

CAPPADOCIA

THE PLACE WHERE NATURE,
HISTORY AND CULTURE
COME TOGETHER



NEVŞEHİR VALİLİĞİ



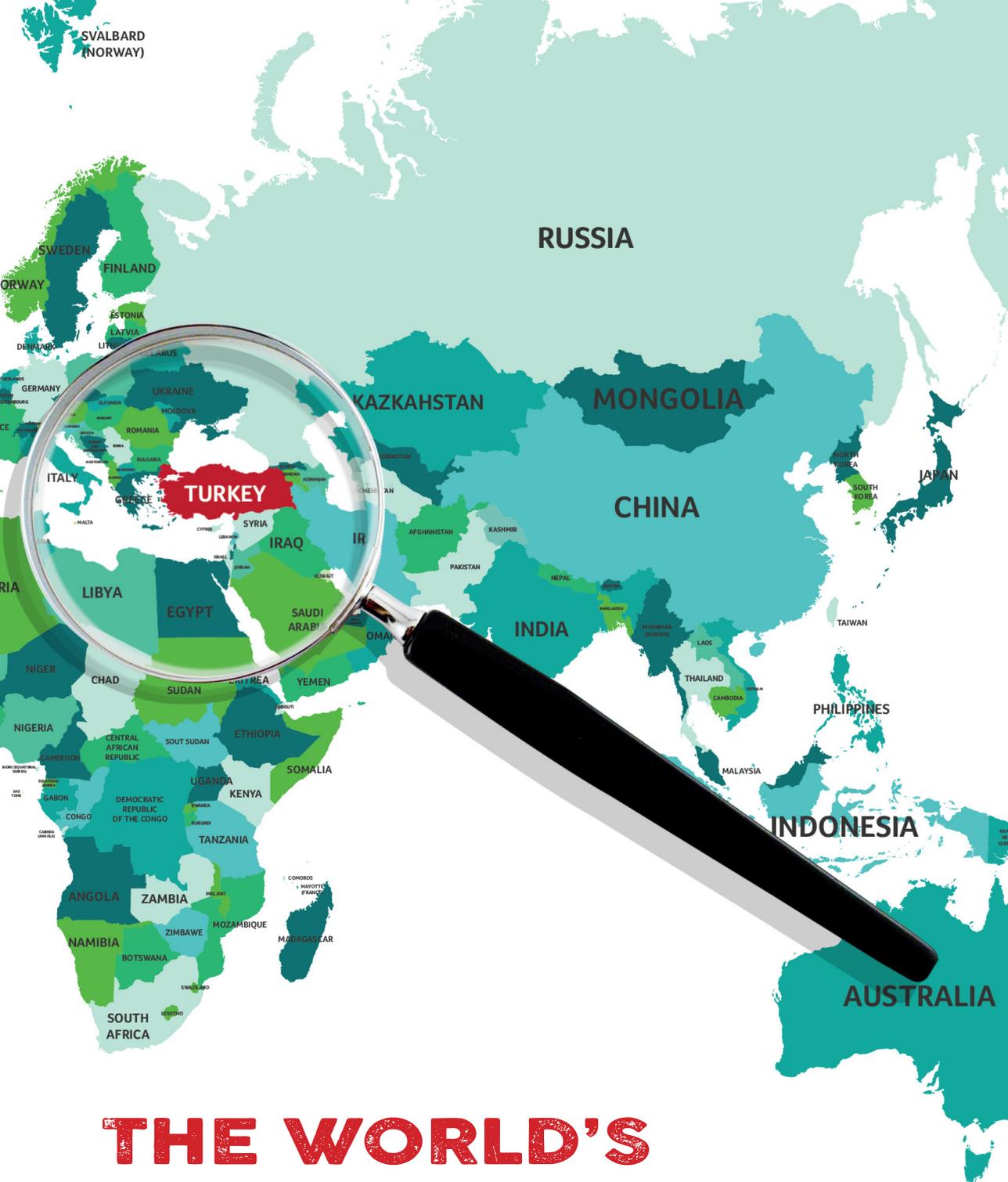




AN ADVENTURE WHERE YOU SHARE EVERY MOMENT!

Cappadocia is one of the most significant centers in the world with regards to faith and culture tourism. However, it would be highly unfair to review Cappadocia only in terms of faith and culture tourism. Faith and culture tourism is just one of the pillars of the Cappadocia destination.

This book, which is in your hand, is prepared to prove what we say is true and to promote Cappadocia with its unknown ways. How about you, are you ready to explore Cappadocia?



SVALBARD
(NORWAY)

RUSSIA

SWEDEN
FINLAND

KAZAKHSTAN

MONGOLIA

TURKEY

CHINA

ITALY

IRAQ

INDIA

JAPAN

LIBYA

EGYPT

SAUDI ARABIA

INDONESIA

AUSTRALIA

THE WORLD'S INTERSECTION POINT!

TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED TO ALL OF THE TOURISM DESTINATIONS IN TURKEY WITH 58 AIRPORTS



How can one go to Cappadocia via airway?

The easiest way is to fly from Istanbul to Cappadocia. Alongside flights between Istanbul-Nevşehir, continuous direct flights from Izmir and Antalya to Cappadocia are also available. Cappadocia Airport is 30 km away from the city center of Nevşehir. Since residential areas are very close to each other in Nevşehir, you can easily reach any region you wish to go with an approximately 20-minute trip.

AKDENİZ

Your second flight alternative is the Kayseri Airport. Many airway companies have flights to Kayseri Airport. Kayseri Airport is 80 km away from the city center of Nevşehir. It is possible to arrive in Cappadocia from Kayseri in approximately 45 minutes. Many hotels in the region also provide airway transportation services to their clients.



Distances from Some of the Centers of Interest

- Istanbul - Cappadocia, approximately 757 km
- Ankara - Cappadocia, approximately 305 km
- Kayseri - Cappadocia, approximately 70 km
- İzmir - Cappadocia, approximately 777 km
- Antalya - Cappadocia, approximately 541 km
- Konya - Cappadocia, approximately 238 km
- Adıyaman - Cappadocia, approximately 525 km
- Şanlıurfa - Cappadocia, approximately 630 km
- Trabzon - Cappadocia, approximately 650 km
- Ağrı - Cappadocia, approximately 1000 km.



TO YOZGAT

KOZAKLI

HACIBEKTAŞ

TO KIRŞEHİR

TOPRAKLI

KALABA

TO KAYSERİ

KIZILIRMAK R.

AIRPORT

TUZKÖY

GÜLEŞHİR

23

AVANOS

12

BAYRAMHAÇLI

KIZILIRMAK R.

PALACE

MANTAR KAYA
(Açık Saray)

ÇAT VADİSİ

NAR

ÇAT

TATLARIN

DAM

AGZIKARAHAN
CARAVANSERAI

TO AKSARAY

ACIGÖL

KALE
YERALTI ŞEHİRİ

GÖREME
PANORAMA

ZELVE
OPEN AIR
MUSEUM

Devrent Valley

PAŞABAĞI

ÇAVUŞIN

GÖREME

GÖREME
OPEN AIR
MUSEUM

UÇHISAR

PICEON
VALLEY

SUN SET
POINT

TO KAYSERİ

24

25

60

15

25

14

9

22

16

16

17

21

35

4

4

3





NEVŞEHİR

ÜRGÜP

IHLARA VADİSİ

GOMEZA VADİSİ

DERINKUYU

IHLARA VADİSİ

MAMASIN DAM

GÖZE

ORTAHİSAR

GÜVERCİNLİK

KAVAK

İBRAHİMPAŞA

ÇARDAK

KAYVALI

DAMSA DAM

MUSTAFAPAŞA

YAPRAKHİSAR

SELİME

KAYMAKLI

ÖZLÜCE

MAZI

MERYEM ANA DAĞI (GOLGOLİ)

CEMİL KEŞLİK MANASTIRI

ZİGA

BELİSİRMA

NAR LAKE

GÖLCÜK

SOĞANLI

MEDRESE (1250)

TAŞKINPAŞA

SAHİNEFENDİ

SOBESOS

GÜZELYURT

GÖLÜDAĞ

GÜZELÖZ

BIRD SANCTUARY SULTANSAZLIĞI

TO KAYSERİ

GÜMÜŞLER MANASTIRI

TO NIĞDE

HASAN M. 3262 m.

MELENDİZ M. 2916 m.

MELENDİZ R.

100 KM

**THE PLACE WHERE
NATURE AND
HISTORY COALESCE**

“Cappadocia Region”

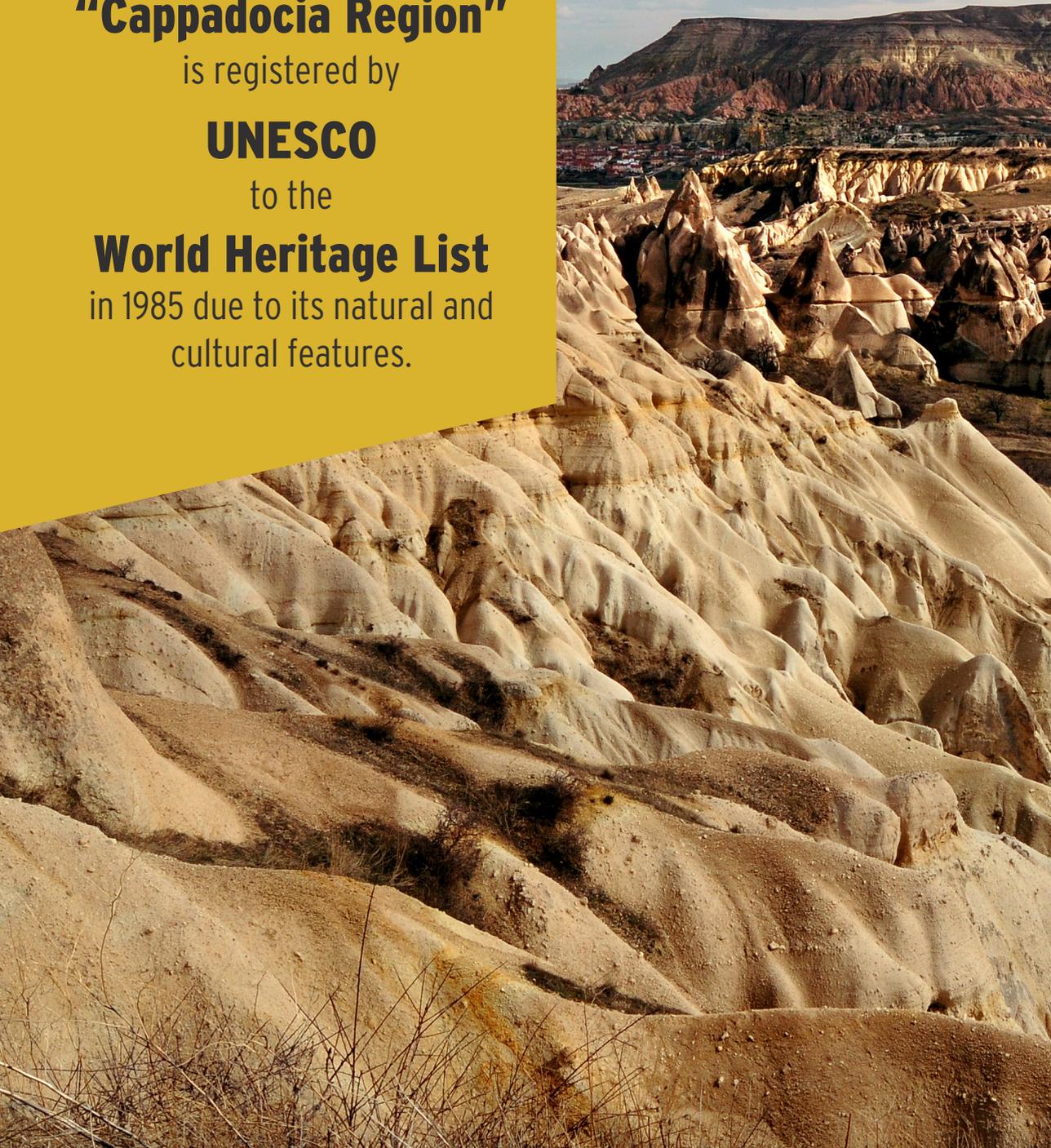
is registered by

UNESCO

to the

World Heritage List

in 1985 due to its natural and
cultural features.





**A WORLD-KNOWN
TRADEMARK IN
NATURE TOURISM**

Due to its very special
natural and geological
formations,
Cappadocia Region
is an unprecedented
wonder of nature!



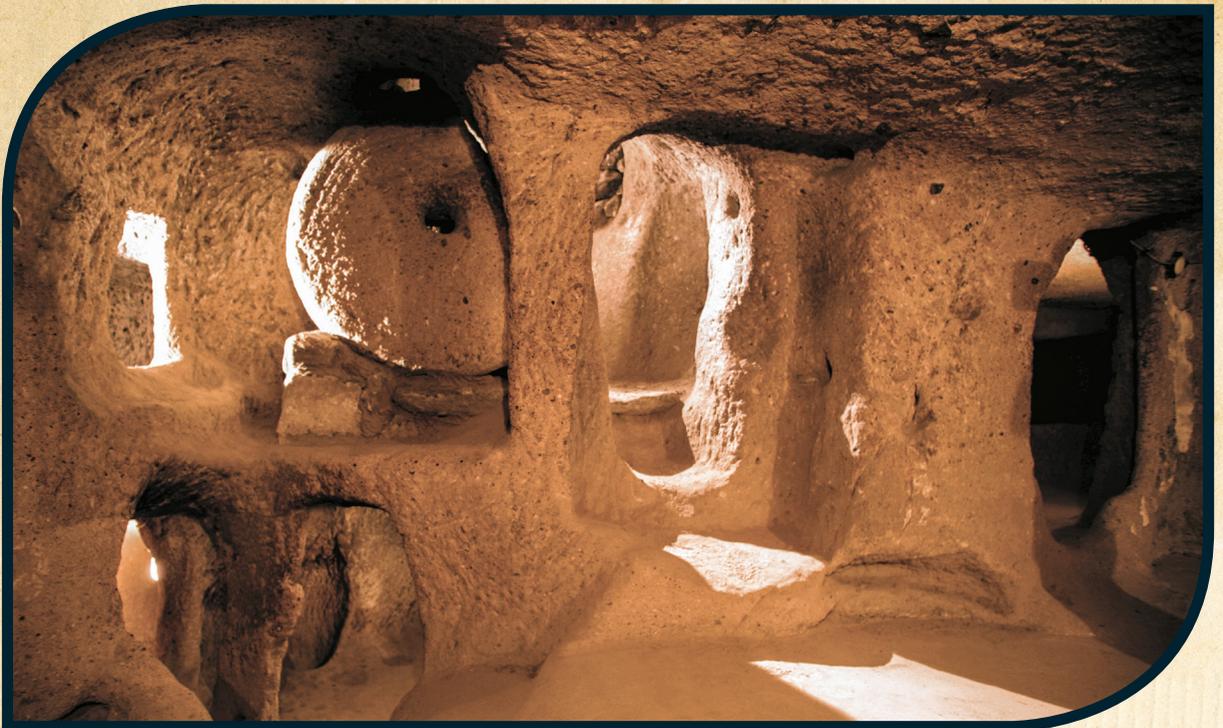


CAPPADOCIA DESTINATION OF FAITH AND CULTURE

Cappadocia Region has continuously hosted many civilizations from prehistoric ages to the present day. As a result, the historical and cultural heritage has given Cappadocia Region prominence and has turned it into a different destination in faith and culture tourism.

Cappadocia Region, has hosted famous Islamic scholars with the arrival of the Religion of Islam to Anatolia. Turkish and Islamic Sufi Hacı Bektaş-ı Veli had settled in the Hacıbektaş town of Nevşehir in the 13th century. There is a historical museum in the town which also contains the Tomb of Hacı Bektaş-ı Veli.

Underground cities, which are unprecedented on Earth, are perfect practices of engineering and architecture. With ventilation systems, air circulation tunnels, safety and security systems, intriguing techniques used in entries and exits, wells on the ground surface and garbage collecting mechanisms, they amaze visitors even today.



HISTORY OF CAPPADOCIA

60 Million Years Ago: This magnificent geography was formed through the soft tuff formed by lava and ash which were erupted from Erciyes, Hasan and Güllüdağ Mountains, and through the wear of the rain and wind.

B.C. 7000: The first settlements were formed in Cappadocia.

Written History: Begins with the Hittites (B.C. 1750-1200). Remains of Hittites can be found in all mounds in Cappadocia.

B.C. 13th - 8th: Phrygians settled in the region.

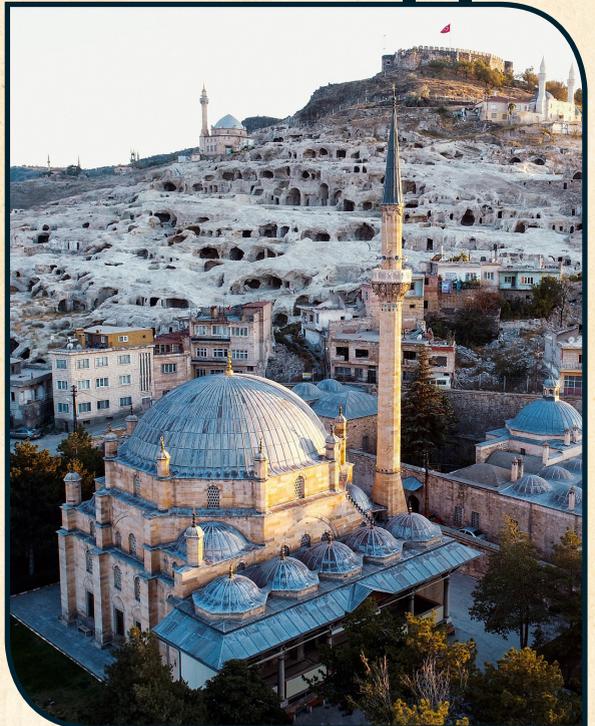
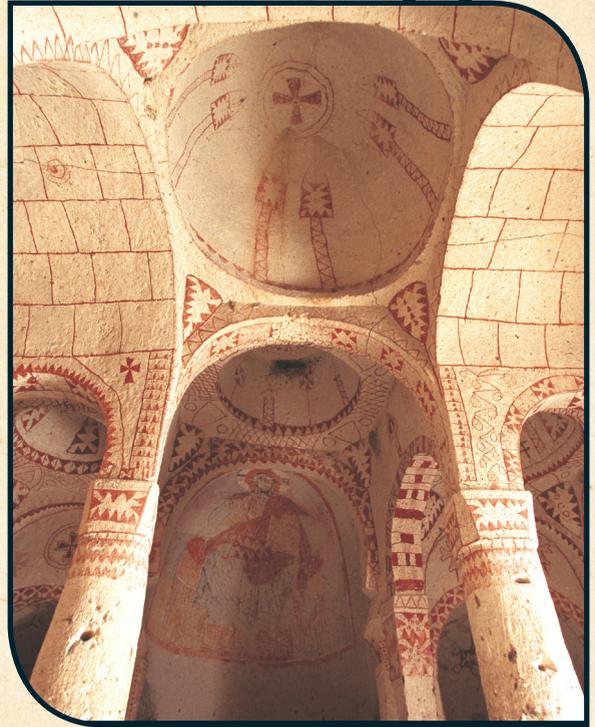
B.C. 6th - 4th: The period of the Persian Empire. Cappadocia means "The Land of the Beautiful Horses" in the Persian language. Committed to Zoroastrianism, the Persians considered the volcanoes (Erciyes, Hasandağ) in the region to be sacred. The Macedonian King Alexander the Great ended the Persian Empire.

A.D. 3rd Century: Christians came to the region to spread their religious thoughts and to use Cappadocia for its soft rock structure and countless shelters in order to escape from Roman soldiers; these years are the era of the Roman Empire, and afterwards the era of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) State.

A.D. 11-13th Century: The Seljuk Period begins in Cappadocia after the War of Manzikert in 1071. Going through many wars early on, the region finally reaches trouble-free days in this period.

A.D. 14-19th Century: It's the period of the Ottoman Empire in the region.

October 29, 1923: With the establishment of the Turkish Republic after the War of Independence, this land of dreams remains today within the borders of the Republic of Turkey.



HOW SHOULD CAPPADOCIA BE TOURED?

Cappadocia is toured by people of varied interests, which are from many different cultures and with many different expectations. Therefore, it is not possible to form a common travel plan for everyone. Because of this, trying to form a standard list didn't seem reasonable to us. The things we tell about in this book consist of places where you might prefer to see depending on your area of interests.

To break it down shortly;

1. *Balon Aktivitesi*

2. *Sportif Aktiviteler*

3. *Termal ve Saęlık Turizmi*

4. *Inanç Turizmi*

5. *Müzeler ve Ören yerleri*

6. *Yeraltı Şehirleri*

7. *Maęara Hoteller*

8. *El Sanatları*

9. *Yemek Kültürü*

10. *Eęlence*





A CAPPADOCIA TRIP WOULD FEEL INCOMPLETE WITHOUT A BALLOON TOUR





BALLOON ACTIVITY

Balloon tours, which have been rapidly growing in Cappadocia since 1989, gained new momentum after the organization of the 1st World Air Games in Cappadocia in 1997. Balloon companies, which are increasing in numbers every year, are actively competing with each other to present you an unforgettable visual feast. You should know that a Cappadocia trip would feel incomplete without participating in a balloon tour.

**NATURE AND SPORTS
HAVE NEVER BEEN SO
HARMONIOUS**



An aerial photograph of Cappadocia, Turkey, showing a vast landscape of unique rock formations, including the famous 'fairy chimneys'. Numerous hot air balloons in various colors (red, yellow, blue, white) are scattered across the sky, and a paraglider is visible on the left side. The scene is captured during the golden hour, with warm lighting.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

If you're interested in doing sports in nature, Cappadocia is perfectly suited for you. A horseback tour among the historic fabric and fairy chimneys, adrenaline-pumping ATV tours, hiking, or if you want a more bodily up-tempo activity a bicycle tour among unmatched scenery would be a fantastic choice. Or if you prefer an environment tour without getting off the car, a safari tour done with a 4x4 car would be tailor made for you!

1. *Trekking*

2. *Horseback Tours*

3. *Bicycle Tours*

4. *ATV Safari*

5. *Off-Road Jeep Safari*

HORSEBACK TOURS

THE LAND OF BEAUTIFUL HORSES

It is said that Cappadocia means “the land of beautiful horses” in the Persian language. On the embossed rock surfaces inside the famous king’s palace in Persepolis, the capital city of the Persian Empire, Cappadocians were pictured as bringing horses with them, among the 23 country representatives who were bringing gifts to the Persian King. Perhaps the naming of “the land of beautiful horses” originates from here. It is clear that Cappadocia was famous for its horses, both as a part and a partner of daily life and business as well as a hobby; also in this day and age, it offers an unparalleled alternative in our country for horse safari alongside its fabulous nature.







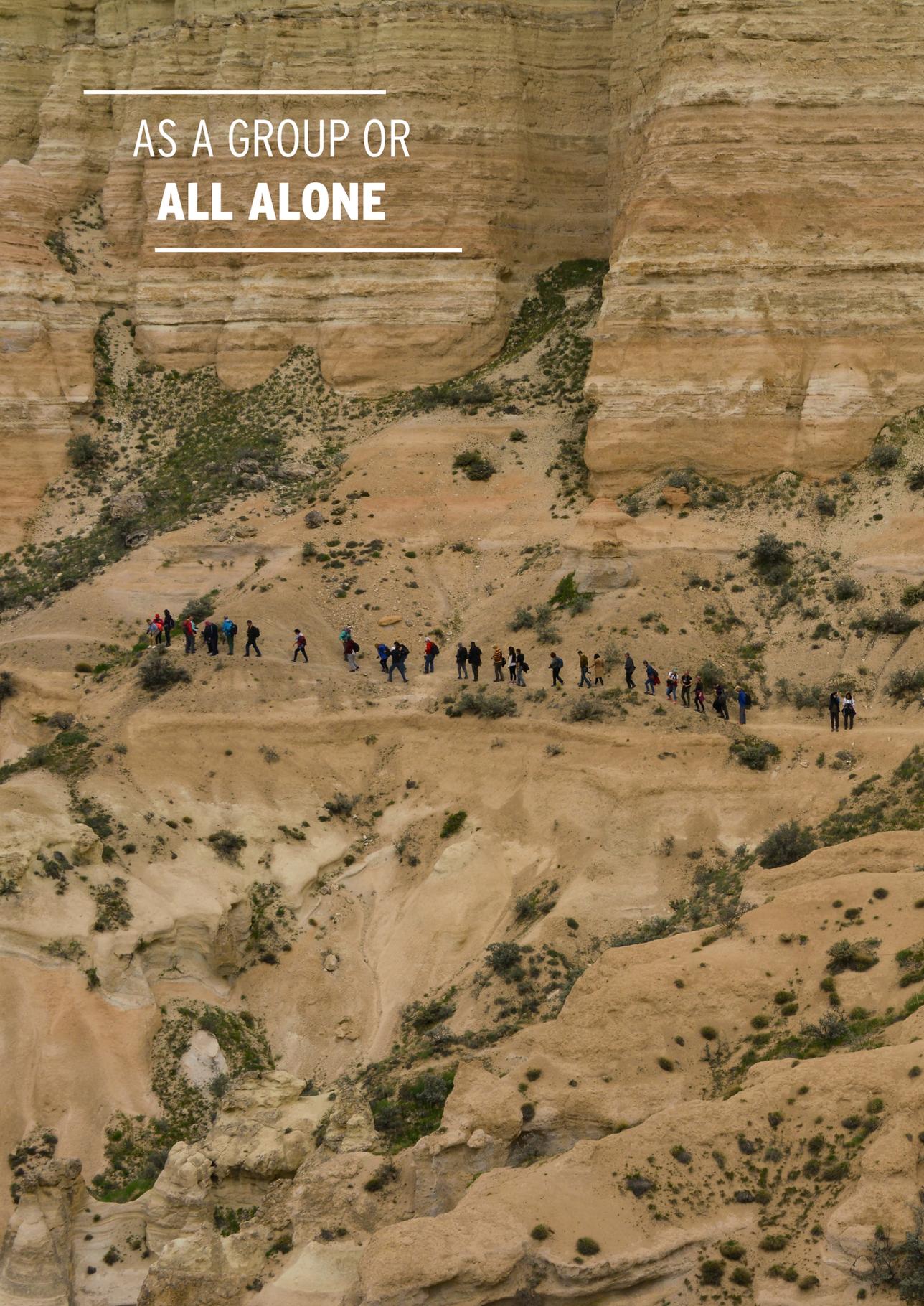
BICYCLE TOURS

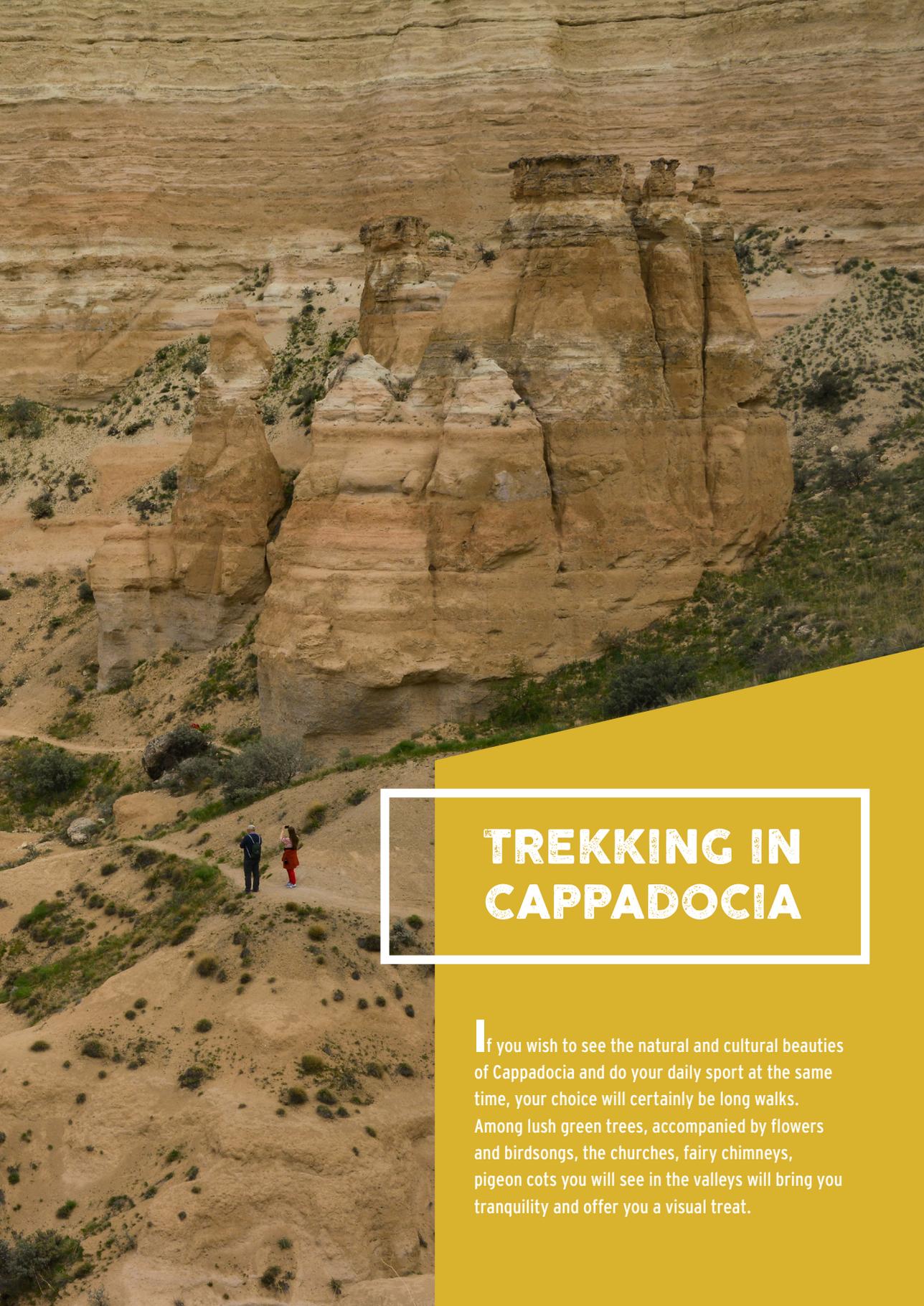
GO WHERE YOUR PEDALS TAKE YOU

If you toured and explored the “first places” in your most free and special moments always with your bike since your childhood, why don’t you do the same in Cappadocia? Moreover, you can rent all-terrain bicycles suitable for the region for really good prices. Then ride away the endless marvelous valleys of the fairy land Cappadocia!



AS A GROUP OR
ALL ALONE



A large, layered rock formation in Cappadocia, showing distinct horizontal strata. The rock is a warm, golden-brown color. In the foreground, two hikers are standing on a dirt path, looking up at the formation. The hiker on the left is wearing a dark jacket and a hat, while the hiker on the right is wearing a red jacket. The background shows more of the layered rock and some sparse green vegetation.

TREKKING IN CAPPADOCIA

If you wish to see the natural and cultural beauties of Cappadocia and do your daily sport at the same time, your choice will certainly be long walks. Among lush green trees, accompanied by flowers and birdsongs, the churches, fairy chimneys, pigeon cots you will see in the valleys will bring you tranquility and offer you a visual treat.

VALLEYS

1. **Aşk (Love) Valley**
(Göreme)

2. **Meskendir Valley**
(Göreme)

3. **Zemi Valley**
(Göreme)

4. **Görkündere Valley**
(Göreme)

5. **Çat Valley**
(Çat - Gülşehir)

6. **Balkanderesi Valley**
(Ibrahimpasha)

7. **Güllüdere Valley**
(Çavuşin)

8. **Güvercinlik Valley**
(Uçhisar)

9. **Gomeda Valley**
(Mustafapaşa)

10. **Kızıl Valley**
(Ortahisar)

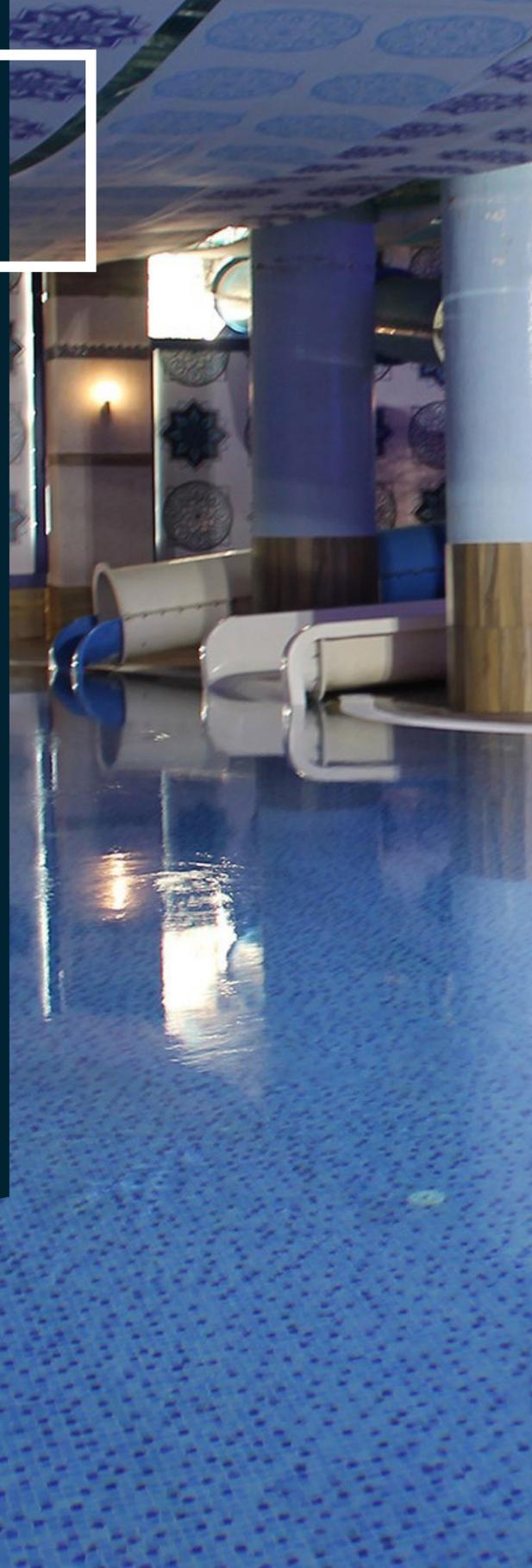




THERMAL TOURISM

KOZAKLI WATER IS REJUVENATING

Emerging to the surface after boiling inside a crater, Kozaklı thermal water differs from other thermal waters due to the radon gas it contains. Even after a day or two use, you start to feel the silky soft texture and experience the miraculous change. One of the significant thermal tourism centers, Nevşehir's Kozaklı town is rapidly growing as the number one option for people who seek healing and who wish to stay young and beautiful, due to the radon gas inside the thermal waters which accelerates cell renewal, causing an "elixir of youth" effect, unlike many similar waters in Turkey. The mud baths in the region are just as good sources of health as thermal waters with radon gas. Because of this, the interest of foreign tourists who wish to seek health and to rejuvenate in Kozaklı is rapidly increasing. Having an accommodation and bed capacity more than the town population itself, the bed capacity in Kozaklı is reaching towards 10 thousand. Facilities suiting every pocket host approximately 1 million guests in one year.







FAITH TOURISM IN CAPPADOCIA

FROM ROCK-CARVED CHURCHES TO THE TOMB OF HACIBEKTAŞ VELİ

Cappadocia is a region with different features in terms of culture and faith tourism, due to having hosted many civilizations in the past. Rock-carved churches and chapels built during early Christianity, madrasahs, tombs, caravanserais which belong to the Seljuk Period and social complexes called "külliye" built during the Ottoman Era all demonstrate the diversity in faith tourism available in Nevşehir. One of the most visited centers in the region, the Tomb of Hacibektaş Veli hosts thousands of domestic and foreign visitors through commemorative ceremonies organized every year and various cultural and art activities. The rock-carved churches and chapels built during the Seljuk and Ottoman Periods is the best proof that different religions used to live peacefully with each other.







THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND CHURCHES IN CAPPADOCIA

In Cappadocia, where human settlement goes back as far as the Paleolithic era, the first Christians who were tired of the Roman's Empire's persecution and oppression began to settle in the region's soft rock and carve-able underground cities. These underground cities, which were built during years before the Christ, gave the people who sought security and peace the opportunity to make churches, monasteries and shelters, all of which they shaped with labor and love. Some of the churches in the region are; Tokalı Church, Elmalı Church, El Nazar Church, Aios Vasilios Church, Sinasos Church, Alakara Church, Barbara Church, Yılanlı Church, Karanlık Church, Çarıklı Church, Ayvasil Church, Saklı Church, Aios Nichole Monastery,

Important Saints Who Were Brought Up in Cappadocia and Left a Mark On the History of Christianity

- Saint Choch
- Saint Basil
- Saint Gregorios
- Saint Nino
- Saint Yuannis
- Saint Arseni

Sobesos Antique City



Hacı Bektaş Veli Museum



Underground Museum



Baby Museum



MUSEUMS



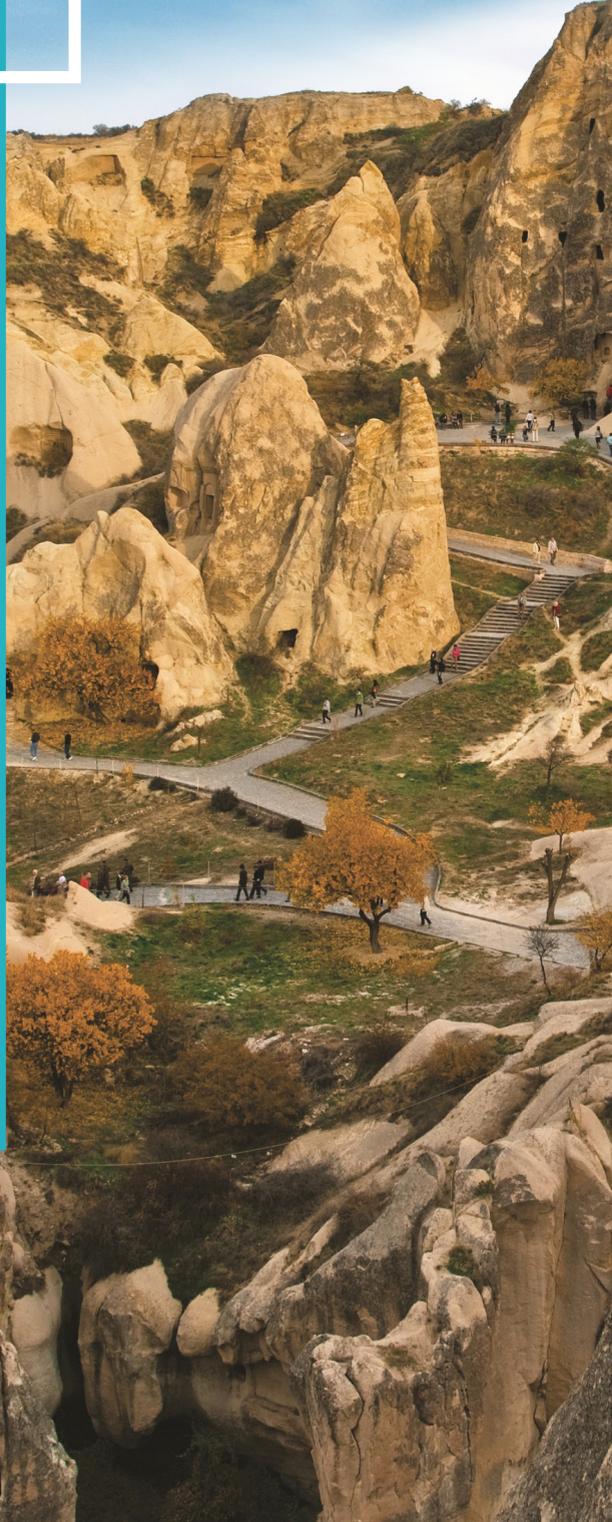
GÖREME OPEN AIR MUSEUM

IS ON THE LIST OF
'UNESCO'
WORLD HERITAGE!

Göreme Open Air Museum is a rock site which intensively hosted monastery life from A.D. IV. Century to XIII. Century. Churches, chapels, dining halls and living halls were carved inside blocks of rock inside an area forming a valley.

Inside Göreme Open Air Museum, Kızlar ve Erkekler (Girls and Boys) Monastery, Aziz Basileus Church, Elmalı Church, Saint Barbara Church, Yılanlı Church, Karanlık (Dark) Church, Çarıklı Church and Tokalı Church can be toured.

Göreme Open Air Museum is on UNESCO's World Heritage List as a natural and cultural asset since December 6, 1985.





ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES





1. Paşabağları

2. Zelve

3. Devrent

4. Üç Güzeller

5. Kızıl Çukur

6. Uçhisar Kalesi

7. Ortahisar Kalesi

8. Cevizli

9. Esentepe

UNDERGROUND CITIES

Cappadocia's underground cities were built by carving rocks by people to protect themselves and were used against attacks. Among the confirmed underground cities up until today, which are nearing three hundred, the largest ones are Derinkuyu and Kaymaklı Underground Cities. Only ten percent of these underground cities are tour-able and they have the capacity to shelter thirty thousand people. These underground cities do not belong to a single civilization and were developed to their current state by all civilizations who lived in Cappadocia. Even though they couldn't find the necessary archaeological data in the underground cities, researchers believe that there were once life here that dates back before history.

1. *Derinkuyu*

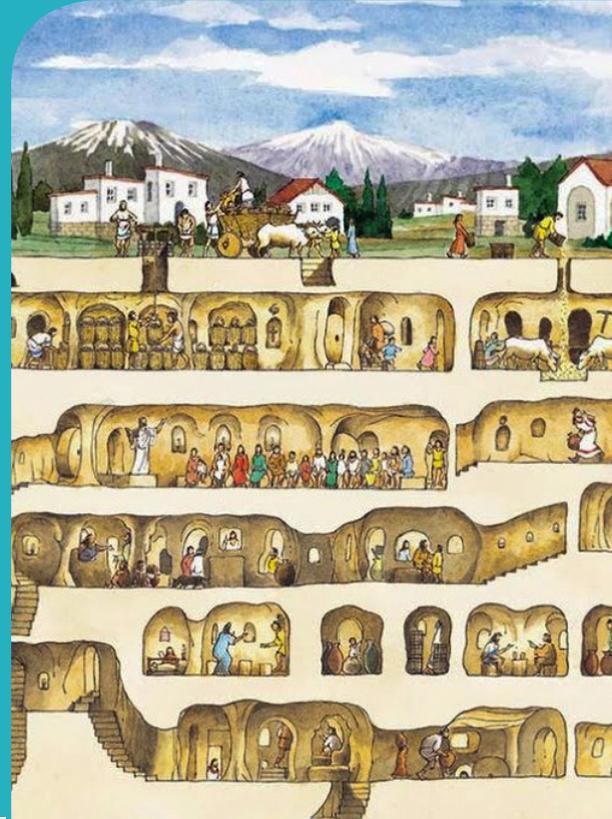
2. *Kaymaklı*

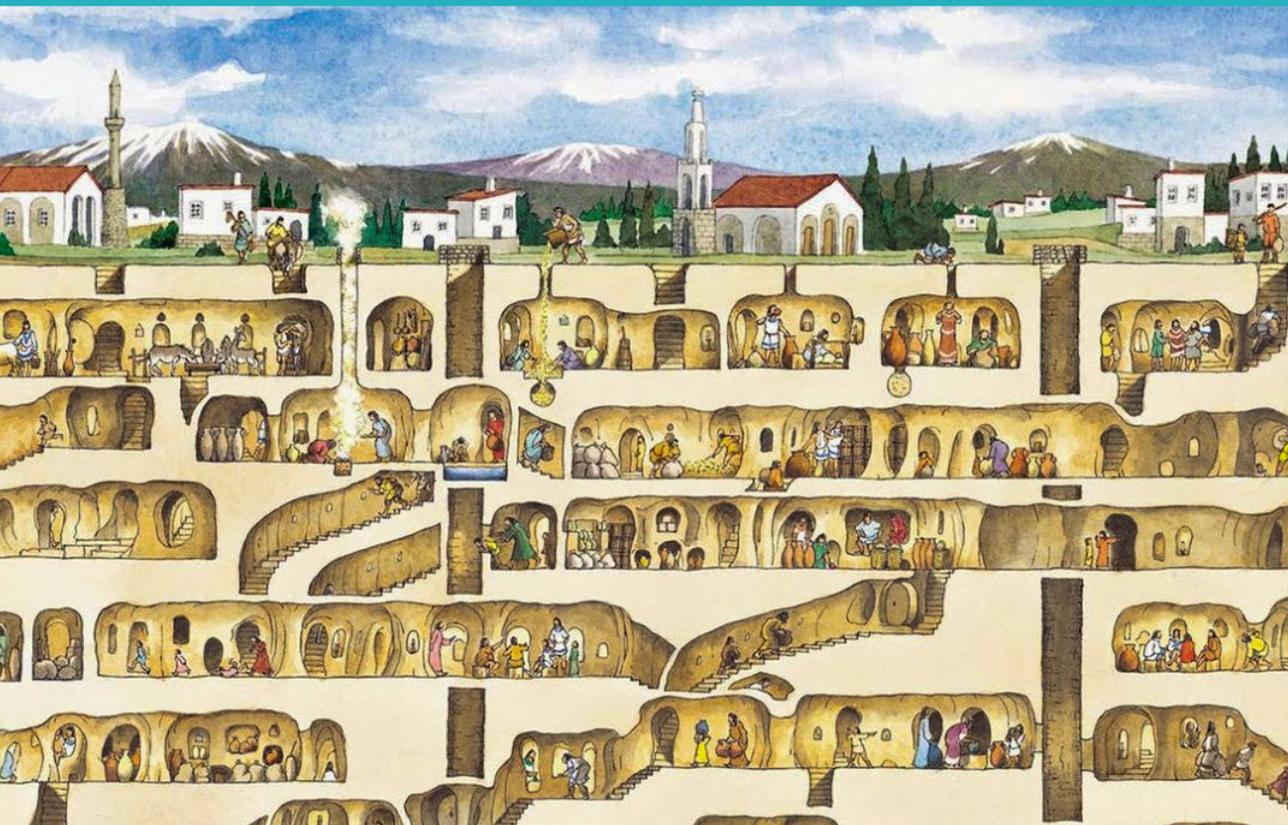
3. *Özlüce*

4. *Özkonak*

5. *Tatlarin*

6. *Mazı*













CAVE HOTELS

DREAM HOTELS OF THE LAND OF THE FAIRIES

The rock-carved places, which were once used by people in the region as rock rooms to live inside and also as rock places which they heavily used for their animals thousands of years ago, now serve as “cave hotel” concepts in the region, after having been transformed into luxurious rooms decorated with antique elements. Authentic decors, rooms and bathrooms where stone and marble are in harmony, wines pouring from decorative faucets, open pools decorated with amphorae and with floors furnished with chinaware and mosaics, royal suites, suite rooms, honeymoon rooms, medieval rooms, splendidly embroidered woodworks, invaluable antique decors, the long and the short of it, these fabulous Cave Hotel style dwellings, which bring hundreds of years of past to the present, are the most prestigious accommodations of the region.

SPECIAL ROOMS FOR HONEYMOON

Honeymoon rooms inside cave hotels are waiting to host newly-wed couples with unforgettable fine details and with full of surprises. A nice dinner table decorated with roses, romantic violin tunes, and Cappadocia's unparalleled scenery are just one of these special moments.

You can travel through time thanks to the cave rooms inside luxurious Cappadocia hotels. You will feel like a king or queen from hundreds of years ago inside stone rooms which resemble caves.





HANDICRAFTS

POTTERY FROM AVANOS IS A MUST

There is almost no one who has toured Cappadocia and hasn't dropped by in Avanos during their trips; you, too, can visit one of the tens of workshops available in Avanos and buy gifts among the little pieces you like. Moreover, if you have time, you can take the seat of the pottery master and make yourself a special little pot from mud.

If you ask why pottery is this popular in Avanos, the answer is this; Certainly the very special mud extracted from the nearby Kızılırmak river is the most important factor, but another important factor is that in the past people didn't give their daughters in marriage to men who didn't know how to craft pottery, and no husband was given to girls who didn't know how to weave. Because of this, the most skillful pottery masters of Turkey always emerged from Avanos.





CAPPADOCIA CARRIED FAR AWAY WITH LITTLE GIFTS

The little gift shops or shacks which are turned into shopping places you see at every step during your trip are the right places where you can buy little gifts for your loved ones for affordable prices. With the little gifts you buy, you will make your loved ones who are waiting for you happy, and the beauties you saw here will be carried far away in your hands.

CARPET WEAVING IN CAPPDOCIA

When the ice tomb, found by a group of archaeologists on the summit of Altay Mountains in Central Asia, was opened, the world's most famous woven carpet "Pazırık Carpet" was found. This carpet, which is the world's oldest woven carpet (B.C. 3rd Century) belongs to the Turks. Carpet weaving, which is a traditional art of Turks, is kept alive for hundreds of years in Cappadocia. Many products such as carpets, rugs, pillows, cushions, carpetbags are woven with hand labor using weaving looms found in houses in Cappadocia. The threads are dyed using natural root colors such as walnut shells, silver shrubs, quince leaves, wild apricot roots, grape seeds.





TURNED INTO A WORK OF ART WITH SKILLED HANDS ONXY

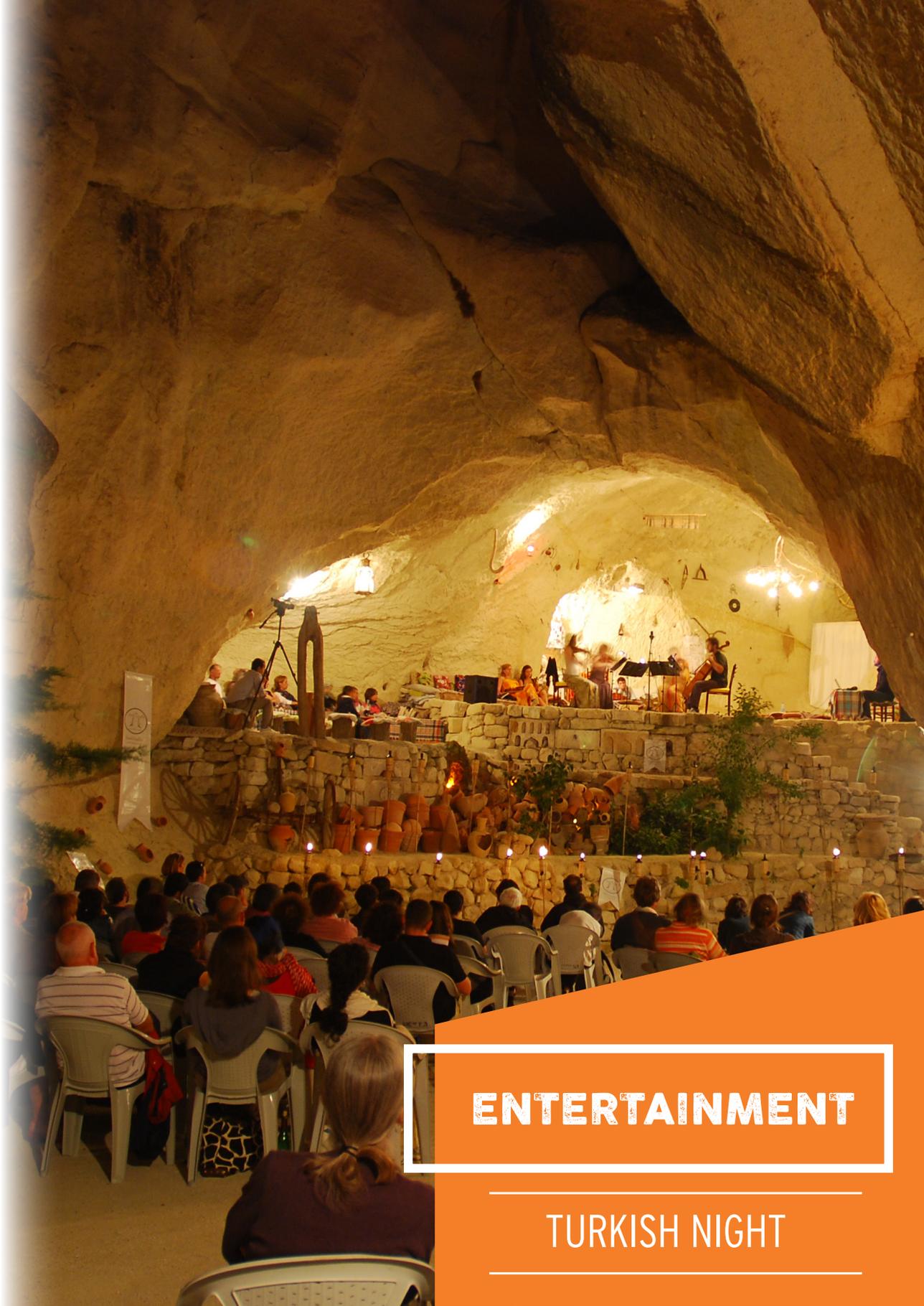
Onyx, which is a stone found on Earth in Brazil, India, Arabia and Turkey, has 12 varieties and 7 of these varieties are extracted in Cappadocia, and after being processed, they are put up for sale as many different types of souvenirs.

FOOD CULTURE

There are two main dishes which are definitely tasted by all domestic and foreign visitors who come to Nevşehir Cappadocia. The first one is testi kebab, the second is dried beans in a pot.

Especially Göreme is the center of Cappadocia when it comes to food and beverage. The transformation of 400-500 year old mansions into local taste stops has put Göreme a few steps forward compared with other places. Here, you can never get enough of the exotic environment created by preserving the historic fabric and the taste of foods.





ENTERTAINMENT

TURKISH NIGHT





CAPPADOCIA

THE PLACE WHERE NATURE, HISTORY AND CULTURE COME TOGETHER

Governorate of Nevşehir

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