



## *Yozgat*

### **CITY OF CULTURE, NATURE AND SPAS**

Yozgat boasts a rich and varied culture; it is home to a beautiful nature, local specialities and historical edifices dating from the Hittites to the Ottomans. Situated in the heart of Anatolia, Yozgat lays claim to a range of cultural wealth; including mouth-watering cuisine, original folk songs that pull on the heart-strings, and the promise of interesting journeys full of history.

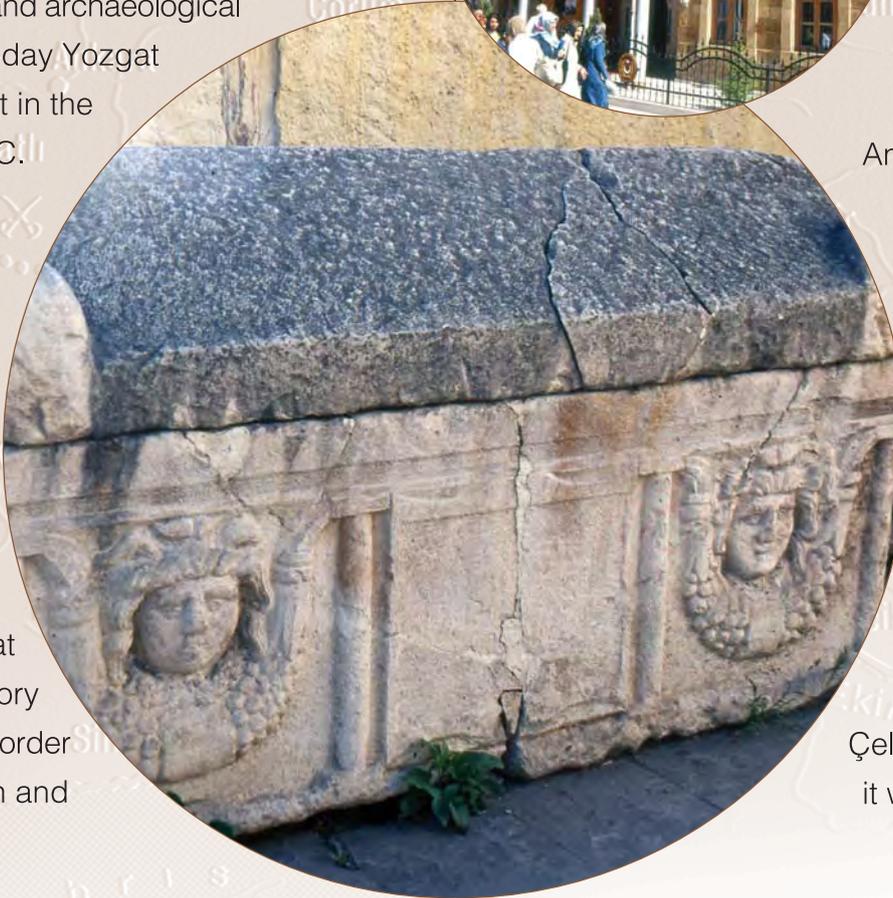
Yozgat, in the Central Anatolian Region, covers an area of 14,037 km<sup>2</sup> at an altitude of 1300 m above sea-level; it is bordered by Çorum, Amasya and Tokat to the north; Sivas to the east; Kayseri, Nevşehir and Kırşehir to the south and Kırıkkale to the west. Yozgat and its environs have a continental climate; summers are dry and hot, winters are cold and severe. Generally July and August are the hottest months. The province has 13 districts. These are: Akdağmadeni, Aydıncık, Boğazlıyan, Çandır, Çayıralan, Çekerek, Kadışehri, Saraykent, Sarıkaya, Sorgun, Şefaatli, Yenifakılı and Yerköy.



*Yozgat* *Yozgat*

## History

The earliest signs of settlement in Yozgat date back to the 3rd millennium B.C. where there is ongoing historical and archaeological research. Present-day Yozgat was very important in the 2nd millennium B.C. during the Hittite period because of its proximity to the capital city Boğazköy and a significant centre Alişar. The region's lands were home to all the civilisations that came through history after the Hittites; in order came the Phrygian and Cimmerian states,



the Persians, Alexander the Great, the Roman and Byzantine Empires. Yozgat became part of the Anatolian Seljuk State after the War of Malazgirt in 1071. In 1127 it fell to the Danişmentliler Principality and after the War of Ankara in 1402 it came under the control of Tamburlaine but in 1408 on account of Çelebi Sultan Mehmet, it was again added to Ottoman lands.

*Yozgat Yozgat*



Museum of Ethnography (Nizamoğlu Mansion)

### Museum of Ethnography (Nizamoğlu Mansion)

This two-storeyed mansion built in 1871 has wooden floors and walls. Opened to visitors as a museum in 1985, the mansion today houses a large amount of ethnographical artefacts, and varied examples of carpentry and paintings.

The paintings on display in the museum include figures and events that are sacred to different religions; therefore the mansion has been made into an attractive centre.



## Alişar Mound

Alişar mound located close to the Kadılı Village in the district of Sorgun originates from the Chalcolithic period. The stratification shows historical eras from the Early Hittite up to the Seljuk period. Particularly in the Hittite period it is recognised as one of Anatolia's most important cities due to its location on trade routes. The people relied heavily on agriculture

and animal husbandry for sustenance. Statues of the mother goddess and many types of vessel of fired clay have been found at the excavations of the mound. Nowadays the rich findings of Alişar are on display in the salons of the Ankara Museum of Anatolian Civilisations.



## Kerkenez Harabeleri/Pteria Antik Kenti

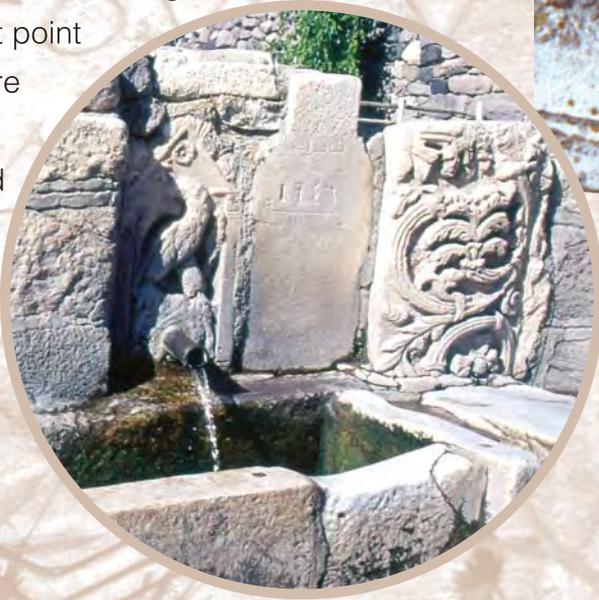
Sorgun ilçesi Şahmuratlı köyü sınırları içerisindeki Kerkenez Harabeleri 7 km. lik bir surla çevrili olup 7 giriş kapısı bulunmaktadır. Kazı ve yüzey araştırmaları devam etmekte olan bu yerleşme yerindeki kalenin Hititler'e ait olduğu; daha sonraki dönemlerde ise burada Tarihçi Herodot'un sözünü ettiği Pteria antik kentinin kurulduğu sanılmaktadır.

Herodot'un da belirttiği gibi, Medler ile Lidyalılar arasında bu civarda yapılan bir savaş dünya tarihinde önemli bir yere sahiptir: Miletli ünlü fizikçi Thales'in M.Ö. 28 Mayıs 585 tarihi için öngördüğü güneş tutulması, savaşın 6. yılında meydana gelmiş ve taraflar tanrının savaşa karşı olduğunu düşünerek mücadeleyi bırakmıştır. Varılan anlaşmaya göre Kızılırmak'ın batısına Lidyalılar, doğusuna Medler sahip olmuştur.



## Büyüknefes Village (Tavium)

Located on the Yozgat-Haydarbeli highway Büyüknefes was founded by the Trocmis, who were part of the Galatians, as their capital. In the Hittite period it was a small village but reached its zenith in the Galatian period. Amongst the unparalleled historical riches of this village are: a lion statue, columns, carved bird figures on stone, old roads, tombs, pools and roads and large squares that point towards there being an underground city to the southeast.



*Yozgat*

### The Roman Remains at Sarıkaya

Located within the spa centre in the centre of Sarıkaya the ruins consist of a three-part aqueduct of which each part is 1 m wide and 7 m long. From the perspective of architecture in Iozgat the ruins are significant for the section with friezes and depictions of bulls' heads.



### **Çeşka Castle (Çeşka Underground City)**

There are three separate entrances to the underground city that was founded on a fairly high hill 3 km to the northeast of the centre. From the southern entrance the city has two-storeys with 3 rooms; these are connected to the western section where there is a chimney. From the northern entrance, not fully excavated, there are two separate cradle-arched galleried entrances. Amongst the ruins and in the lower sections can be found monochrome ceramic pieces from the Roman and Byzantine periods.



## Büyük Mosque (Çapanoğlu)

The mosque which was built in the year 1779 by Çapanoğlu Mustafa Bey was enlarged by his brother Süleyman Bey in 1794-1795. With this addition 16 years after the construction, the mosque includes two parts named as inner mosque and outer mosque. The inner mosque is made up of white cut stones whereas the outer mosque is made up of brown and burgundy cut stones. Including many differences these two parts are standing together in harmony. The colourful motifs decorating the domes increase the visual and artistic quality of the mosque.



Büyük Camii (Çapanoğlu) Kubbe İçİ



### **Başçavuş Mosque**

Built between 1800-1801 by Başçavuş Halil Ağa. The interior of the mosque is decorated with the stylized branch and flower motifs and sharp arched plaster works.

The ceiling decoration includes unequalled overhanging rosettes, wooden carvings, and stylized plant and latticework motifs. The western side of the mosque was used as a burial ground.

## **Clock Tower**

The clock tower in the centre of Yozgat was constructed in a square prism-like shape in 1897. It is divided into six levels by stringcourses. Topped by a cone like a belfry, its upper side is surrounded by a balcony. It weighs about 250 kg and chimes every half hour.

## **Karabiyık Bridge**

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Karabiyık Bridge is situated at a distance of 38 km along the Yozgat-Şefaati highway on the watercourse. It was built on the command of Yavuz Sultan Selim on his way to the Egyptian Campaign of 1516. The bridge, made of white cut stone, consists of three pointed arches resting on bases with two low spurs, a 60 cm high balustrade wall with keystones in each third and in the middle. The hump in the middle stands out in the 54 m long and 4.5 m wide bridge.



## Osmanpaşa Tomb

Located in the town of Osmanpaşa in the central district, Osmanpaşa tomb is adjacent to the mosque, cube-shaped with a dome and built of rubble stone. Although the exact date of construction is not known it is assumed



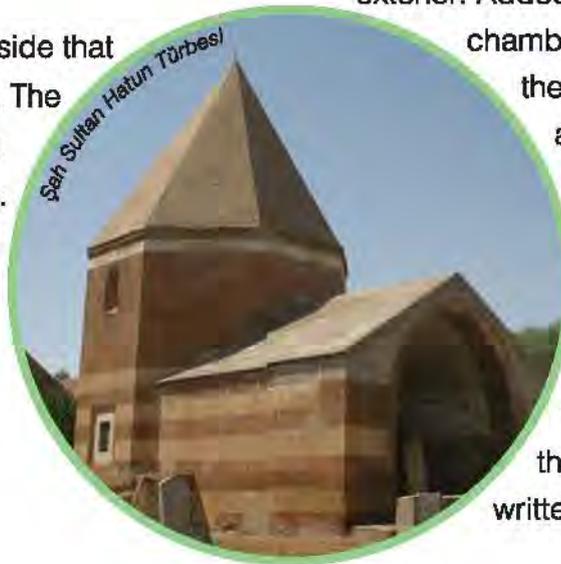
Osmanpaşa Türbesi

## Şah Sultan Tomb

Built in the year 1500, the tomb belongs to Şahsultan, the wife of Şahruh who was the son of Dulkadirli Beyi Alauddevle. The main hall of the mosque is built of flat cut stone with an octagonal drum supporting a roof that is a dome on the inside and a pyramid on the exterior. Added to this there is a deep open

chamber with a cradle vault roof. On the surfaces of the walls and the arched original entrance there are 5 rows of decoration of low bas reliefs. In the space below the rows of decoration there are overlapping flower motifs. On the marble panels facing the octagonal building there are large-lettered couplets written in Persian.

from the empty sarcophagus inside that it was built sometime after 1240. The way into the tomb is by way of a large round entrance to the south. There are four empty sarcophagi inside. The oldest one belongs to Emir Sultan Şeref'ud din İsmail bin Muhammed.



Şah Sultan Hatun Türbesi

**SPAS AND HEALTH RESORTS**



### Sarikaya Spring

Amongst the ruins in the Sarikaya district, known in ancient times as "Aqua Sarvenae" or "Basili a Therma" and used as a bath house in the Roman period, can be found arches leading into a vaulted space decorated with bulls head motifs on them. As can be assumed from the old names Sarikaya has been a spa centre. Today, it boasts modern facilities. Along with the health spa there are many hotels and the like.



### **Boğazlıyan Spring**

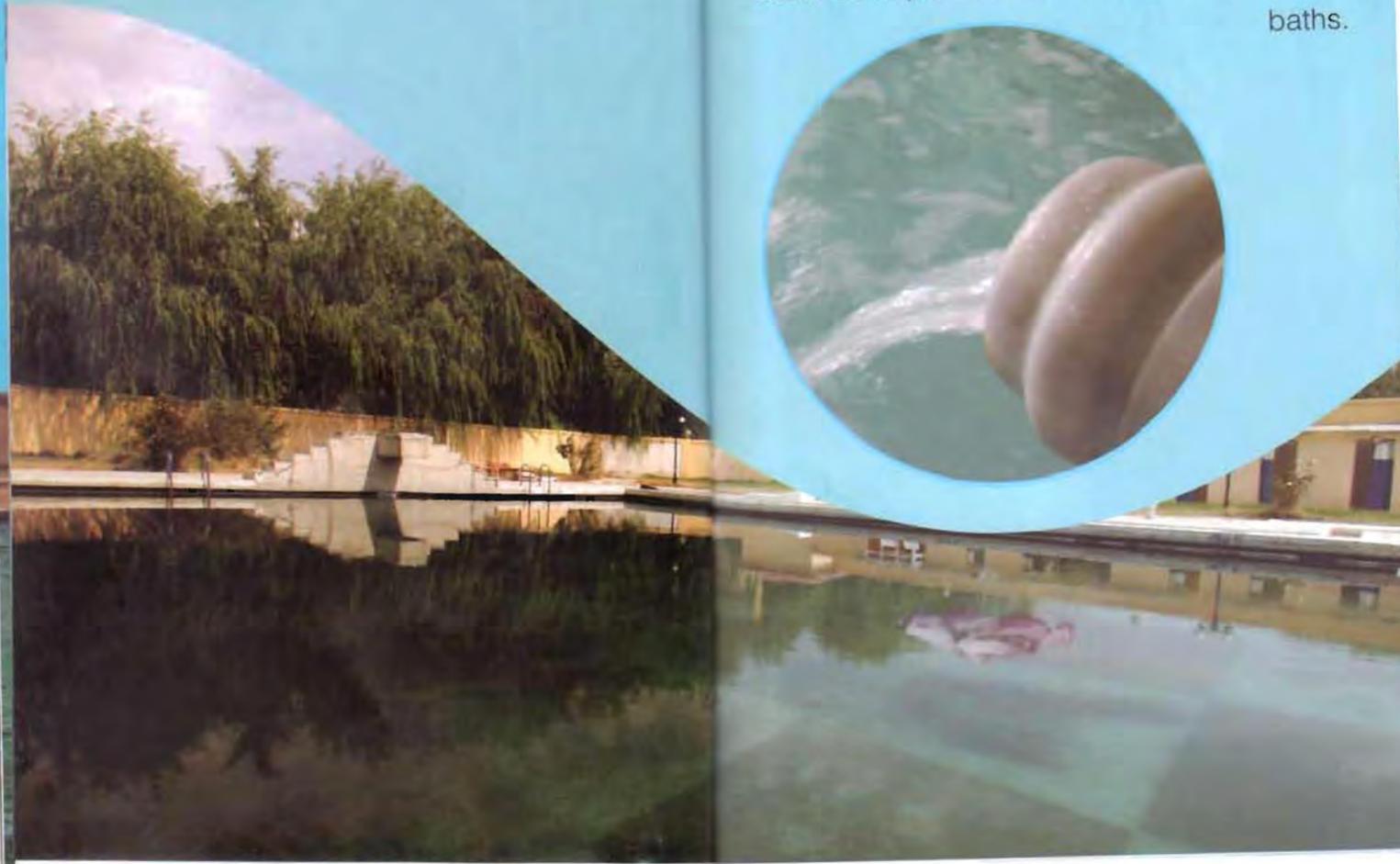
The spring is close to the village of Bahariya in the district of Boğazlıyan. The spring water is said to be beneficial for many ailments. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism promote the site as a tourism centre.

### **Sorgun Spring**

Located in the district of Sorgun. After analysis the spring water has been declared effective in the treatment of many illnesses. There are many places to stay in the environs.

### **Yerköy Spring**

Located in the district of Yerköy the facility is used as a spa and has a section used as mud baths.



## **GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE YOZGAT SPRINGS**

According to the research of medical authorities the springs of Yozgat are useful in the stabilisation and improvement of conditions such as: rheumatic pains, arthritis (stiffening of the joints), stiffening of the hips, degenerative rheumatism, hernias and sciatic pain associated with them, female complaints, severe pains, severe colitis, the reduction of kidney stones and the pain associated with them, liver and gall stones and skin complaints when used in support of medical treatments.



# Yozgat



## Bozok Plateau

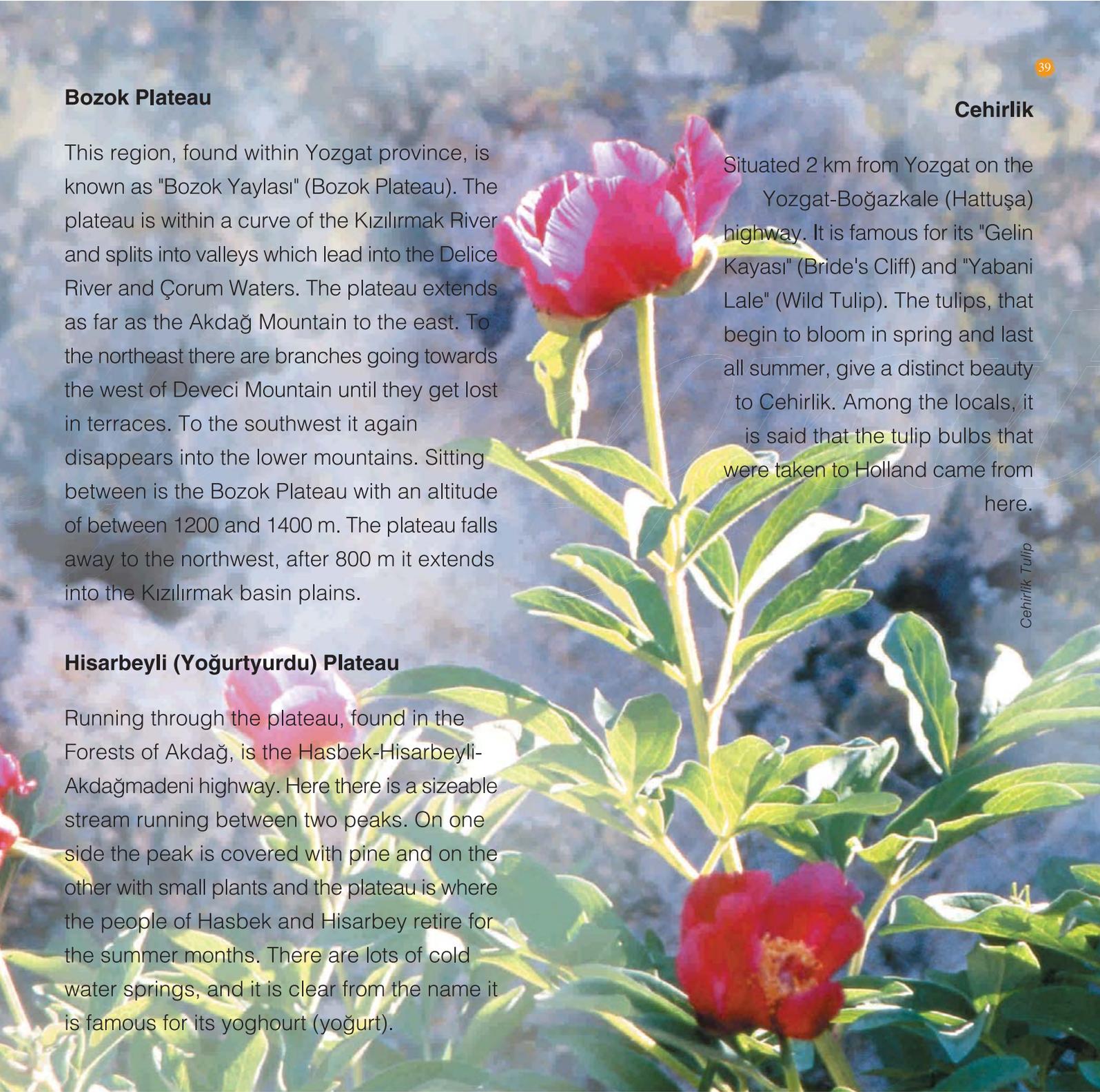
This region, found within Yozgat province, is known as "Bozok Yaylası" (Bozok Plateau). The plateau is within a curve of the Kızılırmak River and splits into valleys which lead into the Delice River and Çorum Waters. The plateau extends as far as the Akdağ Mountain to the east. To the northeast there are branches going towards the west of Deveci Mountain until they get lost in terraces. To the southwest it again disappears into the lower mountains. Sitting between is the Bozok Plateau with an altitude of between 1200 and 1400 m. The plateau falls away to the northwest, after 800 m it extends into the Kızılırmak basin plains.

## Hisarbeyli (Yoğurtyurdu) Plateau

Running through the plateau, found in the Forests of Akdağ, is the Hasbek-Hisarbeyli-Akdağmadeni highway. Here there is a sizeable stream running between two peaks. On one side the peak is covered with pine and on the other with small plants and the plateau is where the people of Hasbek and Hisarbey retire for the summer months. There are lots of cold water springs, and it is clear from the name it is famous for its yoghurt (yoğurt).

## Cehirlik

Situated 2 km from Yozgat on the Yozgat-Boğazkale (Hattuşa) highway. It is famous for its "Gelin Kayası" (Bride's Cliff) and "Yabani Lale" (Wild Tulip). The tulips, that begin to bloom in spring and last all summer, give a distinct beauty to Cehirlik. Among the locals, it is said that the tulip bulbs that were taken to Holland came from here.



## Kadınpınarı

Located at a distance of 2 km from the centre, to the northwest of the district of Akdağmadeni. It is a region that covers a great area in the Forests of Akdağ and it encompasses pine, oak and other varieties of tree, clean cold water springs and various game animals. The area has been developed and an authentic countryside café, rest homes, barbecue areas, rain shelters and the like have been built. There is also a deer farm in the region.

## Şebekpınarı Picnic Grounds

Located on the Aydınçık-Eymir highway, 1 km to the south of Aydınçık, in the mountains known as the Daşlı Mountains on Gezbel Peak overlooking Aydınçık at an altitude of 1700 m. Şebekpınarı and its environs, which have been used as a picnic area for years, has been brought into the administration of the National Parks General Directorate as the "Şebek Forestry Recreation Area" and the area has been developed with sitting areas, rain shelters and the like being built. This natural wonder is said by the locals to contain healing waters.



## Yahyasaray (Sırkılı) Plateau

On the Akdağ Mountain at an altitude of 1220 m, Yahyasaray plateau is covered by dense forests sheltering various game animals. The plateau is home to the people of Yahyasaray Village and their animals for the summer months.





## Yozgat amlığı National Park

This is one of Turkey's first national parks. It is approximately 5 km from Yozgat on the hills that stretch to the south. It is worth seeing from the perspective of research into plant life with an unparalleled selection of black pine, oak and juniper. Convenient places for camping and over-nighting can be found in the National Park.



### **Kazankaya Valley (Kazankaya Canyon)**

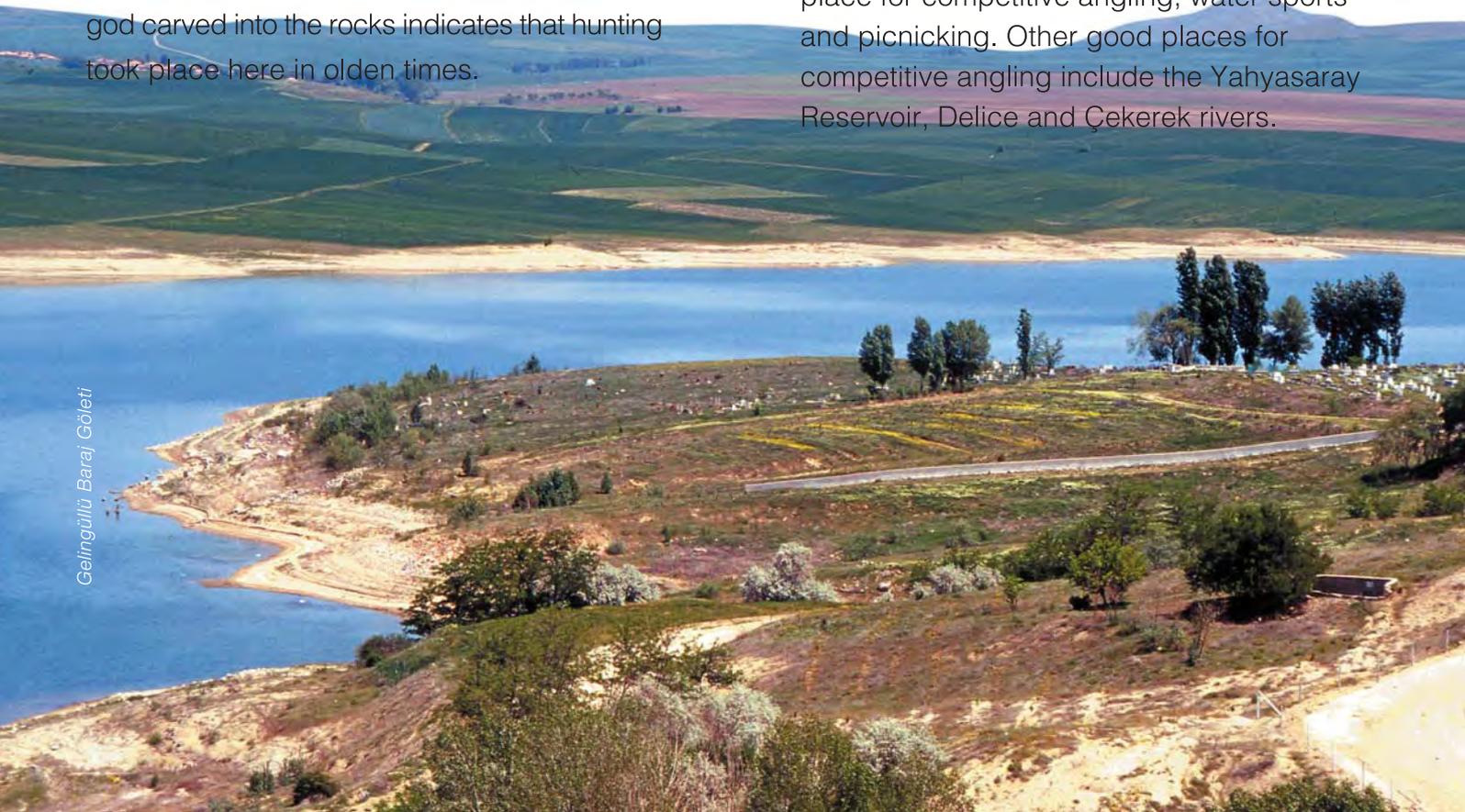
The Kazankaya Valley is 10 km long and starts from the town of Kazankaya in the Aydıncık district. Because of the number of a variety of physical attributes it is a rather interesting place for outdoor pursuits. Surrounded by steep rocks the Çekerek River running through the middle of the valley is suitable for rafting. That the valley is also home to otters and varieties of aquatic bird give it a distinct beauty. In the valley we come across caves and signs of ancient civilisations. The relief of a hunting god carved into the rocks indicates that hunting took place here in olden times.

### **Karanlık River Valley**

The valley runs the whole length of the distance between Şefaati district and Yerköy district. The Delice River runs through it, and on the banks there are gardens especially famous for their quince. There is a marked bicycle track in the valley.

### **Gelingüllü Dam**

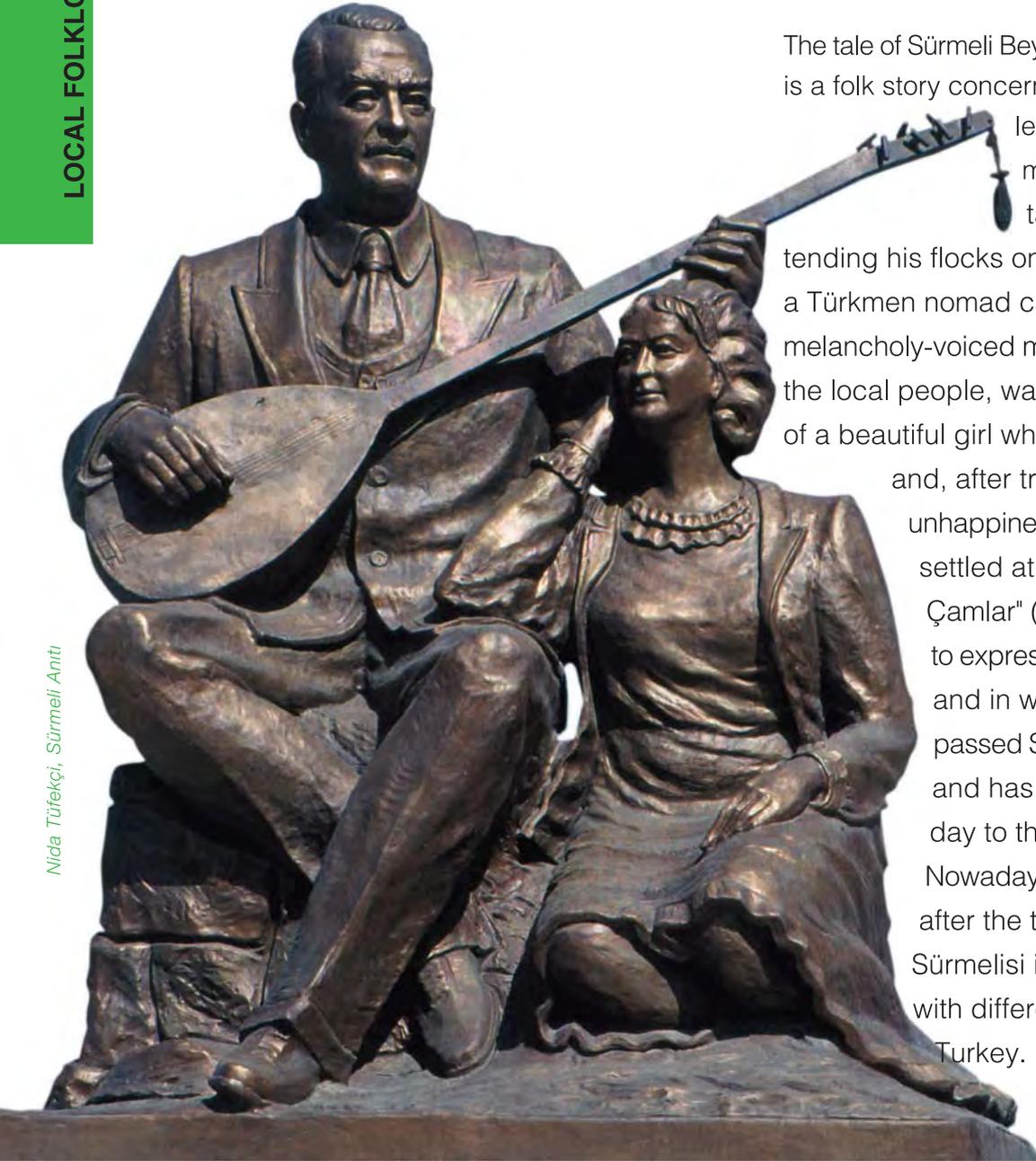
This is a dam built 40 km south of Yozgat for the purpose of irrigation. The Gelingüllü Dam is also a tourist spot: it is known as a good place for competitive angling, water sports and picnicking. Other good places for competitive angling include the Yahyasaray Reservoir, Delice and Çekerek rivers.



## Yozgat Sürmelisi (The Tale of Sürmeli)

The tale of Sürmeli Bey, synonymous with Yozgat, is a folk story concerning what happens to a legendary wandering minstrel. According to the tale one of the shepherds tending his flocks on the Bozok Plateau was a Türkmen nomad called Sürmeli Bey. The melancholy-voiced minstrel, much admired by the local people, was thwarted in his pursuit of a beautiful girl who had captured his heart and, after trying to forget his unhappiness in the Bozok highlands, settled at a place called "Beş Çamlar" (lit. Five Pines) and began to express his love on the saz (lute), and in words and songs. As time passed Sürmeli Bey sunk from view and has not been seen from that day to this. Nowadays there is a festival named after the tale and the Yozgat Sürmelisi is a much-loved folk story with different versions told all over Turkey.

Nida Tüfekçi, Sürmeli Anıtı



## HOW TO GET THERE...

### By Road

The main road into the province is the International Highway E 88 - D 200. There is an inter-city bus station with connections to: Ankara, Sivas, Kayseri, Kırşehir, Nevşehir, Çorum, Çankırı and Tokat.

### By Rail

The rail line that connects Ankara-Kayseri with the Eastern Anatolian Region runs through Yozgat. There are train stations in Yerköy, Şefaattli and Yenifakılı.

### By Air

For those who prefer to fly, Yozgat is 220 km from Ankara and Kayseri airports and return tickets can be purchased in Yozgat.



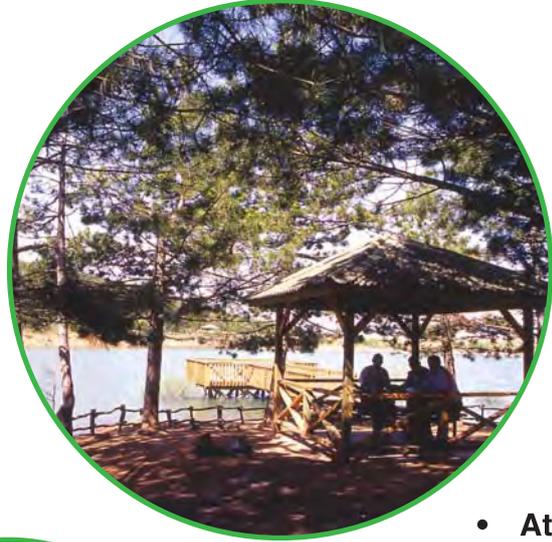
## Don't leave Yozgat without...



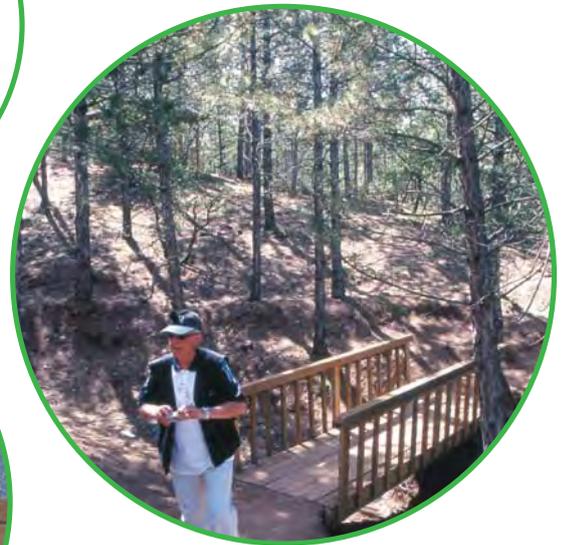
- Tasting Tandır (Clay Oven) and Testi (Jug) kebabs, and Arabaşı soup



- Visiting the Çamlık National Park



- Attending the Sürmeli Festival



**Or, better still, don't leave at all!**

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#### Yozgat Valiliği ©

İl Kültür ve Turizm Müdürlüğü

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Ankara 2007

**Ücretsizdir.**

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