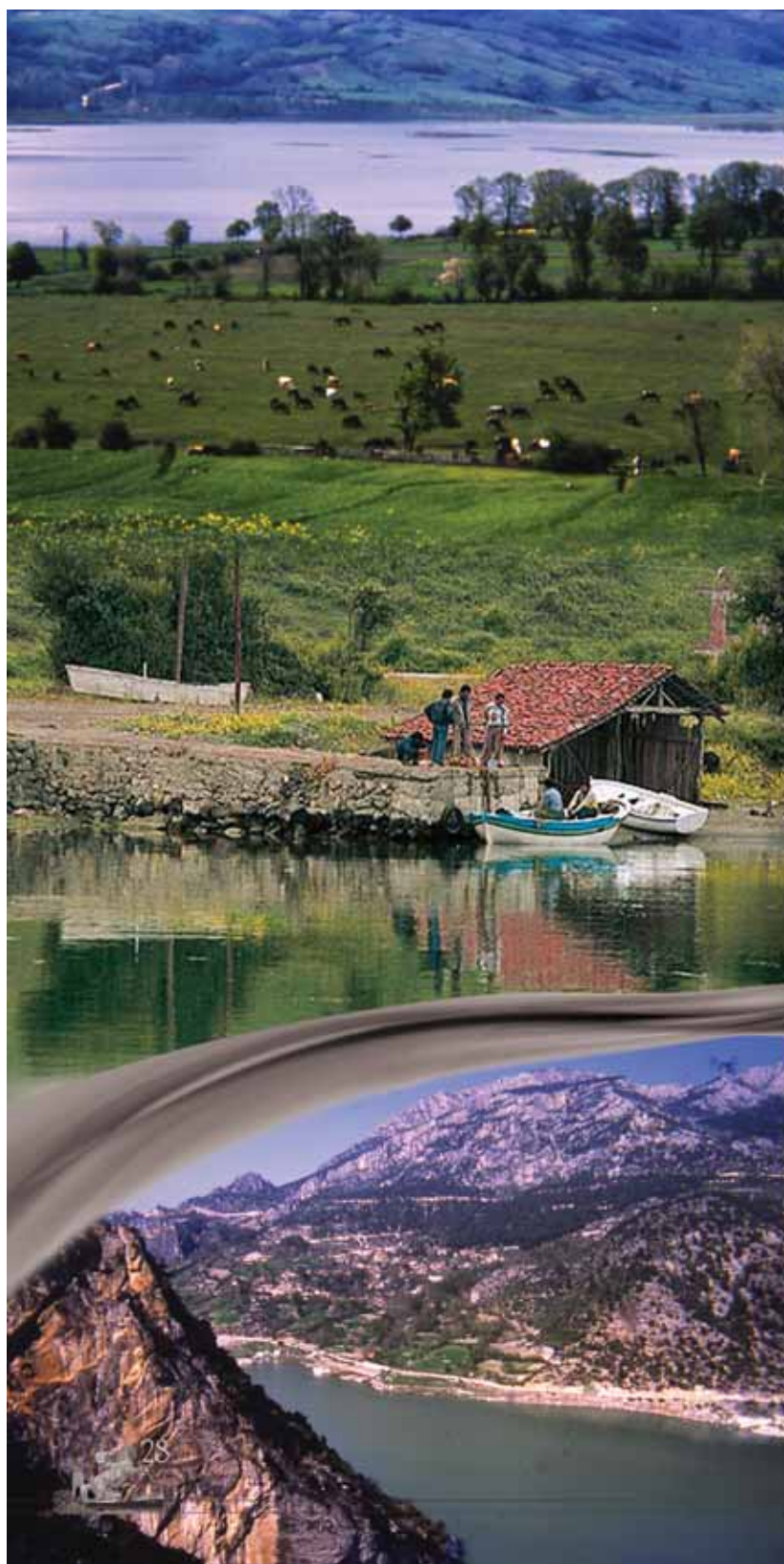
Büyük and Küçük Hammams (Grand and Lesser Bathhouses)

The Büyük Hammam, also known as the Sultan Mesut Hammam or Vakıf (Foundation) Hammam, is situated in the Havza County. Dating from the 13th century, the building belongs to the Seljuk Period. The Küçük Hammam, also known as the Healing Spa, was commissioned by Mustafa Bey, the Emir of Amasra, in 1426.

Hamamayağı Thermal Spring (Eternal Youth Waters)

The Hamamayağı Thermal Spring in Ladik County has a very old history, having been frequently mentioned in the *Seyahatname* (Travelogue) of Evliya Çelebi. The thermal spring, which is situated 13 kilometres out of the county, has two sections, one for women and one for men, and each section has two pools. The high mineral content and composition of the water renders the spring among the most important ones in Turkey. It is believed to alleviate joint disorders and arthritis, nerve and muscle disorders, and rheumatic pain, and to help with post-operative recuperation. In the grounds of the thermal spring there are facilities for overnight accommodation, as well as a restaurant, cafes and picnic areas.







Ecotourism

Kabaceviz and Bafra Akalan Waterfalls

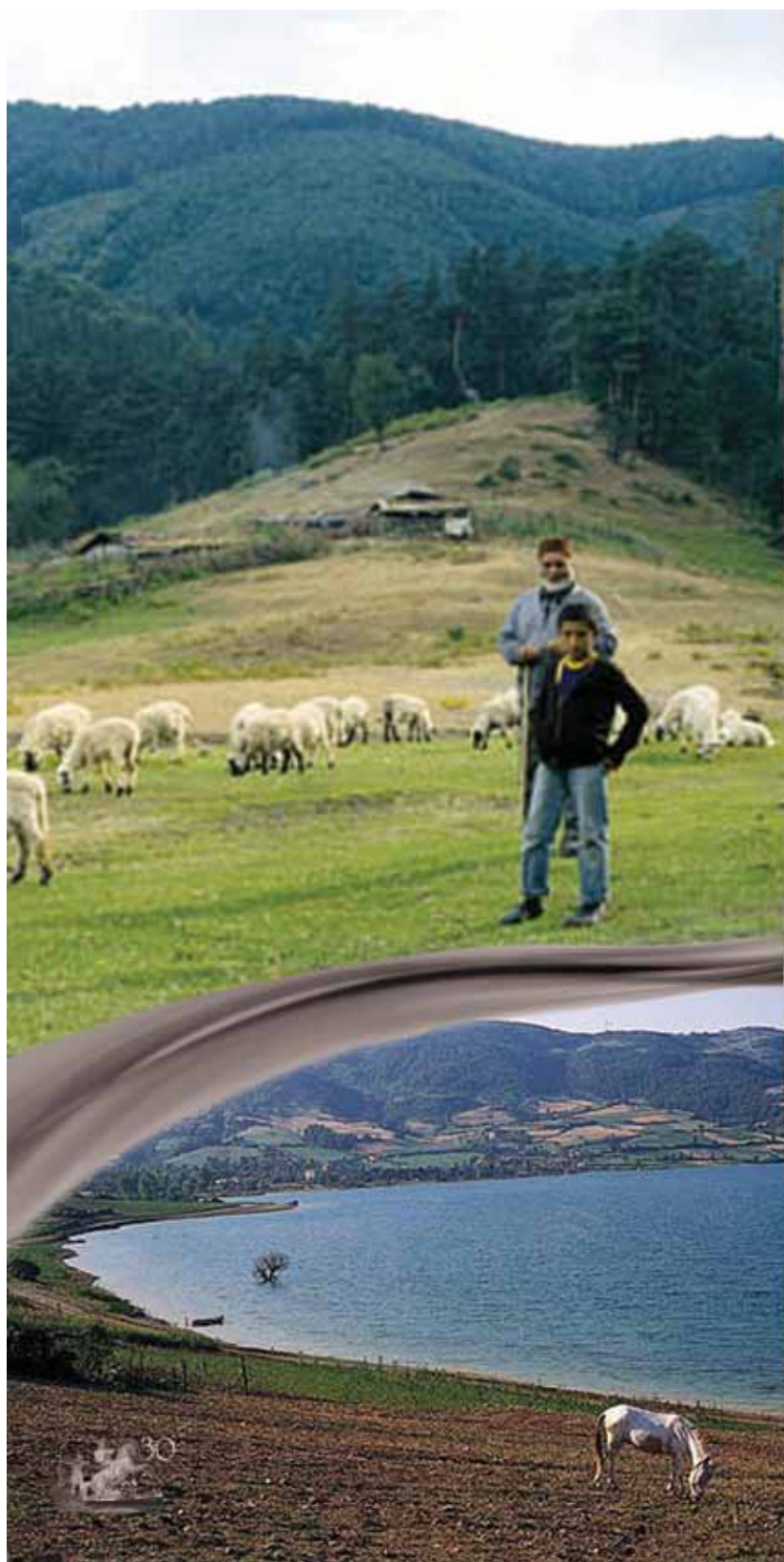
Kabaceviz Waterfalls, 22 kilometres from Tekkeköy, are located in the midst of a forest of tall trees. With its pristine nature and fantastic views, the area is a perfect spot for camping and trekking. Akalan Village in Bafra County is a place worth visiting in Samsun with six larger and tens of smaller waterfalls which compose perfect sceneries.

In Samsun, there are many suitable sites for camping in the environs of Yakakent Çam Lake, embedded in a pine forest, in Altinkum County, along the coastlines of Evcı and Sakarlı, and in the Kunduz Forests in Vezirköprü County.

Kızılırmak Delta

The delta of the Kızılırmak River, where it reaches the Black Sea, has created an alluvial plain that stretches into the territories of Bafra, Alaçam and Ondokuzmayıs counties. With its fertile land, unique scenery, unspoiled nature and shimmering wetlands, it is a “birds’ haven” for hundreds of species. It also encompasses the Bafra Fish Lakes. In consequence, it offers various opportunities for bird watching, hunting and fishing to nature lovers. The area has been declared a ‘Wildlife Protection Zone’. Endangered species, such as the Dalmatian Pelican, Pygmy Cormorant, Red-breasted Goose, and White-tailed Eagle, breed here.





Ladik Lake

Ladik Lake has a surface area of 870 hectares (2,150 acres), and is situated in the Ladik Plain. Several fish species such as Pike, European Perch, White Bream, Common Carp and Common Rudd inhabit the lake. Ladik Lake is famous for its traditional sailing competition, as well as for its floating peat islands. As a natural habitat of numerous bird species, it is a prime spot for bird-watching.

Akdağ, Kocadağ and Nebiyan Mountains

The mountains of Samsun offer a variety of alternative tourism options. Parasailing enthusiasts tend to prefer Samsun's Kocadağ Mountain, while snow- or grass-skiing enthusiasts, as well as photo-safari fans, prefer Akdağ High Pasture or Nebiyan Mountain, the most typical of all the mountains of the Black Sea Region.

The sylvan nature and clean air of Samsun make it an ideal place for rest and recreation, and there are many places offering visitors the opportunity to enjoy a picnic in the heart of nature. Atakum, the Forestry Department's Sapling Nursery, Kurupelit İncesu, the Kocatepe Picnic Area, Hasköy, Çakırlar Woods, Toptepe Meşe Cultural Park and Doğu Park are some of the places mostly preferred by the nature lovers.







Winter Tourism

Akdağ Winter Sports and Skiing Centre

The Akdağ Winter Sports and Skiing Centre has a long ski run, and is just five kilometres from Ladik County. In summer the area is covered with natural grass, and traditional grass-skiing competitions are organised here. The Skiing Centre is quite close to the county centre, and transport is very easy, therefore many visitors tend to stay in the county, where accommodation and catering options are superior.







Sea, Sun and Sand

Yakakent

The only sea-level settlement in Samsun province is Yakakent, situated at a green-blue intersection where the forest meets the clean and crystal-clear sea. There is a 14-kilometre-long shoreline, almost every corner of which could serve as a beach. Çam Lake locality, where sandy beaches meet pine-clad hills in a kind of natural amphitheatre, is seven kilometres to the west.

Yakakent is sister village with Kushimato-Kashino, a fishermen's village in Japan, and an annual friendship festival commemorating the two cultures is organised in Yakakent.

Yakakent is also renowned for its rich stock of brown meagre and sturgeon, valuable Black Sea fish. The sunset in Yakakent is magnificent, and the county is the perfect spot for a relaxing holiday.

Alaçam Geyikkoşan Coast

Alaçam County, with its broad natural beaches, is 78 kilometres west of Samsun. Pensions and other accommodation facilities are readily available in the county.

Bafra, Tekkeköy, Çarşamba and Terme Coasts

The coast of Bafra in Samsun province has wide natural beaches. Tekkeköy, Çarşamba and Terme are similarly blessed with beaches perfect for bathing or simply basking.











Eating and Drinking

The age-old cultural history of Samsun has endowed it with a rich and varied local cuisine. Corn, cabbage, haricot beans and rice are the main staples in Samsun dishes, and various succulent pastry and meat dishes are there to tempt you. The first dish that comes to mind whenever Samsun is mentioned is the famous '*Samsun Pita*'. It may be covered (as in *calzone*) in the Bafra style, or open-top, as they make it in Terme; however it's made, Samsun Pita is always luscious. With the salpicon consisting of minced meat, pastrami, spicy sausages, thinly chopped meat or cheese, the pita is indispensable part of Samsun dinner tables.

Among the other gastronomic delights of Samsun, the following are well worth a try: crispy dough rings (*çitir simit*), black cabbage soup (*karalahana çorbasi*), corn soup (*mısır çorbasi*), yoghurt soup (*yoğurtlu çorba*), wheat and meat paste (*keşkek*), dried thin bread boiled with meat or chicken slivers (*tirit-kaz yufkası*), hashish seeds, walnuts, spices and sugar (*Bafra nokulu*), beetroot (*yer pancarı-yazı pancarı*), cracked wheat with green lentils (*mercimekli bulgur pilavı*) and a dessert of baked phyllo pastry with walnut filling steeped in syrup (*kocakarı gerdanı/burma tatlısı*). Samsun's being a city on the Black Sea coast makes seafood have a pride of place in the local cuisine. Anchovy rice (*hamsili pilav*) and anchovy bread (*hamsili ekmeğ*) are among the most cherished of all local seafood dishes. Other maritime specialities found among the rich Samsun cuisine include turbot (*kalkan*), bluefish (*lüfer*), Atlantic bonito (*palamut*), anchovy (*hamsi*), trout (*alabalık*) and aquacultured salmon (*çiftlik somonu*).



Handicrafts

Samsun is a centre for linen cloth-making; these linens are used to make harvester shirts, outer wears and clothes. In the mountain villages woollen fabric-weaving, as well as cotton cloth-weaving, wool knitting, and pantalets weaving are among the handicrafts most commonly engaged in. Ondokuzmayıs County is renowned for kilim weaving, and around the lakes of Bafra wicker basket-making is still practised.





Shopping

Samsun boasts modern shopping centres as well as shops specialising in the sale of authentic local goods and handicrafts. Each year Samsun Advanced Technical School for Girls creates a variety of panels, bed linen and tablecloths, along with sculpture and woodwork, for exhibition and sale.







Festivities

Hidrellez: Meeting of the prophets Hıdır (al Khidr) and İlyas (Elijah)	6 May
Hüseyin Dede Festivities, Alaçam	7 May
Yeşilirmak Culture and Arts Festivities, Çarşamba	20-23 May
Golden Rice Festival, Terme	3-4 June
Water Melon Festival, Bafra	Last week of August
Ladik Transhumance Festivities, Ladik	First week of July
Bengü Dry Wrestling, Bengü Village, Bafra	10 July
Sea Games Festivities, Yakakent	22-23 July
Amazon Festival, Gölyazı/Terne	1-3 August
Kunduz Transhumance Festivities, Göl/Vezirköprü	August
Golden Hazelnut Oiled Wrestling Köybucağı Town/ Terme	9 September
Yaşar Doğu Festivities, Kavak County	September
Köprülü Mehmet Pasha Culture, Arts and Sports Festival, Vezirköprü	September
Traditional Dry Wrestling and Horse Competition, Asarcık County	End of September
Neyzen Tevfik Culture Festival, Kolay Village/Bafra	October
Wicker Basket and Oil Lamp Festivities, Bafra	Ramadan (Hijri calendar)
International Folk Dance Festival, Samsun City Centre	23-29 July



Transport

Samsun is accessible by road, rail, air and sea. There are intercity coach services to almost every other city in Turkey, and the international airport is just a quarter of an hour from the city centre. Modern rail services connect the city to eastern, western and southern destinations across the country.





Accommodation

A variety of accommodation facilities is available in Samsun, some carrying the national certificate for tourism enterprises and some licensed by the local municipality, catering to differing needs and budgets. Some hotels have two-star or three-star ratings, while many unrated enterprises provide an economical but valuable service.







The shore and inland territories of Samsun present considerable differences in altitude. Consequently the climate along the shore plains is more temperate compared to the climate inland. Samsun is on the border between the Eastern and Western Black Sea regions, and its climate differs somewhat from the known characteristics of both regions. Average climate indicators are given below.

Long-Term Average Indicators of Climate for Samsun (1975 - 2006)

	Average Temperature (°C)	Average Sunny Period (Hours)	Average Rainy Days
Jan	7.1	2.8	13.3
Feb	6.6	3.3	13.7
Mar	7.8	3.7	15.2
Apr	11.2	4.6	14.9
May	15.3	6.2	12.6
Jun	20.0	8.2	9.8
Jul	23.2	8.7	6.1
Aug	23.3	8.1	6.6
Sept	19.8	6.3	9.9
Oct	15.8	4.6	12.6
Nov	11.9	3.6	12.7
Dec	9.0	2.7	13.5



Do Not Leave Without . . .

- visiting the museums and archaeological ruins,
- seeing the centuries-old examples of timber architecture,
- tasting Samsun pita, crispy rings, and Bafra nokulu,
- enjoying a panoramic view over the Black Sea,
- having your photo taken before the Atatürk Monument...





Important Telephone Numbers

Governor's Office	(+90 362) 431 64 78
Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism	(+90 362) 431 00 14
Provincial Administration	(+90 362) 437 08 48
Metropolitan Municipality	(+90 362) 431 60 90
Tourist Information Office	(+90 362) 431 12 28
Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography	(+90 362) 431 68 28
Gazi Museum	(+90 362) 435 75 35











The world's cultural heritage is like a big puzzle. Each monument, each object, is an irreplaceable part of the overall picture which gives us insight into our origins, our development and our lives today. It helps us to understand and appreciate other cultures. Each discovery, each new interpretation adds to the puzzle and makes the picture clearer. We must ensure the protection of every single piece today, so that future generations may have the opportunities to enjoy the puzzle.

Many people are not aware that our cultural heritage is under stress from natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and from slower acting processes such as pollution or human actions. Even the most innocent gestures such as collecting ancient pieces of pottery or mosaics as souvenirs have a destructive impact if repeated by thousands. Touching an object of stone, metal or textile leaves traces of grease, acid or sweat on its surface. Climbing a monument wears down the structure underneath and can dismantle it. Writing or engraving names inflicts permanent damage. Strolling around narrow crowded places with bulky bags or backpacks might knock over an object or scratch a mural painting and ruin it. There are countless ways in which one can unknowingly contribute to the destruction of cultural heritage.

In 2020 there will be 1.6 billion visitors per year worldwide. Let us raise awareness of this issue so that we may join together to protect and enjoy the diversity and richness of our cultural heritage.

International Organization for Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ICCROM)









T.R. MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

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