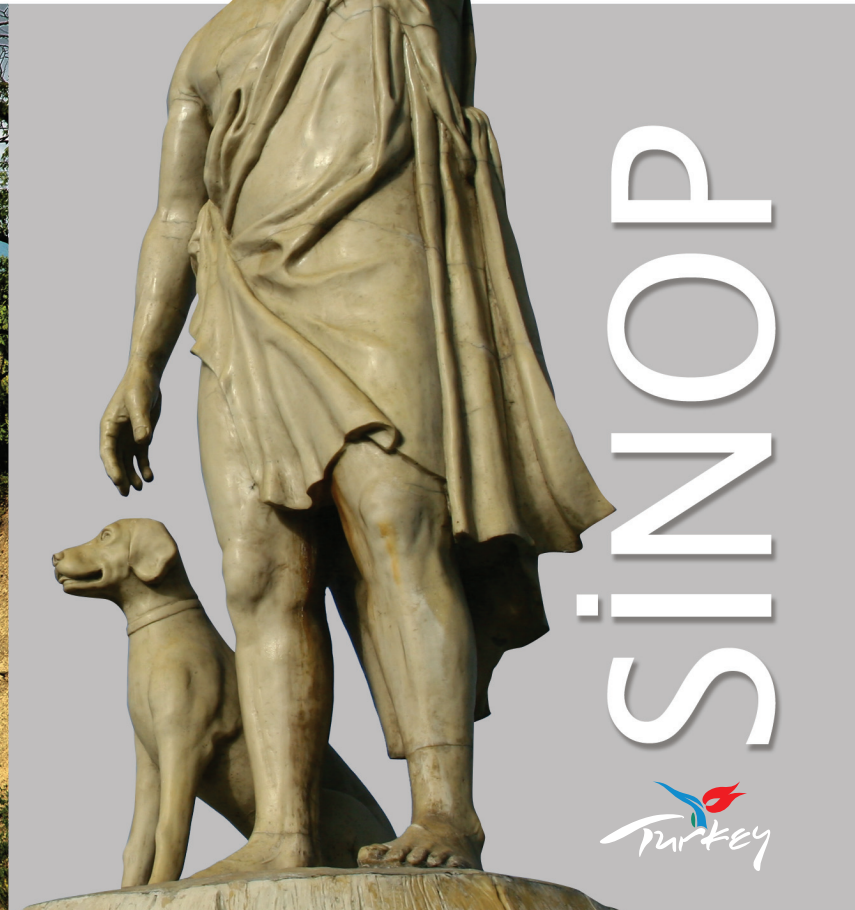
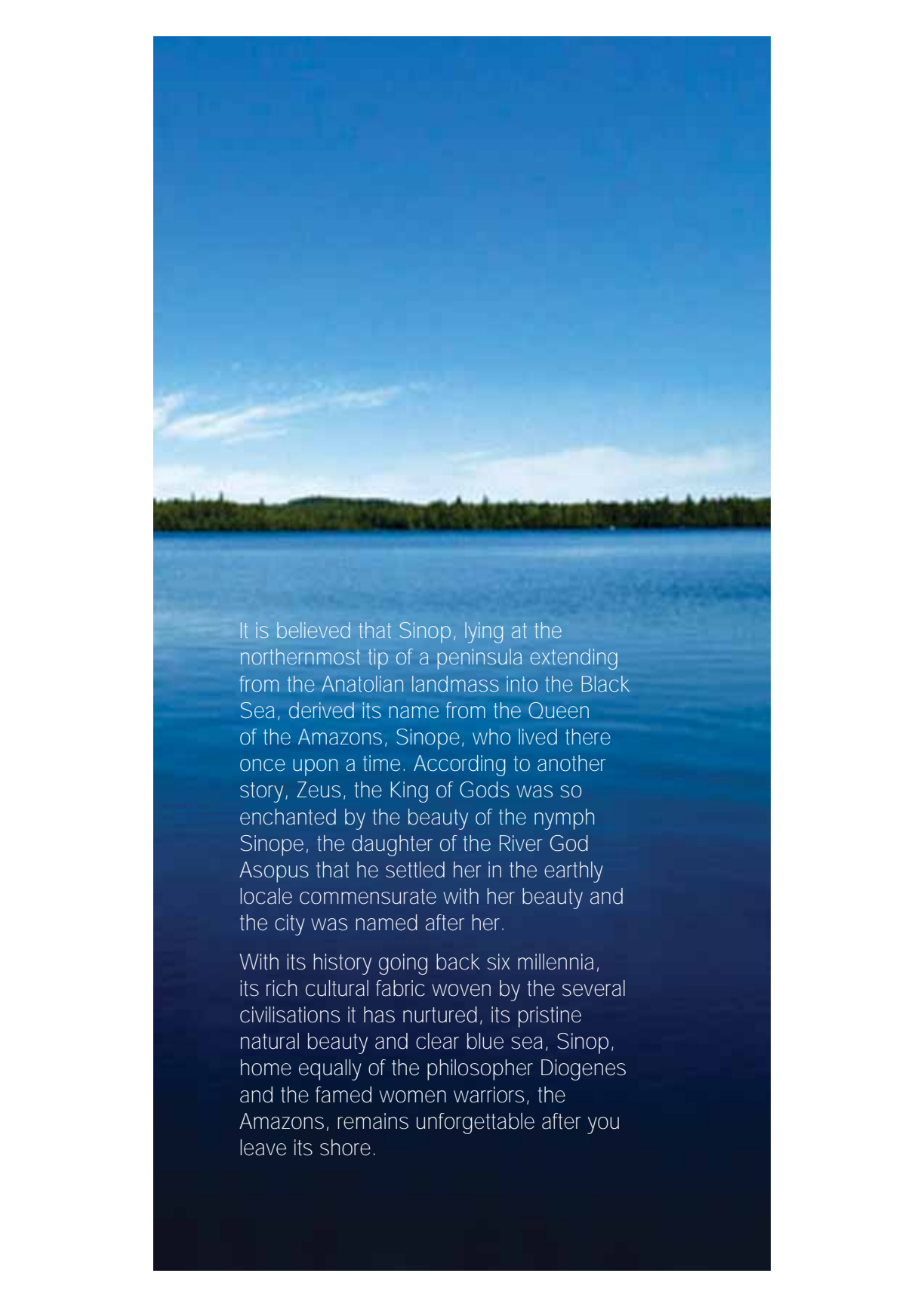


Turkey



SINOP

Turkey



It is believed that Sinop, lying at the northernmost tip of a peninsula extending from the Anatolian landmass into the Black Sea, derived its name from the Queen of the Amazons, Sinope, who lived there once upon a time. According to another story, Zeus, the King of Gods was so enchanted by the beauty of the nymph Sinope, the daughter of the River God Asopus that he settled her in the earthly locale commensurate with her beauty and the city was named after her.

With its history going back six millennia, its rich cultural fabric woven by the several civilisations it has nurtured, its pristine natural beauty and clear blue sea, Sinop, home equally of the philosopher Diogenes and the famed women warriors, the Amazons, remains unforgettable after you leave its shore.



Historical Heritage of Sinop

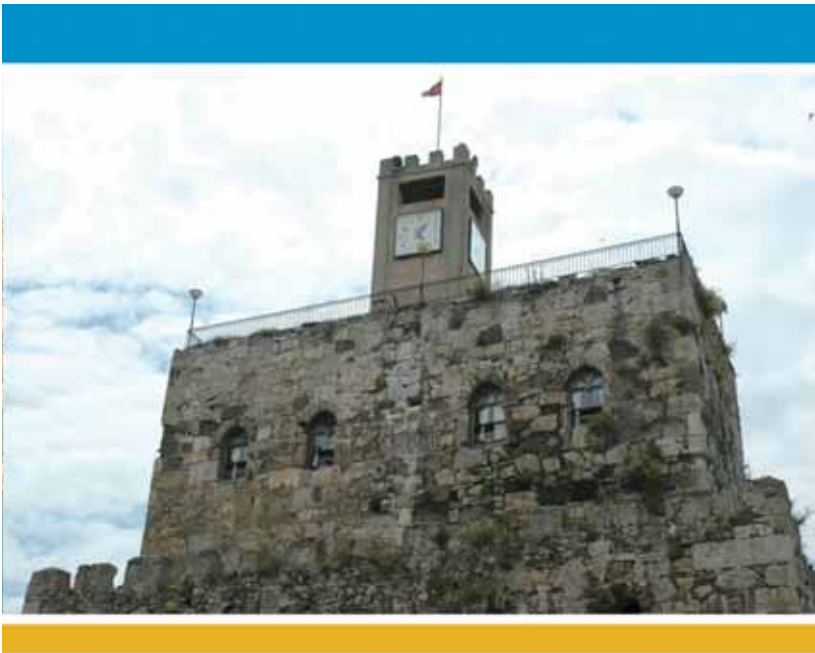
Sinop owes its diverse cultural richness to its beautiful natural harbour-perfectly sheltered and calm, a haven from the tempestuous Black Sea. The strategic importance of **Sinop Harbour** brought Sinop to the fore as a centre of trade across millennia. The city's strategic importance, however, led to successive conquests, and each civilization that made Sinop its own adorned the city according to its own fashion, building fortresses, churches, temples, and mosques in its various quarters. The significance of the harbour still lingers, although the galleys of Antiquity and the Middle Ages have been replaced with the modern sailing yachts and fishing boats bustling at dawn. During the season, Sinop Harbour is one of the most preferred stops for yacht tours, including KAYRA (The Black Sea Yacht Rally), and also hosts national sailing regattas.

The cultural richness of Sinop is so extensive that almost each historical building has the marks of more than one civilisation. Foremost of them all is **Sinop Fortress**, which has provided diverse services to various civilisations during its four millennia of history. The walls of the fortress demarcate the initial area of settlement, and bear the marks of all the civilisations that have passed through the city. The fortress served primarily for defensive purposes, and during the reign of the Seljuk Sultans, a citadel was added. The builders of the citadel reused the ruins of antique structures, incorporating a fascinating tapestry of columns and capitals into the new walls. The Ottoman Sultans used the citadel as a shipyard, building



the most powerful man-of-war of the era. In 1887 the citadel was converted into a dungeon. The external walls and the sea lying beyond secured the prison against escape attempts. About the same time a public bathhouse (*hamam*) was added to meet changing needs. As in the Ottoman Period, the citadel was used as a prison also during the early years of the Republic. It is now open to visitors and hosts cultural activities.

If you wish to cover the history of Sinop without too much walking, then you must visit the **Museum of Sinop**, situated at the city centre. The Museum's exhibits include Bronze Age artefacts dating back to third millennium BC, amphorae recovered from the ships sunk in the seas around Sinop, ethnographical works of art from the Ottoman Period, gilded icons from the 19th century, and antique sarcophagi and statues. **Aynalı Kadın Tomb** built in 1335,



and the foundations of the ancient **Temple of Serapis** can be seen in the garden of the Museum.

Aslan Torunlar House, built in the early days of the 19th century, is one of the mansion houses (*konak*) upholding the heritage of Ottoman civil architecture today and serves as the **Ethnographical Museum of Sinop**. The Museum is one of the must-visit places in Sinop with its display of regional ethnographical works of art as well as its spectacular architecture, wooden ornamentation and wall paintings.

Although visiting the museums may help you to get the basic information on the history and cultural heritage of Sinop, it will never be a substitute for seeing a work of art in its splendid and authentic surroundings. However as the Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman buildings are dispersed to various quarters of the city, it requires a little bit more effort.



The **Balatlar Church**, found among modern buildings at the intersection of Tarakçı and Kaynak streets, is thought to have been built in the 7th century over the remnants of a Roman bathhouse. The only upstanding sections today are its northern and southern walls. The frescoes on its walls and inner sides of the arches, depicting Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and the Saints, are worth a visit, despite the blanching due to centuries of exposure to the elements. The church provides a unique insight into the Byzantine past of the city.

Sinop was captured by the **Seljuk Sultans** from the Byzantines, and later on it witnessed the foundation of **Pervaneoğulları Principality**. The Seljuk Sultans rebuilt the Fortress situated at the Harbour during this period, and they added the citadel. The most important Seljuk building in Sinop is the **Alaaddin Mosque**, built during the reign of Alaaddin Keykubat.



The **Alaaddin Mosque**, which is situated at the intersection of Sakarya and Alaaddin Keykubat streets, is the oldest Seljuk building in Sinop, and it was built in 1214 just after the conquest of the city by Seljuk Sultanate. However it was damaged during the mid-century raids. In 1268 it was repaired by **Muineddin Süleyman Pervane** who also built the Pervane Madrasah, and later on it has been renovated and altered in various ways. The five-domed, rectangular-plan mosque has a courtyard surrounded by high walls. The **Tomb** built in the corner of these walls belongs to the **Candaroğulları** period. The sarcophagi that may be seen in the Tomb are amongst the finest examples of Turkish stone carving. The nearby **Alaaddin Bathhouse** is thought to have been built together with the mosque.

The Pervane Madrasah, situated opposite the Alaaddin Mosque, was built in 1262 by Muineddin Süleyman Pervane in order to commemorate the deliverance of the city



from its enemies. The marble portal of the Madrasah is a fine example of the stone masonry of the period. The rooms, formerly used for tutoring, now house handicrafts. Locally woven fabric, calling on centuries of tradition, can be purchased there and will enable you to carry your Sinop memories home.

Gazi Çelebi Tomb situated next to the Pervane Madrasah was built for Ghazi Çelebi, the grandson of Muineddin Süleyman Pervane, and its entrance is through the Madrasah. A marble sarcophagus in the Tomb carries an epitaph stating that Ghazi Çelebi died in 1322, and the tomb dates to that period.

One of the highest points in Sinop is Hıdırlık Hill, and while the tomb there was built for Seljuk commander Tayboğa, among the people it is known as the **Tomb of Seyid Bilal**. According to the epitaph of the marble sarcophagus in the Tomb it was built in 1297, and it is a building commemorating the Seljuk Period. **Cezayirli Ali Paşa Mosque** is also from the Seljuk Period, however, due to the extensive repairs undertaken in 1876 and 1898 it has lost its original features.

The **Candaroğulları**, which are also known as İsfendiyaroğulları, put an end to the brief reign of Pervaneoğulları Principality, and kept Sinop until the conquest by Ottoman Empire. During the Candaroğulları reign for a century and half, the Tomb in the courtyard of Alaaddin Mosque, Hatunlar (Women's) Tomb, Yeşil (Green) Tomb, Saray Mosque and Fetih Baba Masjid were built in Sinop.

The **Fetih Baba Masjid**, situated in the Meydankapı Çarşısı (Bazaar) on the western side of the Governor's Office, is one of the important buildings of this period. It was commissioned by İsmail bin Uslu Bey in 1353, and its name was taken from Fetih Muhammed Baba whose grave is located to the south of the Masjid. Another important building from the Candaroğulları period is the **Saray Mosque** which was built during the reign of Candaroğlu Cellaeddin Beyazıt Bey in 1374. It is situated behind the Tersane Çarşısı (Bazaar) and we recommend you to closely observe the fine 14th century detailing of the mihrab.

Sinop was incorporated into the **Ottoman** lands by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in 1461, and the buildings best reflecting the Ottoman legacy are the **Sinop Houses** that have survived to date within the historical texture of streets. When you walk along the streets of the area, which was declared as a protected site of historical importance, you will feel as if transported to the Ottoman Sinop through a time tunnel.

Mehmet Ağa Mosque, built in 1651, is one of the oldest Ottoman mosques. It is situated on the Sakarya Street, together with the **Meydankapı Mosque**, which has a distinctive wooden minaret, although it is from the late period of Ottomans. With a short walk you can visit both. Another building belonging to the Ottoman Period is the **Aşağı Bathhouse** which is situated on Tuzcular Street.

The **Şehitler (Martyr's) Fountain**, built in 1853 and situated at the Tersane Çarşısı, is





another Ottoman building. It commemorates one of the most tragic incidents of the Russo-Ottoman war of the mid 19th century.

Pasha Bastion, built during the Russo-Ottoman War to defend the coastal area, and situated on the 2nd kilometre of the road from Sinop to Karakum, will be of interest to military history enthusiasts. The site is now like an open air museum, and the underground bunkers and storage facilities have been renovated for use as a restaurant and café. It makes a superb outing.

One of the most important buildings of Sinop is the **Sinop Secondary School**, which is not very old, but its significance is due to the fact that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk launched the campaign to replace the Arabic alphabet with the Latin one on November 24th, 1928 at the garden of this school. That reform was one of the most important attempts to bring Turkey in line with contemporary western



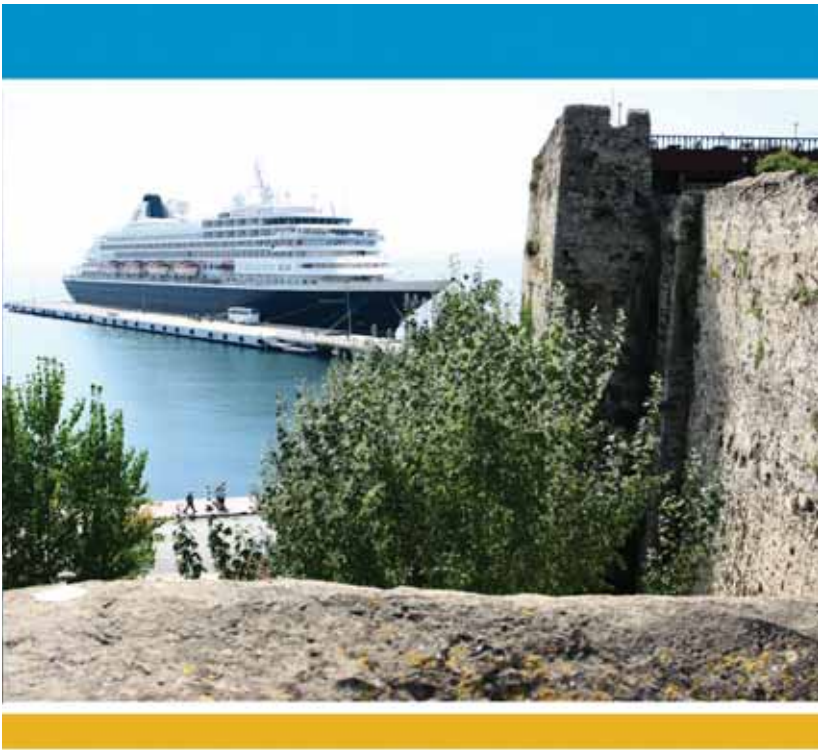


civilisations. To this day 24 November is commemorated as the Teachers' Day in Turkey to honour the memory of headmaster Atatürk teaching the new alphabet.

While the history of Sinop goes that way back, there are not many historical buildings in the city centre. In order to explore the history of the city into antiquity, you must get out and visit the counties.

Leaving the city, you may first visit the 230 meters long tunnel dug into the rocks at the *Sülüklü Lake*, believed to be a water conduit. The tunnel has a cylindrical air vent, 1.5 meters in diameter, and 30 meters in height.

The **Boyabat** County of Sinop Province has changed hands several times between Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks, Candaroğulları, and Ottomans. The most important building identified with the county is the **Fortress** built over the rocky outcrop

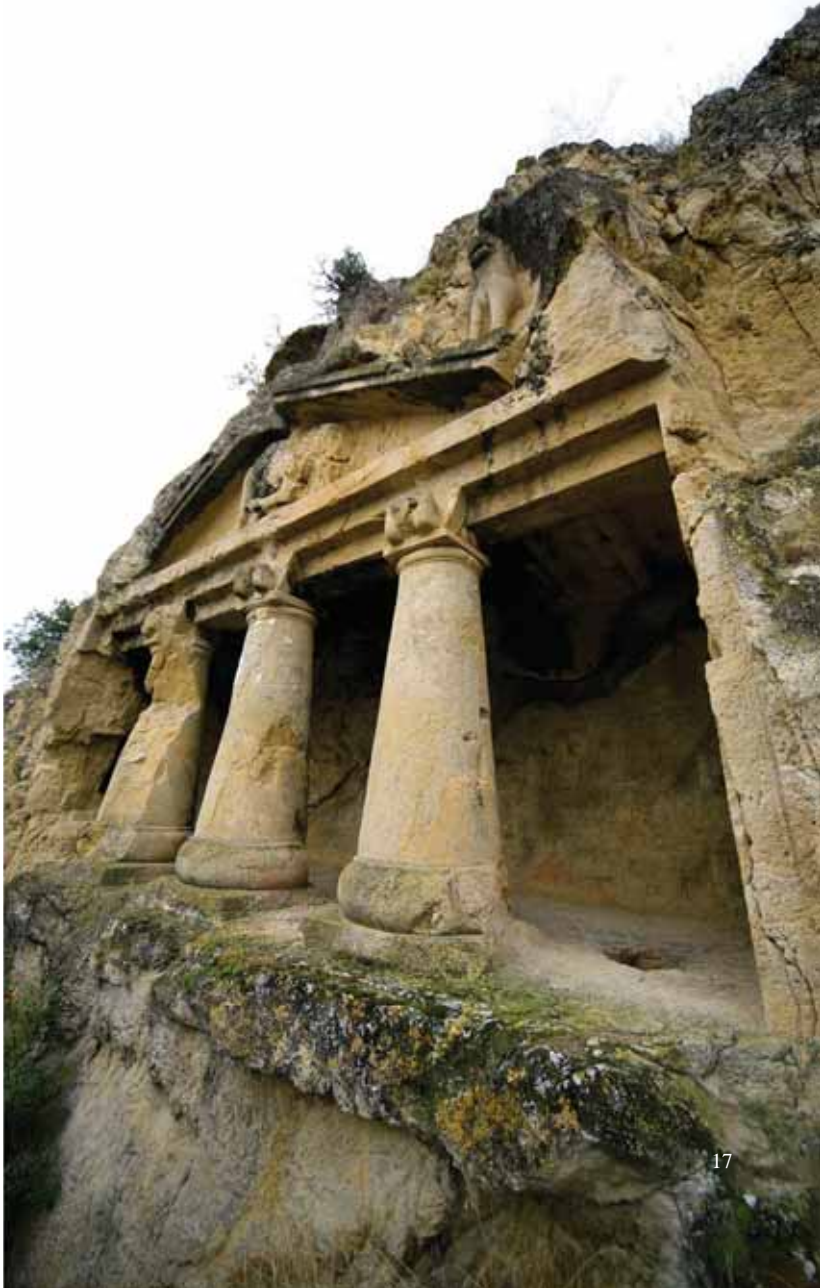


of the highest point crowning Boyabat. From the Fortress you will have a bird's eye view over the county. The tunnels and the underground town, dating back to the Roman Period, are reached through hundreds of rock hewn steps and are the most interesting parts of the Fortress. In the county centre of Boyabat are the finest examples of wooden civil architecture, the buildings cited in the literature as the Boyabat Houses.

We recommend you to visit **Rock Cut Tomb of Salar Village** while in Boyabat. The tomb dates back to the 7th century BC, and the pillar capitals were sculpted as lion-heads while the pediment has a figure depicting the struggle between a man and a lion. The Tomb is fully hewn into a rock face and situated at Salar Village, about 15 kilometres from Boyabat.

The **Durak Caravanserai** which was built by Süleyman Pervane, whose buildings in Sinop city were covered above, in 1246, lends its name to the **Durağan** County. The Caravanserai is situated on the trading route leading to Sinop which has the most important port of Black Sea, and the inscription at the entrance portal indicates that the Caravanserai was built on the orders of Sultan Keyhüsrev. The Caravanserai had 13 rooms, a masjid, bathhouse, and an inn encircling a courtyard. However, the bathhouse has failed to reach our day. The **Yağbasan Tomb** at the Yağbasan Village of the county was built in 1395, according to its inscription.

Another important ruin within the boundaries of Durağan County is the **Ambarkaya Rock Tomb**, dated 7th century BC, which is situated at the confluence point of Kızılırmak (ancient River Halys) and its tributary Gökırmak. The tomb structure was hewn into a sheer and craggy rock face overlooking the valley below. There are also steps, caverns which are thought to be utilised as storage facilities, and tunnels cut into the rock face. Although abundant terracotta pieces found about the vicinity indicate that there was a human settlement at this area, no visible ruins remain. Watching the panoramic valley at sundown is fascinating. The **Terelek Rock Tomb**, which is situated in Köhler Village, has similar features. The pediment of the tomb has a figure of fighting animals, and it was estimated to be built in 7th century BC.





Diogenes of Sinop and Alexander the Great

The famous philosopher of Antiquity, Diogenes, whose statue salutes the gateway to the city, was born in Sinop in 412 BC. Hence he is referred to in the antique sources as *Diogenes of Sinope*.

Diogenes defended the idea that happiness can be reached through an austere life and he lived in a tub. Accepting the thought of the *cynics*, the philosopher argued that the way of living most harmonious with the nature is the way that animals live.

The most frequently told story of the Diogenes is his dialog with Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great visited the philosopher who, despite his fame, lived in austere poverty, thought by some to be a state of wretchedness. All fled the fierce presence of the emperor, but Diogenes did not so much as alter his posture. "Do you know who am I?", asked Alexander. "You are the slave of my own slave," replied Diogenes, "because the world is my slave and you are captured by the world!" Alexander was delighted with this reply and asked him to name whatever he wished, as he would grant it. Diogenes replied in line with his philosophy, "Stand a little less between me and the sun."





Sinop, the Land of Natural Beauty

Sinop is a must-visit, not only because of its historical heritage, but also for its natural beauty. The grounds of Sinop were the bed of various civilisations in its history of six millennia, and the city's importance stretched beyond its strategically important harbour. The fertility and natural beauty of its lands will astonish the visitor, who, to explore all beauty spots, should spare as a minimum of a couple of days. Shores which were embroidered by the waves, and thick forests formed by age old trees are enchanted places, as if they had just leaped out of fairy tales and were awaiting your exploration. Any hike in the mountains with vistas of tall trees, waterfalls and valleys adorned with rare plants will be very pleasurable. For those who do not feel at home in the hotel rooms, Sinop is a focus of attraction with the campsites it can offer where some unbelievable experiences and views make you visit again and again with your camera. The first and foremost places to enjoy the generous nature either through trekking or horseback riding are the Akliman and Hamsilos Bay.

Akliman (White Harbour), situated at the İnceburun (Cape İnce), the northernmost tip of Sinop Province and Turkey, is a first rate protected natural habitat site, unspoilt by human construction. The mountains



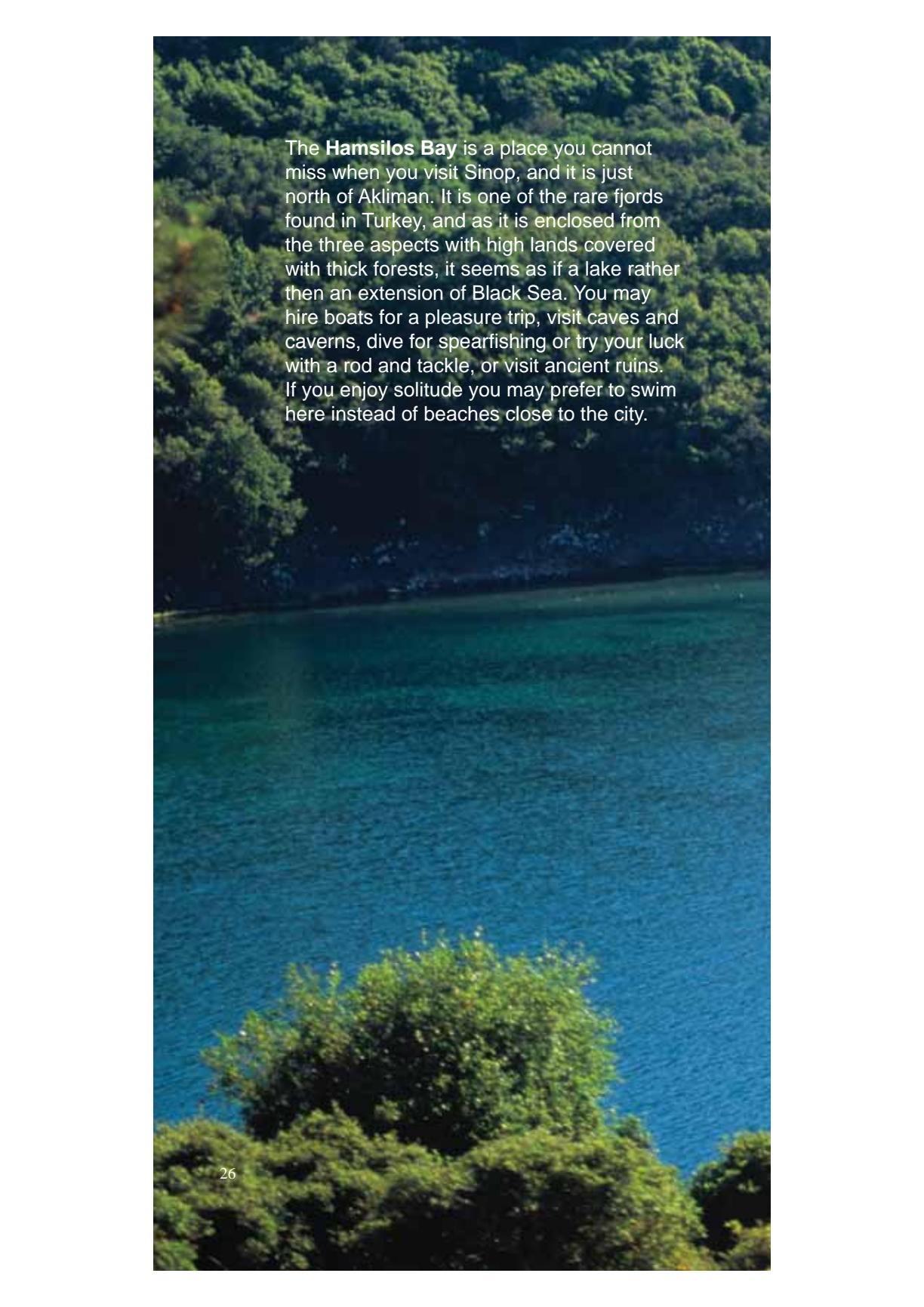


bordering the Black Sea embrace all hues of forest green and occasionally allowed sea to provide 20 metres of deep sandy beaches or narrow coves extending deep into the land. This is the best place to escape the rush and hullabaloo of the cities. You may enjoy a picnic under the trees and enjoy the fishing boats along the coast. The ***Inceburun Lighthouse*** is about 10 kilometres from Akliman. The forest covering Inceburun and its environs is a protected wildlife area for deer, pheasant and gazelle. The **Abalı Village** set on the 15th kilometre of the road from Sinop to Inceburun, with its splendid trees and pristine nature, is the choicest picnic area for the inhabitants of Sinop.









The **Hamsilos Bay** is a place you cannot miss when you visit Sinop, and it is just north of Akliman. It is one of the rare fjords found in Turkey, and as it is enclosed from the three aspects with high lands covered with thick forests, it seems as if a lake rather than an extension of Black Sea. You may hire boats for a pleasure trip, visit caves and caverns, dive for spearfishing or try your luck with a rod and tackle, or visit ancient ruins. If you enjoy solitude you may prefer to swim here instead of beaches close to the city.









Sarıkum (Yellow Sand) Lake which is just half an hour drive away from the centre of Sinop is another natural wonder, and the lake and its environs have been declared a Protected Natural Area. While you walk in the forest, do not wonder if you see freely wandering horses. They are free-roaming feral horses. The lake itself is a bird watching centre. Also some endangered species such as lynx and roe deer roam this truly arcadian reserve.

Sinop where the sea and land are interwoven stands in counterpoint to the misguided belief that “in the Black Sea coast there are not many beaches suitable for swimming”. Its sandy beaches are more than match even for the famous Mediterranean beaches. If you wish you can swim at beaches along the city shores or beaches along the shores where sea meets the forests. One of the choicest spot close to the city centre is **Karakum (Black Sand) Beach** where the mineral rich fine sands are believed to help rheumatic aches, and other similar ailments. The 7-kilometre-long **Akliman Beach** is one of the longest beaches of Black Sea coast. As there is no resort about, it is the choicest spot for those who like solitude and tranquillity.

A rare natural formation can be found near Kurusaray Village which is about 20 kilometres away from **Boyabat**. Here the rocks seem to be finished by the hand of a very patient and talented artist using a precision tool. Actually these basalt rocks are not shaped by human hand at all. The artistry was performed by nature through five slow millennia. The Waterfall of Çukurhan Village and Waterfall of Kılıçlı Village are other natural wonders carved by time.

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over a mossy rock face in a lush forest. The water is clear and falls in several distinct streams, creating a misty spray at the bottom. The surrounding vegetation is dense and green, with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a dappled light effect. The overall scene is serene and natural.

The **Erfelek** County is famous for its waterfalls. The group of **Tatlica Waterfalls**, which consists of 30 different sizes and types of falls, is a unique feature of Sinop. Watching the picturesque waterfalls and listening to the cascading water's music will provide the utmost relaxation and contentment to cleanse your mind. To explore the other falls which are not considered part of Tatlica group you will need the real explorer's spirit and legs to manage the trekking.





The **Ayancık** County provides quite interesting places for nature lovers such as **Akgöl** (White Lake) and **İnalıtı Cave**. The pristine nature enclosing the Akgöl enchants any visitor with its panorama, and renders the beauty of lake unique. At that most popular excursion spot of Sinop you may hire rowing boats. The **İnalıtı Cave** in the İnalıtı Village is about 35 kilometres away from the county. While the cave is about 700 meters long, the last part of this distance is not suitable for walking. To find this gift of nature you must follow the road to Akgöl splitting off from the road from Ayancık to Boyabat at the junction on the 17th kilometre.



Sinop has numerous caves and caverns. One of them is **Buzluk Cave** situated 10 kilometres north of Durağan County. In the domed caverns, created by karstic dissolution, naturally formed ice is found at any time. The cave entrance has its own charm with several mineral water springs, and provides a much highly popular excursion spot.









Local Cuisine

Sinop provides many unique dishes for those who love to explore new tastes.

Like every town along the Black Sea coast, Sinop's dishes will impress you with tastes from the cornucopia of sea. You will find tasty seafood all along the Black Sea coast - however, the fish dishes of Sinop have the unique flavour of the local produce. Starting from anchovy (*hamsi*) all fish trapped by local nets are prepared in numerous ways and served. The anchovy is the staple food of Black Sea, and Sinop's baked rice enveloped in anchovy filets (*içli tava*) is one of the most famous local dishes. You may have this dish at the boat restaurants you

may find in the harbour, and conveniently enjoy a short trip over the sea while eating.

Some of the most delicious dishes of Sinop's local cuisine are pastries. The baked pastry rolls (*nokul*), which can be prepared in a sweet version with raisins and walnuts, or in savoury version with spicy minced meat or yoghurt filling; boiled pasta parcels with spicy minced meat filling (*içi etli hamur*); deep-fried puff pastry roundels (*katlama*) are the most popular ones. Corn flour porridge topped with spicy cheese sauce (*kaşık çıkartması or mamalika*); baked pastry with borage herb filling (*zılbit böreği*), starch pudding topped with butter sauce (*hasuda*), Boyabat's own spit-roasted whole lamb (*sırık kebab*), rock candy (*taktak helvası*) and candy paste (*ezme*) are other much loved local dishes.

The weather provides plentiful rain and the lands around Sinop are as fertile as its sea. Many fruit and vegetables are grown in the region, and the most famous of them all are the chestnuts of Sinop. As it is considered the sweetest of all chestnuts in Turkey, we advise you to try them if you visit Sinop during chestnut season.





Shopping

Do not forget to obtain local handicrafts to keep your Sinop memories alive. Among the possibilities one comes to mind at once - the hand-made model ships that are a speciality of this seaport city. Other perfect gift or memento options include linen fabric woven in Ayancık County, and many ready made items prepared with them, as well as *çember* (a locally woven fabric), knitted throws *mahrma* (macramé), saddle bags and shoulder bags fashioned with old carpets (*heybe*), woven matting (*kilim*) and embroidered woolly socks prepared in Boyabat, Saraydüzü and Durağan counties.





Must-Does before Returning

• ***Immerse yourself into nature:*** In Sinop, the land of natural beauty, the prime spots to experience the nature are Akliman, Hamsilos, Sarikum Lake, Akgöl, and Erfelek Tatlıca Waterfalls. If you wish to get away from the crowds and humdrum rush of the city, visit those areas and spend at least a couple of days camping in the sylvan groves.

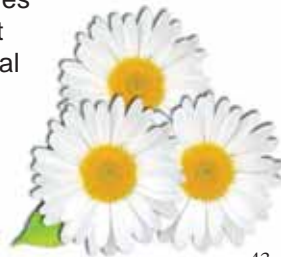
• ***Try the delicacies that you cannot find anywhere else but in Sinop:*** Every corner of Sinop, where the nature and seas are generous, is the home of yet another taste. *Nokul, mamalika, etli hamur, taktak helva* are among the first to taste for those gourmets who are interested in the local food.

• ***Visit the high summer pastures:*** The Black Sea also means the upland pastures (*yayla*) with their outstanding natural beauty which are used during the summer months. The important high pastures are Mehmetli, Aluç, Darıözü, Yaylacık, Sakızlı, Yassıalan, Düdekoğlu, Sucuoğlu, Çan, Altınyayla, Kocaoğlu, Bozarmut, Gürfındık, Türkeli



Kurugöl, Ayancık Akgöl and Soğuksu. The Alpine-postcard picturesque beauty of these upland pastures are famous not only for their nature, but also for the traditional architecture, annual festivals, scores of native and migrating bird species, butterflies and endemic fauna. The upland pastures of the Black Sea host the most impressive trekking routes as well as beautiful camping sites. The nomadic peoples (*yörük*) living in the hills are renowned for their hospitality, and ready to help whenever you need. They would be glad to accommodate you. However be careful about the season to travel to upland pastures. Apart from high summer season, continuous rain would make climbing to the upland pastures very difficult, even impossible.

• **Immortalise your memories:** If you wish to maintain your memories beyond photos, buy some gift and memorabilia from the local handcrafts vendors, such as model ships, or *mahrama* (macramé), *çember* (a locally woven fabric) and embroidery.





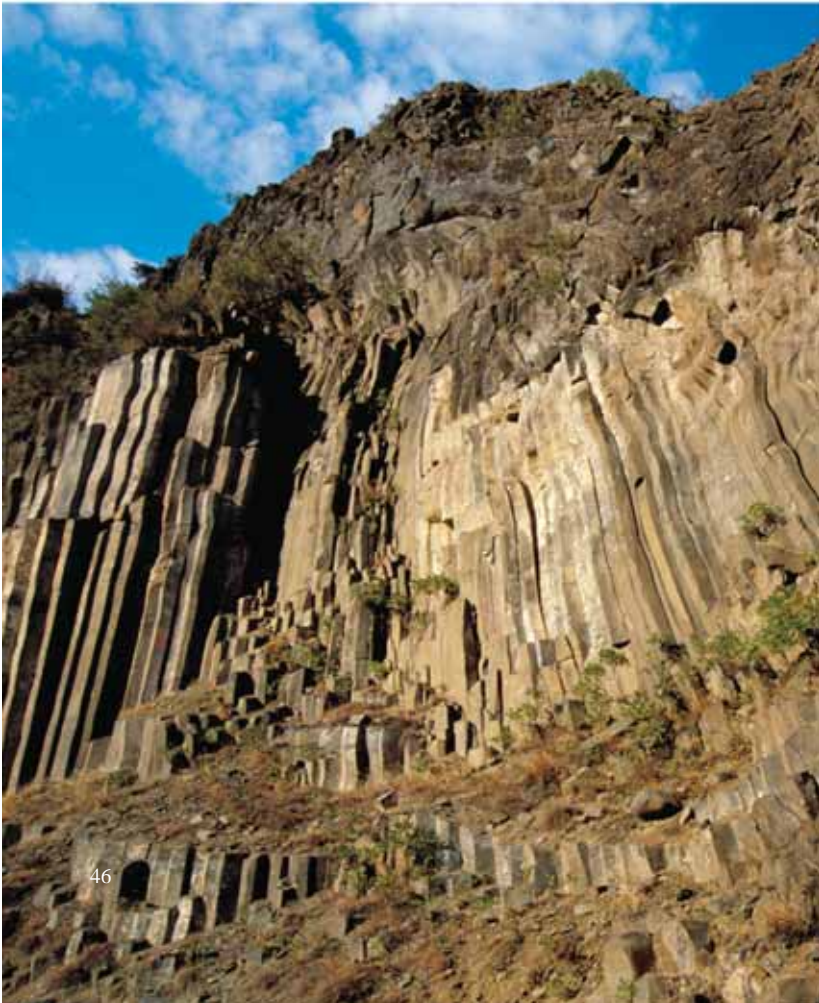
The Black Sea

The Black Sea Region takes its name from the sea lying all along the northern shores of Turkey - however its rich geography cannot be easily defined. The sea is a very deep blue. Maybe its name refers to this phenomenon. Maybe it took its "black" name from the laments that have been sung after fishermen who lost their lives amidst the tempestuous waves. Green is abundant in every crevice of the Black Sea shore. It is in love with the blue it longs to meet. Therefore, it reaches into the sea, and rises high up to the mountain peaks to meet the blue sky.

For centuries the people of the Black Sea has lived sheltered by the green, and earned a livelihood from the blue. In its traditional architecture, the timber houses give their backs to the hills, and turned their faces to the sometimes calm, but often tempestuous waves of the Black Sea. Unlike the sea, the soul of people is always genial and welcoming.

The Black Sea is a gift of nature to the humanity presented within the melancholic love story of green and blue. It has been the host of several civilisations that have admired its wind sculpted shores, and its hills adorned with trees and flowers blossoming every season. Its nature and sea enriched its cuisine. The Black Sea is a place where the culture-vultures would find more than what they seek among the ruins of Antiquity, and those nature-lovers, in







the splendour of the environment. The Black Sea is also indispensable for the adrenalin junkies with its areas suitable for adventure sports, and skiing resorts.

The Black Sea is a place of legends where reality and dreams are merged. The Amazons settled here. The Argonauts chasing the Golden Fleece passed across this tempestuous sea. The water engulfed Atlantis, the most developed city of Antiquity, rushed from Black Sea. The stubborn hero of Jules Verne, Kéreban the Inflexible, travelled around the perimeter of the Black Sea just for the sake of a wager.

As the rest of Anatolian landmass, the Black Sea has the stamps of millennia of civilisations. Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman monuments follow in succession, but also live together side by side. If you wish you can trace them in the museum, or explore them with the zeal and enjoyment of an explorer.



Transportation



By Sea:

You can reach Sinop by boats that depart from İstanbul once in two weeks.

Harbour: (+90 368) 261 71 55

Sea Department: (+90 368) 261 59 05

By Air:

The airport in Sinop is 8 km away from the city centre. From the airport, it is easy to go to the city centre by taxi or mini buses called *dolmuş*.



Airport: (+90 368) 271 44 55

Turkish Airlines Office in Sinop:

(+90 368) 260 24 70

By Road:

It is possible to get Sinop by road from everywhere in Turkey. The Bus Station is situated in the city centre.

Bus Station: (+90 368) 260 03 04



Useful Contact Details

Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism

Yeni Mah. Okulak Sok.
Tel: (+90 368) 261 30 23
Fax: (+90 368) 261 48 68

Tourist Information Offices **Pervane Madrasah**

Tel: (+90 368) 260 12 58
Historic Sinop Prison
Tel: (+90 368) 260 48 20

Sinop Museum

Okullar Caddesi No: 2
Tel: (+90 368) 261 19 75
Fax: (+90 368) 261 61 63 (Open except
Monday between 08.00-17.00)

Sinop Ethnography Museum

Kelevi Mahallesi Kemalettin Sami Paşa Cad.
Tel: (+90 368) 260 23 07
Fax: (+90 368) 261 61 63

Historic Sinop Prison

Kaleyazısı Mahallesi
Tel: (+90 368) 260 48 20

Governorship

Tel: (+90 368) 261 82 85

Municipality

Tel: (+90 368) 261 18 44

Hospital

Tel: (+90 368) 271 55 70

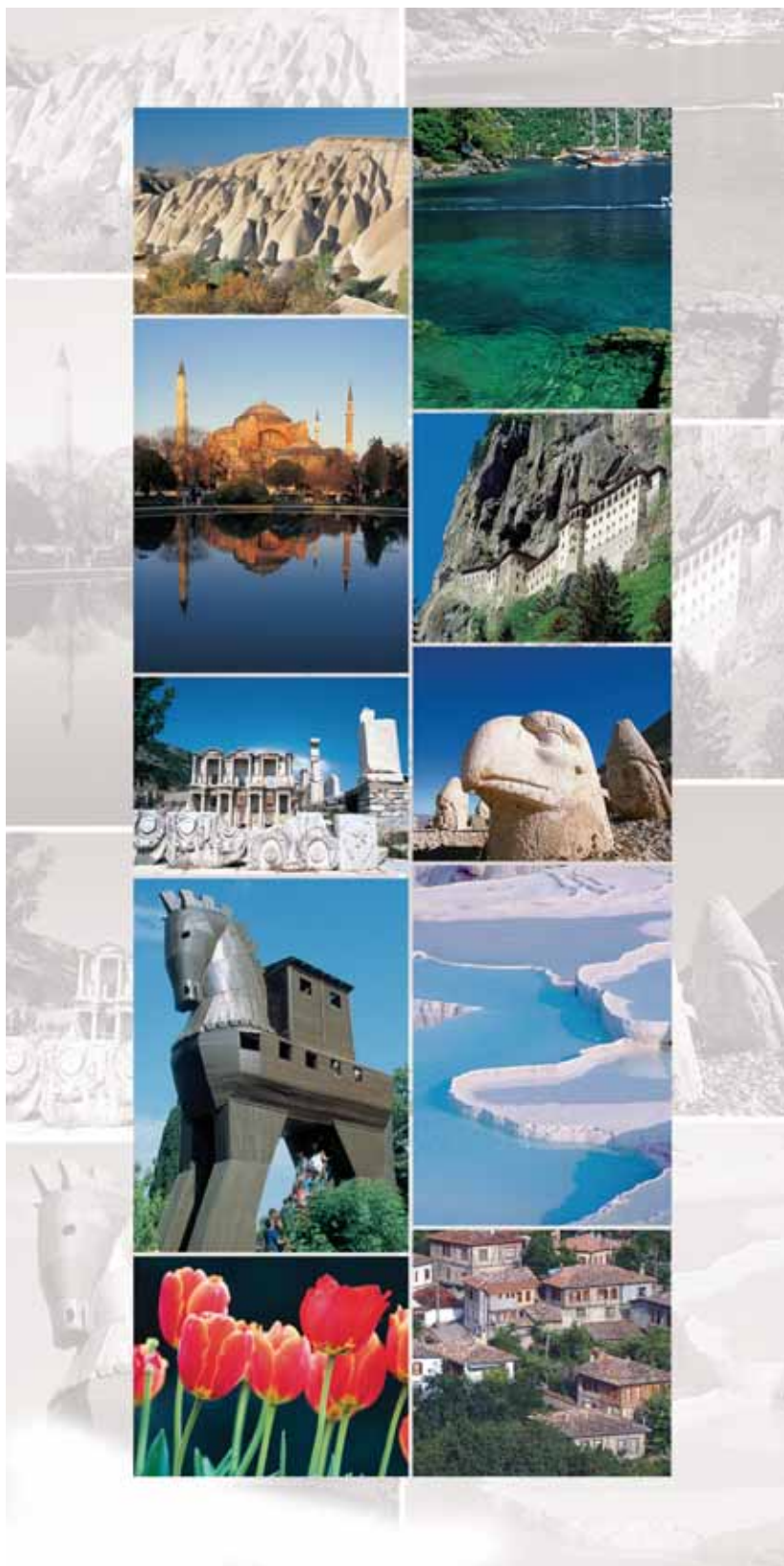
Police

Tel: (+90 368) 261 17 70

Gendarmerie

Tel: (+90 368) 261 18 40





Cultural Heritage is Fragile

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)







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