



CULTURAL TOURISM EXPERT REPORT

Project Title: Development of Common Cultural Tourism Destination in the Strandzha (Yıldız)-Sakar area based on archaeological and historical objects

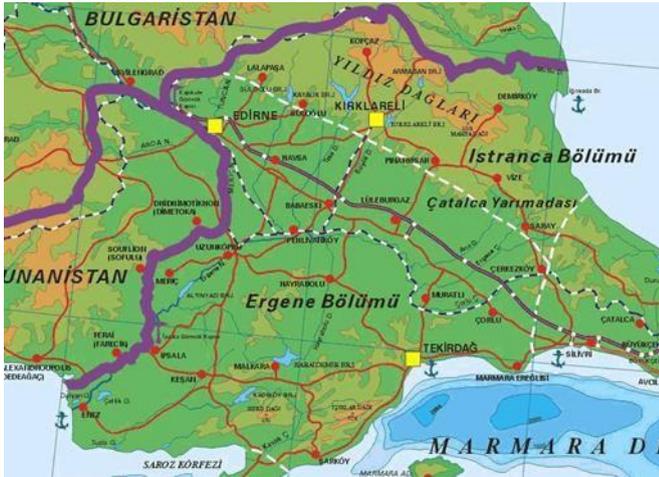
Introduction

In this report the scope of the study is explained. The scope of the study covers Strandzha region. Therefore firstly the region is described below detailed. Then findings of ancient ages and archeological objects are defined in Thrace and Strandzha region. Also cultural tourism is described and cultural tourism potential in region is presented.

Strandzha Region

The historical fate and geographical location are the main factors that transform Strandzha into a very rich and sustainable cultural tradition. In the mid-1st millennium BC Strandzha was inhabited by Thracian tribes, forming part of several Thracian kingdoms until the region was annexed by the Roman Empire in 45 AD. In the Middle Ages the area was contested between the Byzantine and the Bulgarian Empires until it was conquered by the Ottoman Turks in the late 14th century. After the Liberation of Bulgaria in 1878, Strandzha remained in the Ottoman Empire, which resulted in the 1903 Ilinden–Preobrazhenie Uprising by the local Bulgarian population. The region was liberated in 1912 during the First Balkan War. The rich history has left an important cultural heritage by several civilizations and folklore traditions unique for Bulgaria.

The scope of the study of the territory of Strandja mountains start from Saray District which is mostly in Çatalca area to the east and reaches to the Black Sea, to the north it extends to the municipalities of Kırklareli Province such as Vize, Pınarhisar, Demirköy and Kofçaz. The other districts of Kırklareli such as Lüleburgaz and Babaeski have a small border to the districts which in Istranca Mountain but they are actually belong to the another area called Ergene. The Istranca Mountain range is the dominant physical feature of Turkish Thrace, Its peak called Mahya, reaches a height of 1031 metres. On its south-western side, the Istranca Mountain consists of short hills.



Area of this research covers mostly Kırklareli municipality and its districts because of one of the aim of this project for each municipality (comprising the territory of the project) will be developed recommendations for the most perspective sites situated on its territory. Therefore in this report it is presented that archaeological monuments in Strandzha, developed common criteria for selection of archaeological monuments with tourist potential and implemented overall documentation for selected sites.

In this report, general descriptions of archaeological finds such as tumulus, dolmen, mounds, castle remains, necropolis, old settlements, cult areas are included in the research. Then these archaeological objects in the study area will be given one by one. All archaeological objects obtained in the area within the area referred to as the intentional zone will be presented according to their location. Kırklareli center, Kofçaz, Pınarhisar, Vize, Demirköy districts and boundaries, Lalapaşa and Süloğlu districts and surrounding areas will be discussed in order.

These places will be especially appreciated from a tourist point of view. In terms of touristic evaluation, it is possible to criticize the transportation, the proximity to the infrastructure, and the possession of information that have already been specified in the project. (In developing these criteria will be borne in mind: the attractiveness of the site; the nature of the monument era preservation of the site, proximity to infrastructure, the level of knowledge on the subject and so on.)

Thrace, the tumulus type graves density in Turkey is among the regions where most. Trakya region, which is located in important settlement places of ancient, Roman, Byzantine and Turkish civilizations and historical events, has become a center where cultures meet, develop and develop with the geographical structure that connects Asia Minor and Europe. It is possible



to see the archaeological traces of the tribes and civilizations passing through from the Thrace to Anatolia, from Anatolia to Thrace throughout the ages, very limited or in Trakya. At the beginning of these archaeological traces we see the tumuli and the dolmens, which are described as tumuli, ancestors of tumulus. The tumulus-type burial tradition is quite common in the Greek and Roman worlds. However, this burial tradition is not only used in the Greek and Roman worlds. This tradition in the form of artificial tombs, BC. III. It has been used by many tribes in the Caucasus, the Balkans and Central Asia since.

In Eastern Thrace, tumuli include tumuli in places where mountainous land merges with steppe land especially on Edirne- Kırklareli-Pinarhisar-Vize- Saray road and around. It is seen that some of them are in the valleys of the rivers descending to Ergene parallel to the Istirancalar, or on the hills on the sides of these valleys.

Among the most important centers in terms of tumulus density are the provinces of Kırklareli, Vize District and surrounding villages. Edirne province is a field where the Küküler Village around Süloğlu District and the villages around Lalapaşa District and surrounding area show the chronological diversity ranging from Early Iron Age to Roman Period.

The tumuli in Thrace came together with the Early Iron Age. B.C. II. with the end of the millennium BC. The beginning of the first century is known as the Early Iron Age in the archaeological literature of the Balkans. There are two main types of tombs used in the tumuli of the Thracian tribes who came to the region with the Early Iron Age migrations. The first of these tomb types is tumuli, which are dolmen. The second type, which is also known as the stoned hill, is seen as a small tumulus that is frequently found in the Central Asia, Europe and Caucasus stages. These two types of burial in the Balkans BC. VIII-VII. century, and even in the Classical and Hellenistic periods, burials secondary to these tumuli were made, and excavations were carried out.

B.C. By the 5th century, Greek influences began to gain weight in Thrace. It is often mentioned by ancient sources that they are in close contact with the Greek civilization in the immediate south of Thracian tribes. Old traditions continue to be used, albeit partially, in burials of tumuli in this period. However, the practices seen in the architectural and burial rituals seen in the graves have become more complex and diverse. In Trakya, a new formation in the tumuli begins to be seen with the Late Iron Age. At the burial of the aristocracy, chamber tombs covered with tumuli emerged. These are impressive and impressive tomb monuments of Trakya. The Thracian tombs are quite striking with its architectural diversity and the richness of its



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monuments. The achievements of ancient masters were applied in style and adapted to local needs. The fact that the tombs in the Thracian tumuli have high quality workmanship and decoration indicate that the masters who built these monuments were trained or individually related to the schools in Anatolia and Greece. It is understood from the result of the excavations carried out in the region that the usage of tumulus-type grave monuments continues in Roman period (Şahin Yıldırım, 2012, Doğu Trakya'da Mezar Tepelerinin Ortaya Çıkışı ve Gelişimi).

THRACIANS

Herodotos (Historia, V, 3), "on earth, after the Indians, the most crowded ones are Thracian; they would be at the command of a single man or with only one will, never invincible, and in my opinion would be the strongest and most crowded of the nations. But it was impossible for them and this unity was never established; these are their weak places." he says.

The hills lived in various tribes and never formed a union. Turkey are the two most important Thracian tribe living in Thrace. One of them is the *Astors* and the other is the *Odyss*. The underworld was a great tribe sitting on the skirts of the Istranca Mountains. One of the most important centers was the Byzantine city. Today, this city is the Vize district of Kırklareli province. Audiences are the greatest and most important of living in Trakya. They lived in this region of Tekirdag coastal region and west of Ipsala border gate. (<http://www.ganos.org/trakya.html>).

Astors/Astai

While Byzze(Vize) was the capital of the Thracian tomb of Astai, the regional and Roman addict created by the Romans in the region became the capital of a small Thracian kingdom. There is not much information about the history of antiquity. The only ancient remains in the area are the mounds. The oldest periods in the Vize begin with the history of the Thracian. In Greek mythology, "Byzia" is referred to as the source fairy.

The Odrysians

The Odrysian Kingdom was a state union of over 40 Thracian tribes and 22 kingdoms that existed between the 5th century BC and the 1st century AD.

It is suggested that the kingdom had no capital. Instead, the kings may have moved between residences. A capital was the city of Odryssa (assumed to be Uscudama, modern Edirne), as inscribed on coins. Another royal residence believed to have been constructed by Cotys I (383-358 BC) is in the village of Starosel, while in 315 BC Seuthopolis was built as a capital. An early capital was Vize. The kingdom broke up and Kabyle was a co-capital by the end of the



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4th century BC. The Odrysians (Odrysaie or Odrusai) were one of the most powerful Thracian tribes that dwelled in the plain of the Hebrus river. This would place the tribe in the modern border area between Southeastern Bulgaria, Northeastern Greece and European Turkey, centered around the city of Edirne. The river Artescus passed through their land as well. Xenophon writes that the Odrysians held horse races and drank large amounts of wine after the burial of their dead warriors. Thucydides writes on their custom, practised by most Thracians, of giving gifts for getting things done, which was refuted by Heraclides. Herodotus was the first writer to mention the Odrysaie (<http://www.wiki-zero>).

Megalithic Culture

The megalithic culture is spread over a wide territory and despite its diverse manifestations both in the time and space, there are remarkable correspondences in terms of structural and constructive principles. While the Western European megalithic structures date to the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods, those from Asia are assigned to the Bronze Age; those from the Balkans date to the Early Iron age, and some North African monuments were built during the Hellenistic or Roman age.

In the Balkans the megalithic monuments are restricted to the southeasternmost parts of the peninsula and are categorically linked to Thracian culture. According to scholars of Thracian megalithic culture, the monuments are found in a region that generally coincides with what is conceived of as Southeastern Thrace, with the greatest concentrations in the Sakar, Strandzha, and Eastern Rhodope Mountains. The most common members of this group – the dolmens and the rock-cut tombs- have been linked to funerary rites. While dolmens can be found in all three mountain areas, the rock-cut tombs are mostly restricted to the Eastern Rhodopes.

Tumulus

Tumulus is the smallest mounds built by humans with graves in its simplest definition. 92 tumuli have been registered and protected under Kırklareli province so far. However, surface surveys conducted at various times have resulted in more than 200 of this number with small-sized tumuli. The Kırklareli tumulus dates from the end of the Bronze Age (14th-13th centuries BC) A.D. Until the beginning of the 3rd century, the excavations were carried out in a time-lapse manner. Babaeski, Demirköy, Kofçaz and Pınarhisar counties have numerous tumuli within the borders. The region where the tumuli are most concentrated in Eastern Thrace is the Vize and its immediate surroundings. Vize and affiliated villages have over 40 tumuli counted.



Some of them are monumental and some of them are small and small, and they are all tumulus. The earliest tumulus in Trakya is the Taşlıbayır Tumulus, which is also found in Kırklareli, dated to the year 1300 BC. There are also monumental tomb types built around Kırklareli and Edirne by bringing together large stones called Dolmen and then overlaid with huge stones. The first examples of these tomb types belong to the Thracian. The Dolmen type tombs were left later, and the tumulus tradition continued until the end of the Roman period (AD 395). The horses were buried side by side with their dead horses as they gave great importance to their horses, and the lands laid on them formed these tumuli. There was a round pit in front of the hole, which was usually opened for the dead, where Traklin's horse was burnt. In the burning pit, there were pieces of beaten animal bones and large test pieces. The animals with bones are calves, sheep, goats and chicken. The wines were drunk with the tests, and then the tests were broken. Then the soil was piled up on this tomb and a tumulus was formed. (<http://www.ganos.org/trakya.html>).

Most important ones;

Center; Eriklice Tumulus, Tumulus Tumulus, Double Tumuli (2 pieces), Kermedenler Tumulus, Skopje Tumulus, Dokuzhöyük Tumuli (8 pieces)

Demirkoy; Five Tumuli, Tumulus Tumuli

Kofcaz; Tumulus Tumulus

Pınarhisar; Haydarbaba Tumulus, Bağlar Tumulus, Pınaralı Tumulus (3 pcs), İslambeyli Tumulus

Vize; Kıyıköy Vezirtepe Tumulus, Antepe Tumulus, Kadıköy Tumulus, Kanaltepeler Tumulus, Kaptanate Tumulus, Kocatepe Tumulus, Çakilli Tumulus, Archer Tumulus, Akıncılar Tumulus, Çavuşköy Tumulus, Kocatepe Tumulus, Kaynarca Tumulus, Yarıktepe Tumulus, Üçtepe Tumulus I, Üçtepe Tumulus II, Üçtepe Tumulus II A Tumulus Tumulus, A Tumulus Tumulus, Kubantepe Tumulus, Anomalous Tumulus, Pomak Hasan Tumulus, Hasbuğalı Tumulus, Tumulus in Tugay, Tepe Çayırı Tumulus, Varlıktepe Tumulus, Ömertepe Tumulus, Çiftliktepe Tumulus, Reco Tumulus Tumulus, Kıyıköy Tumulus I, Kıyıköy Tumulus I, Kıyıköy Tumulus.

Dolmens/ Cromlech

The dolmens, which are considered to be the earliest stages of the tumuli seen in Trakya, are generally arranged on the north-northwest mountain slopes of Kırklareli and on the foothills of the plain near these slopes. The dolmens, also referred to as capitals or capitals in the region,



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are monumental tombs made of simple flat stones, in the form of simple rooms. Up to now, it has been understood that the dolmens found to have reached to the vicinity of Demirköy district of Kırklareli as a line, being the center of Lalapaşa district of Edirne, were found to be used during the Early Iron Age (1300-800 BC). A part of these monumental structures are located in the vicinity of Kofçaz, Dereköy, Kadıköy, Kula, Geçitağzı, Kapaklı and Düzorman. There are many dolmens within the borders of Koczac District.

Menhirs

Megalithic (great stone) is a monumental grave stones. Kırklareli and its environs are in the Early Iron Age. Striking examples with an average height of 3 meters are seen in Kırklareli Merkez, Erikler, Değirmencik, Ahmetçe villages and Lüleburgaz District.

Mounds

Besides Kırklareli Aşağıpınar and Kanlıgeçit settlements which are still undergoing excavation in Kırklareli, Tilkiburnu, Helvacı Şaban and Koyunbaba mounds have been surveyed. In addition to plain settlement areas, there are traces of settlements dating back to prehistoric times in various caverns. The most important of these is the Bedre Cave near the village of Kayalı, which is connected to the central district of Kırklareli. (http://www.trakya2023.com/uploads/docs/rapor/Ek_1_Trakya_Turizm_master_Plan%C4%B1_Mevcut_Durum_raporu.pdf).

The First City of Thrace Kanlıgeçit (3200-2050 BC) Kanlıgeçit Mevkii is located about 300 meters south of the city of Kırklareli. Babaeski-Kırklareli railroad pass through the settlement. Kanlıgeçit, dating to the 3rd Bronze, Early Bronze Age, is the oldest urban settlement unit known in the Balkans and the only EBA settlement in Thrace. The settlement consists of an inner castle surrounded by a wall and a residential area spread over a wide area. The excavations started in 1994 in Kanlıgeçit were concluded in 2009 and the inner castle part was restored in the same year and it was organized as an open air museum. The settlement, which started in Kanlıgeçit in 3200 BC, continued its existence as a large wooden village with a wooden architecture, which was also found in other parts of Trakya and Balkans until 2400 BC.

It is seen that the settlement has been completely restructured and that for the first time the Anatolian cultures have entered into the domain of influence. The area where the old buildings were built was filled and the settlement was brought to the mound so that a height could be seated by the defensive walls surrounding the inner fort.



Aşağıpınar Village

As the oldest farmer village settlement in Thrace, Lower Pınar has revealed things that enable revolutionary finds for researchers following the traces of civilization. Here, very serious clues about the spread of civilizations from Anatolia to Europe have emerged. Beginning in Anatolia in 10,000 BC, the settled life of the farmer reached Trakya in 6400 BC and then spread to Europe. The settlement obtained in Lower Pınar contains the first traces of European Civilization. Archaeologists who found that the vast majority of the architects were timber, stated that the remains were less and not preserved. For this reason, in order to reflect the collection of this settlement, which has a very large preface in terms of the understanding of the history of European civilization, a different exhibition scheme has been made in the form of modeling. The area is designed as an open air museum and the excavated artifacts are exhibited in the structures modeled according to the original. In the exhibition units consisting of three different areas, building models, fire-damaged 6th layer neolithic house, mannequins, architectural items and similar elements reflecting the period were tried to be reflected.

Vize

There are two very important mounds in the Vize city center. There are some evidence that the Çömlektepe Mound was used from the beginning of the Bronze Age until the end of the Roman period. During the excavations, a Roman theater and many precious historical artifact have brought into the open. In the ancient settlement area, historical remains remained from Roman period have been draw attention. It is also suggested by researchers that Karakoçaktepe, located about 3 km north of Vize, is also a prehistoric settlement area. The existence of many ancient settlements is known to the Vize and its immediate vicinity.

Monasteries

Vize Cave Monasteries are Byzantine Period works in Vize Asmakaya location. They have been shaped by stone masters, benefited from a series of natural caves. The presence of rock tombs draw the attention in the immediate vicinity. A part of the monastery is used as a barn. Aya Nikola Monastery: It is in K1yıköy town and is on the southern slope of the Pabuçdere road, 700m from the town. The Byzantine Period (6-9th century) is one of the best examples of rock monasteries. There are churches on the ground floor, “ayazma (holy spring of orthodox greeks)” further down and sections for the monks at the top. There are cells in stages that have been brought to the square by carving rocks. There is a second entrance to the east of the church.



In the 19th it had been completed by the Greeks with a wooden entrance in front of the rock galleries, but later this section has been removed.

Asmakayalar Cave Monastery: The constellation community dated to the 9th Byzantine era was formed by the man-made arrangement of natural caves in the carstic structure of the region. The cave monastery located at the Vize Asmakayalar location is a collection of chapels, grave chapel, monk cells, a church with monolithic nave. Unfortunately, it has suffered significant destruction by people.

Cultural Tourism Potential in the Area

Kırklareli is an important source for cultural tourism with its cultural values and property. Likewise, Edirne's cultural values contribute to cultural tourism.

The dolmens, which are considered to be the earliest stages of the tumulus seen in Trakya, are generally arranged on the north-northwest mountain slopes of Kırklareli and on the foothills of the plain near these slopes. The dolmens, also referred to as rocks with cover or cover in the region, are monumental tombs made of solid, flat coarse stones and simple rooms. Up to now, it has been understood that the dolmens found to have reached to the vicinity of Demirköy district of Kırklareli as a line, being the center of Lalapaşa district of Edirne, had been used during the Early Iron Age (1300- 800 BC). Within Kırklareli province borders, 92 tumuli have been identified in Kırklareli Museum until today. However, it is also noteworthy that this number is approaching 200 with the tumuli in the small size. The following table is given for the year 2017 of the Kırklareli Museum.

Table 1. FINAL RESOURCES OF KIRKLARELI MUSEUM IN 2017
(resource: www.kirklarelikulturturizm.gov.tr)

PROTECTED AREAS	Archaeological area	442
	Urban area	3
	Historical area	4
	Natural area	14
	TOTAL	463
MONUMENTS	Military construction	16
	Religious and Cultural construction	204
	Governing structure	68
	Civil architecture	190
	Industrial structure	2
	TOTAL	480
WORKS	Archaeological work	2.900
	Ethnographic work	958
	Specie	3.033
	Seal and Seal Print	41
	TOTAL	6.932
VISITOR	Domestic	10.669
	Foreign	138
	TOTAL	10.807

Culture tourism is a tourism concept that brings natural and historical cultural assets, cultural events and contemporary art works and other cultural phenomena to the service of tourists in the form of a touristic product (Pekin, 2011: 151). Cultural tourism is an important type of tourism in order to diversify the sector and to spread tourism all the year in Turkey. Culture tourists who visit a country to experience certain aspects of their culture (especially archaeological sites) need to see the tumuli in Kırklareli and Edirne.

Turkey has also come into prominence with its rich archaeological heritage. Archaeological sites such as Ephesus, Hierapolis, Aspendos attract huge numbers of visitors every year. But the development of cultural tourism especially for archeological sites in Thrace region has been slower. In terms of economic enhancements and joint projects the region would clearly benefit from the development of cultural tourism. Beacuse the Thrace region has a lot of resource and archaeological heritage. In this sense the number of facilities and rooms can be also increased in the future. The current situation of facilities, rooms and beds in the region (Kırklareli and Edirne) is presented in the table below.

Table 2. Thrace Region Tourism Authorized Accommodation Facilities Statistics, 2017
 (resource: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Investment and Enterprises, Tourism Statistics)

	The Touristic Facilities with Tourism Investment Certificate			The Touristic Facilities with Tourism Operation Certificate		
	Facility	Room	Bed	Facility	Room	Bed
Total of Turkey	1051	122228	263033	3771	446228	935286
Total	11	992	2046	31	1536	3017
Kırklareli	8	878	1782	6	371	737
Edirne	3	114	264	25	1165	2280

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