



This project is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye



GUIDE TO KARS, THE DOOR TO ANATOLIA





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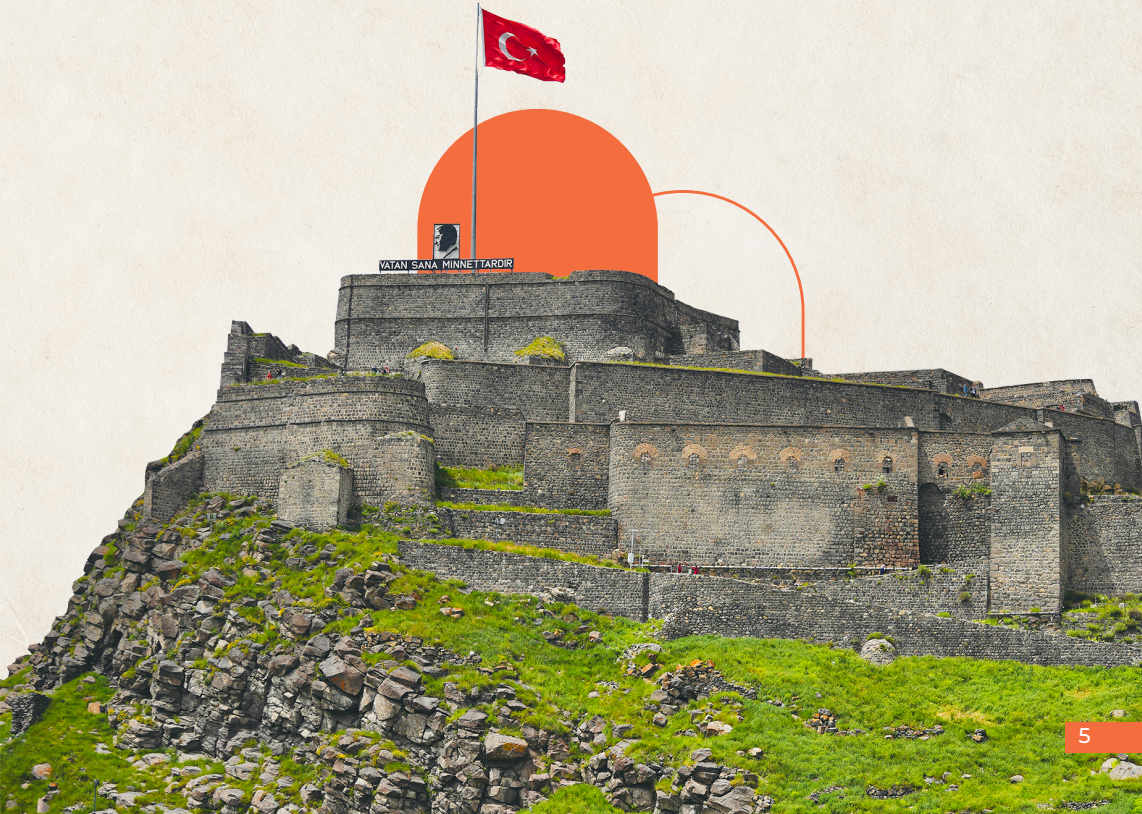
ABOUT THE PROJECT

Kars City with Its Own Historical Identity Project aims to contribute to the social and economic development of the region through interventions in the tourism sector.

These interventions include tourism infrastructure improvements, branding and promotion and strategic planning for sustainability.

It is operated on the territory of the Province of Kars and the neighbouring Provinces of Ardahan, Iğdır and Ağrı. It is supported by Competitive Sectors Programme which is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye and run by the Ministry of Industry and Technology.

The project is implemented by the T.R. Serhat Development Agency, SERKA.





Hey There!

This is your personal guide to Kars province. It will help you discover everything you would like to see and experience everything it has to offer. You will find information about the memorable places to visit. You will get suggestions for your accommodation and meals.

You will learn what is the best memory you can take away from Kars. And you will receive useful travel tips.

Whether you are a fan of winter activities or a cultural explorer, we wish you a great time in Kars!



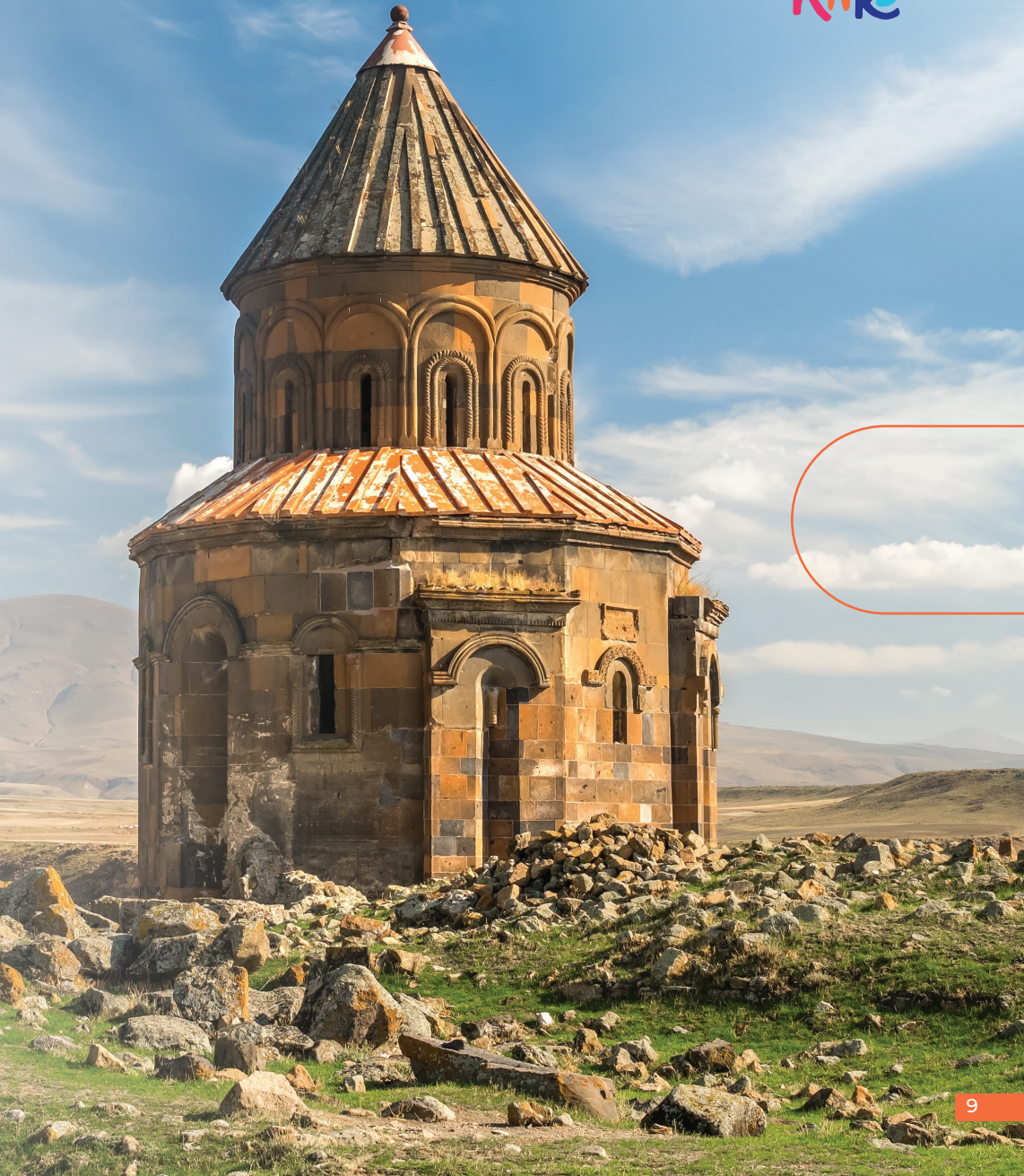
Welcome to **KARS**

Kars is a great place to discover. It is located in the far northeast of Türkiye and, correspondingly, Anatolia. Imagine a vast plateau at an impressive height of 2000 meters, unfolding before you like a soft blanket. The colors of the landscape change with the seasons, yet the small villages always appear nestled comfortably within the gentle folds of this natural blanket. Picturesque streams and rivers weave through the terrain, adding a touch of elegance to the scenery. Across the wide plains, peacefully grazing cows and sheep can be seen, perfectly complementing the region's idyllic rural charm.

This harmonious setting invites you to fully experience the natural beauty of Kars, where nature and traditional rural life come together in perfect symbiosis.

If you try to outline the history of these lands in detail, you will probably hear as many stories as the number of people you ask.

You will see old Armenian and Georgian churches stand nearby modern Turkish mosques, Baltic architecture stretching along the streets of Kars City, and Ottoman bastions hiding under inconspicuous hills. The people of Kars are friendly and welcoming. They will invite you to try the various local cheeses with the unforgettable taste of milk made at a high altitude and will treat you to the special honey with aroma of local herbs. And if you are up to it, they will sing and dance for you. Do not miss any of it.





KARS CITY



Kars City center demonstrates a curious mixture of visuals. Paved streets lined with heavy trees run parallel to modern-day vehicle roads. Small blocks of flats packed in colourful mosaics stand shoulder to shoulder with solid dark-grey mansions. Both neighbored by cafes, restaurants and shops of cheese, honey and obsidian jewelry.

The town takes special pride in its heritage from the times when the region was shortly a part of Russia, at the end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th century. The best cheese-makers are still remembered with nostalgia as the Malakan people, a name coming from the Russian word for milk – ‘moloko’.

This specific Baltic architecture appears in the form of public buildings, wealthy residences and neat houses with wooden draperies on the balconies.

You can take several city trails following the streets of Baltic buildings, depending on your time and curiosity. Be sure not to miss the Provincial Council house, Cheltikov Hotel, the buildings on the Haydar Aliyev Street, the house of the Regional Development Agency (SERKA) and – by all means – the former Alexander Nevski Church, today’s Fethiye Mosque.



KARS

CASTLE

Largely defined as the symbol of Kars, its castle dominates the northwestern part of the city on the Black Hill, the Karadağ. It was first built in the mid-12th century by Saltuks, destroyed in the 14th century and re-built as an Ottoman fortress in the 16th century. Some features have been lost since the castle stopped performing its original functions in the early 20th century but it is still an impressive site and the views it offers towards the city are worth every step of the climb.

The area around Kars Castle holds plenty of attraction itself. The panorama and then grab a bite or have Turkish tea by the lazy Kars River. In the evenings, you may often see groups of friends cheering out and even dancing in the square.

Do not miss your chance to take a photo with the KARS letters installation and the Castle at the background.

More places to visit in the surroundings are the Kümbet Mosque, former Church of the Apostles, the Ulu (Great) Mosque of Kars, the former Beylerbeyi Saray, the Bedesten Shopping Center, the three old Baths or Hammams by the river, and more. If you decide to explore the hills further, you will come across some of the Ottoman Bastions called Tabya of which there used to be nearly 50 although not many have survived to the present day.

KARS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

It was established in 1959 but got its present home in a specially designed building in 1980. A bit isolated from the central part of the city, it is worth the deviation in your route as it holds the essence of local and regional history. You will see tools and weapons, jewelry, terracotta pots, glass artifacts and coins from various periods starting with the Paleolithic Period.

The Ethnographic Section will delight you with the bright colours of homemade textiles, garments and decorations, as well as everyday utensils. And the museum yard will surprise you with the strange tombstones in the form of rams from the 13th and 14th centuries.





KARS

CHEESE MUSEUM

There is an opportunity for you to get inside a preserved Tabya, one of the many Ottoman Bastions which existed in Kars before. And close to the city center! It was called the Süvari (Cavalry) Tabya and is now living a new life as the home of the first Cheese Museum in Türkiye, or the 18th Cheese Route in the world. The museum is rather new, it was only opened in 2022 but already attracts high visitor attention.

The story of Kars cheese will gradually unfold before you in pictures, dioramas and models, and at the end you will have the opportunity to taste several varieties of it in the museum shop. Pay attention to the lamps made of old milk churns, they will fascinate you.



WAR HISTORY MUSEUM OF CAUCASIAN FRONT

This museum is also rather new, dating to 2017, and brings back to life another of the Kars Ottoman Bastions – the Kanlı or Bloody Tabya. This one is farther from the city center so you will need transport to get there. The Museum tells the story of the Caucasus Campaign during WWI from the local point of view.

The story unfolds in a series of underground halls revealing documents, weapons and personal belongings of participants in the campaign, military memorabilia and installations of an Infirmary, Kitchen and more. Special commemoration is dedicated to the Martyrs of Sarıkamış who died during the so-called Sarıkamış Battle in 1914.



The phenomenon of the tombs called Türbe in Türkiye is something very special. They belong to wise men of the past who have left a distinctive mark on history and have almost religious significance. The tomb of Ebul Hasan Harakani is located in the very center of Kars, close to the Kars Castle.

The wiseman's real name is Ali Bin Ahmed Cafer and he was

born in Iran at the end of the 10th century. He is considered one of the greatest Sufi figures of his time. He came to Anatolia with the Seljuks and found his death in Kars in 1033. Mevlana and Ahmed Yassavi followed in the footsteps of Ebu'l Hasan Harakani, and were greatly influenced by him. His grave lies today at the Evliya Mosque which was added to his earlier tomb in the 16th century.

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Discovering Ani: **A GLIMPSE INTO HISTORY**



Ani, with 5 thousand years of history truly flourished as a medieval city in the second half of the 10th century when it became the capital of the Bagratid Dynasty. By the early 11th century, the city's population had already surpassed 100,000, making Ani one of the great metropolises of its time.

The arrival of the Seljuks in the latter part of the 11th century brought a new cultural dimension to the city. Over the centuries, Ani changed hands multiple times, being ruled by the Byzantines, Georgian kingdoms, and even the Mongols, before its decline in the 14th century.



Today, the Archaeological Site of Ani is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. This designation highlights Ani as “... a meeting place for Armenian, Georgian, and diverse Islamic cultural traditions, reflected in the architectural design, materials, and decorative details of its monuments.”

When you visit Ani, take the time to explore its well-preserved monuments. Sit on the steps of these ancient structures, and let the wind carrying the echoes of history sweep through the Arpaçay Canyon below. After your exploration, relax with a drink or snack at the Ani Visitor Reception Center. This visit will offer you a unique window into a time when Ani was at the crossroads of cultures and empires.







THE KOŞAPINAR OPEN-AIR MUSEUM:

A JOURNEY INTO TRADITION

Koşapınar Open-Air Museum, officially registered as a private museum by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 2023, showcases rare examples of local stone craftsmanship and offers visitors an authentic experience of traditional village life through its ethnographic exhibit areas.

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Moreover, Koşapınar offers a variety of activities reflecting the region's rich heritage. From walking and climbing trails to areas showcasing local sports and cuisine, the village provides a peaceful retreat for visitors as they explore its cultural treasures. The stone houses offer comfortable

accommodations where you can enjoy the hospitality of the village. Whether you're a sports enthusiast or a nature lover, this village promises a truly authentic experience.

For those seeking both adventure and tranquility, Koşapınar Village is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered.





SUSUZ WATERFALL

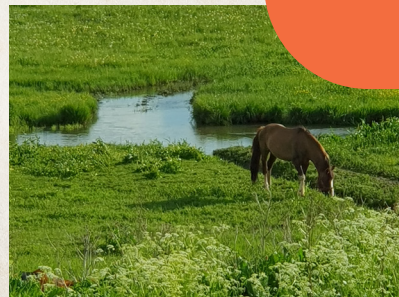
You will find this appealing creation of nature at about 30 km to the northwest of Kars City center. It is very easy to reach, just a turn from the road to the neighbouring province of Ardahan and the town with the same name. This is where the waterfall jumps from the high cliffs into a beautiful canyon. The view can be quite different in the different seasons, as the waterfall may partially freeze in winter.

You can admire this view from the opposite edge of the canyon where the welcoming hosts have prepared a special terrace for you to take the best photos with the waterfall. They have also arranged a comfortable rest zone with picnic tables and good parking space.

BOĞATEPE VILLAGE AND ECO-MUSEUM

This typical village, at the border between the provinces of Kars and Ardahan, is not very far from the Susuz waterfall rest area, although it lies on a different road from Kars City center. Like other villages in this area, it can show you what rural life looks like on the high plateaus. Unlike the other villages, local farmers have organized a small but intriguing museum dedicated to this very same life, animal breeding and cheese-making, which they have called Eco-Museum Zavot.

You may combine the visit to the museum with a stop by a local farm, observe and even participate, and definitely taste fresh homemade cheese. On the way back to Kars, pop by the Aygır Lake for a brief photo-session.



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Çıldır LAKE

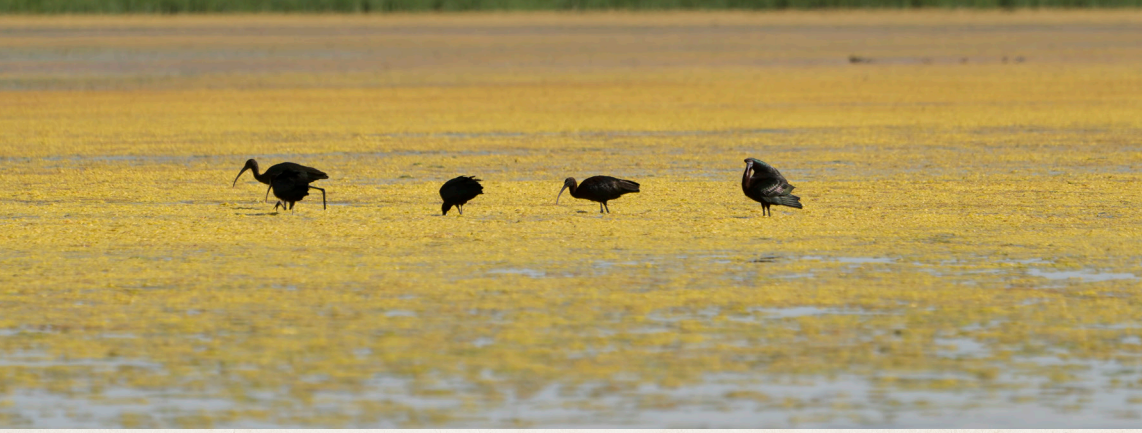




Çıldır Lake is the second largest lake in the Eastern Anatolia Region after Lake Van. The lake lies to the northeast of Kars City center and is shared with the neighbouring province of Ardahan. Its total area is 123 sq.km, with largest length from north to south being 18 km, and largest width from east to west – 16 km. The deepest point lies at 49 m and there is only one island nowadays; the second was connected to the shore via artificial road. In the warm season, it is an important birds' area; in the winter – a favourite place for sledging, since it freezes solidly. Fishing is done all year round and you should try the yellow carp that Çıldır is known for.

It is only natural that humans have been drawn to this magnificent place for centuries. The traces of their activities are all around. Some of the traces located around the lake include a stone inscription from the Urartu Culture in cuneiform, stating the deeds of one of its kings from the 8th century BC. Medieval churches from the 10th century AD, some turned into mosques. And the dairy farms of nowadays, producing fantastic varieties of cheese.





KUYUCUK LAKE

It is one of the most important wetlands in the northwest of Türkiye, a nature protected area and Ramsar Convention Site. It is located at about 40 km on the road from Kars City center to Akyaka town. Due to some negative processes recently, the lake was affected and is currently more of a wet meadow for most of the year.

You can still observe birds and make use of the watching towers constructed for visitors. The western marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), for example, is not hard to spot. You may also visit the nearby village of Kuyucuk and its mosque which used once to be the Duhobor Church. A beautiful building, and very well preserved.

BORLUK VALLEY

The valley of Borluk starts from the village bearing the same name which you will find at about 20 km from Kars City center. The valley is deep and narrow, winding between the towering rocks.

The river flows in the bottom but leaves enough space for trekking or cycling which can be a very good idea given the

proximity to the provincial center. Your experience can be completed with a stop by the prehistoric stone scriptures. They are among the few remains from unknown civilizations which apparently lived in the numerous caves within the Borluk Valley. The other remains are flint and obsidian tools found during the expeditions after 1942.



ÇENGİLLİ CHURCH

One of the best-preserved medieval churches in the whole of Kars Province; to visit it, you will have to go almost 80 km to the south and deep into the mountains of Kağızman Region. The views are breathtaking, so time will pass quickly. Approaching the village of Çengilli, you will see the 10th-century stone church dominating the scenery.

Old inscriptions refer to it as a Georgian Monastery, while more recent sources describe the settlement as an Armenian village at the start of the 20th century. After visiting the church, you may continue to the end of the asphalt road and the beautiful high-mountainous Deniz Lake. You could descend towards Kağızman from there, admiring the views of the colourful Rainbow Hills.



CAMUŞLU

STONE SCRIPTURES

The small village of Camuşlu is also hidden in the Kağızman region mountains but there is no direct link between it and Çengilli. Moreover, if you want to reach the prehistoric stone inscriptions, you need to climb further up from Camuşlu. It is about 5 km of dirt road, so if you have time, you might prefer to walk

there after parking your car at the village. The views are nice, and there is something mysterious about the mountains. The images of animals who inhabited those mountains thousands of years ago, carved into the face of rocks, add further to the mystery.



SARIKAMIŞ

Sarıkamış is probably the best-known region of Kars Province. Firstly, it is among Türkiye's favourite winter resorts. Skiers say the crystal snow of Sarıkamış is like no other which makes the quality of ski runs exceptional. Secondly, it is the entrance to Sarıkamış National Park with protected coniferous forests, 256 km of trekking routes and nearly 400 km of cycling routes.

Many of these kilometres are in the Allahuekber Mountain which stands guard to the town. The entrance to the National Park is conveniently located near a charming rest area and picnic spot called Soğuksu Nature Park, offering visitors a relaxing break and the opportunity to enjoy a peaceful picnic surrounded by nature.



→ WINTER TOURISM CENTER

Inside the town, you will want to see the former Russian Yanık Church, today Kazım Karabekir Mosque. It dates to the late 19th century and is located in the upper part of town.

Further up the hills above Sarıkamış, you will find the former Russian hunting estate, called Katerina Mansion.

It has been abandoned for many years now, and could probably be of greater interest to the admirers of haunted-buildings tourism but you could still see its past splendor and appreciate the views.



SARIKAMIŞ

MARTYRS' MEMORIALS

The year 1914 is ill-remembered in the province of Kars and the neighbouring regions. This was the time of the so- called Caucasus Campaign, a military conflict between Russia and the Ottoman Empire.

In the deadly cold of December, the majority of over 30,000 Ottoman soldiers perished from freezing in the Allahuekber Mountains.

The memory of these events is still alive and visible in the numerous monuments called Şehitlikleri or Martyrdoms. You can find them all around the region, including at the entrance of Sarıkamış and at the nearby Hamamlı Village.





KEKLIK VALLEY

ECOTOURISM AREA

It is one of the environmentally-significant valleys of Kars Province as shown by its name; Keklik means Partridge in Turkish. The Ecotourism Area, located 57 kilometers from Kars and approximately 7 kilometers from Sarıkamış, includes a waterfall, a viewing terrace, a photo area, walking paths and seating areas. The stream of Kazan Dere descends from Mt. Çıplak at more than 2,600 meters forming fantastic

geological landscapes. Plantlife is represented by Scots pine, replaced by oak, poplar and juniper down the valley.

Visitors to the Ecotourism Area cannot leave without taking photos of the Keklik Waterfall and the scenery in various shades of green at the photo area. Deeper in the valley and accessible only by walking is the old Maiden's Castle known as Toprakkale or Kızlar Kalesi.



Kars weather

As you can imagine, the weather at about 1.800 meters above sea level can be tricky. Spring comes a bit late here but is rather worth the wait as nature seems to explode in fresh colours. Summer has a hot peak in August and Autumn descends fast at the end of September. First snow comes in December and winter is long, with temperatures down to -17 in January. Usually, the rainy months are those of summer and spring although it of course depends on the year.

What to wear

Go for comfortable clothes. Sporty elegance is never a mistake, especially if you will be spending time outdoors. You will notice that local people prefer sport shoes. Put an additional jacket in your luggage and better make it rainproof, just in case. And, keep an eye on the meteo forecast.

Communications

Most hotels and restaurants have free WiFi. But if you go to explore the destination, you may need mobile data. The best option is to buy a Turkish SIM-card; all Turkish mobile operators have offices in Kars.

Money

Local currency is the Turkish Lira. Check the exchange rates to your home currency as they vary. You will not be needing cash most of the time; cards are accepted almost everywhere.

If, however, you find yourselves in need of some cash, make an ATM withdrawal from your account.



HOW TO COME?

Kars Airport is 7 kilometers from the city center. You can reach the center economically by using the public buses or take advantage of taxi or car rental options for a more convenient and comfortable journey. There are also airports in Iğdır and Ağrı which may be an option for travel. The companies that operate at these airports are Turkish Airlines, Anadolu Jet, Pegasus and SunExpress.

The fastest way by motor vehicles from Istanbul to Kars is via the O7 and O4 Highways. It would take minimum 17 hours, depending on traffic, and will take you through the cities of Erzincan and Erzurum. The fastest road from Ankara is along

the D200 with about 13 hours of driving. Road transportation is possible in every season.

The Eastern Express connecting the capital of Ankara with Türkiye's far northeast is not only a means of transportation but an attraction in itself. It is the longest train ride in the country with its 26 hours from start to end. Check timetables in advance.



Local Travel Agents

BALTİK TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0536)	675	49	49
CANCANLAR TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0541)	733	72	02
ÇOBANOĞLU TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	212	47	47
DAGHDASH TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	223	27	37
EFLATUN TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0541)	836	36	34
FEVEX TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0530)	040	00	00
GAZİ KARS TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0532)	062	08	36
HANOĞLU DORUK TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0538)	838	12	11
KAFKASYA TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	212	12	12
KAR-BAL TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	223	15	15
KOÇULU TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0532)	501	62	13
MEGARON TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	223	40	40
ROTA KARS TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	223	91	63
SENCER TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	223	48	68
SINIR TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	212	38	40
TURCO TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	223	33	10
ÜÇEL TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0545)	453	71	27
VERGÜL TOURISM TRAVEL AGENCY	→	(0474)	212	38	38



WHERE TO

Hotels in the City Centre of Kars

AHISKA PALAS	➔	(0474) 223 91 91
ALLORA QUALITY BUTİK HOTEL	➔	(0531) 460 33 82
ARİFOĞLU AIRPORT HOTEL	➔	(0542) 769 81 38
BİZİM KONAK HOTEL	➔	(0474) 212 33 32
BİZİM KONAK HOTEL 2	➔	(0474) 212 28 80
CHELTİKOV HOTEL	➔	(0534) 615 52 39
GRAND ANİ HOTEL	➔	(0474) 223 75 00
GÜNGÖREN HOTEL	➔	(0474) 212 67 67
HARAKANİ HOTEL	➔	(0541) 710 35 31
HOTEL 1924	➔	(0474) 223 75 00
HOTEL AHMET YILMAZ	➔	(0474) 212 52 16
HOTEL KATERİNA SARAYI	➔	(0539) 702 07 23
IŞIL PARK HOTEL	➔	(0542) 193 24 36
İPEKYOLU HOTEL	➔	(0474) 223 73 73
KAFKASYA HOTEL	➔	(0474) 223 36 00
KAR'S HOTEL	➔	(0474) 212 16 16
KARS ATAPARK HOTEL	➔	(0543) 473 36 36
KARS CENTER HOTEL	➔	(0474) 223 36 77
KARS KALE HOTEL	➔	(0539) 460 59 05
KARS-I ŞİRİN HOTEL	➔	(0474) 223 35 35
KENT ANİ HOTEL	➔	(0532) 481 98 80
PAMELA SUIT HOTEL	➔	(0552) 746 36 36

STAY AND EAT

Hotels in the City Centre of Kars

QRİSTA MANAGED BY DEDEMAN	→ (0532) 245 07 55
SAPRAN HOTEL	→ (0474) 225 15 25
SİM-ER KARS	→ (0474) 212 72 41
TAŞ HOTEL	→ (0553) 781 36 77
TEMEL HOTEL	→ (0553) 781 36 77
THE KARS PARK HOTEL	→ (0539) 460 59 05
VE HOTELS BEYLERBEYİ SARAYI	→ (0474) 502 10 35
WINTER CITY HOTEL	→ (0533) 144 59 71

Hotels in Sarıkamış

ALADAĞ APART HOTEL	→ (0532) 208 28 09
ALTUN PANSİYON	→ (0474) 502 45 80
ARSLAN PANSİYON SARIKAMIŞ	→ (0507) 947 85 25
ASTAŞ APART HOTEL	→ (0536) 034 43 32
BİLDİK HOTEL	→ (0474) 413 76 76
ÇAMKAR HOTEL	→ (0536) 303 20 37
ÇELİK PALAS HOTEL	→ (0536) 788 99 39
ÇETİNKAYA APART HOTEL	→ (0532) 772 76 38
DİNAMİK APART HOTEL	→ (0536) 640 72 01
DUJA CHALET SKI CENTER	→ (0553) 605 60 02
EFSANE GRUP HOTEL	→ (0542) 540 23 26
ICEBERG HOTEL	→ (0474) 502 10 10
KADIOĞLU APART HOTEL	→ (0539) 546 81 89

Hotels in Sarıkamış

KARAKURT APART HOTEL	→	(0542)	540	23	26
KAR TANESİ HOTEL	→	(0533)	335	31	24
KAYA APART HOTEL	→	(0553)	018	82	82
KAYI RESORT HOTEL	→	(0532)	711	72	75
KAYI SNOW OTEL	→	(0474)	413	60	00
METİNOĞLU PANSİYON	→	(0532)	481	15	17
ÖĞEL APART HOTEL	→	(0506)	976	19	94
ÖZÇELİK HOTEL	→	(0474)	413	80	30
POLATOĞLU İKBAL RESORT	→	(0532)	516	98	28
READY TO STAY BY DEDEMAN	→	(0553)	133	01	01
SARIÇAM HOTEL	→	(0542)	340	80	65
SARIKAMIŞ APART HOTEL	→	(0474)	413	40	04
SARIKAMIŞ ARAS HOTEL	→	(0534)	488	18	18
SARIKAMIŞ BAŞARAN HOUSE	→	(0474)	413	41	42
SARIKAMIŞ BAYRAKTEPE MOTEL	→	(0533)	654	27	72
SARIKAMIŞ HABİTAT HOTEL	→	(0553)	762	60	80
SARIKAMIŞ KAR HOTEL	→	(0474)	413	51	52
SARIKAMIŞ SNOW LIFE HOTEL	→	(0533)	517	40	36
SARKAY APART HOTEL	→	(0539)	508	72	25
SARPİNO MOUNTAIN HOTEL	→	(0507)	312	10	61
SEHR-İ BEYZA HOTEL	→	(0474)	413	71	71
SNOW CRYSTAL	→	(0552)	403	67	46
SNOWFLAKE DAĞ HOTEL	→	(0532)	663	17	36
SNOW HOUSE	→	(0474)	413	82	00

Hotels in Sarıkamış

SNOWLAND HOTEL	→	(0532)	607	21	52
SNOW MOUNT HOTEL	→	(0530)	114	71	91
ŞAMİLOĞLU PANSİYON	→	(0474)	413	49	49
WHITE PARK SARIKAMIŞ	→	(0474)	413	45	44
YAKUPLOĞLU HOTEL	→	(0532)	481	15	17

Restaurants

1855 GAZİ RESTAURANT	→	(0532)	575	53	16
ÂLÂ HAN RESTAURANT	→	(0532)	389	33	10
BOĞATEPE KÖY MANDIRASI	→	(0534)	510	38	25
DÜŞLERSOKAĞI BALIK EVİ	→	(0474)	212	53	43
GASTROKARS LOKAL RESTAURANT	→	(0532)	055	06	30
GÜNEŞ RESTAURANT	→	(0545)	332	36	36
HAN-I HANEDAN CAFÉ RESTAURANT	→	(0474)	223	99	99
HANİMELİ KARS MUTFAĞI	→	(0474)	212	61	31
KALE CAFE & RESTAURANT	→	(0541)	341	76	18
KARS KAZ EVİ	→	(0474)	212	37	13
LABRİS RESTAURANT	→	(0534)	872	77	26
OCAKBAŞI RESTAURANT	→	(0474)	212	00	56
OKLAVA EV YEMEKLERİ	→	(0537)	602	11	22
PUŞKİN RESTAURANT	→	(0474)	212	35	35
SERHAT RESTAURANT	→	(0531)	550	68	68
SAHNE KARS RESTAURANT	→	(0505)	776	76	00
SİNİ EV YEMEKLERİ VE HAMUR İŞLERİ	→	(0474)	223	20	21
ŞEHİR KULÜBÜ CAFE REST BİSTRO	→	(0474)	223	10	43



The cuisine of Kars is closely related to its geography and nature. This is not an agricultural region but it is an animal-breeding one, so naturally the main characters very often are milk and dairy products.

Goose meat takes a special place in local tradition, as well as influences of neighbouring countries such as Azerbaijan and Iran. Here are some tips for you:



Ayran soup – yogurt with boiled bulgur, chickpeas and local herbs. Can be consumed cold in summer and hot in winter.



Evelik soup – prepared from bulgur, chickpeas and lentils boiled with tomatoes and Evelik which is a local leafy plant resembling nettle.



Erişte – local pasta made in strings, coked as pilaf soup called Kesme.



Kaz pilaf – goose meat cooked with rice or bulgur pilaf.



Piti – stew of mutton, saffron and chickpeas, served over crushed bread.



Şirin pilaf – rice pilaf served with dried fruits, fried in double-melted (yellow) butter.



Hangel – vegetarian 'ravioli' cooked with yogurt sauce.

WHAT TO DO?

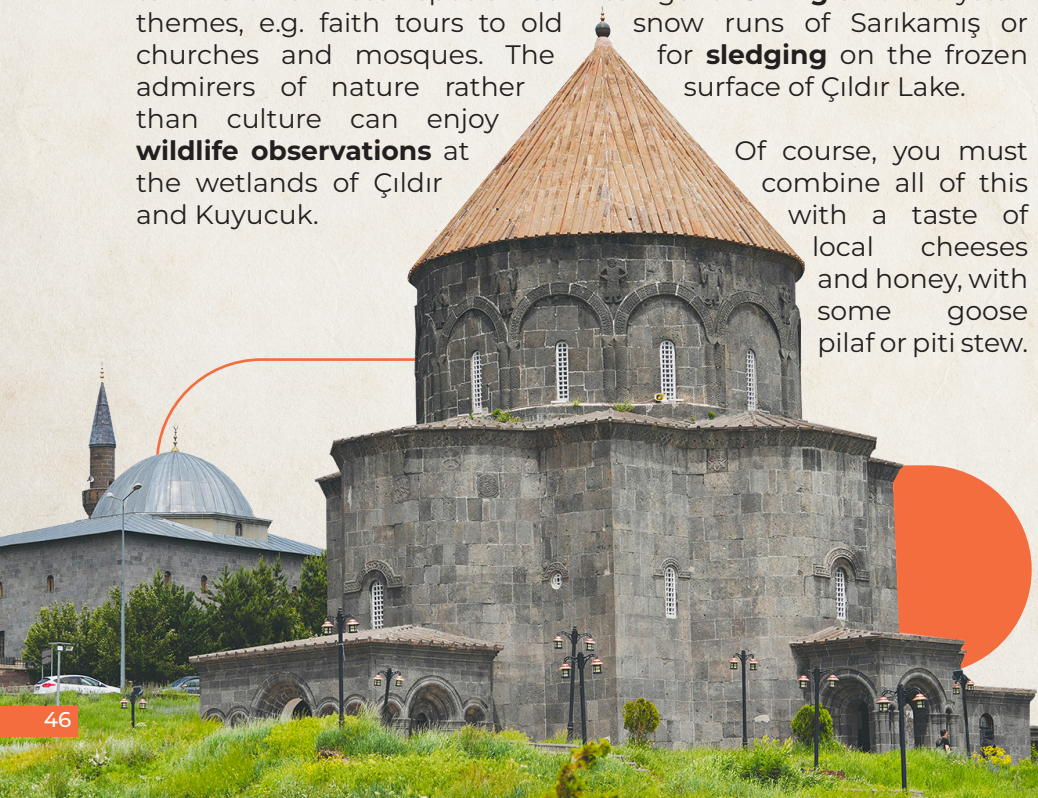
City tours enjoy greatest popularity among the visitors of Kars. Walking the streets in the city center to admire the Baltic architecture, combined with a climb to Kars Castle and visits to any of the three museums can be done in longer and shorter versions, depending on your time.

Culture-and-history itineraries naturally come next, topped with the UNESCO Archaeological Site of Ani and continuing to more or less specialized themes, e.g. faith tours to old churches and mosques. The admirers of nature rather than culture can enjoy **wildlife observations** at the wetlands of Çıldır and Kuyucuk.

If you prefer an active holiday, the **trekking and cycling** routes at Sarıkamış National Park and especially the Allahuekber Mountains are waiting for you. Many of them can also be taken in winter.

And speaking of winter, Kars is the ideal place for a short break or a longer vacation. We definitely recommend taking the Eastern Express from Ankara if you have the time. Then you can go for **skiing** on the crystal-snow runs of Sarıkamış or for **sledging** on the frozen surface of Çıldır Lake.

Of course, you must combine all of this with a taste of local cheeses and honey, with some goose pilaf or piti stew.



WHAT TO BUY?



The best souvenir from Kars is cheese. There are several different types and, though the Gruyere is the most famous one, the taste is so strong that it may take some time to accustom to it. The string cheese is delicious and you may get an array of diverse tastes with the herb white and yellow cheeses.

Those who taste the Geographically Indicated Kars kashar cheese can't resist coming back for more. Honey is more difficult to transport but your hosts have a solution to that. They offer neat packages in several sizes, so don't hesitate; Kars honey is really special.

Wandering in the city center or the Bedesten area below the Castle, you will also be tempted by the many souvenir shops offering local textiles and furs. You may go for a colourful rug or just a bag, and the winter hats called Kalpak are very handy in cold weather. Lastly, buy yourself or a dear friend a lucky obsidian bracelet or necklace.

Obsidian is highly valued in the area; it comes from the region of Sarıkamış and has had multiple use through the ages.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Car Rentals at the Airport

BUDGET	→ (0474) 2 19 29 30
AVIS	→ (0474) 2 19 29 31
TURGUTREİS RENT A CAR	→ (0532) 687 50 36
KARS PARK RENT A CAR	→ (0552) 460 30 81



Hospitals

HARAKANİ GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL/ → (0474) 212 56 68
Harakani Devlet Hastanesi

KAFKAS UNIVERSITY HEALTH RESEARCH
AND PRACTICE HOSPITAL/ → (0474) 225 21 06
Kafkas Üniversitesi Araştırma ve Uygulama
Hastanesi

ORAL AND DENTAL HEALTH CENTRE/ → (0474) 213 58 91
Ağız ve Diş Sağlığı Merkezi

Important Phone Numbers

POLICE → 112

EMERGENCY SERVICE (AMBULANCE) → 112

GENDARME → 112

FIRE DEPARTMENT → 112



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