

# *Yenice Forest*

# *Nature Hiking Tracks*

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## **KARABÜK YENİCE FORESTS NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

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Kaprataği Observation Terrace, Subatan Plateau-Cemil BELDER



## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

It has been six years since this book was first published. Yenice Forests Nature Hiking Tracks guidebook, which was selected as a "Sample Book" by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in the same year it was published, has been commended to the directorates of culture in 81 provinces so that they could carry out works in the same context. In 2015, it was deemed worthy of second place in the Turkey's Best 10 Hiking Routes list by the jury that the travel supplement of Hürriyet Newspaper formed.

Right after the book, Yenice Nature Hiking Tracks in 2009, a guidebook within the same frame was published in Eskipazar district, which is deemed to be the back yard of Yenice Forests. This way, the whole region that Yenice Forests spread to was introduced to nature lovers. This authentic geography, which has become local and foreign trekkers' focus of interest after the publication of the guidebook, has been among the most important dynamics of the tourism in the province of Karabük, along with Safranbolu, which is on the Unesco World Heritage list. Yenice Forests, which use the advantage of being close to big cities such as İstanbul and Ankara, apart from the rich resources they have, have become a popular location for nature lovers during this period.

The biggest problem of Yenice Forests, which have gained national and international fame, is the trees that are cut for the forestry products and the lack of local awareness. Particularly, the fact that Safranbolu mansion owners see Yenice, which is an important part of the region's tourism, as a rival is a big loss for Karabük tourism. On the other hand, most tourists that come to Safranbolu stay for only one night and move on to Amasra. Organizing daily tours to Yenice Forests is enough reason for the visitors to Safranbolu to stay for another night. It is high time that Safranbolu's travel agencies made use of Yenice Forests hiking tracks and alternative tourism destinations such as Hadrianapolis antique city of Eskipazar district.

This guidebook, which could not be obtained by the domestic and foreign travelers due to its first edition's being sold out, is at last meeting with nature lovers again. While remembering with gratitude Nurullah Çakır, the governor of the period and Mehmet Fatih Çiçekli, the district governor of the period, who brought this authentic geography in tourism, I express my endless gratitude to the governor of Karabük, Orhan ALİMOĞLU, and our district governor of Yenice, Oğuz Cem Murat, who has been making a great effort since the day he took office.

Ersin DEMİREL

## FROM THE EDITOR

I heard about Yenice Forests for the first time in 2008. From day one of the track identification works, which I started with curiosity and excitement, Yenice surprised me with its fascinating nature. We, who live unaware of the natural beauties at our elbow, are in fact in the beginning of our adventure of exploring and getting to know the world. Who knows how many more places there are in this beautiful geography that can satisfy my itinerant soul, which is burning with the desire to see as many places as possible?

The project work, which aims to bring Yenice Forests and nature-lovers together, made us form an irrevocable bond with this fascinating location. With the sunrise, we woke up to a green paradise every morning. We wetted our faces with the dew drops from the leaves and filled our lungs with the abundantly oxygenic forest air. We came across fresh twigs that shot out of the blanket of snow with the coming spring, monumental trees that evoke admiration with their heights, incredibly beautiful fogbows, a forest texture which offers a different symphony of colors every season, and lagoons and waterfalls that compete in beauty. For days, we shared the secrets of mountains, stopped over on plateaus, listened to the recollections of saintly looking old women who were gathering mushrooms, played with the shepherd dogs that watched the flocks of sheep, and ate at the friendly tables of well-spoken people who were working to rejuvenate the forest. Sometimes, we got stranded in our vehicles that were stuck in the muddle caused by rain, and sometimes we pitched our tents under the stars. GPS in one hand and a paint can in the other, we put marks on rocks and trees to show hikers the way, without harming the nature. In company with smells from linden trees, we explored Yenice Forests step by step for a month, with the vast knowledge of Ahmet Şükrü, who has been in love with the region.

As a result, we have brought together nature lovers and this wonderful nature area, which stands out with its natural riches and biodiversity. Endless thanks to everyone who contributed during the works. This wonder of nature should be the real address of those who would like to escape from mega cities and take refuge in the compassionate bosom of nature.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this age when man has transformed nature for the sake of modernization, majority of us have been experiencing a sky that has almost turned grey due to air pollution, the stress of making ends meet, noise and chaos in big cities. While becoming alienated from ourselves and our environment with a deep feeling of loneliness, we long for nature. The hustle and bustle of big cities and the hackneyed vacation approach of “sea-sand-sun” incline people to nature more and more.

Picnics on a handful of grass on the roadsides in the cities, in fact, sum up man’s hunger for nature. There are, on the other hand, many wonders of nature in Turkey that are waiting to be discovered. Karabük Yenice Forests, which are listed in “55 Wonderful Nature Areas” list prepared by Atlas Magazine in 2008, aim to welcome their guests with their ecotourism opportunities, especially their trekking and bicycle tracks.

Walking among the colorful view of flowers and woodnotes on signed pathways; swimming in the waterfalls and lagoons of Kızılkaya Valley; increasing your adrenaline levels in Şeker Canyon; pedalling on the bicycle tracks in the green silence; experiencing freedom on Keltepe summit; enjoying solitude in the blue-green lagoons, having a picnic in Gökdere Nature Park and Fındıkkaltı picnic areas; taking photographs in clear weather, where the sun displays all its seven colors; challenging nature by climbing steep rock walls; and questioning life under the giant-bodied monumental trees are just a few of the activities that can be done in Yenice Forests.

With its one of a kind colors that appear in each season on the color palette of nature; surprise waterfalls; crystalline springs, purple-yellow rhododendrons, brown trouts that live in the creeks where cold waters babble; tree-smelling houses; wooden models of these houses, sold as souvenirs; wooden spoons and walking-sticks, this green sanctuary embraces those who long for nature.

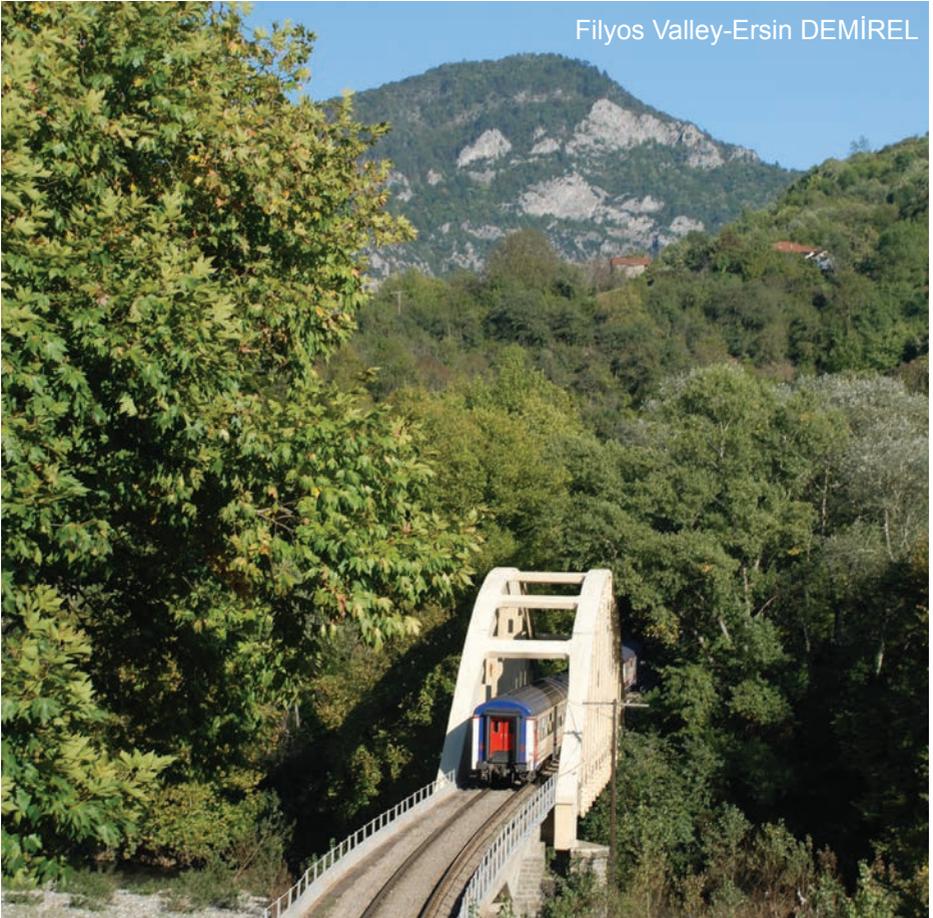


Yenice from the Observation Terrace-Ersin DEMİREL

## 2. GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF YENİCE

Located in the west of Karabük, Yenice is 32 kilometers away from the city center. This pleasant town is accessed by passing through 16 tunnels in a valley in which Filyos Brook, which separates the railway and the highway, runs. The journey in the valley, which is always under mist, especially in the morning, turns into an adventure that reminds of a time tunnel. While the whistle of Zonguldak-Ankara train, which breaks the silence, is getting mixed with the babbling sound of Filyos Brook, you travel with excitement through a chalk white smoke curtain.

A good part of Yenice, which was established around the river which has the same name, is covered with a fertile sea of forests where every shade of green can be seen. The reason why these lands, which are occupied by the green, are called "Yenice" is due to abundant water and precipitation. The natural structure of the district, which is at an altitude of 130 meters, contains a significant diversity in terms of indigenous flora and wild life.





Handicrafts

### 3. TRIBUTARIES AND LAKES

Giving life to the district, Filyos Brook (called Yenice River within the district) runs through the center of population and divides the town into two equal parts. Formed by the merging of Araç and Soğanlı brooks, Filyos runs through narrow and deep valleys, passes Bolkuş Strait and enters into a wide corridor at the Balıkısık point. The hills that smile with every shade of green form a nice contrast with the blue of the running water. Besides many large and small creeks coming from high mountains, Filyos, which is fed by Balıkısık, Değirmen, Kelemen, Kızılkaya, Karakaya, İncedere and Şeker creeks, extends into neighboring provinces and districts. A deep corridor that opens from the Black Sea to Central Anatolia, 228-kilometer-long Filyos Brook continues its journey, which ends in the Black Sea, by drawing the borders of Bithynia and Paphlagonia. In Yenice district, where there is no natural lake, there are Eğriova and Göktepe lagoons.



Waterfalls in Kızılkaya Valley-Kadir KOYMALI

#### 4. GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

Since the region had been affected by the orogeny process in the geological periods, grand ridges were formed in a rough topography and a confined area. In previous periods, the region, which stayed under a deep nautical environment, incrementally deepened and shallowed. The subsidence in this nautical environment continued until the neogene period, turned completely into land as a result of the ebbing of the neogene sea, and with the influence of outer events, slopewashes and alluvial deposits were formed from today's quaternary formations.

#### 5. TOPOGRAPHY

Yenice is established on a quite rugged topography. The land structure, which has the characteristics of the Western Black Sea region, is steep and rugged. The highest summits of the district are Çataltepe (1776), Mantarlıtepe (1735), Tarakçı (1714), Kuyrukkaya (1704), Ahlatlık (1608), Şahinkaya (1571), Çaltepe (1549), Karatepe (1535), Köstektepe (1471), Keçikıran (1400), Buraklıyazı (1352), Dağlıkdoruşu (1358), Yapaz (1271), Köklük (1236) and Tekepınar (1142) hills. The piedmont of Keltepe (1999), which is the highest mountain of the province of Karabük, is located at the district borders of Yenice. Between these ridges lie deep and long valleys such as İncedere, Şimşirdere, Karakaya and Kızılkaya. Formed by the merging of Şimşir and Çit creeks, Şeker Brook passes through a canyon before it joins Filyos. Divided into two parts as big and small, Şeker Canyon is among the most important tourism assets.

Since the soil is firm and stony, agricultural land is limited and cannot feed the current population. Because in Yenice, which has pristine forests, 85% of the 115.000-hectare land is covered with forests, the economy of the district depends mostly on forest products.

Within the district borders, there are three therapeutic springs named Fındıkaltı Acısu, Kaptan Mevkii and Yamaç Village. Particularly, the hard water spring in Sarıot region on Salavattepe forest road, which is 30 kilometers to Yenice, is used in the treatment of kidney and rheumatic diseases.

#### 6. CLIMATE

Yenice, which is in the Western Black Sea climatic zone, is cool in the summer and cold and rainy in the winter. In the region, which has a humid, wet and misty climate, the annual mean temperature is 13,6 degrees Celsius, and the annual average precipitation is 693,3 milimeters. In a small area of the valley into which Filyos Brook flows can be seen the existence of the mediterranean climate. This feature makes it possible for the types of scrubs, such as spruce, sandalwood, redbud and terebinth, to grow.



Keltepe-Cemil BELDER

## 1. FLORA

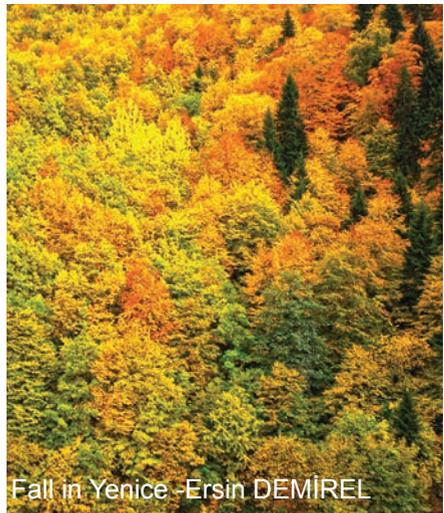
Surely, a region where there is an abundance of water cannot be thought independently of a forest texture. Yenice Forests encompass İncedere, which is in the northwest of Bolu Mountains, Şimşirdere/Çitdere, Kızılkaya, Karakaya drainage basin and the virgin areas in the west of Safranbolu. This area, which spreads to Yenice, central Karabük and Eskipazar district borders, stands out with its monumental trees that can be seen in the rare geographies of the world, deep valleys, mountains whose heights reach two thousand meters, canyons, tributaries, waterfalls, wild life and plant diversity.

Yenice Forests have a very rich structure in terms of flora. The forests, which consist especially of the types of oak, the trees that add distinction to the region are old beech, hornbeam, yew and sycamore. Yenice is very rich in terms of biodiversity with its pristine forests with needle-leaved and broad-leaved trees. As known, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) identified 100 most valuable forest lands in terms of biodiversity that urgently need protecting and defined them as “the hot spots of Europe’s Forests”. Along with Küre Mountains (Kastamonu), İbradı-Akseki Mountains (Antalya), Amanos Mountains (Hatay), Karçal Dağları (Artvin), Datça Peninsula and Bozburun (Muğla), Fırtına Valley (Rize), Babadağ (Fethiye) and İstanbul Forests, which are among these hot spots, Yenice Forests are one of the 9 strict preservation zones in Turkey.

The reason why Yenice Forests have the privilege of “strict preservation” is that trees, shrubs, plants and wild animals live together in great numbers, which can be seen in few forests in the world, except for in tropical areas. According to the most current studies, there are 11.466 taxa, 3649 of which are endemic. Within the province borders of Karabük, there are 990 plant species, 88 of which are endemic. 312 of these plant species, 51 of which are endemic, reside in Yenice Forests. Broad-leaved beech and oak, as well as needle-leaved fir, yellow pine and black larch are the dominant tree species. Grand-bodied tree species

which do not give passage to light in some places in the forest land are linden, maple, Uludağ fir, yellow pine, black larch, Camiyanı black pine (*pinus nigra arnold*), Turkish pine, yew, oriental beech and sessile oak. Medicinal herbs that look wonderful on photographs with their colors and sights depending on the season are snowdrop, rockrose, foxglove, rosehip, nettle, primrose, butcher’s broom, blueberry, blackberry, Solomon’s seal, mistletoe, belladonna, strawberry, horsetail, coltsfoot and mullein.

Unquestionably, the most important parts of Yenice Forests are “Natural Reserve



Fall in Yenice -Ersin DEMİREL

Areas”, in which there are monumental trees, and Arboretum (Open Air Tree Museum). The fact that there are many various kinds of tree species in this pristine forest texture, that some of them reached diameters and heights that are rarely seen in the world, that they are endangered ecosystems, and that there is a wild life diversity are the main reasons for forming the aforementioned reserve areas. Today, monumental trees, which are a reflection of verdant valleys, steep summits, and the rich plant diversity, which was created by water and humidity, take their place among the most precious treasures of this wonder of nature. These trees, which reached extraordinary diameters and heights compared with the others of their kinds, were officially registered as “nature monuments”, and were taken under preservation in Çitdere and Kavaklı regions, which were declared “Natural Reserve Areas” in 1987.

### 7.1. Çitdere Natural Reserve Area

In this 721,5-hectare area, whose altitude reaches 1708 meters in some places, there are rare tree species, such as Istranca oak, yew, ash, maple, linden and hornbeam. It is not an exaggeration to say that they are unique in the world in terms of their diameters and heights. The list of the monumental trees in this area are in the table below.

Tree	Dia. (m)	Circumference(m)	Height (m)	Altitude (m)	Location
Istranca oak	2.01	6.30	23	1320	Çitdere reserve area is accessible via a 2-kilometer pathway, 29 kilometers away from the 4th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway.
Istranca oak	1.90	5.95	25		
Istranca oak	1.58	4.96	18		
Istranca oak	1.50	4.70	20		
Wych-elm	1.30	3.80	30	820	It is accessible via a 1-kilometer pathway, 23 kilometers away from the 4th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway.
Wych-elm	0.68	3.80	23	900	It is accessible via a 500-meter pathway, 28 kilometers away from the 4th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway.



## 7.2. Kavaklı Natural Reserve Area

In the 334-hectare area, whose altitude reaches 1700 meters, species such as yew, hazel, rowan, ash, maple, linden and hornbeam can be seen. It is not possible to see the height and the diameter that yew and hazel reached anywhere else in the world. The locations and features of these trees are mentioned in the table below.

Tree	Dia. (m)	Circumference(m)	Height (m)	Altitude (m)	Location
Yew	2.24	7.00	24.0	525	It is accessible via a 730-meter pathway, 4 kilometers away from the 5th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway.
Yew	2.05	6.45	18.0	1200	It is on the 14th kilometer, starting from the 5th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway.
Turkish hazel	0.90	2.80	20.0	1150	It is 12.5 kilometers away from the 5th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway.
Sycamore	0.94	2.95	19.0	900	It is on the 13th kilometer, starting from the 5th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway.
Kayın gövdeli akçaağaç	0.70	2.20	18.0	900	It is on the 13th kilometer, starting from the 5th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway. Two maple trees are side by side.
Kafkas ıhlamuru	1.45	4.60	18.0	650	It is accessible via a 75-meter pathway, 8 kilometers away from the 5th kilometer of Yenice-Karabük highway.

## 7.3. Gökpınar Arboretum Area (Open Air Tree Museum)

In the 4-hectare area which is located in Kavaklı region, there are 19 tree species, 8 small tree species and various medicinal herbs. Of these species, the trees that reached extraordinary diameters and heights were registered as natural monuments and taken under protection. In Gökpınar Arboretum, it is possible to observe rare species such as yew trees whose diameters are 2,5 meters and heights are 25 meters, as well as Turkish hazel, whose diameter is 1 meter and height is 20 meters.



Baklabostan Waterfall-Cemil BELDER





## 8. FAUNA

In the natural environment of Yenice Forests, there are many animal species and living opportunities, so much so that you can witness a deer's drinking water or a roe's passing you by quickly and disappearing among the trees when you are wandering in the forest. Making use of this rich fauna, The Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks declared a part of Yenice Forests a "Wildlife Improvement Area" in 2007.



According to research done in the wilderness in 2012, you can come across such mammals as the deer, roe, wild boar, bear, fox, wild cat, lynx, badger, wolf, coyote, otter, beech marten, hare, porcupine, wood mouse, weasel, squirrel and lesser horseshoe bat. In the region, it is possible to watch around 130 bird species, including the curlew, wood pigeon, cuckoo, eagle owl, gray jay, raven, wood grouse, sparrowhawk, sooty falcon, white-backed woodpecker, semi-collared flycatcher, grey-headed woodpecker and barred warbler. Besides, in the temperate zone forest, there is a globally endangered butterfly species called Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*), as well as locally endangered butterfly species called Chapman's blue (*Polyommatus eroides*) and woodland ringlet (*Erebia medusa*).







### 9. TOURISTIC ACTIVITIES

This biological richness of Yenice Forests surely forms considerable potential in terms of ecotourism. It offers a lot of opportunities, especially for outdoor activities, with its natural area, which maintains its pristine structure, and with its unique geography that has a rich plant and wildlife. One-day hiking tracks or hiking tracks involving camping, cycling, canyoning, rock climbing, bird watching, photo safari, botanical tours, rafting and paragliding as well as hunting, tableland tourism and caravan tourism are among the activities that adventure lovers and those who seek serenity in the bosom of nature can participate in.



## 11. HIKING TRACKS OF YENİCE FORESTS

### 11.1. General Information

Trekking, which is defined as “nature walk” in Turkish, is essentially a hiking activity which is done with or without a backpack. Trekking, which has turned into a life style rather than just a sport activity in modern countries, has become popular also in our country in recent years. Individual or guided hikes, especially on the weekend in the surroundings of Istanbul, have gradually spread country-wide.

In previous years, along with Likya Track, which is the first long hiking route of Turkey, other routes, such as St. Paul Track, İstiklal Track, and Hitit Track, were marked with international signs and opened to the service of nature lovers and tourism. We marked the hiking tracks of Yenice Forests, which are wonders of nature qua an open tree museum with their monumental trees, and put them into your service. However, for the sake of not spoiling the wildlife and of showing respect to the circle of wildlife, we haven't went into the pathways in the forests. While adding the existing forest paths in this unique geography to the hiking tracks, we used only the old migration paths in Keltepe region and around the village settlements. Taking into consideration an old mansion's being turned into a boutique hotel after the guidebook was published, we added 4 new hiking tracks to the second edition.

The hiking tracks of Yenice Forests consist of three different categories with the purpose of catering to hikers of all levels. The tracks total 436 kilometers, including short tracks that take a couple of hours, one-day hikes that take 4-6 hours and long routes that take 2-6 days, which correspond to 25 tracks that are marked for 252 kilometers, together with alternative routes. We made hikers' job easier by putting red and white marks in accordance with the system internationally known as ‘grande randonnee’ at intervals of 50 meters on the pathways and 400 meters on the forest pathways for the sake of not polluting the environment. Apart from the marks, we placed signposts at the points of start and finish, as well as at many junctions in order to make the routes more apparent. Moreover, in this guidebook, you will find a map, in which every track is shown. You can also download the GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates of all the routes from [www.yenice.gov.tr](http://www.yenice.gov.tr) and [www.ersindemirel.blogspot.com](http://www.ersindemirel.blogspot.com) websites free of charge. In the meantime, we should remind you that we formed 8 hiking tracks, which is equal to a 222-kilometer route, together with the alternative routes in the borders of Eskipazar district, where Yenice Forests lie. A nature lover who starts hiking from Yenice district can try Eskipazar routes by walking from Meyri Turn to Eskipazar Eđriova Lagoon, or from Sorgun Plateau to Çetiören Resting Area in the forest.

In the province of Karabük, Eskipazar stands out with its historical riches, Safranbolu with its cultural texture, and Yenice with its natural beauties. “Hiking Tracks From Nature to History”, which we can call a project that unites all these assets, has been turned into tourism potential just like other similar long-distance and regional routes in our country.





**ANIT FINDIK**

*Corylus colurna*

(Türk Fındığı)

Çap: 90 cm.

Çevre: 2,82 m.

Boy: 21 m.

Rakım: 1120 m.

## 11.2. Important Suggestions and Warnings for Hikers

➡ You should set out knowing that hiking is not a race. Under no circumstances should you race with yourself or somebody else. Always remember that you have set out in order to become free and be in harmony with nature. You are not a racer, but a traveller who does sports in a healthy way and who explores natural beauties.

➡ You should get specific information on the hiking tracks and ascertain that the track you will hike is suitable for you.

➡ In order not to encounter any bad surprises, you should check on the weather forecast.

➡ You should definitely follow the signposts and marks on the tracks; do not get out of the route. If you can't see a sign, don't worry. The only thing you need to do should be to get back to the last sign and try to find the next one. This way, there will be no possibility to take a wrong road and you will be able to continue on the right direction.

➡ If you are going to try long routes, which involve camping, never set out alone. If you are one of those stubborn people who think they can paddle their own canoe, you should at least let other people know, such as your acquaintances and the authorities in the district.

➡ Before you set out, you can get the necessary supplies, such as food and water, from the district center. In addition, Kent Forest Yeşil Vadi Restaurant and İncebacaklar Albergo Boutique Hotel are the other choices from which you can find your basic needs. In emergencies, you can get food supply from the forest facilities located on some routes, or from the tents of the villagers who cut trees. Besides, rangers or local people will invite you to drinking tea when they see you.

➡ During the hike, set a pace suitable for yourself. You will never get tired if you listen to the rhythm of your body. Rest periodically without keeping the breaks too long.

➡ Drink a lot of liquids and water. You can make use of the springs in the area. Refill your water at every fountain. You will find fountains on every track, except for the Keltepe summit climbing.

➡ There may be tree-cutting in your surroundings for forest rejuvenation. Do not miss the signs that especially read 'Üretim Var' (Production). Pass the region protecting yourself from the round timbers that were rolled onto the road to be carried.

➡ Do not use perfume or deodorant, or else you will have invited bees, which are wild about scents. Do not forget that bees, which run after all kinds of flowers, will accompany you.

➡ Beware of the dogs on some plateaus. If there is a herd nearby, walk around them, and never get close to the herd. The dogs that bark and wag their tails at the same time will probably do you no harm, but you must keep away from the ones that quietly get up and get into motion.

➡ We should remind you that there is a bear population in the region due to its geographical position. Talking to your accompanier while walking, singing, the sound of a bell that you will hang on your backpack, and whistling to make your presence known are all precautions that will minimize your risk of

encountering wild life. Every animal that notices your presence will hide, but will definitely watch your every move. Keep calm and never panic.

➡ Do not harm trees or your surroundings.

➡ Make sure to have a trash bag with you and definitely take back all your trash.

➡ Do not leave any food waste in the nature, except for fruit peel. Take into consideration that you might change the original dynamics of wild life and animals' habits. Remember that the more respectful we are to the nature and the less we disturb its rhythm, the more it will give us generously.

➡ The most important accessory of a hiker is his shoes. Prefer soft soled and waterproof (gore-tex) boots that grip the ankle.

➡ Quick dry pants, a thermal t-shirt and socks that give off sweat, a hat, a muslin with which you will mop your face and protect your neck and sunglasses are among a hiker's basic clothing and accessories.

➡ Batons, which you will use when walking, especially going up and down and passing creeks, will come in very handy.

➡ The items you need to carry in your backpack are spare underwear, socks and t-shirts, a raincoat or a windbreaker, a compass, a map, your guidebook, sunscreen, a pocket knife or a knife, a camera, a flash lamp, spare batteries, matches or a lighter, a first aid kit and energy foods.

➡ The items you need to have in your first aid kit are band-aids in various sizes, gauze dressing, support bandage, antihistaminic ointment, antiseptic wipes, aerosol wound powder, which acts as a cicatrizat, small scissors, plastic gloves and a small syringe to use in case of blisters.

➡ Let us remind you that cell phones are out of coverage except in Göktepe Fire Tower, Kent Forest, Sorgun Plateau Fire Tower, Keltepe Summit, Pamuklu Meşe, Şimşirburnu, northeastern slopes of Keltepe, Subatan Observation Terrace and Kızılkaya Erkenez Fountain.

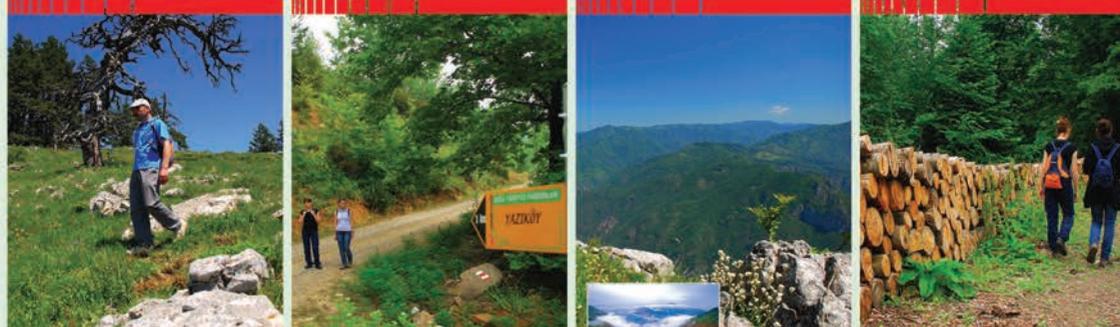
➡ In emergencies, you can use the "Province of Karabük Telephone Directory" at the end of this guidebook.



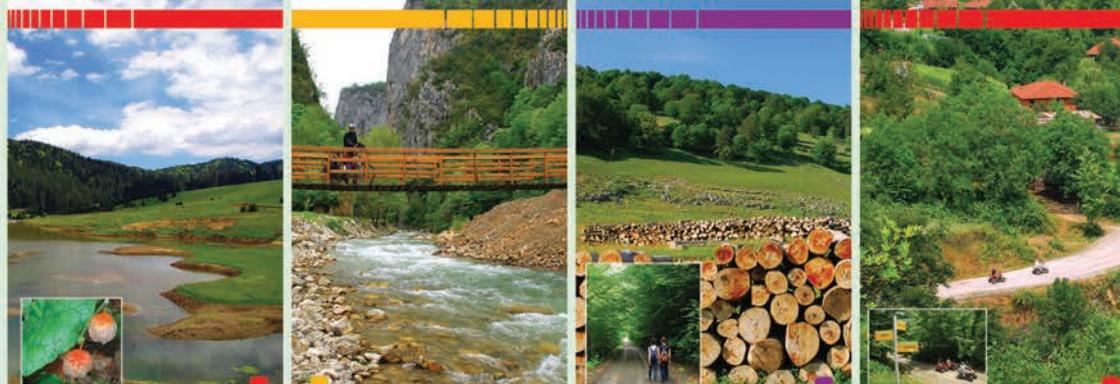
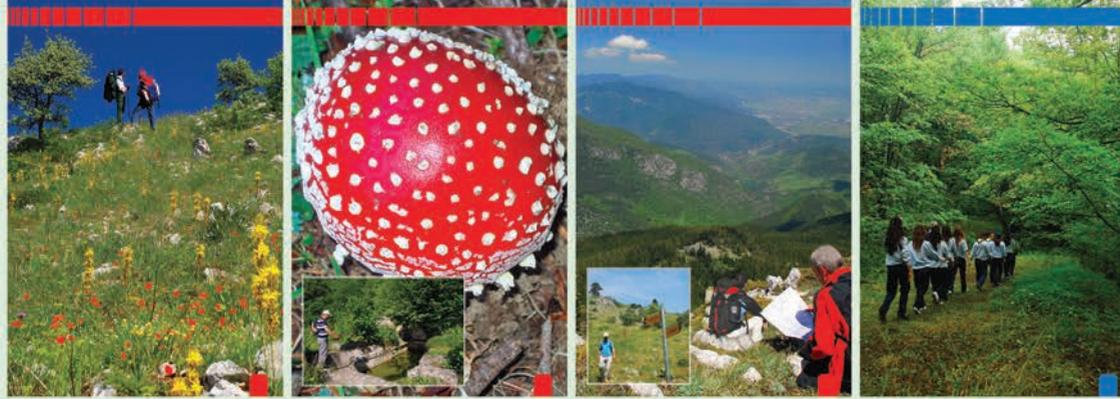
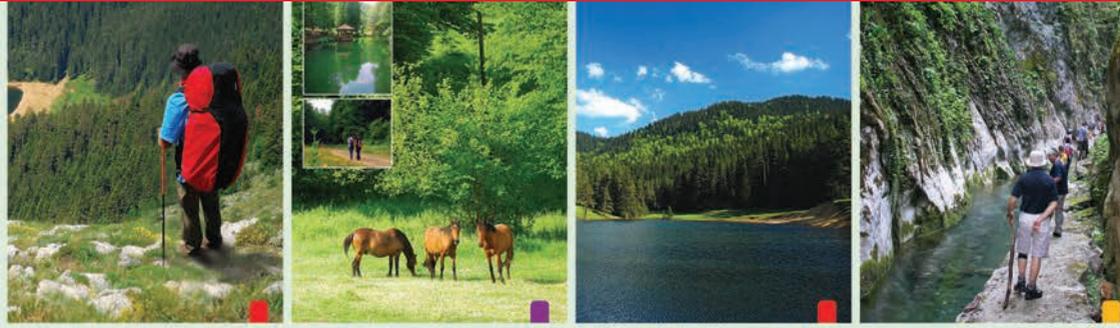
Şeker Canyon-Ersin DEMİREL



Şekermese-Ersin DEMİREL



# TRACKS



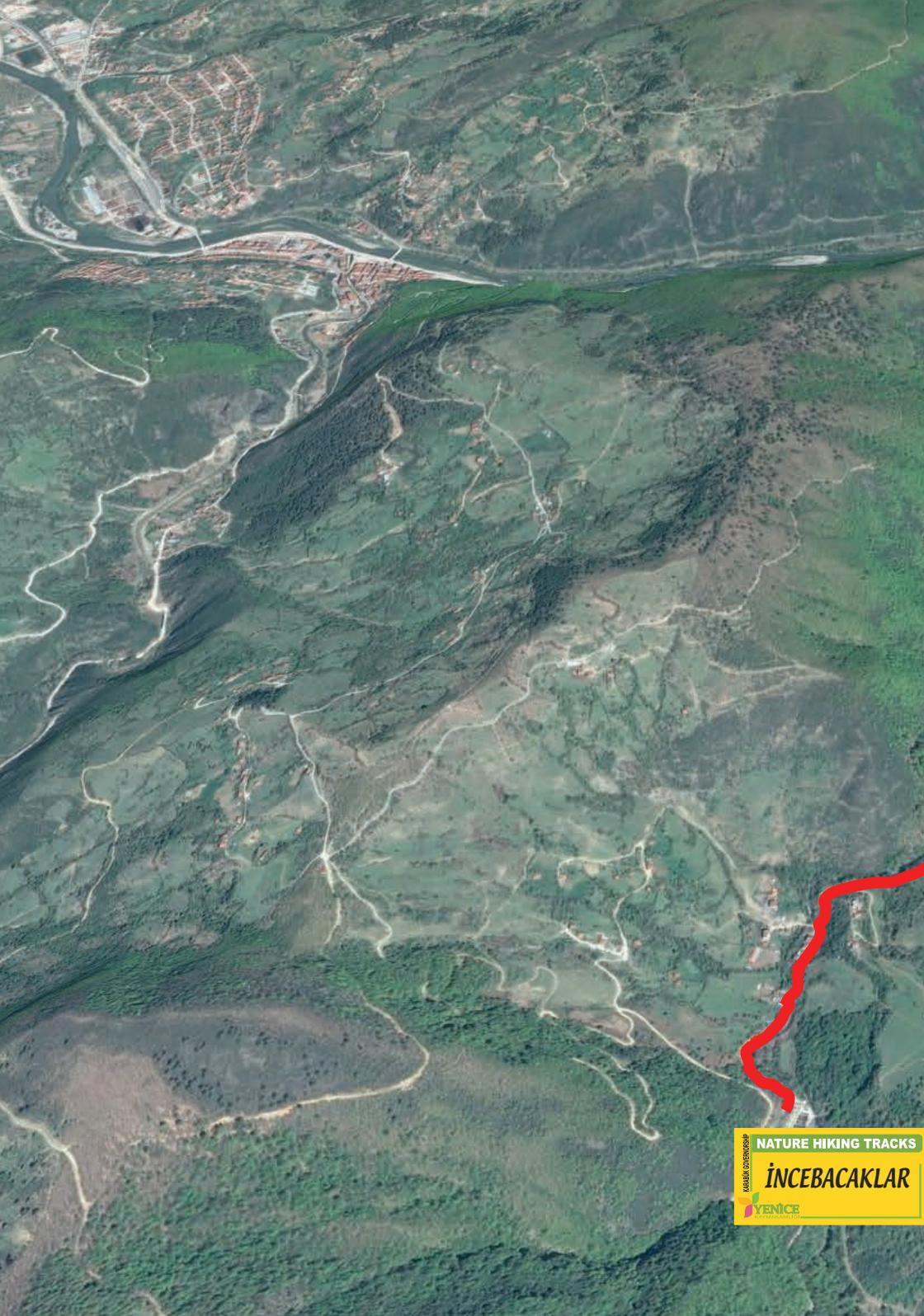


Crying Tulip - Cemil BELDER

**Track 1:****Kent Forest-Incebacaklar Village (4 km)**

Starting from Kent Forest, the track follows the asphalt road along Small Şeker Canyon and reaches the village. Despite the track being asphalt, the impressive view of narrow and deep canyon walls gives exciting moments to hikers. Extending in the rocky area between Taşpınar and Yapaz peaks in the east and between İlkgelmez and Ayıgöl hills in the west, Small Şeker Canyon offers an awesome view. Exhausted from going up and down from the jagged walls of the canyon, Şeker Creek welcomes its guests in its calm state. Everyone can easily walk this 1-hour track, which climbs with a mild inclination.





NATURE HIKING TRACKS

**İNCEBACAKLAR**

MAKUL ÖZGENEŞPİR

**YENICE**  
KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM



**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**KENT FOREST**  
YENICE  
KENT FOREST





Sorgun Plateau-Ersin DEMİREL

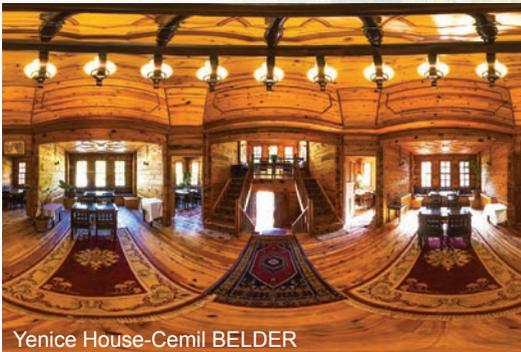
NATURE HIKING TRACKS

KENT FOREST

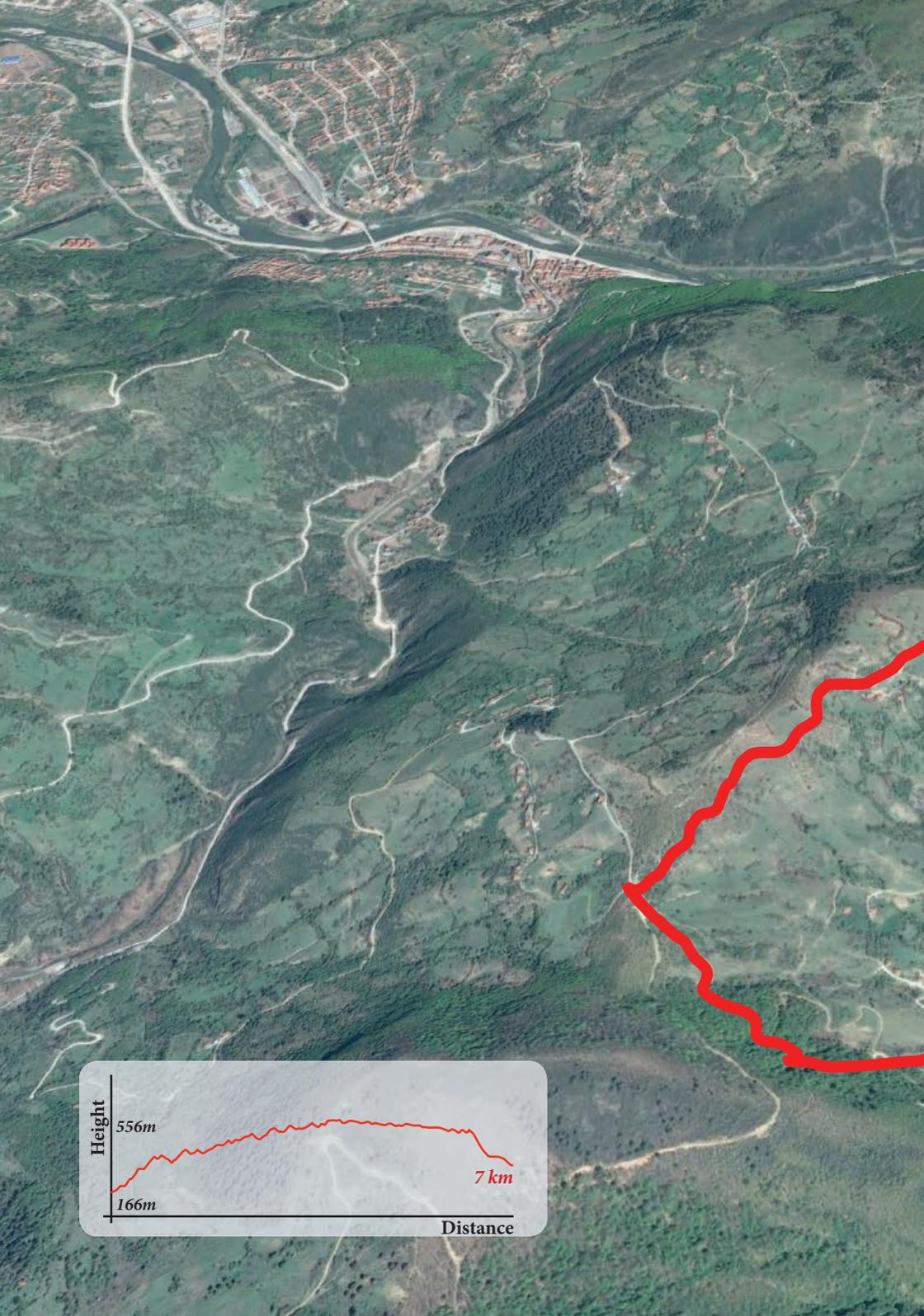
7 km

**Track 2:****Yazıköy-İncebacaklar-Kent Forest (7 km)**

The first 3 kilometers of the route, which starts from the forest pathway at the exit of Yazıköy is dirt and the rest is asphalt. The track, which goes on watching İncebacaklar Neighborhood and Şeker Canyon from above, follows the edge of Small Şeker Canyon and reaches Kent Forest. We should remind those who hike the track that they should not let their guard down in the parts where the canyon becomes narrow.



Yenice House-Cemil BELDER





**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**KENT FOREST**  
MUNICIPALITY OF YENICE

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**İNCEBACAKLAR**  
MUNICIPALITY OF YENICE

Colors of Fall in Yenice Forests-Ersin DEMİREL

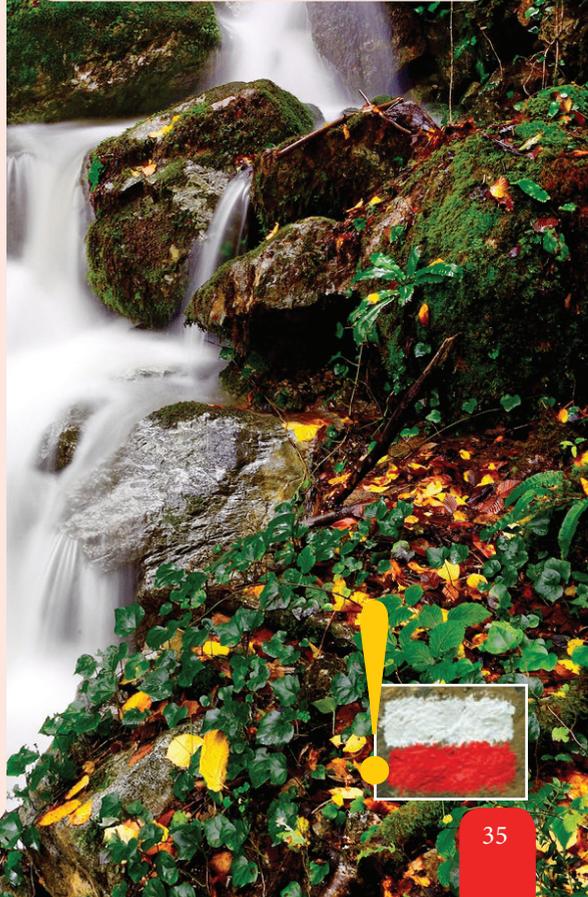


**Track 3:****Albergo Hotel-Hasanlar Neighborhood-Observation Terrace-Kanyonüstü-Albergo Hotel (8 km)**

One of the most beautiful villages of Yenice district, Incebacaklar stands out with its wooden houses that look like mansions. After Yenice Nature Hiking Tracks work, one of the houses in the area has been turned into a boutique hotel and started to serve as an accomodation facility. Being busy, especially on the weekend, the facility is popular among nature lovers. The route we are suggesting starts from the hotel and returns to the hotel by way of the Municipality Observation Terrace.

The first part of the hike proceeds in the direction of north. The cobbled hotel pathway ends in 30 meters and becomes a tractor way. Turn right at the trivium and go towards the last house. After passing by the water tank, go around the wooden fence and walk across a small brook. Now, your destination is Yazıköy Hasanbeyoğlu Neighborhood. Take one of the pathways parallel to each other and start ascending. When you get close to the village, pass by the two granaries and enter the settlement. When you walk by the houses and take the village road, you should enter the pathway that ascends along the slope in the direction of west. At the peak pointi, the track, which joins with the tractor way, coming from the village cemetery, will turn north again by the water tank. You will first reach Yazıköy İbrahimbeyoğlu Neighborhood. Then, you will take Yenice road and enter Hacibeyoğlu Neighborhood in 500 meters. Soon you will be at the Observation Terrace built by the municipality. The facility, with a view of the district center and Filyos Creek, is in service as both a restaurant and an accomodation facility.

When you set off again after the break, enter the dirt road that extends to northwest with the guidance of signposts. The first junction of the track is the location where it joins with Yazıköy-Kanyonüstü-Kent Forest track. From the dirt road, which has a view of Şeker Canyon and Incebacaklar, turn right and walk on. When you reach Hasanbeyoğlu settlement, you can get back to the hotel via the pathway you used in the first part of the route.



An aerial photograph of a valley. A river flows through the upper part of the image. The valley floor is a mix of green fields and dark forested areas. A prominent red outline follows the right side of the valley, likely indicating a hiking route. The text 'Observation Terrace' is centered in the upper-middle part of the image.

Observation Terrace



Hasanbeyoğlu  
Neighborhood

TRACKS  
HOTEL

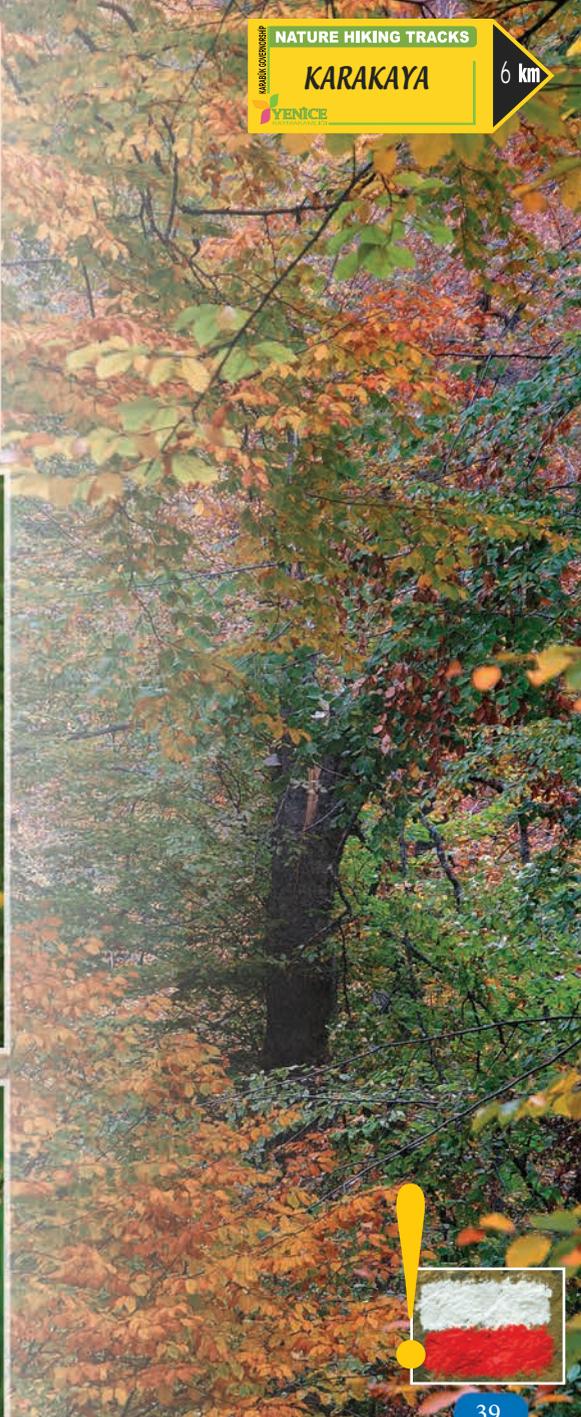




Çitdibi İzzet KERİBAR

**Track 4:****Gökbel Village-Karakaya Forest Management Facility (6 km)**

The hike, which starts in Gökbel village near Yenice, continues in company with the view of Karakaya Valley, surrounded by the greenery. The entire route travels over dirt forest pathways. It goes through the lush forest texture of Karakaya Valley, which is surrounded by Kocayayla Hill in the northwest, and Kuzguncak and Yassıçal hills in the southeast. At the end of the hike, you can have a picnic at the Karakaya Forest Management Facility.





YENICE GÖKBEL

NATURE HIKING TRACKS

**GÖKBEL**

**YENICE**  
YENICE GÖKBEL



**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

**KARAKAYA**

**YENICE**  
YENICE TURKISH TOURISM

MARBLI GÖRÜŞÜMÜZ





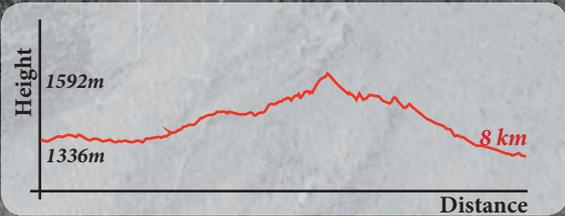
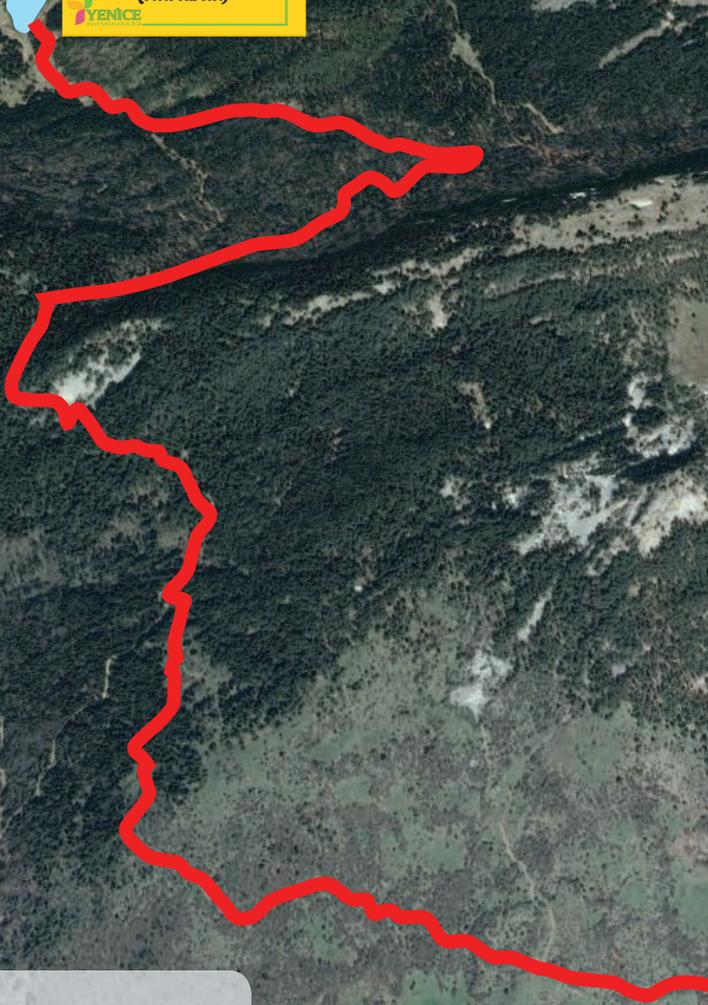
Eğriova Karabük Lagoon-Ersin DEMİREL

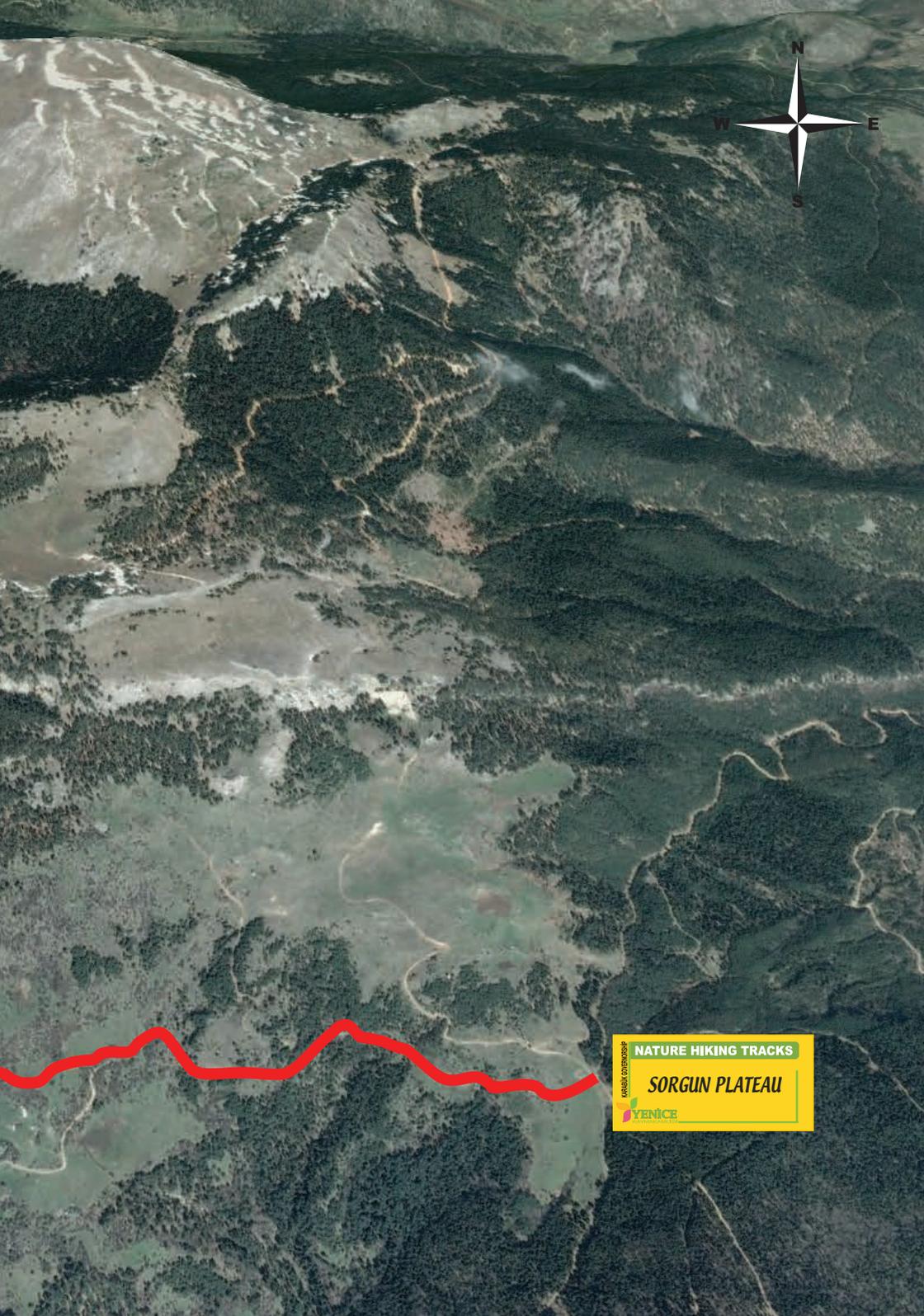
**Track 5:**  
**Sorgun Plateau-Eğriova Karabük Lagoon (8 km)**

Accessed via Çitdere-Şimşirdere road from Yenice or via the village road from Karabük, Sorgun Plateau is a wide meadowy area. In this easy track, which starts from the plateau at the southern side of Keltepe, you first walk on a forest pathway covered with grass. At the first stage, the route turns to west and then proceeds in the direction of north. Entering into a thick forest texture after a while, the road ascends gradually until Kuyrukkaya pass. Some time after you start descending, you will encounter Eğriova Karabük Lagoon, which shines like an emerald in the middle of the forest. Remember to “seize the nature and the moment” in the cottage by the lagoon.

NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
EĞRİOVA LAGOON  
(Karabük)

KARABÜK ÇEVRE BAKANLIĞI





MARSH CONSULTING

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

**SORGUN PLATEAU**

VENICE



Karaağaç/Belen Platea Pathway-Ersin DEMİREL

**Track 6:****Karaağaç Village-Küre Pool-Belen Plateau (9 km)**

At the start of the route, you pass Kıraçdoruk Crest and go towards south. At the third junction you will encounter, when you follow the road that goes right for about 300 meters, you will reach a wide area that watches Karabük from above. This is a region which is called Küre Pool by the locals, and where there is an ancient settlement. In addition to the ruins, the historic water complex, where the spring water comes out, is worth seeing. The water, which comes from the spring and is transferred via old channels, has an important place in today's irrigation system. After you tour this historic place, you go back to your route and move on. The route, which passes Taşaslığı Crest locality, turns to west from this point. Proceeding on the northern feet of Gerimseyil Hill, the track reaches Karaağaç-Lagoon road after Karkırığıdere location. In the final part, you walk in fresh air in company with yellow pine, fir and beech trees and reach Belen Plateau on Eğriova Karabük Lagoon road.

MUSTAFA ÖZGEN

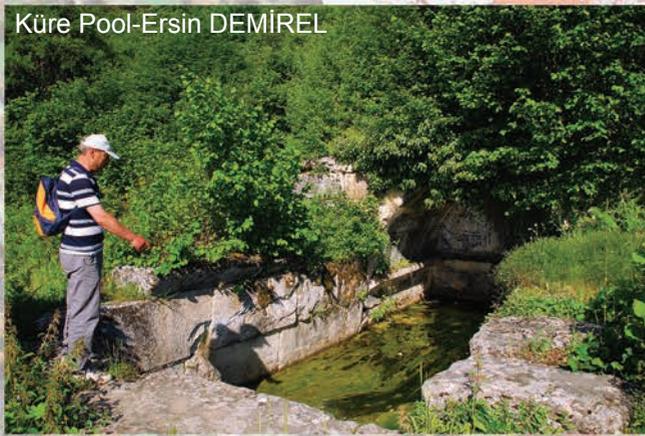
NATURE HIKING TRACKS

BELEN PLATEAU

9 km

YENICE

Küre Pool-Ersin DEMİREL



NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**BELEN PLATEAU**  
YENICE





MAZRAE GÖZETİMİŞİ  
**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**KÜRE POOL**  
YENİCE  
YENİCE

MAZRAE GÖZETİMİŞİ  
**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**KARAĞAÇ**  
YENİCE  
YENİCE



İncebacaklar Village-Ersin DEMREL





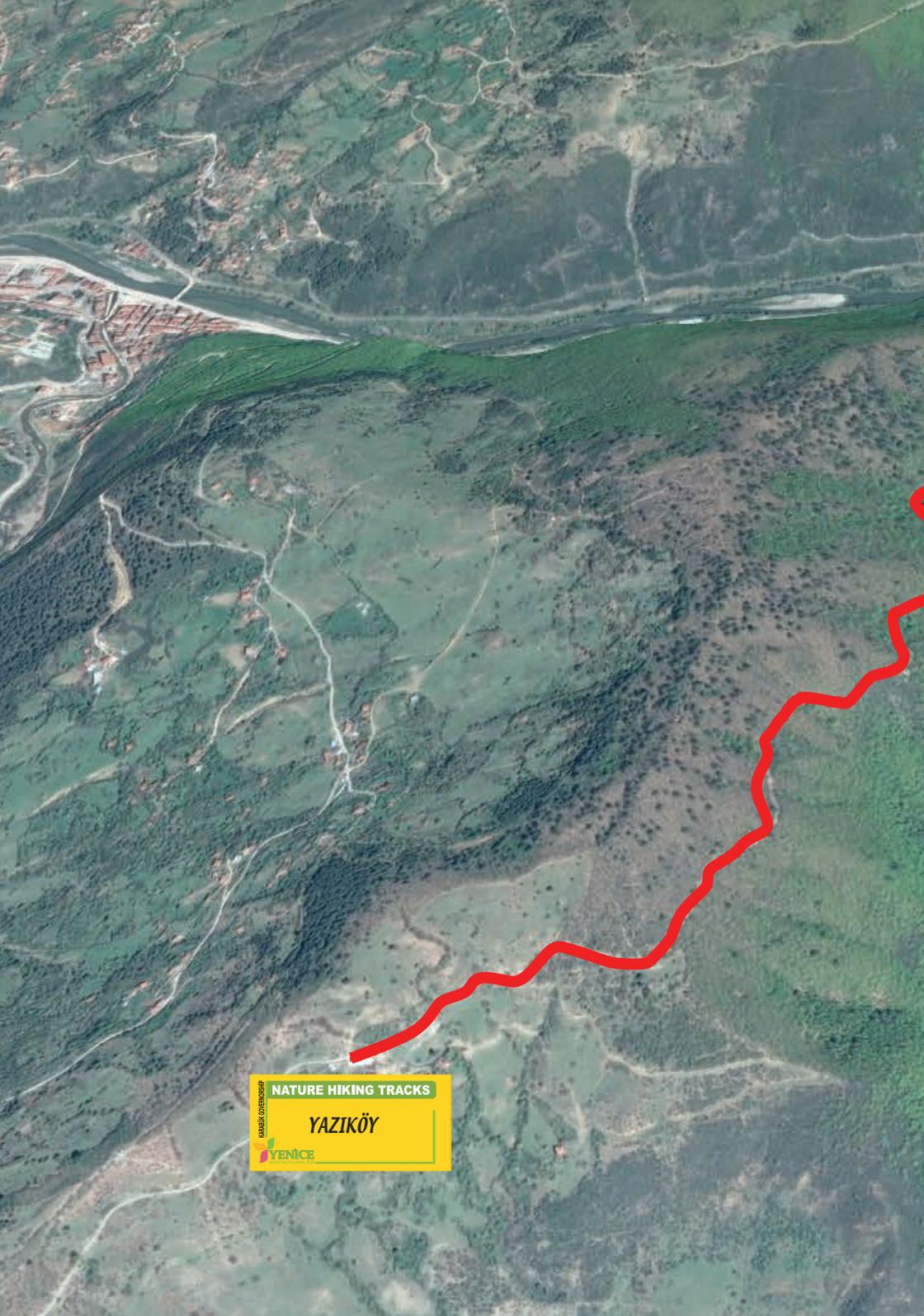
Albergo Boutique Hotel, İncebacaklar Village-Ersin DEMİREL

**Track 7:****Yazıköy-Kanyonüstü-Kent Forest (6 km)**

You should follow the Kent Forest sign, which is on your left when you turn your back to Yazıköy. The other sign, which points to the opposite road, shows route number 2, which goes via İncebacaklar Neighborhood and Small Şeker Canyon. This scenic track should not be missed, especially in fall. This is a breathtaking hiking activity, first with the green sights of İncebacaklar Neighborhood and Çitdere Valley, which lie below, and then in company with the terrifying giant rock walls of Şeker Canyon.

In the first part, you will pass through Hasanbeyoğlu settlement. The route, which becomes a dirt road later on, will continue in the direction of north. The first turn in front of you goes to İncebacaklar from the right, and the next turn goes to the Observation Terrace from the left. In the part where the dirt road ends and the pathway starts, you will go into a forestland for a short while. When you hear the sounds of those who are having a picnic in Kent Forest at the exit of the canyon, a splendid view of Filyos Valley will unfold. At this point, you can take the pathway on the right and go down to Kent Forest. However, since the pathway is a little steep, you should be careful. At the end of the track, you can have a cup of tea in Yeşil Vadi Restaurant, located in Kent Forest and get some rest.





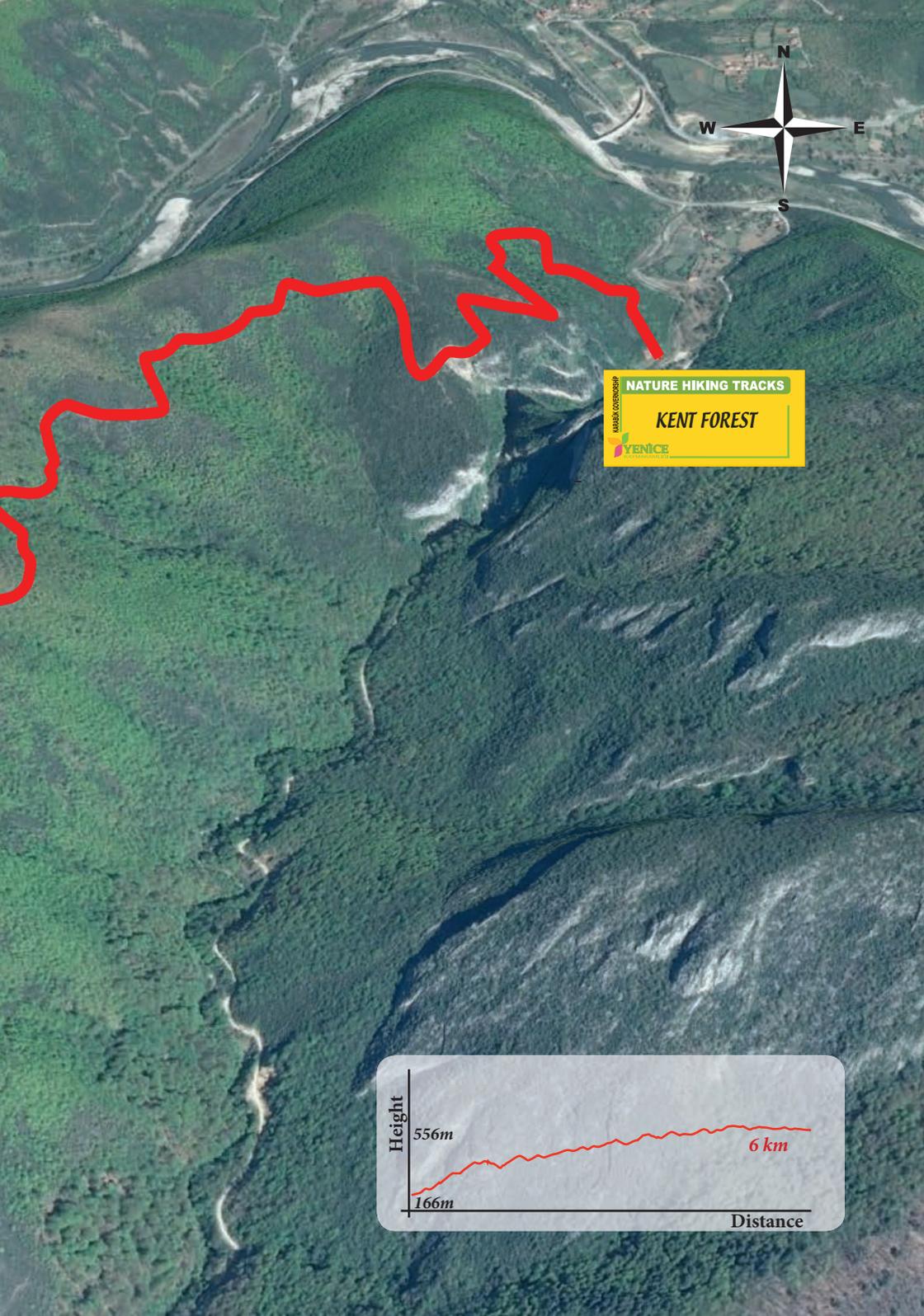
MAŞUL ÇEVREDEKİ

NATURE HIKING TRACKS

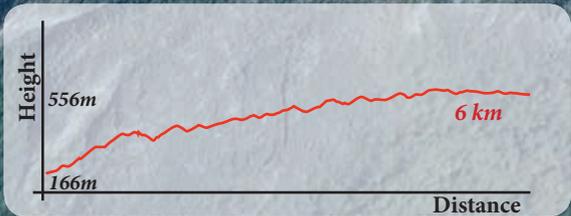
YAZIKÖY

YENİCE

YENİCE



MAPS & CO. COOPERATION  
**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**KENT FOREST**  
YENICE  
YENICE





NATURE HIKING TRACKS

ŞEKER CANYON

11 km

YENICE

**Track 1:****Kent Forest-İncebacaklar-Şeker Canyon (11 km)**

The first 4 kilometers of this route along Small Şeker Canyon is asphalt. The next part of the route is a forest pathway which goes parallel to Small Şeker Canyon below. The dirt road you will enter after the centenary wooden houses of İncebacaklar Village gradually ascends with the help of bends. It reaches a panoramic terrace at Şimşirdibi and Pamuklu Meşe localities that unrolls the entire canyon. The view is splendid when linden trees are in bloom. Below you is Şeker Canyon, which runs within a deep corridor; across from you is Karatepe Mountain, with its silhouette of majestic cliffs; and in the direction of south is a sea of forest, which wraps Çitdere and Şimşirdere valley. We recommend that you stop over at both locations to take photographs. You have the chance to see “crying tulips” at the aforementioned scenery points, especially in spring months. Starting from İncebacaklar-Yazıköy fork, the dirt road will reach a junction at Pamuklu Meşe locality. You should take the left side. You will cross a bridge in company with the canyon on your left and the lush forest texture on your right, and reach Grand Şeker Canyon entrance.



Şeker Canyon-Cemil BELDER





MAHİR ÇELİKHOĞLU  
**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**KENT FOREST**  
**YENICE**  
YENICE TURİZM VE SPA



MAHİR ÇELİKHOĞLU  
**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**ŞEKER CANYON**  
**YENICE**  
YENICE TURİZM VE SPA



**Track 2:****Eğriova Karabük Lagoon-Deliçoban-Kurudere-Bedet-Büyükkanyon Entrance (14 km)**

The route, whose scenery is the most captivating, but which is the most unfrequented of all the Yenice Forests Nature Hiking Tracks, starts from Eğriova Lagoon, at an altitude of 1332 meters, and climbs to an altitude of 1501 meters. Then, it goes down to an altitude of 460 meters in company with Çitdere-Şimşirdere valley visuality, which appears on your left in detail.

The starting point of the route is Eğriova Karabük Lagoon. You start ascending in the direction of west after crossing the bank of the lagoon, which is surrounded by forests and which can be best accessed via Karaağaç village. Called Sak Sivrisi by the locals, the peak point is located between Kocakavuk and Ahlatlık hills. After this crest you need to go up, the route turns to north with the help of a wide pathway on which tractors can go. Then, you reach the forest road by walking from the slopes of Tekepınar Hill. You have now left Eğriova Lagoon-Belen plateau and come down to Çitdere-Şimşirdere valley. With the vast scenery on your left, go on hiking on the road, which descends with a mild inclination. The route, which starts ascending by leaps and bounds in a short time, gets to a junction at Deliçoban locality. The road on the right goes to Ardıçlık plateau. You should turn left and continue your hike.

The route, which goes down to Songeçit locality, continues in the direction of north again. Proceeding between İnsaksivrisi and Sakallımezar localities, the route reaches another junction. The road on the left goes to Darıyazı Forest Storehouse via Kurudere. You go right and ascend for a short while. Passing the rocky area on Bedet crest, the route will arrive at a new junction, a little above the point where Şekersuyu and Şimşirdere. This time, follow the dirt road on the left and walk downhill. Soon, you will come down to the main road at the entrance of Grand Şeker Canyon and to the “Yenice Tracks” signpost near a fountain.

NATURE HIKING TRACKS

GRAND CANYON

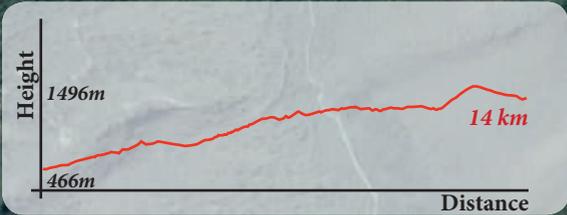
14 km

YENICE

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

**ŞEKER CANYON**

**YENICE**

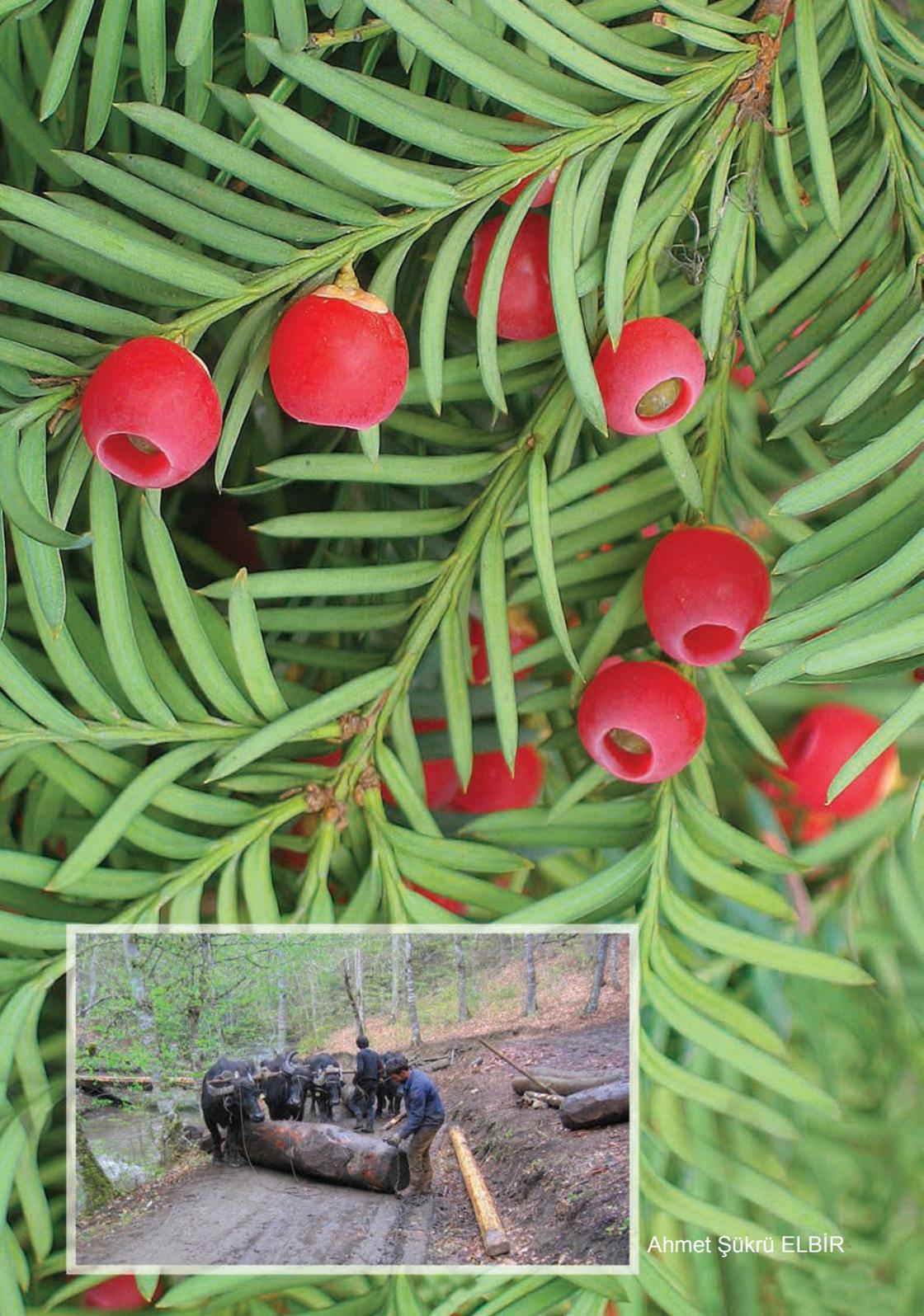




**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

**EĢRĪOVA LAGOON**  
**(Karabük)**

VALDŽIĀS ĢĒRĪBĀ  
**VENICE**



Ahmet Şükrü ELBİR

**Track 3:****Yazıköy-Aslandibi (12 km)**

Starting from the observation terrace, which dominates Yenice district in Yazıköy, the route first continues on the asphalt road for 2 kilometers. At the crossroads where the dirt road begins, you enter the forest road on the right. Here, you will see Yazıköy Cemetery on your left, and a water tank and a fountain on your right. A signpost at the same point will help you. The journey on the slopes of Arslan and Uçan hills will continue in a dense forest texture. Along the route, you will encounter three junction points. You need to take the left in the first two, and the right in the last one. We should tell you that the view of Şeker Canyon and Çitdere Valley accompanies hikers throughout the journey from among the leaves of sycamore, beech, fir, yew, linden, oak, hornbeam, maple and ash trees. The dirt road, which starts to ascend in the last stage, ends next to Aslandibi Forest Storehouse at the three-way junction. For the return journey, we recommend that you go by car and choose the route that lies along the canyon.





**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

*ASLANDİBİ*

**YENİCE**  
KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI

YENİCE





Belen Plateau-Ersin DEMİREL



Citdere-Cemil BELDER

NATURE HIKING TRACKS

ALBERGO HOTEL

12 km

YENICE

**Track 4:****Albergo Hotel-Tirköy-Albergo Hotel (12 km)**

Starting from Albergo Hotel, our route reaches Tirköy, which overlooks İncedere valley, and goes back to the hotel by drawing a large circle.

The hike, which starts in front of the mansion in İncebacaklar village, ascends until the end of the cobbled road. You continue your hike following the tractor road, which starts at this point, in the direction of northwest. At the junction point you will reach in 50 meters, you turn left and enter the pathway right at the beginning of the road on your right. The pathway, which goes uphill past electric poles, draws a large arch and arrives at Yazıköy Cemetery when it reaches a plateau. You need to turn left at this point from the junction you will encounter and enter the dirt road. This road, which goes to Aslandibi Forest Storehouse promises its guests a nice journey surrounded by trees.

By turning right from the second turn you come across (you will use the first turn when returning to Tirköy), you continue your hike from the crests of Uçan Hill. Now you need to turn right at every turn you encounter. The route, which starts to descend, will reach Tirköy first, and then the settlement cemetery. Starting to ascend again after this point, the route will join the dirt road you covered in the first stage. Now, you can turn left and go back to Yazıköy Cemetery first, and then to the hotel via the pathway.



Tirköy



**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**ALBERGO HOTEL**  
YENICE





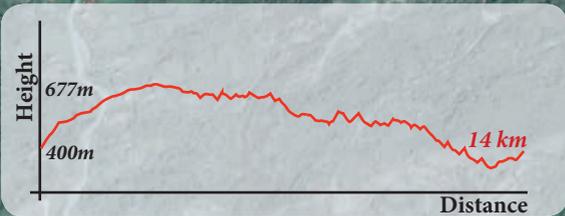
Arberatum-Cemil BELDER

**Track 5:****Albergo Hotel-Pamuklu Meşe-Şimşirindibi-Albergo Hotel (14 km)**

Our route, whose starting point follows the same itinerary as the previous track up to Yazıköy Cemetery, is a delightful hiking route for those nature lovers who prefer to stay at the hotel. First, go up to the cemetery at the crossroads by following the pathway. Turn left at this point and enter the dirt road. At the two turns, which you will encounter, take the left each time. The track, which is decorated with dry leaves in the fall, will start to descend with a mild inclination. Let us remind you that you need to turn left at the third junction point. This steep road you have entered will take you to the main Kent Forest-İncebacaklar-Aslandibi route in a short while. From the junction point, which is called Pamuklu Meşe by the local people, you can photograph Şeker Canyon. When you move on, you pass by Şimşirdibi locality and reach another junction. Now, turn left and start ascending. You can reach Albergo Hotel by turning right from yet another junction you will come across in 300 meters.



Yazıköy





**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**ALBERGO HOTEL**  
YENICE



Pamuklu Meşe



Yenice Forests, Fall- Cemil BELDER

**Track 6:****Göktepe Plateau-Bağbaşı Plateau-Çeltik Village (12 km)**

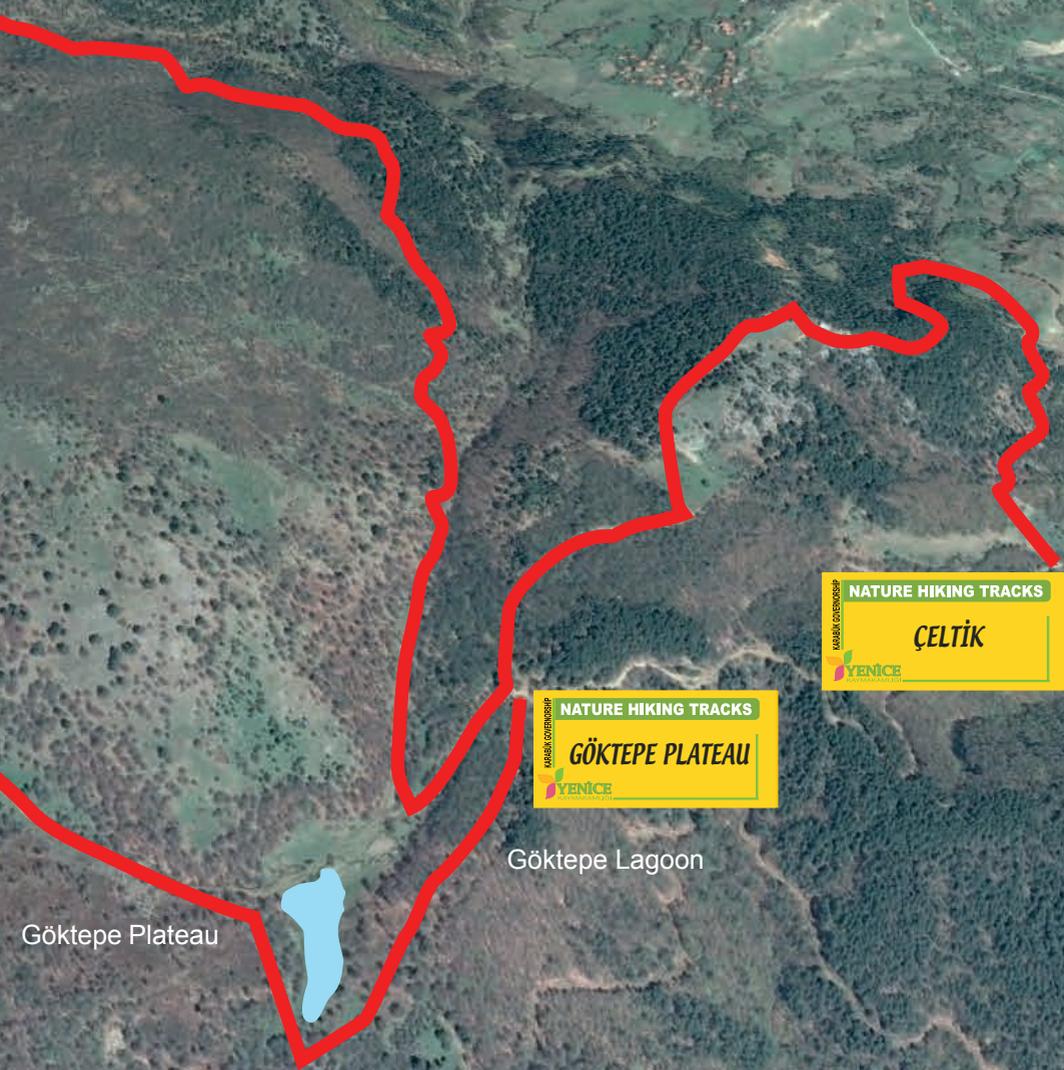
Göktepe Plateau, in which jades dwell in, is a picnic area at the same time. The plateau, whose visual quality increased together with the constructing of the pond in 2015, is the real address of those who seek tranquility. You begin your hike from the junction at the starting point of the pond. You draw a large circle around the pond by following the dirt road on the left. Then you will enter Göktepe plateau, which is used as a picnic area with its fountains and picnic tables. Surrounded by trees, this large area hosts the traditional plateau festival every year.

The forest road that turns right at the end of the plateau, and the pathway at the end of the forest road will take you to Bağlarbaşı Plateau in the north. There is also a signpost at the junction point. Bağbaşı, the upper parts of which are surrounded by pine trees, is a bowl-shaped meadow covered with logs row after row. Now you can follow the signs that show the east direction in the area where Yaylasu Creek runs. After a while, the forest road will turn to south and reach the starting point. You can turn left from where you are and reach the fire tower by walking uphill. While the watchman in the tower makes you tea, you can enjoy the view of the whole of Yenice Forests and the district. When it is time to set off again, be prepared for the pathway's drop-off among pine trees. The pathway, whose inclination eases off after a while, will turn right and take you to Çeltik village road passing by the water tank.



Bağbaşı Plateau





NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**ÇELTİK**  
YENICE  
www.yenice.com.tr

NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**GÖKTEPE PLATEAU**  
YENICE  
www.yenice.com.tr

Göktepe Lagoon

Göktepe Plateau



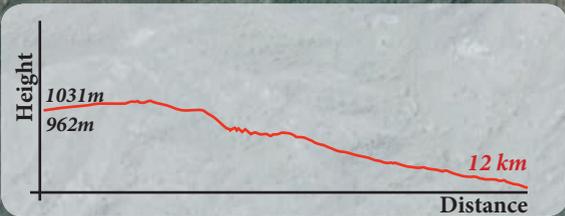
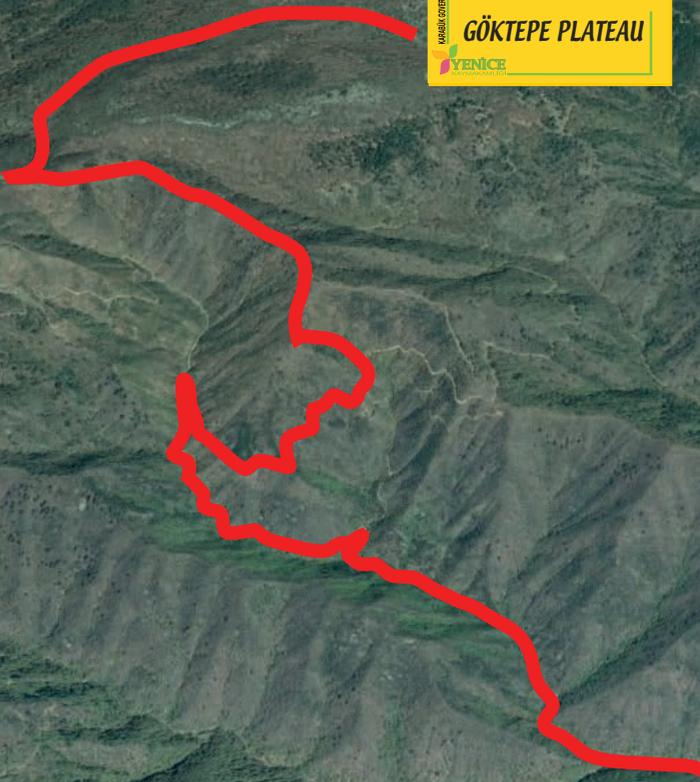
Göktepe Plateau-Ersin DEMİREL



## Track 7: Göktepe Plateau-Bektaş Plateau-Fındıkalıtı (12 km)

This route, all of which is a dirt forest road, first passes through a dense forest and reaches Fındıkalıtı Picnic Area via a deep valley. After drinking the ice-cold waters of Göktepe Plateau, you start hiking on the forest road in the direction of west. Then, you pass by the junction that points to Bağbaşı Plateau and arrive at Bektaş Plateau. You need to turn left from the diverging dirt road. This route, which was a pathway in previous years, has turned into a narrow forest road today. The route, which starts declining southward from the locality called Kovacı Crest in the maps, has a view that overlooks İncedere Valley from the hills. Proceeding through dense beech and oak trees, the track joins with a wide dirt road. You continue to proceed after you turn right from this point. Soon, you can go up to the wooden tower built by the forest management and watch the scenery of Yenice Forests that reminds of a green sea. We strongly suggest that you check the soundness of the wooden stairs of the tower. When you start hiking again, you will reach Göktepe-Fındıkalıtı forest road in a short time and turn left. Getting narrower and narrower, Kiranören Valley offers its guests a different visual material every season. The track, which descends spirally among hawthorns, rhododendrons and cherry laurels, especially in the spring, ends in Fındıkalıtı Forest Facility.







MAKAS KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

**FINDIKALTI**

**YENICE**  
YENICE KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI



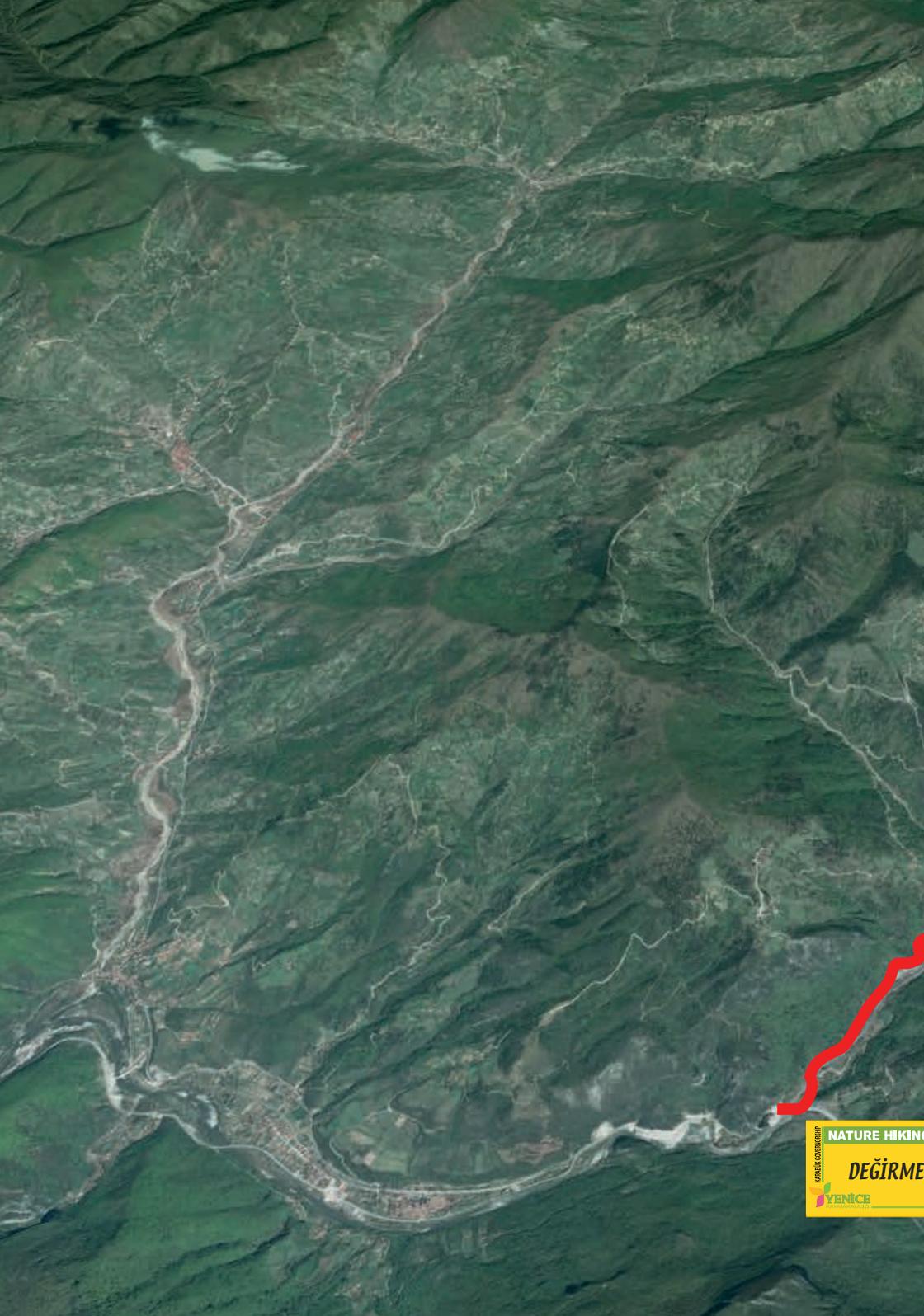
Belen Plateau-Ahmet Şükrü ELBİR

**Track 8:****Değirmen Alabalık-Kızılkaya Forest Management Facility (12 km)**

Passing through Kızılkaya Valley almost from beginning to end, this route offers nature lovers an enjoyable hike, with the nice surprises of the stream bed. The inviting waterfalls and ponds formed by the running creek which flows first on the right, then on the left side of the forest road are calling hikers. Those who want to cool on summer days should not miss the opportunity to swim in the ice-cold waters.

Starting from the grain mill on the side of Yenice-Karabük main road, the hike gravitates towards the inner parts of the valley, which gets narrower and narrower. The route, which ascends with a mild inclination, reaches a junction point after passing by the trout facility. Crossing the bridge over Kızılkaya, also called by the names “Kırğınlık” and “Balıkısık”, and continuing on the right side of the stream, the route proceeds uphill. After Yirmibeşoğlu settlement turn, the track arrives at Erkenez Fountain, which is a stopover. This point, where you will listen to the wind and the stream’s whispers, which soothe you, is the deepest part of the valley. The hiking activity ends in Kızılkaya Forest Facility.





NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**KIZILKAYA**  
YENICE



NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**KIZILKAYA**





Incebacaklar-Şekermese Forest Pathway-Ersin DEMİREL

**Track 9:****İncebacaklar Village-Şekermiş Forest Management Facility (14 km)**

The track, which starts from İncebacaklar village, known for its wooden houses in the traditional Western Black Sea style, proceeds along a dirt forest road. The hike, which starts in company with all kinds of scents from the exuberant plant cover, continues with the view of Şeker Canyon on your left. You can photograph the whole canyon from the natural observation terraces at Şimşirdibi and Pamuklu Meşe localities. The route, which crosses a bridge at the point where it goes out of the thick forest and where the valley widens, now proceeds from the left side of the stream. If you go left to the north, you can see the entrance to Grand Şeker Canyon. The route reaches Aslandibi first, and then Darıyazı forest storehouses. Let us remind you that you should ignore the turn that goes right after Aslandibi, and the turn that goes left after Darıyazı. In the last part of the route, you arrive at Şekermiş Forest Facility by following the riot of colors created by the forest texture. In the facility, which is also a camping site, there is a fountain and picnic tables.





NATURE HIKING TRACKS

ŞEKERMEŞE



NATURE HIKING TRACKS



ŞEKERMEŞE





Keltepe-Ersin DEMİREL



### Track 10: Sorgun Plateau-Keltepe Summit-Eğriova Karabük Lagoon (12 km)

The first part of this track, which starts from Sorgun Plateau, the largest meadow of the catchment basin, includes an ascend up to Keltepe summit. The hike, which starts from the fountain on the side of the dirt road, turns to the north with the guidance of the signpost and ascends via the dirt road. You pass by the ramshackle fire tower, and reach a rocky area. The hike, which continues northward via a pathway that starts near an old stone quarry, reaches Yörük Plateau. We should mention that the dirt road you will see below in the direction of east is one of the transportation networks of Karaağaç village. Now, walk from the crests of İkiçukur Hill, pass by Bilekyazı locality, and go down to the valley bottom. You will witness that the tree texture will become sparse as you ascend on the valley bottom. Cross the brook at the point called Uzunyazı by the local people and keep on climbing in the direction of northwest. The route, which proceeds on a weedy slope now, will keep on climbing from the rocky area, first with a mild inclination until Yıldırım Hill, and then in a way to make you sweat. The extraordinary view waiting for hikers at the 1999-meter Keltepe summit is such as to make you forget about all your tiredness. If you are doing your activity in clear weather, the theme of your camera will be a vast view as far as Karabük and Safranbolu. When you follow the signs that point to the west from the summit, you can start to descend from the weedy slope you will encounter after the second peak. The track, which goes down from Kolyazı Crest, covers about a 650-meter downhill hike. After you come across the Monumental Juniper tree, which is the precursor of the start of the forest texture, you will leapingly dive into lush trees. In an area where the trees permit, you can see Eğriova Karabük Lagoon smiling. We recommend that you put up a tent at the side of the lagoon, which is also used as a picnic area, or watch the stars in your sleeping bag on the patio of the lodge on the shore.



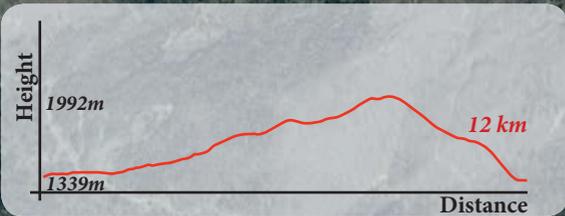


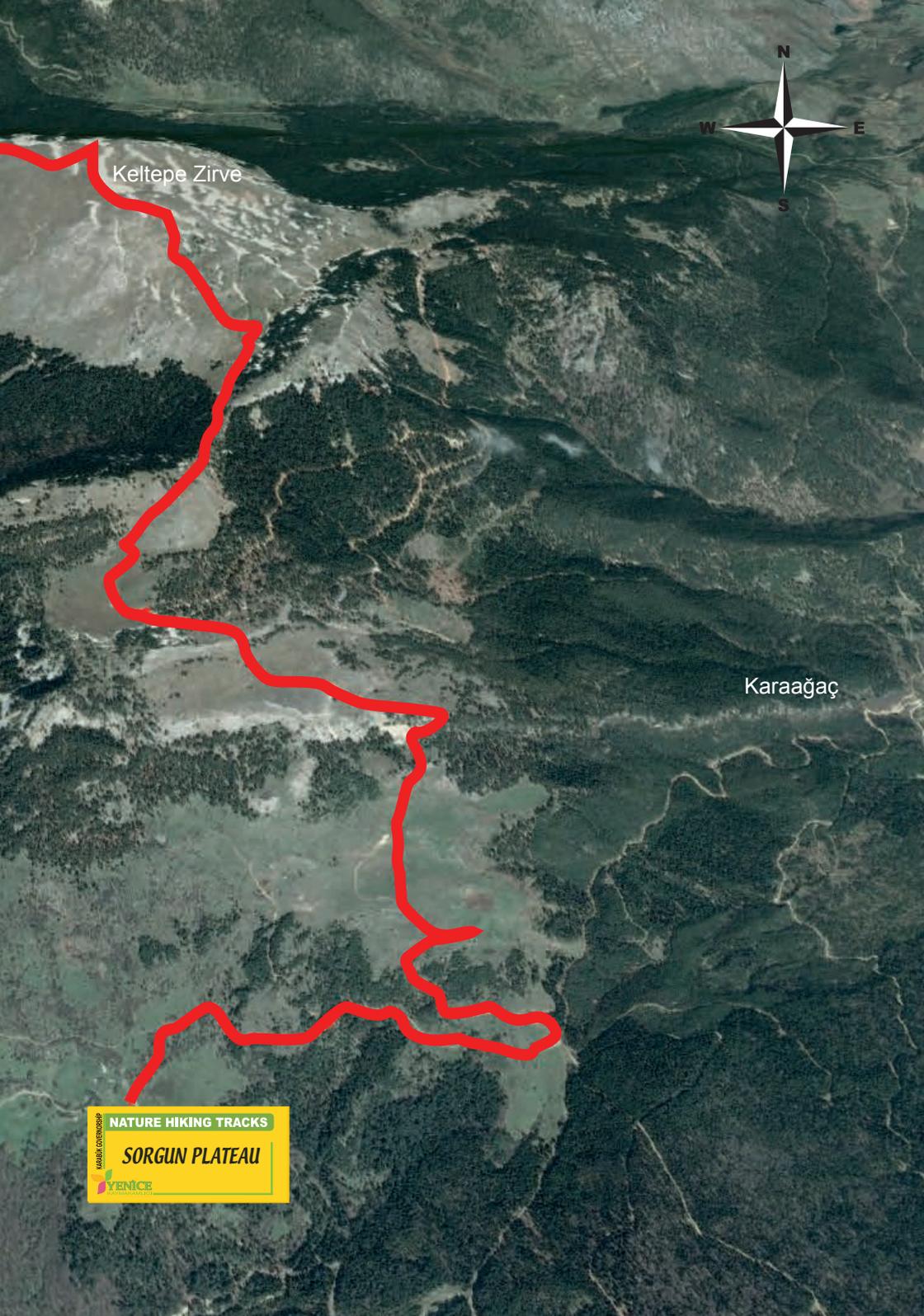
**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

**EĞRİOVA LAGOON**  
*(Karabiük)*

HEKİM CAZEMPOŞ

**YENICE**





Keltepe Zirve



Karaağaç

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**SORGUN PLATEAU**  
YENICE  
YENI YOL



Yenice Forests, Fall-Izzet KERIBAR

### Track 11: Karaağaç Village-Keltepe Summit-Sorgun Plateau (15 km)

The last part of the route we recommend has the same itinerary as the first stage of the previous track when hiked reversely. You start hiking at the Karaağaç-Sorgun Plateau fork and ascend via a pathway in the forest, where the trees hide the sky. After Büyükdüzdere Plateau, the gradually thinning woodland ends at Gerimli Oluğu locality. The pathway, which continues from the crest, will take you to the summit in company with the Belen scenery below. At the summit, you can photograph the view of Eğriova Karabük Lagoon and Safranbolu and take a long break. You turn southward from the summit point, where there is an old fire tower, and start descending. You climb over the rocks, pass through the fir trees below, and reach the slopes of Yıldırım Hill. At this point, while watching the green cover, which resembles a sea of forest, you will feel compelled to respect the generosity of mother nature. You set off again, pass by Yörük Plateau, and reach Sorgun Plateau.



Keltepe-Ersin DEMİREL

An aerial photograph of a mountainous region. The top right portion of the image shows a large, light-colored, rocky plateau. A red line is drawn around this plateau and extends downwards along the right side of the image, following the contours of the terrain. The surrounding areas are covered in dense green forest. The text 'Keltepe Summit' is located in the upper right quadrant, above the red outline. In the bottom right corner, there is a yellow rectangular box containing text and logos.

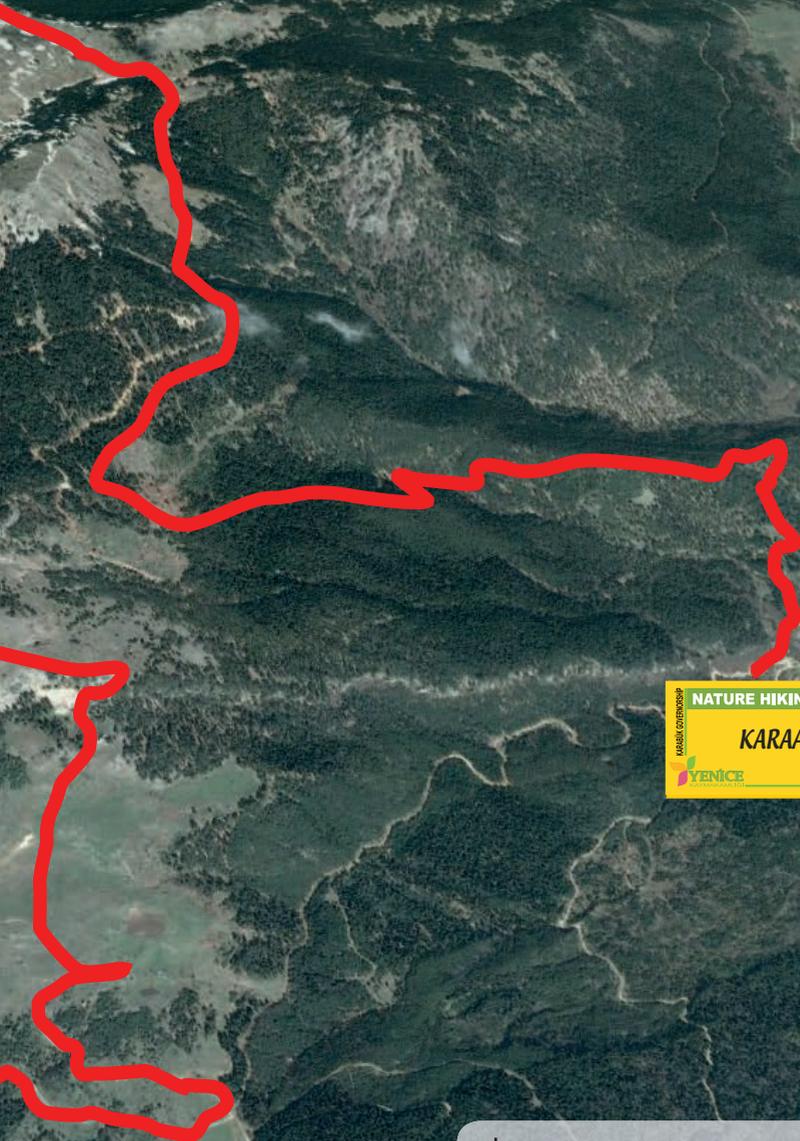
Keltepe Summit

MAKAS GÖRÜŞÜMÜZ

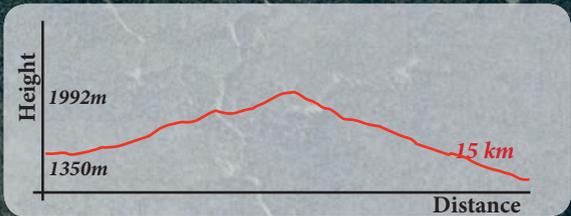
NATURE HIKING TRACKS

**SORGUN PLATEAU**

YENICE



NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**KARAAĞAÇ**  
YENICE





Ahmet Şükrü ELBİR

**Track 12:  
Gökbel Village-Karakaya-Anayol Dolemit Mine (15 km)**

The hike, which starts from the signpost at the entrance of Gökbel village, goes down up to Dolemit Mine turnout, in company with the spectacular views of Karakaya Valley. The hiking activity, which proceeds in the direction of northeast, crosses the bridge and arrives at Karakaya Forest Facility. you can take a short break in the facility, shaded by broad-leaved trees. Whe you set out again, you need to return to the turnout and enter the grass-covered forest road on the left side of the brook. Now, continue your hike southward on the valley bottom on the feet of Kızılgölkaya and Kuzgunçal hills. By following the small waterfalls and ponds of Karakaya Creek, you can reach the trout facility next to Dolemit Mine. Those who wish can feast on fish before they get to the main road.

KARAKAYA ÇEVRE DERNEĞİ

NATURE HIKING TRACKS

**MAIN ROAD  
(Dolemit Mine)**

YENİCE

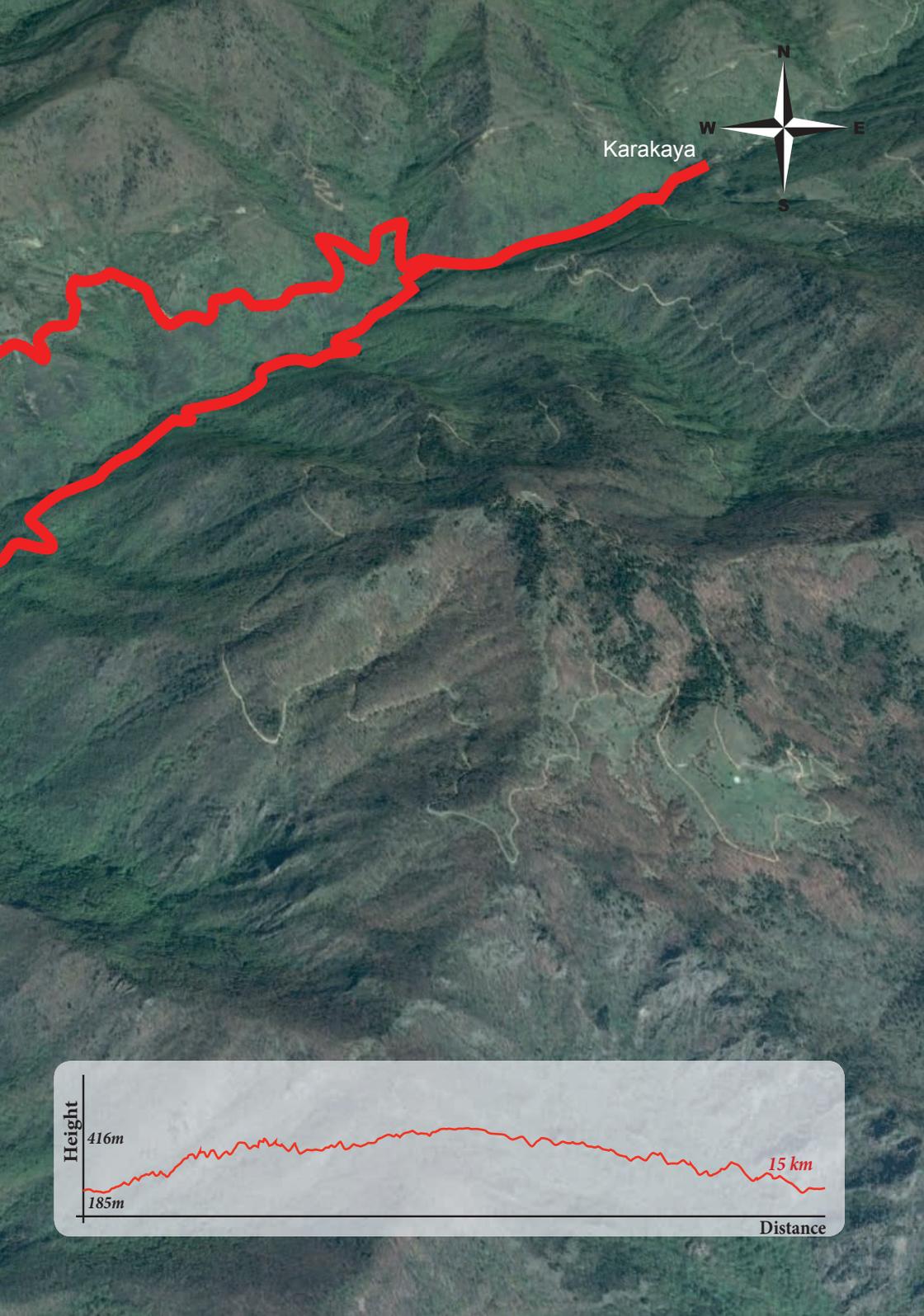
15 km





NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**GÖKBEL**  
YENICE

NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**MAIN ROAD  
(Dolemit Mine)**  
YENICE



Karakaya





Keltepe-Ersin DEMİREL

**Track 13:****Arboretum-Subatan Plateau-Arboretum (15 km)**

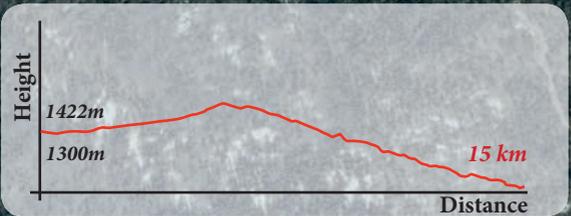
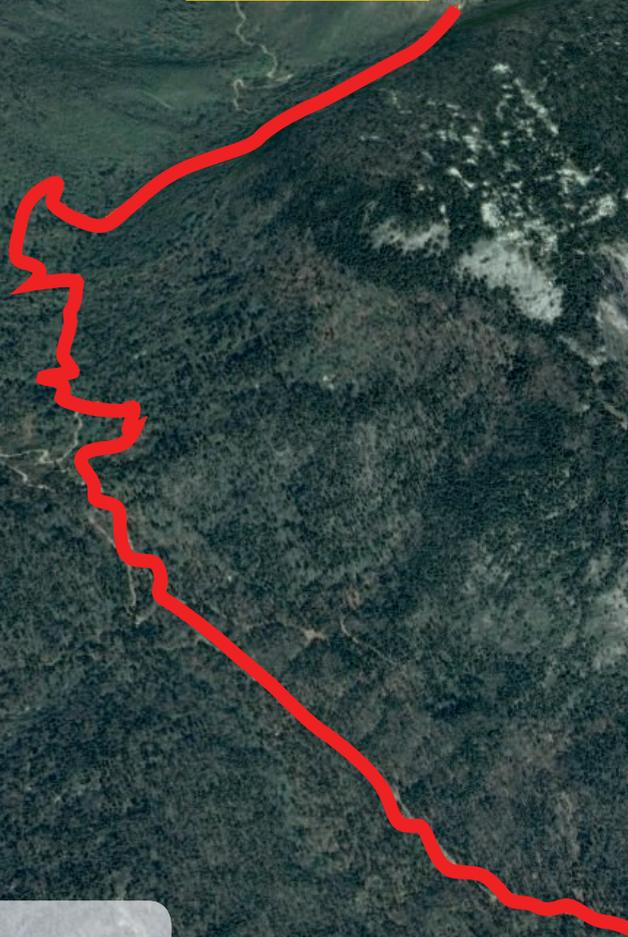
The track, which starts from Gökpinar Forest Facility, which was declared to be a 'Nature Reserve Area', goes uphill until the Arboretum area, where there are monumental trees. In this area, we encounter majestic Turkis hazel, Istranca oak and yew trees. You should remember to have your photographs under these wonders of nature, which are labeled with signs and whose heights reach the sky. The road, which ascends with twists for about 5 kilometers, reaches a large plain where Aşağıkavak and Yukarıkavak plateaus are located. The southeastward hike turns left at the next junction and proceeds to the northeast. When you reach a large area at the peaks of Kargacık Hill, it means you are at Subatan Plateau, where the creek disappears into a cave. The dirt road ends on this wide meadow, where there is a jerry-built shepherd fold. Now, arrive at Kapıatağı Observation Terrace at Şahinkaya locality by following an indistinct pathway going northward. You can enjoy the view, which unfolds Filyos Valley, where Yenice-Karabük highway passes by, with all of its magnificence. Sometimes under mist, the valley is the focus of attention among photography enthusiasts with its color harmony in the spring. You follow the same route for the return journey, and go back to Gökpinar Forest Facility.



NATURE HIKING TRACKS

**ARBORETUM**

 VENICE





Kapıatağı Observation Terrace

MAKUL ÖZKORUŞU

NATURE HIKING TRACKS

*SUBATAN PLATEAU*

YENICE

YENICE



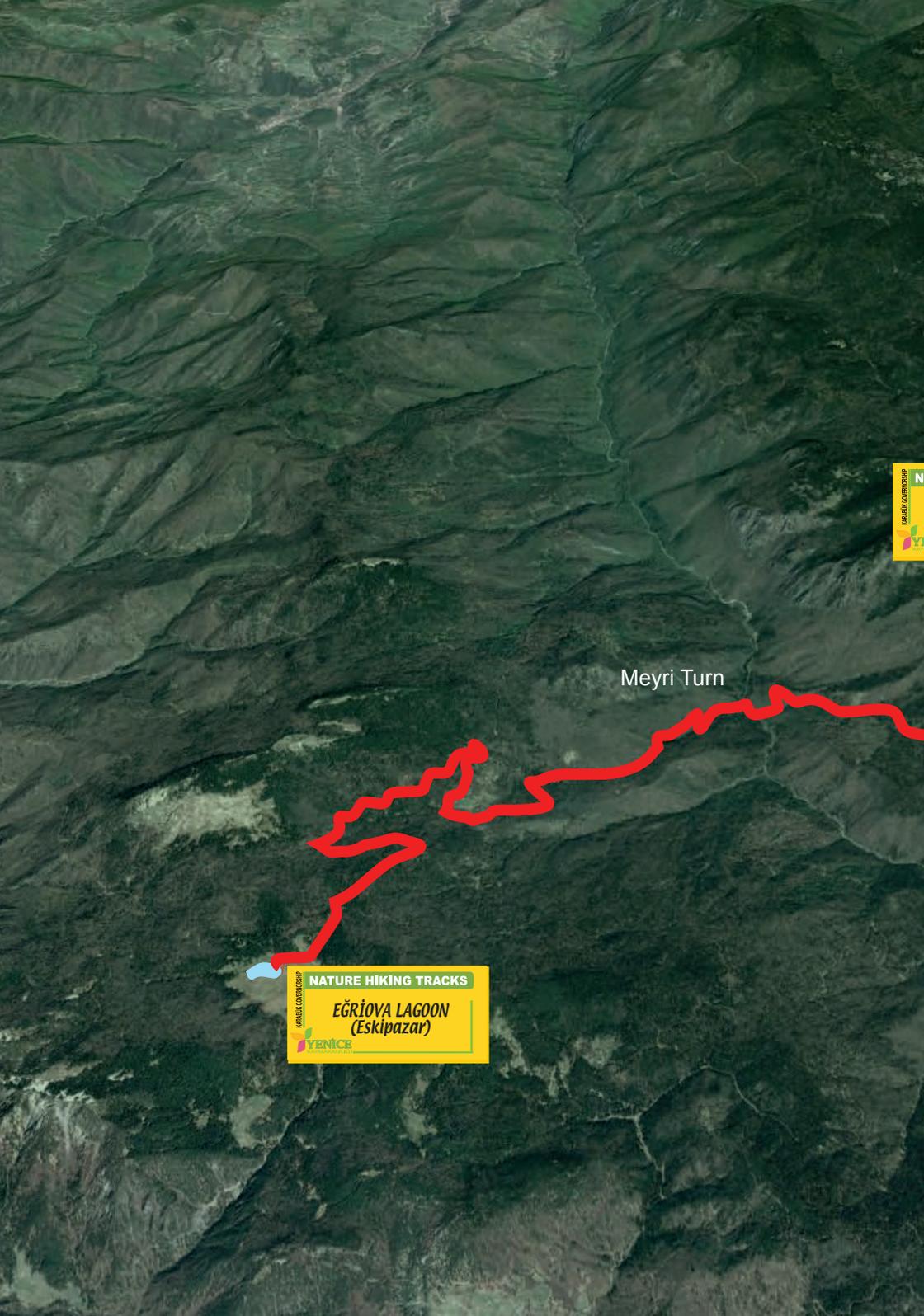


Eğriova Eskipazar Lagoön-Ersin DEMİREL

**Track 1:****Eğriova Eskipazar Lagoon-Meyri Turn-Eğriova Karabük Lagoon (25 km, 2 days)**

Eğriova Eskipazar Lagoon, where there are a few plateau houses, is a location for those who seek serenity and peace of mind. In previous years, the work of refilling the lagoon, which was emptied due to a leak, has been going on. The hike, which starts from the signpost at the edge of the lagoon, around which quiet is dominant, descends with small bends from the forest road, adorned with a variety of trees, up to Meyri turn. You put up your tents by the fountain at this junction as the twilight is falling. On the second day, witnessing the rich ecosystem of Yenice Forests, you ascend to Sorgun Plateau first, and then to Kuyrukkaya Pass. Two kilometers later, you will be at Eğriova Karabük Lagoon, which has stolen the blue color of the sky. Those who wish to keep this track shorter can go toward the pathway on the left from Anıt Meşe turn, and reach the road coming from Sorgun Plateau.





Meyri Turn

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

**EĞRİOYA LAGOON**  
(Eskipazar)

MARKA ÇEVRENOŞUP

**YENİCE**

**N**

MARKA ÇEVRENOŞUP

**YENİCE**



Keltepe Summit

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**EĞRİÖVA LAGOON**  
*(Karabük)*

Sorgun Plateau





Eğriova Karabük Lagoon-Ersin DEMİREL

Keltepe-Ersin DEMİREL

NATURE HIKING TRACKS

SORGUN PLATEAU

30 km

YENICE

**Track 2:**  
**Arboretum-Eğriova Karabük La-**  
**goon-Keltepe Summit-Sorgun**  
**Plateau (30 km, 2 days)**

This is a track with many uphill and downhill, which we suggest to those who have confidence in their condition. First, you ascend from Gökpınar Forest Facility up to Kavaklı Pass fork. Then, you go down to Subatan Plateau and reach Belen Plateau after a short ascend. You spend the first night camping in the cabin on the side of Eğriova Karabük Lagoon among the pine scents on Keltepe slopes. The second morning, when you are well-rested, a considerable ascend is waiting for you. Entering the pathway from the clearing that we see in the southeast, you gain an altitude of about 700 meters along the crest and arrive at Keltepe summit. The lagoon and the view of Karabük's silhouette below you will make you forget about your tiredness. After that, we follow the Sorgun Plateau sign at the ramshackle fire tower and reach the plateau by following the pathway that goes down.

NATURE HIKING TRACKS

# ARBORETUM



Belen Plateau

Eğriova Lagoon





Keltepe Summit

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
SORGUN PLATEAU  
YENICE



Eđriova Karabük Lagoon-Ersin DEMİREL





**Track 3:**  
**Karaağaç-Belen Plateau-Eğriova Karabük Lagoon- Sorgun Plateau-Karaağaç**  
**(23 km, 2 days)**

This activity, which involves camping, is a very nice route that circles all around Keltepe. Starting at Karaağaç-Sorgun Yayla junction point, continues on the road in the forest until Belen Plateau. After the water break in Belen Plateau, you set out again and ascend up to Eğriova Karabük Lagoon. You can put up your tent in an environment in which the silence is broken only by woodnotes and the wind and you can be alone with nature. You start hiking early in the morning with energetic bodies revitalized by the fresh air. You first ascend to Kuyrukkaya Pass, and then start descending until Sorgun Plateau.



**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**

**EĞRİOVA LAGOON**  
*(Karabük)*

**YENİCE**  
KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI





Belen Plateau

Küre Pool

Sorgun Plateau

NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**KARAAĞAÇ**  
YENİCE



Yenice Forests from Keltepe-Ersin DEMİREL





Karakaya Valley Rhododendrons-Ersin DEMİREL





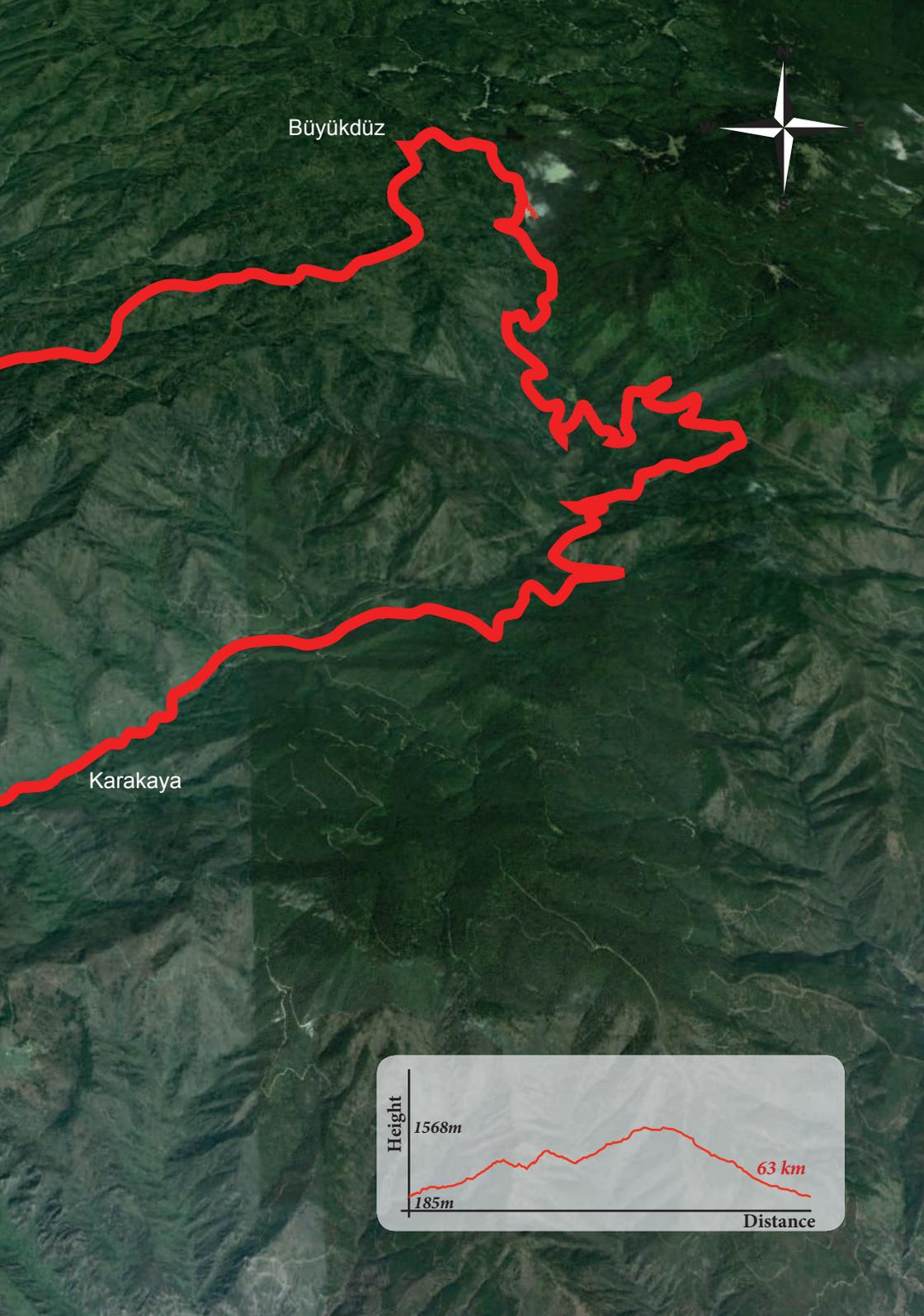
**Track 4:**  
**Değirmen Alabalık-Kızılkaya-Yalakları-  
 yarı-Baklabostan Forest Management  
 Facility-Karakaya Forest Management  
 Facility -Main Road Dolemit Mine  
 (63 km, 5 days)**

Passing through Kızılkaya and Karakaya valleys form beginning to end, this route is a 5-day hiking activity. The stage on the first day brings hikers to Kızılkaya Forest Management Facility in company with a stream bed along Kızılkaya Valley. On the second day, you hike on the continuously ascending forest road and pitch a camp in Yalakları. On the third day, you follow the forest road on the left and arrive in Baklabostan via Büyükdüz. The buildings in Büyükdüz locality, which the French once used as a sanatorium because of its pure air, are quite interesting. On the fourth day, you reach Karakaya Forest Facilities in company with the view of a sea of trees that paint Karakaya Valley in green, brown, red and yellow shades. On the fifth and the last day, this long route come to an end at the main road under the guidance of Karakaya brook. Those who wish to keep the journey shorter can prefer the 9-kilometer road that directly goes to Baklabostan, instead of the 14-kilometer Büyükdüz-Baklabostan route.



NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**DEĞİRMENÖNÜ**

NATURE HIKING TRACKS  
**MAIN ROAD  
(Dolemit Mine)**



Büyükdüz

Karakaya



Sorgun Plateau-Ersin DEMİREL



**Track 5:**

**Kent Forest-Şekermeşe Forest Management Facility-Eğriova Eskipazar Lagoon-Sorgun Plateau-Keltepe Summit-Eğriova Karabük Lagoon-Subatan-Arboretum (77 km, 6 days)**



The route, which encompasses almost all of Yenice Forests, is a 6-day activity in total. The route offers an adventure that will exceedingly satisfy those who wish to explore the beauties of this pristine wonder of nature. Starting with the fresh air filtered by nature's distillery, and with the visual feast created by the light beams coming through the trees, the first day brings nature lovers to Şekermeşe Forest Facility. On the second day, you go up to Eğriova Eskipazar Lagoon in company with the pleasant scent of purple rhododendrons. The long hike of the third day continues until Sorgun Plateau in company with bees, which are in pursuit of escorting flowers. The stage on the fourth day ascends to Keltepe summit, which touches the clouds. The summit, from which you can see the Black Sea, at a distance of 70 kilometers, reinforces our sense of freedom. You spend the night camping at Eğriova Karabük Lagoon below. On the fifth day, you leave behind the lake, reflecting the green of trees and the white of clouds, and go up to Subatan Plateau. On the sixth and the last day, you greet the monumental trees at Arboretum, which is the apple of Yenice Forests' eye, and finish your adventurous hike at Gökpınar Forest Facility.

Day 1	: İncebacaklar-Şekermeşe	(14 km)
Day 2	: Şekermeşe-Meyri-Eğriova Eskipazar Lagoon	(15 km)
Day 3	: Eğriova Eskipazar-Sorgun	(17 km)
Day 4	: Sorgun-Keltepe-Eğriova Karabük Lagoon	(12 km)
Day 5	: Eğriova Karabük Lagoon-Subatan Plateau	(12 km)
Day 6	: Subatan-Arboretum	(7 km)



**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**KENT FOREST**  
YENICE

Meyri Turn

**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**EĞRİOVA LAGOON**  
(Eskipazar)  
YENICE



**NATURE HIKING TRACKS**  
**ARBORETUM**

PARLAKI COOPERATION  
VENICE  
www.venice.com

Belen Plateau

Keltepe

Eğriova Lagoon

Sorgun Plateau





Gökbel Village-Ersin DEMİREL





These tracks, which are recommended only for the summer months, are for self-confident and experienced nature lovers. These routes, a big part of which passes through the water and which requires you to walk on wet stones, have a high difficulty level and are relatively dangerous. It is strongly suggested that you take with you a guide who knows the region well. Neoprene shoes, which do not slip in water, or rubbers, which the villagers call 'cizlavit', are ideal for passing the canyon. You need to arrange your clothes and equipment accordingly, thinking that you may have to swim sometimes. To prevent your belongings from getting wet, it is recommended that you have dry bags with you.

**Track 1 : Small Şeker Canyon (3 km)**

The start of this track, which is shaded by high canyon walls and whose difficulty level is medium, is the trout facility in İncebacaklar village. The route ends in Yeşil Vadi Facilities in Kent Forest.

**Track 2 : Grand Şeker Canyon (4.5 km)**

This is a relatively difficult route, which can be covered by sometimes swimming across ponds. Let us remind you that the canyon walls are higher than 100 meters in some places. After you cross the bridge between Pamuklu Meşe and Aslandibi Forest Storehouse, you turn left and reach the canyon entrance. The route ends in İncebacaklar trout facilities. At the last stage, you can use the forest road, which goes to the water tank.

**Track 3 : Kızılkaya Valley Stream Bed (12 km)**

This track, which can be called “the valley passage”, is a very enjoyable activity. In the summer months, everyone can readily try this route, which is relatively easy compared to the other two tracks. This is an exciting hiking route, which requires a little caution in the relatively wide Kızılkaya stream bed, but which also gives you the opportunity to swim in surprise waterfalls and turquoise ponds.

The bicycle tracks that we recommend here and that go mostly on forest roads involve routes that are suitable for mountain bikes. These uphill and downhill routes, which are in accordance with the geographical structure of Turkey, should be tried definitely in the summer and fall. In the meantime, we should particularly mention that the region of Yenice Forests has been hosting the Turkish Cycling Championship for the last five years. Those who want to ride a bicycle in Yenice can rent a bicycle for one day from Albergo Hotel.



## **Track 1: Albergo Hotel-Yazıköy-Aslan-dibi-Darıyazı-Kurudere-İncebacaklar-Albergo Hotel (29 km)**

The route, which starts from İncebacaklar village, draws a large circle and returns to the starting point. Cyclists have to climb a 300-meter ascent along the route. The entire track is a dirt forest road. The two most important ascents are between Hotel-Yazıköy and Darıyazı-Kurudere.

## **Track 2: Mengen Bürnük Lagoon-Yenice (35 km)**

Starting from Mengen Bürnük Lagoon, the route goes up to the Yenice Forest Facility border via a 4-kilometer ramp. The route, which continues downhill from Yenice border, is a dirt road until Camıyanı. In the next part, you pass through old tunnels and reach Yenice district center via an asphalt road. Attention! There is a little vehicular traffic starting from Güney village.

**Track 3: Yazıköy-Göktepe-Fındıkaltı-Yazıköy (47 km)**

The route with a view of İncedere Valley has two important ascents. The first stage starts from Yazıköy, at an altitude of 506 meters, and includes the descent until Güney village, at an altitude of 181 meters. The second stage of the route is a considerable slope that climbs up to 1006 meters to Göktepe plateau. In the last stage, you go down to Camiyanı forest storehouse, at an altitude of 181 meters, and go up to Yazıköy at the starting point. The road between Güney village and Göktepe Lagoon; the rest is a dirt road.

**Track 4: Albergo Hotel-Yazıköy-Aslandibi-Kabadoruk-Meyri Sapağı-Şekermeşe-Darıyazı-Aslandibi-İncebacaklar-Albergo Hotel (51 km)**

The route, which you will explore in the nooks of Yenice Forests, starts from an altitude of 351 meters and climbs to Kabadoruk summit, at an altitude of 1355 meters. The route, all of which is a forest road, passes by unfrequented areas. There are plenty of water sources along the route.

Bicycle Race-Kamil ALEV

## **Track 5: Değirmen Alabalık-Kızılkaya-Yalaklaryanı-Büyükdüz-Baklabostan-Karakaya-Dolemit Mine-Değirmen Alabalık (63 km)**

This is the most difficult of all the bicycle tracks we have suggested. The route, which starts from an altitude of 400 meters, climbs up to an altitude of 1551 meters and in the last stage goes down to an altitude of 400 meters to Filyos Valley, is recommended only to experienced cyclists. The road, which climbs with a mild inclination from Kızılkaya valley entrance up to Erkenez Fountain, continues with a climb from Eşrefağa turn to Yalaklaryanı. However, as you ascend, spectacular views unfold after every bend. Having two short rises between Baklabostan and Karakaya, the route continues in the refreshing air of the forest.



**Track 6: Kent Forest-İncebacaklar-Aslandibi-Darıyazı-Şekermişe-Meyri Turn-Kuyrukkaya Pass-Eğriova Lagoon-Belen Plateau-Subatan Plateau-Arberotum-Kuzköy- Kent Forest (64 km)**

Drawing a large circle, the route can be considered a track of medium difficulty due to slopes. The inclination of some parts between Sorgun Plateau-Kuyrukkaya Pass and Belen Plateau-Kavaklı Pass is a little too much. The route starts at Kent Forest, which is 152 meters above sea level. Its highest point is Kuyrukkaya Pass, at an altitude of 1476 meters. Kuzköy-Kent Ormanı-İncebacaklar stage is asphalt; all the rest is a dirt road.

**Track 7: Kent Forest-İncebacaklar-Aslandibi-Darıyazı-Şekermişe-Meyri Turn-Sorgun Plateau-Karaağaç Village-Küre Havuzu-Belen Plateau-Eğriova Lagoon-Kuyrukkaya Pass-Sorgun Plateau-Meyri Turn-Şekermişe-Kent Forest (83 km)**

The route, which follows the same itinerary as our previous bicycle route until Belen Plateau, draws a circle around Keltepe. After Sorgun Plateau, you go back to Kent Forest using the same itinerary you covered in the first stage. Kent Ormanı-İncebacaklar stage of the route, which goes up from an altitude of 152 meters to 1476 meters, is asphalt; all the rest is a dirt forest road.

**Track 1: Kent Forest-Yazıköy-Observation Terrace-Güneyköy-Çeltikçi-Göktepe Lagoon-Göktepe Plateau-Fındıkalı-Bürnük Şirinyazı Lagoon (65 km)**

**Track 2: Kent Forest-İncebacaklar-Aslandibi-Darıyazı-Şekermişe-Meyri Turn-Kuyrukkaya Pass-Eğriova Lagoon-Belen Plateau-Subatan Plateau-Arberotum-Kuzköy- Değirmen Alabalık-Kızılkaya-Yalaglaryanı-Büyükdüz-Baklabostan-Karakaya-Dolemit Mine-Değirmen Alabalık-Balıkısık-Kent Forest (125 km)**

**Track 3: Kent Forest-İncebacaklar-Aslandibi-Darıyazı-Şekermişe-Meyri Turn-Eğriova Eskipazar Lagoon-Hadrianopolis Antique City-Eskipazar-Çetiören-Sorgun Plateau-Karaağaç-Belen Plateau-Eğriova Karabük Lagoon- Kuyrukkaya Pass-Meyri Turn-Şekermişe-İncebacaklar-Kent Forest (135 km)**



Kent Forest, Darıyazı Forest Facilities, Şekermeşe Forest Facilities, Karakaya Forest Facilities, Sorgun Plateau, Eğriova Karabük Lagoon, Fındıkaltı, Büyükdüz, Küre Havuzu, Gökpınar, Göktepe Plateau, Süreyya Pine Grove, Municipality Observation Terrace Bungalow Facilities are ideal places for those who wish to camp.

- Phototgraphing the monumental trees in the Arboretum area (Turkish hazel, Yew etc.)
- Exploring Yenice Forests with the long, 6-day hiking route
- Camping at Karabük Eğriova Lagoon
- Running after the jades at Göktepe Plateau
- Watching the extraordinary scenery at Keltepe summit
- Thaking a photo tour in the forests, which put on its motley outfit every fall
- Buying a hand-crafted cane made of trees in the region
- Taking a journey full of adrenalin in Grand and Small Şeker canyons, which bring rock climbers and natural beauties
- Having a tranquil holiday in the bosom of nature at the boutique hotel in İncebacaklar village
- Seeing Atatürk's natural cave painting in İncedere Valley
- Going on a guided tour to Safranbolu houses, which are on Unesco's World Heritage list
- Visiting Hadrianopolis and Kimistene ruins in Eskipazar district
- Travelling between Yenice and Karabük by train



Eğriova Karabük Lagoon-Cemil BELDER

## 14. TRANSPORTATION

District of Yenice is 32 kilometers to Karabük, 253 kilometers to Ankara, 436 kilometers to İstanbul, and 69 kilometers to Zonguldak.

Those who want to come to Yenice from İstanbul can follow either İstanbul-Bolu-Gerede-Eskipazar-Karabük itinerary or İstanbul-Bolu-Yeniçağ-Mengen-Gökçebey itinerary. Those who want to come to Yenice from Ankara need to take Kızılçhamam-Gerede-Eskipazar-Karabük itinerary.

We should mention that the Zonguldak-Yenice-Karabük-Ankara train service, which has been discontinued for a while, will start again in 2016.

There is a scheduled minibus service between Yenice and Karabük. You can use Doğu Turizm Seyahat bus company, which shuttles between Yenice Kooperatif and Karabük-Zonguldak.

For shuttle minibuses

Karabük Phone: 0370 412 7244-412 2844

Yenice Phone: 0370 766 1598-766 4141

## 15. ACOMMODATION

Albergo Boutique Hotel: 0370 797 0122-0534 050 0777-0532 312 3940  
www.albergobutikotel.com  
info@albergobutikotel.com

Municipality Observation Terrace Bungolow 0370 766 1111

Forest Management Guesthouse 0370 766 1036

Yeşil Vadi Restaurant-Camping 0370 796 8380-0536 512 1356  
(Kent Forest)

## 16. IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance	112
Police Emergency	155
Gendarme Emergency	156
Forest Fire	177

### Province of Karabük Telephone Directory

Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism	0370 415 6818
Karabük State Hospital	0370 415 6393
Karabük Department of Forestry	0370 424 1082

## **District of Yenice Telephone Directory**

Governorship	0370 766 1198
Municipality	0370 766 1111
Yenice State Hospital	0370 766 4606
Yenice Forest Management	0370 766 1036

## **17. ROUTES and GUIDANCE**

Dursun KAYAALTI	0538 404 3702
Ersin DEMİREL	0535 219 9326
Fahri KARA	0541 766 4460
Recep KARADÖNGEL	0534 050 0777
Ünal TOLUN	0532 312 3940
Yılmaz ÜSKÜDARLI	0530 236 8956

## **18. REFERENCES**

- 1- Final Report of Yenice Wildlife Development Area, T. KEÇELİ, Karabük-2011
- 2- Inventory and Observation Project of Territorial and Inland Water Ecosystems in the Province of Karabük, General Directorate of Forest and Water Affairs, Ankara-2014
- 3- Travel, Nature and Adventure, Ekin Writing Center, Travel Book Series
- 4- Likya Road from Fethiye to Antalya, Okuyan Us Publications-2003
- 5- Western Black Sea Ecotourism Potential, N. TÜRKER/A. ÇETİNKAYA, Detay Publishing, Ankara-2009
- 6- Hittite Road, Ersin DEMİREL, Pandora Publishing -2014

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