



BURSA

Timeless Beauty

FAITH TOURISM

SAINT NEOPHYTOS BASILICA
(UNDERWATER BASILICA)

THE CHRISTIAN CAPITAL OF THE
PAGAN WORLD

HAGIA SOPHIA CHURCH

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THE CHRISTIAN CAPITAL OF THE PAGAN WORLD

Christianity is the leading religion in terms of the number of its members. Christianity, which was born with Jesus, was able to reach today through the Apostles and Saints.

In the early periods of Christianity, Anatolia was home to Apostles and important religious figures and the epicenter of the teachings of Christianity that reached the whole world; these people played a leading role in the spread of Christianity, and they were exposed to oppression and persecution of the Roman Empire and non-believers and reached the level of martyrdom. Therefore, many locations in these lands, such as Iznik (Nicaea), Ephesus, Antioch, and the "Seven Churches", were declared holy places by the Church, and the believers of this religion were accepted as Pilgrimage Centers.

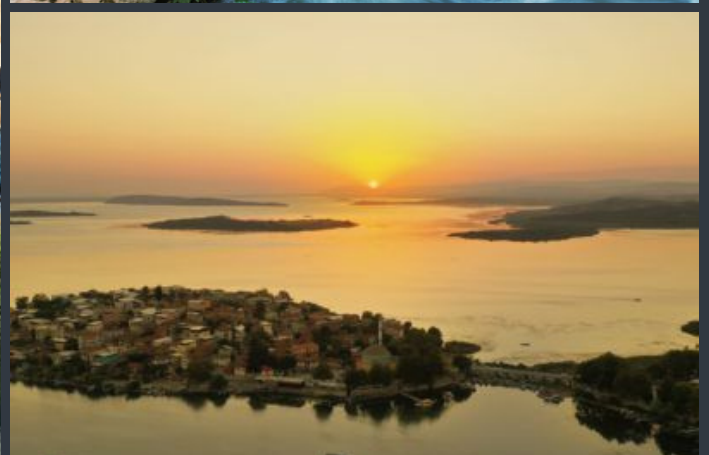
The Anatolian lands, where the Christian name appeared and which have been the meeting point of different civilizations and religions for thousands of years, are the reflection of the mosaic of faith and culture for Christians to the present day. Most of the holy towns of Christianity, where you can trace its start are also in Anatolia. In this regard, İznik (Nicaea), the fertile district of Bursa, which hosted the First and Seventh Councils, at which the Basic Rules of Christianity were determined and accepted by all sects is the turning point for the history of Christianity and it is the place that led and gave direction to the Holy Cities in this land.



Bursa, where the first findings of signs of life date back to the Paleolithic period at the Şahinkaya Cave, is home to "Europe's Largest Prehistoric Park", the Aktopraklık Höyük Archeopark and Open-Air Museum, with reenactments of a period that date back to 8600 years. Again, when we follow the first period of settlements; İznik and its surroundings, the first settlement after Noah's Flood according to the legends, has a history of 8000 years based on scientific research.

İznik (Nicaea) is a city that was founded on the shore of Lake İznik, which was called Askania in Antiquity, and has consistently received settlers in its history due to the attractiveness of its geographical location and fertile lands. Still, at the same time, great wars were fought for it. It was the capital of four great empires: Bithynia, Eastern Rome, Seljuks, and Ottomans. Although it is now a district of Bursa, it was more important, much more valuable, and rich than Bursa most of its history.

İznik is an Open Air Museum, by being the location of the two Councils, which laid the foundations of Christianity, being the first capital of the Turks in Anatolia, the representative of Tiles and Turquoise in the world, and its Hippodamos Planned settlement that survived to our day since the Hellenistic era; İznik has been the most important town of the region throughout history. With these unique features, it has been accepted to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. The first Council of Christianity, of which Emperor Constantine himself was the Honorary President, was also the most important Council in the religious sense. The First Council was held in 325 and the 20 articles known as the Nicene Creed were adopted. The VII Council was held in Hagia Sophia Church in 787 and the Iconoclast movement ended. İznik (Nicaea), which hosted the most important events in the History of Christianity and the Most Important Councils in terms of the structure, operation, and history of the Church, was defined as the 3rd holy city in the Christian world after Jerusalem and the Vatican in ancient times.



Saint Neophytos Basilica (Underwater Basilica)

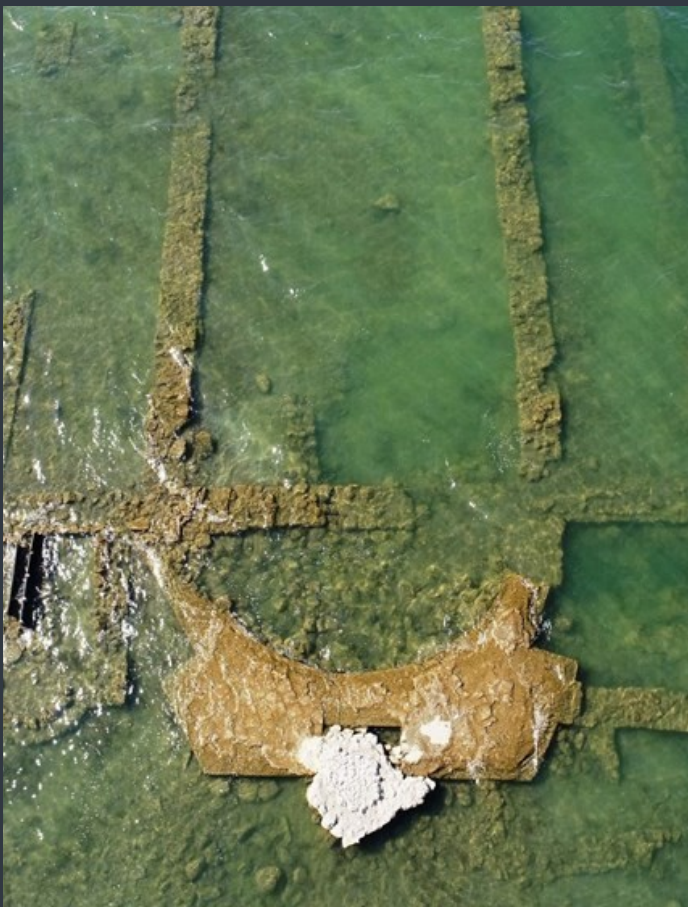
The Basilica, dated 1700 years ago was listed among the 10 most important archeological discoveries by the American Archaeological Institute the year it was found; many of its architectural elements have survived intact.

St. Neophytos was pointed out to be secluded by the holy dove (Holy Spirit) at the age of 9 at a time when Christians were being oppressed intensely by the Romans. Upon the sign in one of his dreams at the age of 15, he came to Iznik (Nicaea) and Izmit to spread Christianity. The cleric Neophytos, who became the youngest saint in the history of Christianity at the age of 16, was killed by a Roman soldier on the shores of Lake Iznik.

Christianity was liberated in the Roman Empire with the Edict of Milan in 313. After the Edict of Milan, the followers of St. Neophytos built this Basilica near Lake Iznik in his name. It was destroyed in the earthquake of 1065 and abandoned in 1250 after submerging under the waters of the lake.

The First Council, in which the creeds of the Christian religion were accepted, the Easter Day was determined and adopted by all sects, was convened in Nicaea (Nicaea) in 325 AD with the participation of 318 Bishops. The place, where the meeting was held and referred to as the Senatus Palace in the sources, still maintains its mystery today. This is the most likely place where the Council is gathered, which is indicated by the depiction in the fresco in Cappella Sistina, one of the Vatican museums.

The Christian tombs that emerged as a result of the excavations and dated to the 3rd century and the letter written by the governor of the period to Emperor Traian about the Christian population in Iznik show us that the Christian community existed in Iznik before the council. In addition to its location and strategic importance, this played an important role for Iznik in becoming the venue for the First Council.



Council meetings

A total of 7 Council meetings were held approved by all sects.

1. **FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAEEA (325)**
2. **FIRST COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (381)**
3. **FIRST COUNCIL OF EPHESUS (431)**
4. **COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON (451)**
5. **SECOND COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (553)**
6. **THIRD COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (680)**
7. **SECOND COUNCIL OF NICAEEA (NICAEEA) (787).**



During the Byzantine period, İznik became an important religious centre, particularly after the Emperor Constantine was converted into Christianity in 313 AD. The first Christian Council called the great Council of Nicaea was held in İznik in 325 AD with the participation of bishops more than three hundreds came from different parts of the empire. The Seventh Ecumenical Council was also convened in Nicaea in 787 to deal with the iconoclastic controversy on the use of icons. This council was held in the church of Hagia Sophia, constructed by the Emperor Justinian over the ruins of the former church dating back to the 4th century. As it was demolished after an earthquake in the 11th century, the church was rebuilt as a basilica with three naves. The church is still located at the point where the roads leading to the four main gates in the district centre meet. A hypogeum, an underground grave found in the rural part of the town is one of the oldest Christian structures in İznik built in the 4th or 5th centuries AD. Covered by a vault and decorated its ceiling and with colourful frescoes, it is one of the rare examples of the period of early Christianity. Built as a part of the Hyakinthos Monastery in the 7th century, the Koimesis Church was also one of the most important early Byzantine architecture. The church was destroyed in the 1065 earthquake. Although it was repaired in later times, only some of its ruins have survived to the present. Böcek Ayasması (Baptistery), a round structure with a water spring at the center of a quadrangular fountain, is also erected as part of the Hyakinthos Monastery.

IZNIK LAKE

İzник Lake with a surface area of 300 km² and an altitude of 85 m from the sea, is the fifth largest lake in Turkey and the largest lake in the Marmara Region. In the lake, which was called Askania in ancient times, sailing, canoeing, rowing, and many other water sports activities are carried out. It is one of the most ideal places in Bursa to watch the unique beauty of the sunset.

IZNIK WALLS

The whole city is surrounded by 4 main gates (Istanbul gate, Lake Gate, Lefke Gate, Yenişehir Gate), 12 secondary roads, and approximately 5 km long walls. It is one of the 3 locations in Anatolia, where the walls have reached our day. The city walls exhibit the stonework of each civilization, and since each society used the stones of the previous society, the walls resemble a woven history. The nearly 2000-year-old Guillotine Gate, built by Emperor Titus, is the most remarkable.

IZNIK MUSEUM

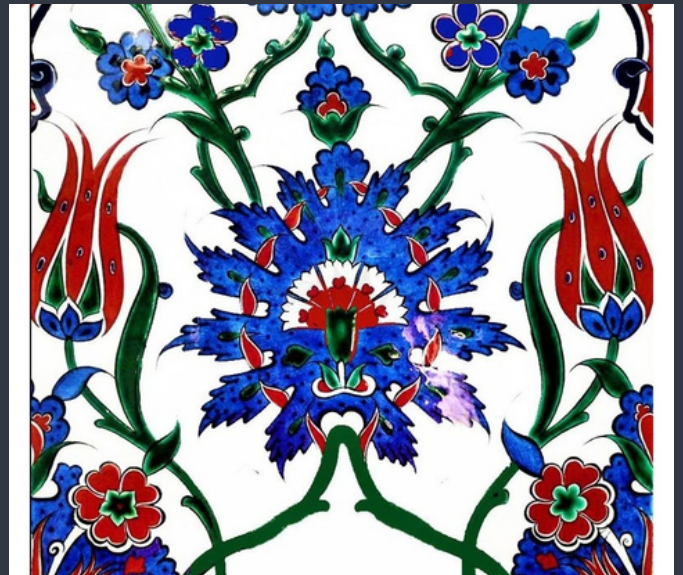
Today's İznik Museum was built in 1388 by Sultan Murat I in the Ottoman period in the name of his mother Nilüfer Hatun as a soup kitchen. In the museum, there are various finds from the prehistoric period to the Ottoman period collected from İznik and its surroundings and the works unearthed during the excavations of the 8000-year-old Ilipınar mound, Roman Theater, and İznik Tile Ovens. Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman period findings are exhibited in the museum garden. Among these findings are column caps, sarcophagi, reliefs, ambons, steles, inscriptions, cherries, and tombstones.



IZNIK TILES AND HISTORICAL TILE OVENS

İznik, the capital of civilizations and one of the 3 holiest towns of Christianity, is also the place that pioneered the world in the field of Tile Art. Iznik tiles had their golden period in the 14th and 15th centuries and were used in the decoration of many architectural structures and palaces that raised the beauty of these structures to another level. It contains 80% quartz - a semi-precious mineral - and is regarded in the ceramic literature as "Ceramics Impossible to Produce".

Most of the wall tiles, which adorn important buildings built in the XV and XVII centuries, have a unique beauty in terms of pattern, color and technique, and were produced in the Iznik tile ovens. In addition, dazzlingly beautiful plates, bowls, cups, oil lamps, and mashrapas, many of which are among the most valuable pieces of European and American museum collections, were also made in İznik tile ovens.

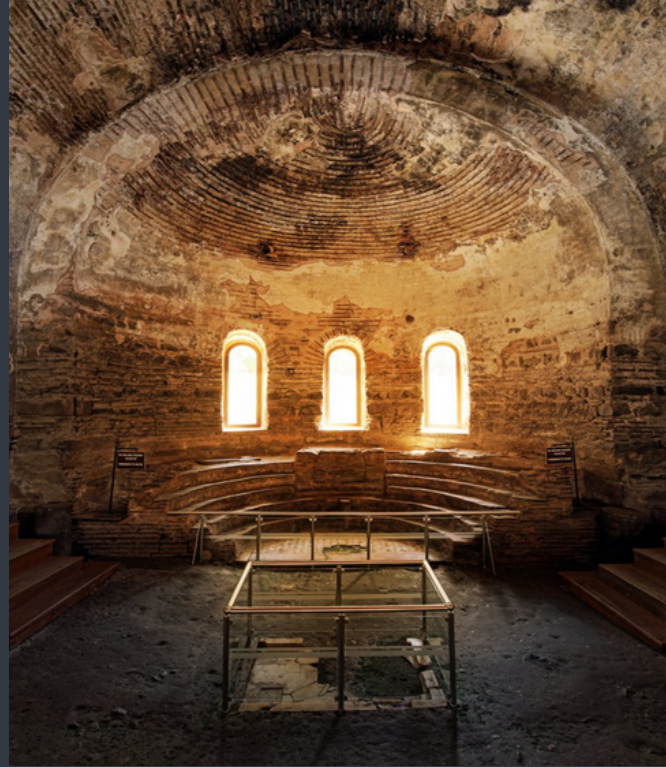


HAGIA SOPHIA CHURCH

This building with a Basilica-type architecture, which was built at the intersection point of the four main gates of the city and in the center of İznik, dates back to the 5th century.

The importance of the İznik Hagia Sophia Church, which is a very important building in terms of the history of Christianity, comes from the fact that the VII Council, which was convened under the leadership of the Eastern Roman Empress Irene in 787 and accepted by all sects, took place here. The building was the venue of this Council, which ended the era of Iconoclasm, in which religious stories, the depiction of religious elders and the use of figurative religious motifs were prohibited. Thus, art and cultural activities have gained great momentum for the Christian World.

It is the most well-known architectural structure of İznik due to its frescoes and the Omphalion section, where the Coronation Ceremony of 4 Eastern Roman Emperors took place. In this regard, it is one of the three examples in Turkey. Also, it is the only building, where Architect Sinan, who is accepted as the most talented architect of the world, worked in Bursa in the 16th century.



IZNIK-KOIMESIS CHURCH

It is understood from the notes of the travelers that this Church, built in memory of the "Ascension of Mary", is one of the most important works of Eastern Roman art.

This church, which is also an important building in terms of Byzantine painting and architecture, was examined by Byzantine art historians before it was destroyed. Plans and photographs taken in 1912 show the original state of the church.

According to some sources, the tomb of Theodore I Laskaris, one of the important figures of the Byzantine Empire, was also located in this church. Therefore, the Koimesis Church is also considered a martyrium.

Only the remains of the building exist today, which was a temple that was actively used and stood in İznik until the Greek invasion in 1922. The neighborhood of the church was known as a Christian quarter until the Republican period. Based on the plastic decorations unearthed during the excavations, the church is thought to be one of the structures in the Hyakinthos Monastery. The building measures 22.5x21 meters and has a Kiborion planned church plan. It is known that in the interior there are mosaics belonging to four different periods. These were located in the apse half dome of the church, the bema arch, the narthex and the eastern legs of the naos.

In the half dome of the apse, there was a mosaic of Mary with Jesus in her arms on a golden background and 4 archangels with Emperor clothes on 2 sides. Underneath this mosaic were the words, "I made you in your mother's womb at dawn."

In the Bema arch, there were angel depictions of Arkhe and Dynamis, in the narthex and in the eastern legs of the naos, there was a mosaic of Mary. The first construction phase is dated to the 6th-8th century AD.



OLIVE GROVES AND TASTING

The olive tree is as old as human history and is the most important gift of the World plant heritage. From tree to fruit, from branch to leaf, from oil to core, the healing olive tree continues to embrace humanity for centuries. The olive has been considered a symbol of peace for centuries because a white dove returns to Noah's Ark with an olive branch in its mouth, as a sign of post-flood vitality.

The Olive, which is praised in all the Holy books, is one of the most important sources of livelihood throughout history of İznik and Bursa Coastal Line. İznik is a rare place where we can witness the fruiting of 1000-1500 years old Olive Trees.

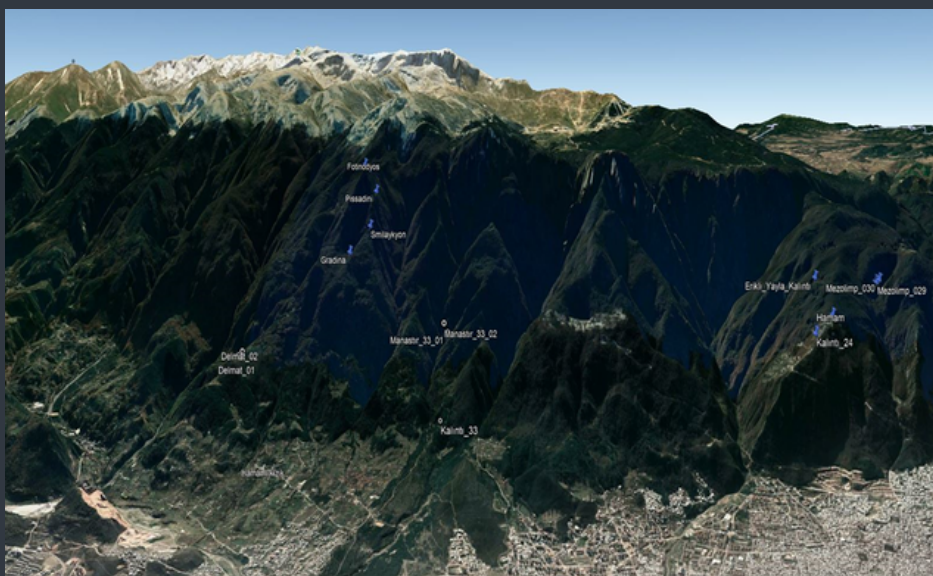


MONASTERIES OF THE SPIRITUAL CITY

Bursa was known as the "Spiritual City" during the Ottoman period. However, Bursa had this feature in the Eastern Roman period as well. The primary destination of many important Saints and Monks of the Christian World was Bursa and especially Uludağ (Monk Mountain).

Vasileios I. Kandes writes the following on this subject in the XIX century: "In the Eastern Roman Period (4th-14th centuries), according to church terminology Bursa was named Theoupolis (City of God). The first bishop to sign under this name was Polyhronios. This name must have been given to Bursa due to the large number of monasteries in Uludağ. Bursa has had this title since the 7th century. The spiritual source of Bursa was the presence of monasteries and monks, which were too numerous to count. From the 8th century onwards, these monasteries illuminated this area protected by God, like lighthouses that radiated light over great distances."

It is rumored that there were 147 monasteries large and small in the 14th century on Mount Uludağ, which is considered as Mount Atos in Anatolia. For this reason, Uludağ has been known as Monk Mountain (Monks Olimpia - Olympe des Moines) throughout history. What is clearly known is that there are a total of 28 monasteries in 3 different regions. Uludağ maintained its importance for the Christian World until the 16th century. The diary of Reinhold Lubenau, who was a pharmacist in the embassy delegation sent by the Holy Roman-Germanic Empire to the Ottoman Empire in 1587, later became a traveler and mentioned that he attended a service in a monastery in Uludag in the 16th century.



MONASTERIES OF THE SPIRITUAL CITY

The monastic way of life takes its source from the early periods of Christianity. For this reason, monasteries have been one of the oldest and deep-rooted foundations of Christianity. Monks living in monasteries undertook important tasks in both the spiritual and social and cultural life of Christians.

This movement, which is considered as a "Christian cluster" that completely withdraws from the world, adopts asceticism and devotes itself entirely to religion, is based on Matthew 19:21, "Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Similarly, in the Acts (Acts of the Apostles) (44-45), "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." This way of life, which was a way of devoting themselves to God through prayer and worship and withdrawing from the world, secluding themselves away from society, and purifying their souls, started in Uludağ at the end of the 3rd century and large Monastic Complexes were established with increasing followers over time.

Monkhood started in the 4th century as a result of the intense pressures of the Roman Empire, with the aim to hide and to live an otherworldly life without being in contact with people. Later, it was influenced by events such as iconoclasm and changed its format and reached a wide audience on the basis that monasticism should also benefit society. The 8th-11th centuries are known as the peak of monastic life, and despite all the difficulties, Eastern Roman Emperors such as Leon the Wise and Constantine Porphyrogenitus frequently visited the Uludağ in this period and asked for prayers from Saints and Monks to wish them victories in the wars waged.



Statue of the brothers
"Saints Cyril and Methodius", Skopje

MONASTERIES OF THE SPIRITUAL CITY

Evliya Çelebi, one of the important travelers of the 17th century, also touched on the importance of the monasteries of Uludağ. Evliya Çelebi shared a legend about the mountain, which he called "Cebel-i Ruhban" meaning "Monk Mountain", in his famous "Travelogue": "The reason why this mountain is called Monk Mountain is that the Patriarchs and Priests in Hagia Sophia come flying with abstinence and rest on this mountain."

The most well-known of the Saints who chose a reclusive life in Uludağ and found a special place for themselves in the Christian World are:

St. John (Joannicius of Uludag - Ioannikios the Great): He spent most of his life as a monk in Uludag/Bursa and is revered by Catholics and Orthodox and commemorated on the 3rd of November on the day of his death. Despite all kinds of pressure, he is remembered as a Saint with his stance against Iconoclasm and with his miracles. A prayer attributed to him is recited as follows: "My hope is the Father, my refuge is the Son, my shelter is the Holy Spirit, O Holy Trinity, Glory to You."

John stayed in caves, often believed to be inhabited by snakes or evil spirits, demonstrating his prophecy by taming wild animals to the point of sleeping next to them all night. According to rumors, Ioannikios tied himself to the rocks in the cave with an 11-meter-long chain for a while in order to endure his ordeal and spent 3 years of his life in this way. In many sources, John is described as "THE FLYING AND INVISIBLE SAINT".

St. Cyril: He was declared a Saint "equal to the Apostles" and was likewise accepted by the Catholic and Orthodox Churches as the "Guardians of Europe". Together with his brother Methodius, they spread Christianity among the Slavs. Thanks to their missionary duties, they influenced the cultural development of the Slavic peoples and were awarded the title of "Apostles to the Slavs". In Uludağ between 851-855, they laid the foundations of the Cyrillic Alphabet used in Slavic languages.

MONASTERIES OF THE SPIRITUAL CITY

Monasteries Between Nilüfer and Gökdere

- 1.Monastere des peres
- 2.Monastere Les Agaures
- 3.Monastere Saint Agapios
- 4.Monastere Leucades
- 5.Monastere Abramites
- 6.Monastere Balee
- 7.Monastere Saint Zacharie
- 8.Ermitage Trichalice
- 9.Ermitage Saint Nicolas
- 10.Ermitage Saint Constantin
- Monastere de Femmes

Monasteries between Kaplıkaya and Deliçay

- 1.Cyril Monastery
- 2.The Monastery of Eunuchs
- 3.Syncelle Monastery
- 4.The Monastery of Symbols
- 5.Monastery of Gradina
- 6.Similaykyon Monastery
- 7.Pissadini Monastery
- 8.Photinodyos Monastery
- 9.Dhelmat Monastery
- 10.Monacastonon Monastery
- 11.Ermitage St. Antoine le Jeune
- 12.St. George's Monastery

Monasteries between Gökdere and Kaplıkaya (Sobran)

- 1.Monastere Saccudion
- 2.Monastere des Cathares
- 3.Monastere des Libiana
- 4.Ermitage des Mesolymppe
- 5.Ermitage des Dele

MISI VILLAGE

Misi Village, one of the important turning points of Christianity, where the Nilüfer Stream passes, is located on the slopes from the river bank, adorned with poplar-sycamore-fruit trees and vines, awaits us with all its 3000-year magnificent history.

The small and cozy village of Misi has a very peaceful and relaxing atmosphere with the sound of the stream water, the generous green of nature. It is one of the rare tourist spots that characterizes with the name Green Bursa. The historical houses, which create a riot of bright and vivid colors offer us the harmony of Ottoman and Greek architecture.

Its name comes from the Mysia Migration, which is mentioned in many sources as the first migration from west to east. It is one of the two regions in Bursa in the ancient times (Prusa ad Olympum which describes the first walled city in the Tophane region and Mysia ad Olympum, or Misi Village and its vicinity)

History resumed in Misi in 183 A.D. when a monk named Alex settled in Misi with eighty-five settlers who were with him to spread the Christian religion. The fact that the village was suitable for hiding due to its physical conditions enabled the monks to carry out missionary activities here for many years.

The region became one of the centers of Christianity over time, and even a local council was convened to study the Bible. It is believed that a copy of the Bible was found in the Misipoli Monastery, where the council gathered.

In the town of Misi was the Monastery of St. Andrew. This Monastery was visited by emperors, and many Saints, Monks. The Byzantine camp was established around this Monastery.

St. Zechariah/Hagios Zacharie Monastery, located in the vicinity of the village of Misi, west of the river, was founded by St. Paul in the VIII century. The rumor is that St. Paul came to Misi and founded this monastery upon the warning (of the God of herding flocks) on a dream he had on his way to Jerusalem.



GOLYAZI

Turkey's Venice, one of the 20 Must-See towns in Europe announced by the World Association of Travel Agencies, is Gölyazı (Apollonia), the picturesque island of Yeşil Bursa.

Gölyazı, whose name is Apollonia in history, is a tiny island that looks like it floats on Uluabat Lake, which is also formerly known as Apolyont. The settlement of this village on the island, where unique beauty where nature and history coexist, is still within the ancient walls of 1,1 kilometers long. The Ancient Walls, whose gates and towers are partially standing, will take you away from the hustle of modern life and take you on a journey through time.

It is a favorite place for photographers with its trees that are in the water due to the rising waters in the spring, ducks and pelicans that float in these waters and storks nesting on the roofs every spring, narrow cobblestone streets and historical houses, boat tours where you can experience Lake Uluabat (formerly Apolyont), and the islands on it, the 750-year-old Weeping Sycamore and magnificent sunset scenes.

Uluabat Lake is one of the most important wetlands not only in our country but also in Europe and the Middle East. Uluabat Lake, which has a completely natural structure, is the only lake in Turkey with the title of Living Lake. It is one of the richest lakes in Turkey in terms of bottom creatures, aquatic plants, fish and bird presence.

Gölyazı, which has witnessed a history of 2600 years, has become one of the central points of Christianity in the region with the increase of religious activities in the Byzantine period that further developed in the Roman era. Important places for Christendom such as St. Panteleimon Church and Lily Hill still exist.



ULUABAT MONASTERY ISLAND – ST. CONSTANTINOS MONASTERY

It is located on Nailbey/Monastery Island, which is the second largest island among the 11 islands on Ulubat Lake. It is known that the structure was built between the 8th and 9th centuries and underwent a large-scale repair at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century.

S. Gerlach, who visited the island in the 16th century, reported that the church was dedicated to St. Constantine and that 6-7 monks lived here. The walls of the church, which has a cross plan, are built with five rows of bricks and rough stones.

The Monastery, which has become a complex in its recent years, turned into an Island where many people who dedicate themselves to the Christian religion, give up the life of the world and live a life of piety and receive religious education. There was no structure or life on the island other than the monastery.



GOLYAZI AZIZ PANTELEIMON CHURCH

The Church of St. Panteleimon in Gölyazı, built in the twentieth century, is one of the important and original examples in the region. This church, which was actively used until the population exchange, became one of the most important religious and socio-cultural centers of the Christians of Bursa. Although Gölyazı St. Panteleimon Church, which is a rectangular basilica with three naves, has been damaged due to natural disasters such as fire and earthquake over time, its original architectural structure has not been damaged. Especially after being restored in 2014 as the original, it operates as a Culture Center today.



ZAMBAKTEPE (LILY HILL)

The name of the hill, which was formerly used as a Christian cemetery, is called Lily Hill because there are lilies on the graves. Archaeological studies show that right next to the hill there is a 4000-seat Theater with a diameter of 75 meters, dating from ancient times. Since it has a unique view, almost every tourist who comes to Bursa does not leave Zambak Tepe without watching the magnificent view of Gölyazı Village and Uluabat Lake and experiencing the moment when history and nature are intertwined.



SANTA MARIA (FRENCH) CHURCH

The church was built at the end of the 19th century by French merchants, who lived in Bursa and belonged to the Filles De La Charite order. It is known that the decoration of the building was made in 1927 by the Priest of the Assomptionist sect, Prosper Lamerand, and a Russian painter.

The French Protestant Church has a single-nave plan scheme in the form of a rectangle.

The facades of the church have a simple appearance and are in gothic style with stepped towers rising above the body wall and pointed arched windows.

The church, which was not used after 1960, continued its original function for a short time in 1971. In order to reflect Bursa's social structure consisting of different religions, languages and cultures, the church was restored by Bursa Metropolitan Municipality in 2004 as a social, cultural structure and a place of worship.



MUDANYA

On the one hand, the vast Blue of the Marmara Sea, on the other hand, the Green of the olive groves that lived for centuries, Mudanya, an ancient city with a history of 2700 years, which is called "Blue Tempered City", is the place of peace and happiness.

It is important for the Christian world because there are many religious buildings such as churches and monasteries in Mudanya. Mudanya Orthodox Church, Tirilye Saint Vasil Church, Tirilye Panagia Pontobasilissa (Arched Church), Hagios Loannes Greek Church, Hagios Sergios Monastery, Pelekete Monastery, Kumyaka Hagios Taxiarchoi (Archangels Church), Mudanya-Dereköy Potamia Church, Mudanya-Aydınpınar (Misebolu) Hagios Apostoloi Church are among the rare works that can preserve their physical features.



TIRILYE-AZIZ VASIL CHURCH

Tirilye, a small town of Bursa, is one of the places that stand out with its history, architecture, monasteries and nature. A rumor about where the name Tirilye comes from dates back to the 4th century. The first Consul of Nicaea, or as it was called at that time, the Consul of Nikaia, had a disagreement with 3 priests. These priests were excommunicated and exiled and started a new religious life in Trilye. "Tri" means 3 and "Elijah" means Priest/Saint. Because of these three priests, the location was called Tirilye (Three Priests/Saints).

It is written in the document dated 1835 in the Ottoman archives about the church, despite the first built date is unknown, in the documents of 1835 it was allowed to be rebuilt by the Ottomans. The building, which serves as a cultural center, is also the place where Fener Greek Patriarch Bartholomew performed the ritual of extracting the cross from the sea.



TRILIA PANAGIA PONTOBASILISA - ARCHED CHURCH

It is stated that the columns of the Arched Church, one of the most important churches in the region for the Christian World, were brought from Alexandria, Egypt, and it is known that the structure was built at the end of the 13th century. In 1676, a manuscript prepared by Dr. J. Covell describes how the church was dedicated to Panagia Pantobasillissa (Virgin Mary).

The reason why it is called the Arched Church is that it consists of arches on buttresses. The arches and the dome were placed on 4 columns and ornate capitals were placed on the columns carrying the dome. It is also known as Little Hagia Sophia among the people. In this structure, which has traces of human frescoes on the walls, the winged fresco of the archangel Michael and the scenes depicting the life of the Virgin Mary are seen.

The restoration of the Church, which was purchased by the Fener Greek Patriarchate of Istanbul, is continuing



PELEKETE MONASTERY (AYA YANI)

Ioannes Theologos Pelekte Monastery, which resembles a small castle when viewed from a distance, is located 5 kilometers from Tirilye across of İmralı Island. This structure, which takes its name from Aya Yani, one of the three priests who gave its name to Tirilye, is known as a place of pilgrimage for Christians and especially Orthodox during its active period. When the church in the Aya Yani Monastery was destroyed, it is said that it was rebuilt in 709 in the name of Hagios Ioannes Theologos. The was the most prominent point of the iconoclasm period together with Uludağ and it has been a refuge for Saints and Monks.

This church was partially burned down in 1880 and was later repaired and put into service. The monastery and the church, which are known to have been active until 1922, stopped their activities with the migration of the Greeks to Greece from that year.



KUMYAKA HAGIOS TAXIARCHOI – CHURCH OF ARCHANGELS

One of the most important buildings of Mudanya is undoubtedly the Church of the Archangels. The Church of the Archangels, located in the Kumyaka neighborhood of Mudanya, is considered to be the third oldest standing church in the world. The Church of the Archangels, built in 780 during the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Constantine IV Porphyrogenetos, is 1240 years old. It was restored in 1448 and in 1819 during the reign of Mahmud II.

The ship on which Emperor Constantine IV was located was caught in a storm in this region and was rescued by monks in this village. In return, he has this church built to show his gratitude. It is known not only as a place of worship, but also as a hospital and even as a source of healing for mental illnesses.



BURSA ROUTE(7 days)

DAY 1: Abdülvahap Sancaktari Hill (general information) - Lefke Gate - Green Mosque - Iznik Museum - Tile Making / Workshop - Hagia Sophia - Underwater Basilica - Lakeside Free Time - Olive groves walk and tasting in Gölyaka Village.

DAY 2: Saitabat Village (breakfast) - Fruit harvest (based on the season) - Cumalıkızık Village tour - Visit to Syncelle Monastery - Visit to Photinodios Monastery

DAY 3: Breakfast at Inkaya plane tree - Misi village trip - Aktopraklık Arkeopark - Gölyazı - Monastery Island

DAY 4: Trilye – Kумыaka – Mudanya

DAY 5: Hünkar mansion (breakfast) - Sunday Mass at Santa Maria Church – Uludağ by cable car

DAY 6: Green Complex Region - Panorama 1326 Conquest Museum – Tophane Region - Irgandi Bridge - Ulucami Mosque - Dungeon Gate

DAY 7: Shopping

MORE FROM BURSA

CUMALIKIZIK: Cumalıkızık, known as the Living Ottoman Village or the Living Museum Village, is a 720-year-old village. It is the most magnificent example of the first period of Ottoman Rural Architecture. It was fully added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2014.



GREEN COMPLEX: The Kulliye, which was built by Çelebi Mehmet, the 5th Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, at the beginning of the 15th century; It consists of a mosque, tomb, soup kitchen, madrasah and bath. The mausoleum, decorated with turquoise colored Iznik tiles of the 15th century, is the highest mausoleum in Turkey. It is regarded as the most artistic work of the Ottoman Empire with its hand-drawn decorations, tiles and the magnificent Crown Gate made of marble. In the words of the famous traveler Evliya Çelebi, "the most beautiful mosque of the Ottoman property"

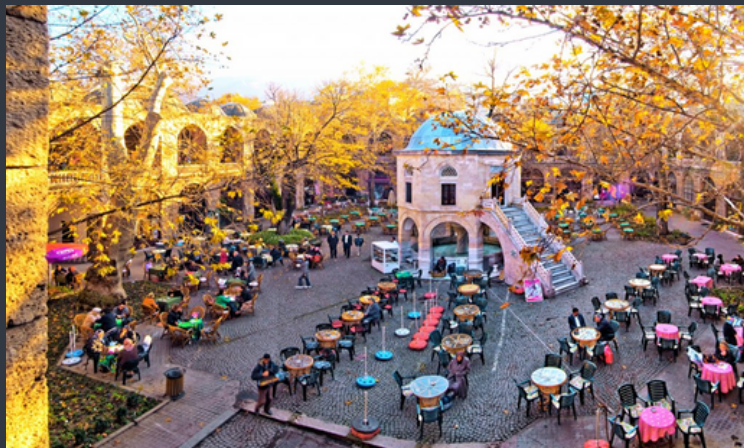


MORE FROM BURSA

TOPHANE PARK: It is the place where Bursa was founded in history and gained the status of a City. The eternal place of the sultans who founded the Ottoman Empire and conquered Bursa. It is the place where the heart of history beats in Bursa with its 117-year-old Clock Tower, which can be seen from many points of Bursa, and the cannons identified with its name, and the panoramic view of Bursa Plain and Bursa bazaar from 2 separate viewing terraces.



KOZAHAN: The most well-known structure of the historical Bursa Bazaar. In 1492, the sultan II. Built by Bayezid to meet the needs of his social complex in Istanbul, the Han has been the center of silk and trade for centuries. Meeting point of Asian and European traders. Today, the 2-storey inn, where Bursa silk is sold and still maintains its commercial importance, is also one of the best addresses for a tea and coffee break.

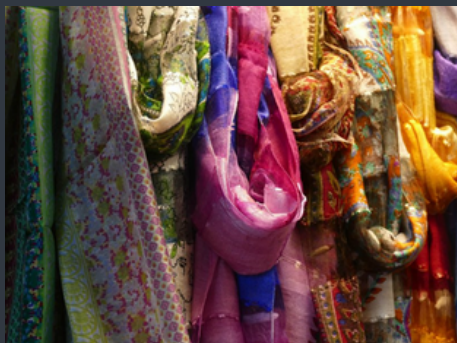


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ULUCAMI: The largest mosque in Ottoman history and one of the most respected places of worship in the Islamic world. The mosque, which was built by the 4th Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid in 1399, is almost an art gallery with 129 different calligraphy paintings. Ulucami is the pride of Bursa with its inner fountain that gives peace to the soul with its sound, a magnificent work of craftsmanship, and interesting stories.



SILK AND CEILING: The production in Bursa is the biggest proof of the sustainable quality of the industry from history to the present. Two important sectors that defy centuries and come to mind when Bursa is mentioned. Transferring the silk from Far Asia to Europe, Bursa said that I am also involved in silk production after the 16th century and left its mark on history with its product quality. He made a name for himself by beautifying many buildings in Anatolia and Europe with the tiles he produced in Iznik. And Bursa Silk and Tile was included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in 2021 in the field of "Craft and Folk Arts"..



MORE FROM BURSA

HISTORICAL BURSA BAZAAR:

The last stop of the Silk Road, the world's oldest trade route, in the Asian Continent. It is the heart of commerce in the Ottoman Empire, with 18 inns and 24 bazaars of different sizes and functions and a total of 4000 shops. Bursa Bazaar has always been the eyes and ears of the Sultans during the development process, which started with Emir Han, built by Orhangazi shortly after the conquest of Bursa, and continued with a separate bazaar and inn added by each sultan. That is why the first product standards law in history was written in Bursa.



MORE FROM BURSA

BURSA CASTLE AND WALLS: The city walls of Bursa, built by the Bithynia Emperor Prusias in the 2nd century BC, with the advice and support of Carthaginian General Hanibal Barca, are 3400 meters long and have 5 gates. Bursa Castle, which has been standing with all its splendor from the prehistoric period to the present, carries the traces of different civilizations from Bithynia to Rome, from East Rome (Byzantine) to the Ottoman Empire with the abundant reused materials on its walls.



INKAYA PLANE: The symbol of the Ottoman Empire, which is one of the three longest-lived states in the history of the world due to its long life, and the symbol of Bursa because it was the first capital city. One of the more than 800 monumental trees in the center of Bursa, İnkaya Sycamore on the Uludag road stands out not with its 620 years of life, but because it is the physically largest tree in Turkey. With its 13 branches, each of which is as thick as a tree, its circumference of 920 meters and a height of 37 meters, it tells the magnificence of Bursa and the history of Bursa with its stance.



MORE FROM BURSA

ULUDAĞ: With its monastery ruins, natural beauty, unique endemics and being Turkey's first professional winter tourism center, Uludağ is a giant that Bursa leans on. Uludağ has been named with different names throughout history. In ancient times, it was called Olympus, attributed to the god Zeus. According to Homer, the Greek Gods watched the Trojan war from the summit of Olympus. Keşiş Mountain, known as Uludağ since September 1925, is the highest mountain of the Southern Marmara with its height of 2543 meters. It is usable in 4 seasons and feeds the Bursa plain with nearly 150 delicious water springs that flow into Bursa from its bosom..



MORE FROM BURSA

TELEPHERE: Turkey's first cable car line. And today, with a length of 9.5 km, it is one of the longest cable car lines in the world. It is a pleasant journey, reaching an altitude of 1800 meters from an altitude of 375 meters in 30 minutes with 195 cabins for 8 people. It's like the passing of the seasons, the dance of different shades of green.



IPANAROMA 1326 MUSEUM OF CONQUEST: The world's largest panorama dome. The day of the conquest of Bursa is told with the visuals of more than 10,000 characters, with the perfect work of 8 different painters that seems to be one piece. How Bursa was on April 6, 1326 from the balcony of the minaret of the İvazpaşa Mosque, which is 200 meters north of the Ulucami.

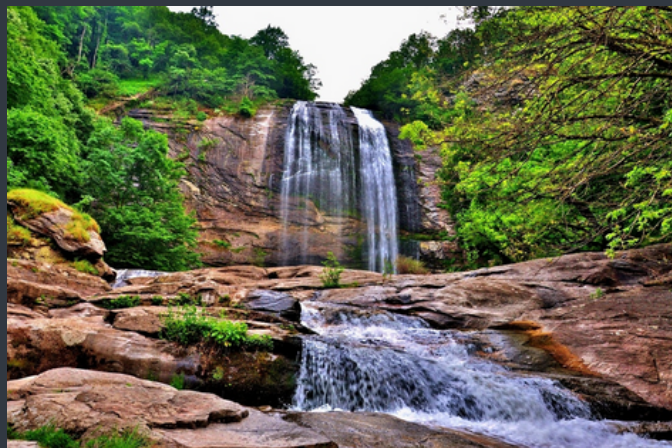


MORE FROM BURSA

THERMAL AND SPAS: Our city is a center of history and civilizations, as well as a city of healing with its thermal treasures. Dozens of historical baths and thermal spas from three great civilizations, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman, continue to heal today.



SUUÇTU WATERFALL: It is within the borders of Mustafakemalpaşa district of Bursa and is 17 km away from the district center. The waterfall, which was formed as a result of the collapse of a fault line, spills from a height of 38 meters. Suuçtu Waterfall, which also has a picnic area and a picnic area, is a full oxygen tank with the beech trees surrounding it and its cool air.





Explore the Bursa



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