

BLACK SEA REGION TOUR

8 Days · 7 Nights — Departs from Samsun · Flights not included

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The tour starts at **Start: Samsun Airport** / **Finish: Rize Airport** and ends at **Start: Samsun Airport** / **Finish: Rize Airport**.

Day 1 — Saturday

Highlights: Samsun

At 15:10, you will meet your cultural guide at Samsun Airport. Afterward, we transfer to our hotel in Samsun. Accommodation and dinner will be at the hotel.

Meals

Samsun

Accommodation

Samsun

Total Distance and Duration for the Day

Samsun Airport – Hotel: 22 km (20 minutes)

Total: 22 km (20 minutes)

Day 2 — Sunday

Highlights: Ordu, Kurtuluş Park, Bandırma Ferry Museum, First Step Monument, Atatürk Honor Monument, Yason Cape, Boztepe

After breakfast at our hotel, we go to **Kurtuluş Park** in **Samsun**, where a life-size replica of the **Bandırma Ferry** is displayed. After completing our tour with **wax figures** and period reflections, we visit the **Tütün Pier** and **First Step Monument**, the place where **Atatürk** first set foot in **Samsun** with his 18 comrades-in-arms. Next, we see the **Atatürk Honor Monument**, commissioned in 1931 by Austrian sculptor **H. Kriphel**, a symbol of **Samsun**, and take souvenir photos. After that, we move toward **Ordu**. On the route, we stop at **Yason Cape**, and then arrive at **Ordu**, known as the “Pearl of the Black Sea.” After seeing the city center, we reach **Boztepe**, 475 meters above sea level, where the view will make you feel as if you are flying by plane. After a break with amazing views, we reach our hotel in **Ordu**.

Meals

Ordu

Accommodation

Ordu

Total Distance and Duration for the Day

- **Samsun – Yason Cape:** 132 km (1 hour 43 minutes)
- **Yason Cape – Boztepe:** 30 km (41 minutes)
- **Total:** 162 km (2 hours 24 minutes)

Day 3 — Monday

Highlights: Trabzon, Giresun Castle, Kuzalan Nature Park, Blue Lake (Kuzalan), Atatürk Mansion, Trabzon Hagia Sophia Museum

After breakfast at our hotel, we reach **Giresun**, known as the capital of hazelnuts and the homeland of cherries in the Black Sea. We see **Giresun Castle**, built during the reign of Pontus ruler **Farnakes**, and the grave of **Topal Osman**, Atatürk's regiment guard, from our vehicle, while also viewing the **Aksu River** and **Giresun Island**, then arrive at **Kuzalan Nature Park**. Inside the national park, we see the **Kuzalan Waterfall** and take memorable photos. Afterwards, we reach the **Blue Lake (Mavi Göl)**, a hidden paradise surrounded by forests. Following the Blue Lake tour, we visit **Atatürk Mansion**, used by **Atatürk** during his visits to Trabzon and later purchased by the locals as a gift. The mansion retains importance as the place where Mustafa Kemal wrote part of his will. Then, we visit **Trabzon Hagia Sophia Museum**, built as a church by the **Komenos family** between 1248-1263, later used as a mosque and during wartime as a hospital. Afterward, we proceed to our hotel in **Trabzon**.

Meals

Trabzon

Accommodation

Trabzon

Total Distance and Duration for the Day

- **Ordu - Giresun Castle:** 45 km (43 minutes)
- **Giresun Castle - Kuzalan Nature Park:** 48 km (57 minutes)
- **Kuzalan Nature Park - Trabzon Hagia Sophia Museum:** 165 km (2 hours 14 minutes)
- **Total:** 258 km (3 hours 54 minutes)

Day 4 — Tuesday

Highlights: Uzungöl, Sümela Monastery, Maçka, Hamsiköy, Arsin, Araklı, Sürmene, Of, Dernekpazarı, Çaykara, Taşkiran, Karaster & Lustra Plateaus

After breakfast at our hotel, we see **Sümela Monastery**, located at the foothills of **Karadağ**, from the valley floor. During the free time provided, you can enjoy nature and take amazing photographs. **(Note: As the Sümela Monastery has been under renovation and restoration by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism since 2015, whether a visit is possible depends on the conditions at the time. Regardless of how much is open or closed, the National Park will be visited.)** After our enjoyable moments, we board our bus and return to **Maçka** to head toward **Zigana**, an ancient pass historically significant on trade routes, whose name in the local Rumca dialect means "pass." We view **Hamsiköy**, originating from the Arabic word Hamse (Five) Village, panoramically, taste its famous rice pudding, and take a short break for lunch.

After a photo stop at the 1702-meter-long **Zigana Tunnel**, we have lunch and continue through **Arsin, Araklı, Sürmene**, and **Of**, crossing the **Solaklı River** to reach **Uzungöl**. After free time to enjoy the relaxing nature of **Uzungöl**, we board minibuses to reach **Lustra** and **Karaster Plateaus**. At 2000 meters, this point is also used for **Uzungöl paragliding**, where we receive information about the **Black Sea plateau life**, see traditional plateau houses during a nature walk, and drink hot milk offered by our agency. We then return by minibus to **Uzungöl**. Dinner and accommodation are at our hotel in **Uzungöl**.

Meals

Uzungöl

Accommodation

Uzungöl

Total Distance and Duration for the Day

- **Trabzon – Sümela Monastery:** 58 km (59 minutes)
- **Sümela Monastery – Hamsiköy:** 40 km (49 minutes)
- **Hamsiköy – Uzungöl:** 141 km (2 hours 8 minutes)
- **Uzungöl – Karaster Plateau:** 8 km (27 minutes)
- **Total:** 247 km (4 hours 23 minutes)

Day 5 — Wednesday

Highlights: Ayder, Rize Tea Factory, Fırtına River, Rafting & Zipline, Çamlıhemşin, Şenyuva, Zil Castle, Palovit & Gelintülü Waterfalls

After breakfast at our hotel, we visit a **tea factory** to see the stages that tea goes through from being picked to reaching our table. We learn from experts how tea is brewed and how to distinguish high-quality tea. After tasting our tea, we have time to purchase the exclusive **May Tea** found only in the Black Sea region, as well as local products such as butter, honey, and cheese.

Next, we enter the **Fırtına Valley**, one of the 50 ecosystems in **Pazar**. Traveling along the **Fırtına River**, which welcomes us appropriately by its name, you will be amazed by nature once again. After lunch at a trout facility by the river, guests who wish can participate in popular activities such as **Zipline** or **Rafting** (extra). The 7 km course has more than 15 rapids. Each 6-person boat has a professional rafting guide, life jackets, helmets, knee pads, and special insurance.

We continue our tour to **Çamlıhemşin**, where the natural sets of the film **“BAL”**, which won the “Golden Bear” at the International Film Festival, are located. We enter the **Çat Valley**, one of the most important branches of the historical Silk Road, passing through **Şenyuva** (formerly **Çinçiva**) village, home to the oldest stone bridge with the widest arch, and see the oldest mansions in the country. Our last stop is **Zil Castle**, built at one of the most commanding points of the valley to protect the historical trade route. From the castle, we overlook **Çat Valley**, **Tatar Mountain**, and **Sico Hill** from a 100m cliff. After a photo break in the hidden garden of the Kaçkar Mountains, we move deeper into **Çat Valley**, passing through dense forests with the country’s oldest yew trees and along the gushing streams, eventually reaching **Palovit Waterfall**, the region’s widest waterfall. We take amazing photos of the deep pool formed by the waterfall and return to **Çamlıhemşin**.

Afterwards, we depart for **Ayder Plateau**, at 1350 m, covered with pine forests. We pass by **Aşağı and Yukarı Ambarlığı**, **Şenlik Düzü**, and stop at **Kalegon Düzü** to photograph **Gelin Tülü Waterfall** and enjoy the fresh mountain air. During our free time at **Ayder Plateau**, you can take a pleasant walk and experience the unique atmosphere of the plateau. After the excursions, we settle in our hotel.

Meals

Ayder

Accommodation

Ayder

Total Distance and Duration for the Day

- **Uzungöl – Rize:** 70 km (1 hour 5 minutes)
- **Rize – Fırtına River:** 50 km (37 minutes)
- **Fırtına River – Palovit Waterfall:** 31 km (47 minutes)

- **Palovit Waterfall - Zil Castle:** 5 km (10 minutes)
- **Zil Castle - Ayder:** 37 km (1 hour)
- **Total:** 193 km (3 hours 39 minutes)

Day 6 — Thursday

Highlights: Arhavi, Pokut & Sal Plateaus, Ardeşen, Fındıklı, Çağlayan, Çifte Köprü, Arılı Village, Mençuna Waterfall

After breakfast at our hotel, depending on **weather conditions**, we set out for **Pokut Plateau**. At the plateau, located at 2000-2050 m altitude, we give you free time. During this free time, guests can enjoy **sucuk sandwiches**, drink tea, photograph the beauty of nature, and capture these moments.

Next, we visit the nearby **Sal Plateau**, where we take photos and enjoy the plateau before boarding our vehicles and departing for **Arhavi**. Upon arrival in **Arhavi**, during our journey through the **Kamilet Valley**, we stop at the **Çifte Bridges** in the **Düzköy** area. After taking photos here, our unique valley journey ends, and we continue on foot along a trail that penetrates the dense **Black Sea forest**, observing **Komar flowers**, leading us to **Mençuna Waterfall**. At the waterfall, the tallest single-drop waterfall in the country, we have free time to enjoy the spectacular view and relax with **thyme tea**.

Afterwards, we return and drive to **Arılı Village**, where we enter a local house and serve traditional dishes to our valued guests before heading back to **Arhavi**.

Meals

Arhavi

Accommodation

Fındıklı

Total Distance and Duration for the Day

- **Ayder - Mençuna Waterfall:** 90 km (1 hour 44 minutes)
- **Mençuna Waterfall - Arılı Village:** 6 km (20 minutes)
- **Arılı Village - Arhavi:** 15 km (22 minutes)
- **Total:** 111 km (2 hours 26 minutes)

Day 7 — Friday

Highlights: Arhavi, Borçka, Karagöl, Gonio (Apsaros) Village and Fortress, Çoruh River and Bridge, Batumi, Orta Mosque, Europe Square, Medea (Golden Fleece) Monument, Poseidon Square, Turkish Consulate Building

After breakfast at the hotel, we offer an optional tour: traveling via Cankurtaran, one of Turkey's longest tunnels connecting the Black Sea to Eastern Anatolia, we reach Borçka. Boarding our waiting minibuses, we continue to Karagöl, a landslide lake hidden among the mountains and famed for its untouched natural beauty. Along the way, we pass Georgian-origin villages and organic tea plantations in the Klaskur Valley Biosphere Reserve. We catch a distant view of Maisur Waterfall, pass Bardnala Waterfall, and arrive at Karagöl, where scenes from the Turkish TV series *"Don't Worry About Me"* were filmed. Here, guests have free time to enjoy a stroll, take photographs, or ride the small boats along the

lake before returning to the hotel.

For guests opting for the Batumi Tour, after breakfast we complete border procedures at Sarp Border Gate and cross into the Adjara region of Georgia. From the bus, we view Gonio-Apsaros Fortress, a Roman-era structure later used during the Ottoman period, where the tomb of St. Matthias, one of Jesus Christ's twelve apostles, is also located. Continuing toward Batumi city center, we see former Soviet military training grounds. Crossing the Çoruh River and its historic Gonio Bridge, we arrive in Batumi, the administrative center of Georgia's Adjara Autonomous Region. Highlights include the Historic Orta Mosque, Piazza Square and Clock Tower, exterior views of the Georgian Orthodox and Armenian Churches, Europe Square, Medea Statue, Poseidon Monument, the Theater Building, and Batumi Port. Guests enjoy a walk along Batumi Boulevard and a short free time before viewing the Turkish Consulate building. Afterwards, we return to Sarp to complete border formalities.

Important Notes:

- Turkish citizens may enter Georgia with a new-generation T.C. ID card or a valid passport. Photo-less IDs, regardless of age, are not accepted. Other forms of ID (driver's license, marriage certificate, etc.) cannot be used.
- This is an optional tour, dependent on a minimum of 15 participants.

Meals

Arhavi

Accommodation

Fındıklı

Total Distance and Duration for the Day

Arhavi – Borçka: 36 km (36 minutes)

Borçka – Borçka Karagöl: 27 km (56 minutes)

Borçka Karagöl – Arhavi: 61 km (1 hour 41 minutes)

Total: 124 km (3 hours 13 minutes)

Day 8 — Saturday

Highlights: Transfer · Airport

After breakfast at our hotel, we transfer to the **Airport**, bidding farewell to you with the hope of seeing you on another tour.

Total Distance and Duration for the Day

- **Arhavi – Rize Airport:** 46 km (34 minutes)
- **Total:** 46 km (34 minutes)

Total Distance and Duration for the Entire Tour

1,163 km

20 hours 53 minutes

SERVICES INCLUDED

- All city tours in a private vehicle
- 7 nights accommodation in quality hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 7 lunches or dinners
- All excursions with professional guides in Turkish
- Minibus transfers to Sümela Monastery
- Minibus transfers to Karaster and Lustra Plateaus
- Minibus transfers to Zil Castle and Palovit Waterfall
- Minibus transfers to Mençuna Waterfall
- Onboard refreshments and services
- TÜRSAB travel insurance
- Various souvenirs as a memento of the tour
- Entrance fees to museums and historical sites (*guests without a Turkish ID or Blue Card will pay an extra €100 during the tour*)
- If the group has more than 4 participants speaking English, English guide will be arranged.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED

- International round-trip airfare
- Personal expenses

ACCOMMODATION — 8 Days · 7 Nights

8 Days - 7 Nights Accommodation in Quality Hotels

Day 1 — Samsun

Anemon Hotel, Sheraton Grand, or similar

Day 2 — Ordu

Hilton Hotel or similar

Day 3 — Trabzon

Hilton Hotel or similar

Day 4 — Uzungöl

İnan Kardeşler Hotel, Golden Hotel, or similar

Day 5 — Ayder

Haşimoğlu Hotel, Kaçkar Hotel, or similar

Day 6 — Arhavi

Arhavi Resort Hotel, Fındıklı Ramada Hotel, or similar

Day 7 — Arhavi

Arhavi Resort Hotel, Fındıklı Ramada Hotel, or similar

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Important Notes:

This tour has an optional part to visit Georgia daily.

- Turkish citizens may enter Georgia with a new-generation T.C. ID card or a valid passport. Photo-less IDs, regardless of age, are not accepted. Other forms of ID (driver's license, marriage certificate, etc.) cannot be used.
- This is an optional tour, dependent on a minimum of 15 participants.

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

General Terms

The general terms are an integral part of the tour program and cannot be considered separately. The tour circular is valid as of 14.02.2025. Any later version of the circular for the same tour will supersede the previous one.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

- Cancellations up to 30 days before the tour are free or refundable with a €250 deduction.
- Cancellations made 30 days before the tour incur a 50% charge.

Payment Terms

- For reservations, 50% of the tour fee must be paid at the time of booking. The remaining balance is due 1 month before the tour date.

Tour Information

- Duration: 8 days, 7 nights; hotel accommodation for 7 nights.
- Seat numbers are not guaranteed at the time of booking.
- Transport and hotel notes entered during booking are not guaranteed.

Child Discounts

- Child discounts apply for one child accompanied by two adults.
- Children aged 0-7 may not have a separate bed in the hotel.

Pricing and Refunds

- A tiered pricing system may apply.
- Unused transport, accommodation, or excursions are non-refundable.

Right of Cancellation by Operator

- If the minimum number of participants is not met, the operator may cancel the tour up to 7 days before departure. The operator must notify guests directly.
- If the tour is canceled by the operator, full payments will be refunded without deduction.

Air Tours

- Air tours are subject to airline agreements.
- Cancellation insurance does not cover air travel.
- Only economy class flights are used in air tour programs.

Program Changes

- The guide may change the order of sightseeing within a day or between days due to weather, road conditions, or other operational reasons.
- The operator is not responsible for places not visited due to force majeure (weather, road conditions, crowding, etc.).

Participation Conditions

- Participants must carry medical reports if they have health issues, pregnancy, or regular medication.
- Hotels listed are preferred accommodations; substitutions may occur due to availability or force majeure, provided standards are maintained.

Clothing and Vehicle Information

- Wear clothing, accessories, and shoes suitable for the region's geography, weather, and tour activities (boots, sandals, water shoes, etc.).
- Vehicle classification by group size:
 - Buses: 28–46 people
 - Midibuses: 17–27 people
 - Minibuses: up to 16 people

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