

Tourism Potential of **KIRKLARELI** Region

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KIRKLARELİ

1. Geographical Location

Kırklareli is located in south Thrace, part of the Marmara Region of Turkey. Kırklareli is a border province where is located between Istranca and Ergene in Thrace part of Marmara district. Kırklareli is stated between 41*44' – 42*00' north latitude and 26*53' – 41*44' east longitude. The area in which Kırklareli lies is bordered on the north by Bulgaria and on the east by the Black Sea. İstanbul is located at the South of the city, Tekirdağ is stated at the South of the city and Edirne is located at the west of the city. It lies in the foothills of the Yıldız (Istranca) Mountains. The altitude of the city centre is 266 metres and surface area of the city is 6650 square kilometre.

Districts of Kırklareli: Lüleburgaz, Pınarhisar, Babaeski, Vize, Demirköy, Pehlivan köy and Kofçaz.



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2. Socio-Economic And Demographic Characteristics

Kırklareli is one of the important centers that carry the traces of history as well as the natural beauties, starting from Thracians to the Ottomans.

Table: Population by Years in Kırklareli

Kırklareli (Province)	Central District (Kırklareli)			Towns/Villages			Total			Exchange Ratio (Annual)
	Man	Woman	Total	Man	Woman	Total	Man	Woman	Total	
1965	14.833	9.957	24.790	19.760	19.681	39.441	34.593	29.638	64.231	
1970	16.088	11.343	27.431	17.678	18.067	35.745	33.766	29.410	63.176	-0,33%
1975	20.959	12.306	33.265	17.722	17.174	34.896	38.681	29.480	68.161	1,58%
1980	21.534	14.762	36.296	17.515	17.318	34.833	39.049	32.080	71.129	0,87%
1985	23.915	16.966	40.881	17.581	16.828	34.409	41.496	33.794	75.290	1,17%
1990	23.835	19.182	43.017	17.951	16.207	34.158	41.786	35.389	77.175	0,50%
2000	28.614	24.607	53.221	14.267	13.242	27.509	42.881	37.849	80.730	0,46%
2007	31.042	28.928	59.970	11.924	11.484	23.408	42.966	40.412	83.378	0,47%
2008	32.672	29.208	61.880	11.626	11.362	22.988	44.298	40.570	84.868	1,79%
2009	34.515	29.750	64.265	11.332	11.066	22.398	45.847	40.816	86.663	2,12%
2010	31.693	30.459	62.152	11.085	10.848	21.933	42.778	41.307	84.085	-2,97%
2011	35.121	31.105	66.226	11.005	10.567	21.572	46.126	41.672	87.798	4,42%
2012	34.804	32.556	67.360	10.929	10.667	21.596	45.733	43.223	88.956	1,32%
2013	34.355	33.649	68.004	11.287	10.218	21.505	45.642	43.867	89.509	0,62%
2014	35.414	34.747	70.161	12.257	10.096	22.353	47.671	44.843	92.514	3,36%
2015	36.944	36.573	73.517	11.979	9.778	21.757	48.923	46.351	95.274	2,98%
2016	37.759	37.227	74.986	11.675	10.965	22.640	49.434	48.192	97.626	2,47%

Table: Visitor Data for Kırklareli and Edirne in 2015

Arrival Numbers of Foreign Visitors				Departure Numbers of Foreign Visitors			
Province	Customs Gate	Way of Arrival	Visitor	Province	Customs Gate	Way of Departure	Visitor
Kırklareli	Provincial Sum		367.785	Kırklareli	Provincial Sum		363.343
		Highway	367.785			Highway	363.343
	Dereköy	Highway	367.785		Dereköy	Highway	363.343
Edirne	Provincial Sum		3.162.945	Edirne	Provincial Sum		3.120.968
		Railway	7.368			Railway	7.771
		Highway	3.155.577			Highway	3.113.197
	Kapıkule	Railway	7.368		Kapıkule	Railway	7.771
	İpsala	Highway	688.552		İpsala	Highway	656.401
	Kapıkule	Highway	1.791.918		Kapıkule	Highway	1.779.051
	Pazarkule	Highway	258.638		Pazarkule	Highway	278.335
	Hamzabeyli	Highway	416.469		Hamzabeyli	Highway	399.410

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The most important source of income for those living in Kırklareli is agriculture and livestock breeding. However, income from agriculture and livestock are gradually decreasing every year, the amount of land per farmer is falling and most of the villagers are separated from the soil because of the difficulty of subsistence.

3. Infrastructure, environment

Forest and sea are the leading natural beauties of the province. The most important forest area of the province is Dereköy, Kofçaz, Demirköy and Vize. İğneada and Kıyıköy have natural beaches. Dereköy Bucak Center on Kırklareli-Bulgaria tourist road, Kocakaynaklar (13km

north of Dereköy), Dolapdere (7km north of Dereköy), Koçyazı and Asker Çeşmesi in Kofçaz county, Velika Creek in Demirköy district are the picnic areas with abundant water and trout.

It passes through the majestic and dense forests of the Istranca (Yıldız) Mountains and reaches Dereköy Border Gate, which opens to Bulgaria after 44km. Although there are no national parks in Kırklareli, there are areas in the forests where respond people's demand for rest and recreation in the open air. In addition, Kırklareli has the world-wide biological diversity of Demirköy District Subasar Forests, Saka Lake Deep Spot Nature Reserve and Kastros Bay Nature Reserve.

4. Transport accessibility, mobile connections

Kırklareli is a province which can benefit from highway, railways and marine transportation. Highway is the most effective means of transport for the province. Almost a 50km part of international E-5 highway is within the borders of Kırklareli. The city center is located in the to the north of this road and the districts of Babaeski and Lüleburgaz are located on this road. Kırklareli is connected to Bulgaria via highway. The city benefits from a sufficient network of well developed transportation network. A daily bus servise is available every day from Kırklareli to İstanbul, Çorlu, Lüleburgaz, Babaeski, Edirne, Pınarhisar, Vize and Demirköy.

Kırklareli city center is 62km away from Edirne, 210km away from İstanbul, 118km away from Tekirdağ and 234km away from Çanakkale. There are no airports within the provincial borders of Kırklareli. But Çorlu Airport is 125km away from Kırklareli. Airports flights to İstanbul, İzmir, Antalya and Ankara are made from this airport. Charter flights to Russia are also organized.

5. Education in tourism

The literacy rate in Kırklareli is 97,5 percent above Turkey's average.

Universities

- Kırklareli University; was established in 2007. There are 10 faculties, 3 Instution, 7 Vocational School, 3 Graduate School, 14 Application and Research Center. 655 academic personnel in total work in the faculties and academies giving education and about 27000 students receive education. Kırklareli University has two units about tourism education. (Tourism Faculty and Pınarhisar Vocational High School). Kırklareli university Tourism Faculty was established in 2009. There are two departments actively under the supervision of the Faculty; 1.Tourism Management 2.

Travel Management and Tour Guiding. In addition graduate education (master's degree) is given in Tourism Management field in Kırklareli University Social Sciences Enstitution.

High schools

- Kırklareli Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School; The school is engaged in educating the qualified personnel in the tourism sector and educating the generations that accept the duty of owning them by preserving the richness of historical and natural tourism. The school was established in 1996 under the name of Kırklareli Anatolian Hotel and Tourism Vocational High School. 215 students receive education.

6. Healthcare in Kırklareli

There are 8 hospitals, 5 of them are public, 3 are private, 2 healthcare centers, 46 cottage hospitals, 55 village healthcare houses, 3 tuberculosis dispensaries, 2 family planning centers, 2 public health laboratories and 10 112 emergency and rescue stations in the province.

7. Analysis of tourism resources

Kırklareli has a high tourism potential with its green areas, forests, sea, recreation areas, parks, historical and cultural values.

7.1. Natural tourism resources

The Istranca Mountains are described as one of the 5 most important areas in Central and Eastern Europe in terms of protection of the European natural heritage at an international level. In addition, nearly half of the (194 species) Turkey bird species (454) can be seen in İğneada yearly. In İğneada, especially Mert and Erikli lakes are important wetlands for water birds in terms of nutrition, sheltering, accommodation and nesting. İğneada wetlands and the surrounding area can be visited in four seasons by those who want to do bird and butterfly watching. There are 4 caves attracting attention and carrying out activities for tourism in terms of their natural features. These are Dupnisa Cave, Yenesu Cave, Domuzdere Cave and Kıyıköy Cave. The most important of these is the Dupnisa Cave.

İğneada Floodplain Forests National Park

It is a national park located within Kırklareli Province in Marmara Region of Turkey. The national park covers an area of 3,155 ha (7,800 acres) and is located at İğneada town on the Turkish-Bulgarian border at 25 km (16 mi) far from Demirköy district of Kırklareli Province. Streams running down from the Strandzha Mountain range towards Black

Sea formed alluvium on the shore, where floodplain occurred due to seasonal floodings. The national park is a rare ecosystem, which consists of marsh, swamp, lakes and coastal sand dunes. The Strandzha mountain range is situated in the south and west. There are five lakes with aquatic plant. Lake Erikli covering 43 ha (110 acres) is a lagoon, which gets separated from the sea in the summer months as a result of drought. Lake Mert of 266 ha (660 acres) area is formed by Çavuşdere creek at its mouth. Lake Saka is a small lake of 5 ha (12 acres) situated in the south of the national park between the floodplain and the dunes. The two other lakes are Lake Hamam of size 19 ha (47 acres) and Lake Pedina of 10 ha (25 acres). The sand dunes are situated on both sides of İğneada town. İğneada Floodplain Forests National Park can be reached by public transportation from Istanbul via Silivri, Çorlu, Lüleburgaz, Pınarhisar, Demirköy and İğneada.

Kastros Bay Nature Conservation Area

This area is the only area with the larch forest in the natural state in Thrace. It has a natural characteristic suitable for the “Mediterranean seal”. The province of Kırklareli is located 48 kilometers away from the city of Vize and is between Kıyıköy town and Tekirdağ province. Bahçeköy Stream, which flows from Kastros Bay to the Black Sea, brings the provincial border of İstanbul-Kırklareli. In this part of the sea, a lagoon is formed.

Lake Saka Nature Reserve

This area is a nature reserve at Sivrililer Village of Demirköy District in Kırklareli. It is 26km away from Demirköy. The site is on a floodplain of a river that flows into the Black Sea, and seasonally floods thus rendering it a unique and one of the very few remaining floodplain forests in all of Europe. The fauna of the protected area consists of the mammals: deer, roe deer, fox, gray wolf, hare, wild boar, wildcat and the birds swan, mallard, greylag goose, woodcock and common wood pigeon. The nature reserve is habitat for the reptiles such as viper, slow-worm and water snake. The lake is home to the fish species of carp, red seabream, bass as well as to crustaceans like crayfish. In addition to the main flora of alder, elm and ash, trees such as oak, hornbeam, beech, black poplar, white poplar, willow, linden and walnut are found in the nature reserve.

Dupnisa Cavern

There are many caves in the province of Kırklareli. The most important one of these is the Dupnisa cavern, the second largest cave in Thrace, about 6 miles south of Sarpdere Village in Demirköy District, about 50km north of Kırklareli. Dupnisa cavern is a large underground

system that has continued its formation and development since about 4 million years. 250 meters dry cave part of Dupnisa cavern, covered with giant stalactites, stalagmites and columns, and 200 meters watery main cave part were opened to tourism in 2003. On the other hand, a large part of the cave (a large part of the formation where dripstones are present and where the bat colonies live) has been excluded from the visit to protect its nature and its creatures. Dupnisa, Thrace's first and only cave opened for tourism, is located in a zone with wild view in Rezve Stream which forms Turkey-Bulgaria border and where the Strandzha Mountains are deeply plowed.

The Dupnisa Cave, located on the skirts of Mount Mahya, the highest peak of the Strandzha Mountains with a height of 1031 meters, has a history of 180 million. Dupnisa Cave has two floors and consists of three caverns: Dry Cave, Girl Cave and Watery Cave. Its total length is 2720 meters and it is one of the longest caves of Turkey. The underground river is one of the impressive features of Dupnisa Cave.

Istrancalar (Yıldız Mountains); The Istranca Mountains are located within the borders of Kırklareli. It is an important nature protection area thanks to its biodiversity. Strands are the subject of many nature researches with its covered vegetation and nature structure and it is in the interest of those who deal with science. Thanks to its unique nature, it is well suited for nature walks, cycling, camping and nature photography.

İğneada; It is located in the Demirköy district of Kırklareli. It has an uninterrupted, wide beach of 20 kilometers long to start from the westernmost point of the Black Sea. It has found favour in terms of its features by those who are interested in camping and various nature activities and nature photographers.

Limanköy; Limanköy is connected to Kırklareli's İğneada area. It has a very impressive nature. Having a history of 150 years, Limanköy has an interesting story of foundation. According to this story; a community migrating from Romania 150 years ago was here. And those days there was only one person living here who was interested in the flare. This man persuaded this community to live here who migrated from Romania and together they founded Limanköy. İğneada Longoz Forests, one of the 3 longoz forests in the world, are very close here.

Demirköy; Demirköy; It is a town of Kırklareli and is located in the mountains of Yıldız Mountain. It lies in forests at an altitude of 400 meters. With its unique landscape, it has become a popular destination for nature photographers for all seasons. Fatih Dökümhane,

which was built during the Ottoman period, is located here. Fatih Dökümhanesi is the place where the balls used in the conquest of Istanbul were molded. Demirköy also hosted the Thracian Tribes in ancient times. Wild strawberry, trout and forest honey are also famous and delicious products of the region.

Kıyıköy; It is 40km away from the Vizedistrict of Kırklareli. Kıyıköy, located on the Black Sea coast of Thrace; it is a charming holiday village with its preserved nature, unique view and delicious fishes. It was founded by the Lydians in 500 BC. Throughout history, it has been home to civilizations such as Thracian, Persian, Scythian, Medlar and Genoese. In Kıyıköy, which is located on a high hill, the people make their living from fishing, agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry. The entrance to the city is provided by a gateway from the Byzantine dating. There are rocks and caves formed by sea waves along the shore.

Beğendik Village; Beğendik village is located in Demirköy district of Kırklareli. This village, located in the western part of Turkey, on the border with Bulgaria, has a very clean and almost uncontaminated sea. It is not possible to make long holidays in this village because there is no lay-by, but it will purify your soul for a day.

7.1.1. Climate

Kırklareli climate varies according to the region. The continental climate is dominant in the center of Kırklareli. In the north-facing sections of the Yıldız Mountains, the Black Sea climate is seen. As a result, summers are cool, winters are cold. Inland from the sea, the continental climate is seen. Summers are hot, winters are cold and occasionally snowy.

Climate data for Kırklareli													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	18.6 (65.5)	21.0 (69.8)	25.7 (78.3)	30.5 (86.9)	36.0 (96.8)	39.8 (103.6)	42.5 (108.5)	40.4 (104.7)	37.0 (98.6)	37.4 (99.3)	33.4 (92.1)	21.6 (70.9)	42.5 (108.5)
Average high °C (°F)	6.6 (43.9)	8.3 (46.9)	11.9 (53.4)	17.7 (63.9)	23.4 (74.1)	27.9 (82.2)	30.5 (86.9)	30.4 (86.7)	26.0 (78.8)	19.7 (67.5)	13.6 (56.5)	8.6 (47.5)	18.7 (65.7)
Daily mean °C (°F)	2.9 (37.2)	4.0 (39.2)	6.9 (44.4)	12.0 (53.6)	17.3 (63.1)	21.6 (70.9)	23.9 (75)	23.4 (74.1)	19.2 (66.6)	13.9 (57)	9.0 (48.2)	5.0 (41)	13.2 (55.8)
Average low °C (°F)	0.0 (32)	0.7 (33.3)	2.8 (37)	7.1 (44.8)	11.6 (52.9)	15.4 (59.7)	17.7 (63.9)	17.5 (63.5)	13.9 (57)	9.7 (49.5)	5.7 (42.3)	2.1 (35.8)	8.6 (47.5)
Record low °C (°F)	-15.8 (3.6)	-15.0 (5)	-11.8 (10.8)	-3.0 (26.6)	1.4 (34.5)	5.8 (42.4)	8.8 (47.8)	8.7 (47.7)	3.0 (37.4)	-3.4 (25.9)	-7.2 (19)	-11.1 (12)	-15.8 (3.6)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	60.0 (2.362)	50.1 (1.972)	47.1 (1.854)	44.9 (1.768)	49.0 (1.929)	48.3 (1.902)	25.0 (0.984)	21.4 (0.843)	34.4 (1.354)	53 (2.09)	66.2 (2.606)	70.7 (2.783)	570.1 (22.447)
Average rainy days	11.1	9.1	9.1	10.4	9.9	8.5	4.8	3.7	4.8	7.1	8.6	11.4	98.5
Mean monthly sunshine hours	89.9	109.2	164.3	204.0	272.8	282.0	322.4	319.3	240.0	167.4	114.0	68.2	2,353.5
Mean daily sunshine hours	2.3	3.2	4.4	5.5	8.3	9.6	10.0	9.5	7.2	4.5	3.3	2.2	5.83

7.1.2. Water

Streams and Lakes: Kırklareli and its environs have a large number of rivers, natural lakes, ponds, dams and wetlands. The Ergene river is born from the Yıldız Mountains and merges with Meriç. Mert Lake, located in the town of Demirköy, is a lagoon. Environment of Mert Lake submerge due to abundant rains in spring and autumn. With this feature, the forest area shows the feature of longoz here. The Cehennem Falls and Çifte Kaynaklar, located in the Vize district, are one of the most worthseeing touristic areas in Kırklareli provincial borders.

There are seven lakes named Erikli, Mert, Hamam, Pedina, Saka, Sülüklü and Ramana in İğneada. The lakes around İğneada and its surroundings are areas where many recreational activities can be done, especially picnic, sportif line-fishing and camping.

Sea: you can go swimming on the shore of İğneada and Kıyıköy in the region. June, July and August are the best months to enter the sea. The sea is generally rolling and windy. İğneada is located 25km away from Demirköy and 97km away from Kırklareli.

7.1.3. Vegetation and wildlife

57 per cent of the Kırklareli lands are covered with forests and bushes, 35 per cent with cultivated and planted areas, 7 per cent with meadows and meadows and 1 per cent with irrigation. Kırklareli vegetation generally shows forest and step features. There are beech forests on the northern slopes of the Strandzha Mountains and oak forests on the south and west slopes of Strandzha Mountains. The forests of the valleys near the sea and the surroundings of Lake Saka are rich in tree diversity. The only big larch forest in Thrace is located in Kırklareli, west of Kastro Bay.

The Black Sea in the east of the province and the forests of the Istranca mountain range in the north and north-east give the unique beauty to Kırklareli. The fresh waters reach up to the Black Sea and the forests flowing through the creeks contain various wild animals. A significant part of these natural richness are protected by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as “natural protected area”. Demirköy and Kıyıköy Natural Sites, Kastros Bay Nature Reserve, Dingiloğlu Park, Pınarhisar Ali Özer Park, forested area around Dereköy-Bulgaria, Kaynarca Pekmezdere Cave and Alpullu Sugar Factory are registered natural protected area and they are among the natural wonders worth seeing.

7.2. Tourism and Cultural and Historical Heritage

Kırklareli has been called by different names throughout its history. In antiquity, it was referred to as Virisium, Verisse and Nerisse. The Byzantines called it “Saranta Ekklesies” (forty churches) before it was conquered by the Turks in the 14th century, when the name was changed to “Kırkkilise” (also meaning forty churches). During the early Republican period, when the Ottoman districts became provinces, Kırkkilise was renamed “Kırklareli” on 20th December 1924.

Kırklareli is one of the provinces with rich cultural heritage in terms of historical structures. These include mosques, baths, fountains, martyrs, bridge, ottoman social complex and mausoleum. Most of the tumulus group in our country is located within the borders of Kırklareli, especially in the province of Vize. In addition many dolmens are located in Kırklareli. The remains of the castle and the tower also increase the cultural richness of Kırklareli. The excavations continue at the mound and tumulus. These excavations reveal new information about Kırklareli’s earlier unknown periods. The excavation at Çömlektepe (Vize) brought the only antique theater known in Thrace to the present.

Kırklareli Museum; It was built as a municipality building in 1894 by Mutasarrıf Neşet Pasha and Hacı Mestan Efendi, the mayor of that period. The building which was actually used until 1962 by the municipality was allocated to the Ministry of Culture in order to be transformed into an museum in 1970. The building which was started to repair in 1983 was opened in 1994 as a museum. The Archeology and Ethnography sections are located on the top floor and the Culture and Nature Exhibition Hall is located on the ground floor. In the culture and nature hall, the creatures under the threat of extinction or extinction are exhibited with their natural appearance. You can find 102 different kinds of creature examples from 76 species.

Yayla Neighborhood and Historical Houses; Kırklareli Yayla Neighborhood, it is a place with Bulgarian, Greek and Jewish populations. It is an open-air museum where houses are found reflecting Turkish architecture. Historical houses in Yayla neighborhood are thought to have been built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today it has been declared as an urban protected area.

Demirköy Fatih Foundry; Fatih Dökümhane, which was built during the Ottoman period, is located here. Fatih Dökümhanesi is the place where the balls used in the conquest of Istanbul were molded. Demirköy also hosted the Thracian Tribes in ancient times. Some of the

cannons used during the conquest of İstanbul by the Turks were manufactured in Foundry, located in the district of Demirköy. The excavations made here will reveal a great civilization.

İğneada Lighthouse; İğneada Lighthouse known as Limanköy Lighthouse is located in İğneada district of Demirköy in Kırklareli. It was also known as “French Lighthouse” because it was built by the French during the reign of Sultan Abdülmecit in 1866. İğneada Lighthouse has two role as border lighthouse and route lighthouse. In the absence of electrical installations, the lighthouse, which was installed with a cradle and illuminated the sea, can be seen from 20 miles even today thanks to 100 halogen bulbs and plastic reflectors.

Vize Castle (Slow City Vize); Vize is the first slow city of Thrace and the eighth slow city of Turkey. Vize received the title “Slow City” with the application made in 2012 to the Association of International Slow Cities (Cittaslow). Vize Castle is located in the Vize district of Kırklareli province and carries the name of its place. The Vize Castle consists of two castles; an inner castle and an outer castle. The Vize Castle and its walls are based on the Roman period.

Vize Ancient Theater; Vize Antique Theater is located in the center of Vize, Kırklareli. It dates back to the 2nd century AD and has a capacity of 4000 spectators. The steps of seating and walking are made of marble. The antique theater that emerged as a result of excavations in the 1990s, is the only Roman period theater known up to the present.

Babaeski Bridge; located in the Babaeski district of Kırklareli, built in 1633 during the period of Murad IV. It is part of D-100 international highway and is still in use.

Hızırbey Turkish Bath; also known as Çifte Bath, is a part of Hızırbey Complex and is located in Kırklareli center. Because there is a double entrance for men and women in the bath, it is called "Çifte Bath". In 1383 Köse Mihalzade Hızırbey was made it done according to traditional Ottoman architecture. It was built adjacent to Ottoman bazaar.

Kırk Şehitler Monument; was built by Kırklareli Reconstruction Association in 1960. The Forty-Martyrs Monument was built to commemorate the Forty Raider who was martyred in the battle to get the city of Kırklareli from the Byzantine state in 1363.

Kırklareli Train Station; The Kırklareli Station and the train line were built by an Austrian construction company in order to reach the Edirne-Istanbul line in Alpullu and to connect Kırklareli to Istanbul. However, the French company had been operating the line. The station is currently unavailable and has become one of the most beautiful recreational areas in the city, with various entertainment areas around it.

Seyfiođlu Redoubt and Taş Redoubt; Seyfiođlu Redoubt is located 3km North-east of Kırklareli city center and Taş Redoubt is located 3km North-west of Kırklareli. Seyfiođlu Redoubt and Taş Redoubt were built for security purposes after the Ottoman-Russian War of 1877-1878. The construction of the redoubts against the enemy attacks started in 1879 and the construction was completed in 1890.

Aşađı Pınar Mound; is 3 km from the center of Kırklareli. The mound, which had a very old age, was first noticed in 1980. When it was discovered, it was put on the record with the name "Salhana". Historical remains obtained as a result of excavation works, it was learned that the region was used as a settlement in the Neolithic Age. Aşađı Pınar Mound is the oldest farm-village settlement in Trakya. Located on an area of 3000 square meters, the Aşađı Pınar Mound is the largest archeological excavation site in Kırklareli.

Kanlı Geçit Mound; Kanlıgeçit Höyüđü is located to the south of the province center of Kırklareli. Kanlıgeçit Mound which is a historical mound is located at a distance of 300 meters from Aşađı Pınar Mound. Historical background of it is based on 3000 B.C. It is the oldest urban settlement known in the Balkans and is the settlement of the Anatolian colony belonging to the first and only Bronze Age in Thrace. The first archaeological excavations were carried out in 1994 at Kanlıgeçit Mound. Various excavation works are continuing at Kanlıgeçit Mound.

7.3. Temples, monasteries, religious and archaeological sites

The oldest mosque in the city of Kırklareli is the Hızırbey Mosque, built in 1383. The mosque complex includes a bazaar. Nearby stands a hamam also built under the patronage of Hızırbey. The 14th century Kırklar Memorial with its 18 impressive columns stands on Kırklar Hill honoring the site where 40 soldiers lost their lives when the Ottomans conquered this area under the command of Murat I. The Archaeological Museum exhibits finds from local excavations.

Vize is an important Byzantine center, houses the Küçük Ayasofya Church along with a castle, both dating from the Byzantine period.

The Sokullu Mosque in Lüleburgaz, on the Edirne-İstanbul road, is an exquisite work of Sinan that dates from 1570. The neighboring town of Babaeski also boasts a Sinan building in the Cedi Ali Paşa Mosque.

Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Social Complex; The Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Complex is located in the Lüleburgaz district of Kırklareli. It was built in 1569 by Mimar Sinan. The complex

consists of a mosque, a madrasa, a caravanserai, a tabhane, imaret, an ottoman bazaar, prayer dome, hazire, ottoman elementary-primary school, double bath, bridge, fountain, waterways and cistern. Only the mosque, madrasa, ottoman bazaar and bath could be protected from these structures. The most important structure of this complex is Sokullu Mehmet Paşa Mosque. Since it is one of the most important mosques of Lüleburgaz, the building is constantly open for worship throughout the day.

Hızır Bey Social Complex and Hızırbey Mosque; Hızırbey Complex is located in Kırklareli center. Hızırbey complex consist of Hızırbey Mosque, double bath, arasta (Ottoman bazaar) and fountain. Hızırbey Mosque, also known as Great Mosque, was built in 1383. Nowadays, it is open for worship.

Cedit Ali Paşa Mosque; Cedit Ali Pasha Mosque is a small model of the Selimiye Mosque in Edirne. It is located in Babaeski district of Kırklareli. It is covered with a large dome covered with lead. It was built in 1555 by Mimar Sinan.

Small Hagia Sophia Church (Gazi Süleyman Paşa Mosque); Küçük Ayasofya Church, also known as Gazi Süleyman Paşa Mosque; it is located in the Kale neighborhood of the Vize district of Kırklareli. The church was built in the 6th century during the period of the Jewish. It was started to be used in the 14th century and it is also used today. Despite being transformed into a mosque, church air is dominant in the building.

Hagia Nicola Monastery; The Hagia Nicola Monastery is located in Kıyıköy town, which is connected to the Vize District of Kırklareli. It is 700 meters away from Kıyıköy. It is one of the most beautiful examples of rock monasteries belonging to 6-9th century. In addition, the monastery has cells obtained by carving rocks.

Cave Monastery; Cave Monastery, also known as Asma Kaya Cave Monastery, is located in the Vize district of Kırklareli province. It is located in Asma Kaya. Asma Kaya is a rocky formation valley, in which there are carved places made by both by natural and human. One of these carved places is the Cave Monastery.

7.4. Cultural activities and events, festivities- Traditions, Customs and Crafts

Kırklareli Handicrafts; are very valuable thanks to their local motifs. Especially the hand weavings belonging to the village of Poyralı of Kırklareli are famous. Due to the widespread animal breeding in Kırklareli and its vicinity, there is no problem about raw materials and in this case it provides widespread weaving. Kırklareli weaving, which has a history dating back to 8000 B.C., still continues today with the prayer rugs, saddlebags, bags and runway weaving

made of wool yarn in horizontal wooden countertops. Textile such as carpet, rug etc. which is produced here can be purchased from Poyralı Culture House. Poyralı Culture House is a kind of village ethnography museum.

Festivities;

Kakava; is a celebration event of Romani people. Its place of origin is Egypt and Front Asia. According to Gypsy/Romanythology and belief, Kakava is the transformation of miraculous events to “a belief” based on oppression towards another society in times of ancient Egypt God-King pharaoh living together with Kopt people. In Turkey's western cities of Edirne and Kırklareli, Kakava is celebrated joyfully. After lighting the fire and jumping over it, music playing and dancing is performed. Various exhibitions are opened in the festival area. It is known as Kırklareli Karagöz Culture-Art and Kakava Festival. Some of the other festivals are Strawberry Festival (May/ Demirköy), Kaynarca Culture and Water Festival (May/ Kaynarca), Karahıdır Cherry Festivals (June/ Kırklareli), Big Oil Wrestling Tournament (May/Babaeski), Agriculture Festival (August/ Babaeski).

7.5. Facilities for recreation and tourism, tourism infrastructure and services

Koçaz Paragliding; The area in the Elmacık village of Koçaz district is suitable for the parachute sport. Take off areas are prepared in hamasi hill, küçük baba hill and koca bayır hill. With the departure area more than one point, it is possible to take departure in every direction for those who want to fly in the region.

The Longoz Forests National Park (Su Basar Forests); It is located in Kıyıköy district of Kırklareli, İğneada area. In 2007, it reached the status of “natural park”. Longoz Forests, which cover an area of 3155 hectares, are also known as Subasar Forests. Longoz Forests have a unique ecosystem; these forests are the largest longoz forests ecosystem of Turkey and the second largest longoz forests ecosystem of Europe. There are only three examples in the world. Soils are very rich in terms of organic substances. It also houses 184 species of birds. Nature photography and nature is very convenient in terms of tourism.

7.6. Hotels and restaurants- tourist sites

İğneada, 98km east of Kırklareli, is squeezed between its sandy shores and the Yıldız Mountains. Kıyıköy (Midye) is another holiday resort town with good accomodation and picturesque dwellings from the Middle Age. The town and its walls date from the Byzantine period. There is also a monastery to St. Nicholas.

In Kırklareli, the hotels are concentrated in İğneada, Kıyıköy, Vize and Lüleburgaz districts as well as the Kırklareli city center.

Kırklareli city center accomodation alternatives: Bilgiç Hotel, Lozengrad Hotel, Akkuş Kaya Palas Hotel, Vanilya Butique Hotel Cafe & Restaurant, Kırklareli Teacher's House.

Districts and countryside accomodation alternatives: İğneada Resort Hotel, Ezgi Hotel, Kıyıköy Resort Hotel.

Guesthouse and teachers' houses located in the city center and the districts are also among the important accomodation alternatives.

7.7. Gastronomies & Restaurants

Kırklareli is a very rich city in terms of local food. The source of local cuisine is agricultural products, meat products and seafood. Agricultural products such as wheat, sunflower, sugar beet, seed pumpkin, potato, corn, dried beans, barley, grape, tomato, pepper grown in the region are the main food items of local cuisine. It is famous for meat dishes and meatballs. The Black Sea Coast of Kırklareli is another place to enjoy beaches and good fish restaurants.

Most popular gastronomic values of Kırklareli:

Hardaliye; It is a local drink specific to Thrace that prepared using vine leaves, mustard seeds and grapes. It is aimed to become a national drink by getting patent of this drink. You may come across in Edirne with Hardaliye. It is consumed as a vitamin deposit because of its blood pressure balancing, appetizing, roborant, immunomodulator and circulatory system regulatory effects. Carefully selected papazkarası grapes are crushed to break the crust of the mustard to have a darker color, and then mustard seeds covered with vine leaf covered with crushed tofu to crumble to prevent it from turning into wine and nuts. When it thickens, it is made ready to drink by draining. Although it is found in almost all seasons, the most delicious time of Kalkan is in January, February and March.

Kırklareli Cheese; Kırklareli's cheese is famous. It is produced using the milk of milch animals that is grown in this area. Since both livestock and cattle breeding are done in the region, many kinds of cheese can be produced and natural yeasts are used in cheese production.

Turbot and Seasonal Fish Varieties; Turbot is a kind of fish living in the depth of 20 to 70 meters in Mediterranean, Aegean Sea, Marmara Sea and Black Sea. They are fed with small fishes, small sea animals and crabs living in the sea bottom. It is widely consumed in the

Kıyıköy settlement located on the Black Sea coast of Thrace. Kıyıköy is a famous town with Kalkan fish and many people comes here from surrounding provinces to eat fish. The Kalkan is usually cooked in a pan and the buttons in the skin should be removed before eating. It is a type of fish preferred by most people because it does not have a very fatty flesh.

İğneada, which is located in Demirköy district of Kırklareli, is a very rich town in terms of fish variety. It has a rich fish flavor such as carp, red betle, perch and mullet thanks to its seven protected lake. İğneada has a fishing port and fresh fish of the season can be found at very economical prices. If you happen to pass by İğneada, you do not return without tasting grilled and fried grey mullet and fried mussels.

Demirköy Honey; Demirköy honey is produced by Thracian bees as a special strain. Thracian bee has recently been protected in order to preserve its pure race. Demirköy honey is produced by these bees in Strandzha forests in Kırklareli. This honey has a sharp aroma and a dark color. Demirköy honey, which differs as taste and color from other flower honeys, has become a brand of Kırklareli. This honey is very popular because of the healing of many diseases.

Poyralı Molasses; Poyralı molasses is a kind of beet molasses peculiar to Kırklareli. Kırklareli has a very good clay and soil structure for sugar beet production. Poyralı molasses, produced in Poyralı Village, which is connected to the Pınarhisar district of Kırklareli province, has a darker consistency and a sharper aroma than the other molasses.

Pumpkin Dessert in Lime; A sauce prepared with lime is added to make the lime and the outer part of the pumpkin crunchy. In this way, with crunchy outside and mellow inside pumpkin dessert is obtained. The limestone pumpkin dessert, which has a fairly light flavor, is beginning to be consumed very much by the opening of the pumpkin season at the end of October.

Kırklareli Meatball; Kırklareli meatball is placed near the top among local food of the province. Edirne is also famous for its meatball but the taste of all of them (both Kırklareli meatball and Edirne meatball) is idiosyncratic and diversified. In making this meatball, the meat of the animals grown in Strandzha located in Kırklareli is used. Meatballs cooked on the grill are served on a separate plate with tomato sauce and pepper sauce, and preferably with yoghurt. The portion (average 140gr mincemeat) consists of 8 meatball.

Kid Chawarma; It is a meal indigenous to Kırklareli and is inherent to April-May. Famous kid chawarma restaurants serve only in April-May as a season of the kid. The front legs and

hind legs of the kid are lashed together and put a large salt into it. Kid is put into a sieve of wood and cooked for about three hours in tandouri. It is served on grease-proof paper instead of plates, with bowl of yoghurt, scallion and onions.

Thracian Curly Lambs; Thracian curly lambs are so delicious because they grow in the natural environment. Curly lambs are fed with all natural products like clover, wheat, thyme, corn and barley. They are cut when their weight reaches 40 kilograms and are made ready for fresh consumption of their meat.

Boza; Boza is a considerably produced and consumed winter beverage especially in the province of Kırklareli throughout the Thrace region. It is consumed as an effective preservative and energizer beverage during cold winter days. In the making polenta, sugar and water are used. There is a high amount of minerals and vitamins in its content. Boza is in the category of high value and healthy beverages. It contains the nutrients that the body needs like iron, phosphorus, zinc, calcium and vitamin A. Depending on the preference, roasted chickpea, cinnamon or hazelnut can be used when serving. It has become a brand with Kırklareli.

Water Buffalo Yoghurt; Water buffalo yoghurt is quite famous in K1yık1y settlement of Kırklareli. It is a kind of yoghurt with milk obtained from water buffalo. The buffalo farming, which is quite common in the past, is only in the northeastern part of Trakya region in recent years. Buffalo farming is generally carried out in Saray town of Tekirdađ and in Kırklareli. The water buffalo yoghurt and the water buffalo yoghurt skin are produced using the milk obtained water buffalos raised here. You can taste here the most natural state of yoghurt because water buffalo farming is done intensely in K1yık1y.

Kırklareli Cherry; Kırklareli Cherry became a symbol of Kırklareli in time, and the province recently started to be known as "Cherry Town". Festivals are organized every year since 2013. The most beautiful cherries are exhibited and various competitions are organized in "Karahıdır Cherry Festivals" every year. Kırklareli cherry which has become a brand over time is very popular with its taste.

Horticultural Crops; Throughout history, Kırklareli has been known for its vineyards and beverages derived from its vineyard products. Thracian Region, especially Tekirdađ and Kırklareli are located in the zone, which is suitable for viticulture. Grapes cultivated in Kırklareli is fermented to obtain beverage products. These drinks, which have become a culture of Thrace, are exported to many countries in the world. Kırklareli is one of the most

important regions of Turkey in the production of grapes and therefore in the production of beverage products.

8. Tourist information centres:

* **Local Tourism Department of Government** (İl Kültür ve Turizm Müdürlüğü), Karakaş Mahallesi, İstasyon Caddesi, 39000 Kırklareli. Tel: (0288) 214 19 47.

9. Other kinds of facilities

Palivor Çiftliği; Palivor Ranch is a ranch in Demirköy district of Kırklareli province. It was established 300 years ago in the Istranca Forests. In 2011 the farm have been implemented again. The ranch is a private farm established near the border of Bulgaria. Organic farming and ecotourism are being done in the farm. If you would like to visit the farm, or if you want to buy a house in the farm visit: www.palivor.com. If you want to buy organic food like cheese, honey, jam, smoked meat etc. visit: <https://palivorciftligi.com>



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10. Hunting farms;

Kırklareli is located in a region that is important for both land and water hunting. Due to its natural structure and being on the migration route, it enables the survival of various animal species. Demirköy-Vize Karamanbayırı, Demirköy Sislioba, Kofçaz Kocayazı, Vize Kıyıköy State hunting ground, Babaeski Ergene, Lüleburgaz Ahmetbey, Kırklareli Kayalı hunting ground and Çukurpinar sample hunting ground are hunting areas in Kırklareli as approved. As it can be hunted these areas, it is possible to hunt in state forests located within the provincial borders, soil conservation and reforestation areas, state agricultural enterprises, dam lakes, lakes, lagoons, swamps and reed fields in province borders.

11. Wineries;

Arcadia Vineyard and Bakucha Vineyard Hotel (Hamitabat Köyü-Lüleburgaz-Kırklareli)

The Arcadia Vineyard, which took its name from the former name of Lüleburgaz (Arcadiapolis), were established in 2000s as the first major modern vineyard investment in the Kırklareli region during the Republic period. Between Lüleburgaz and Istranca Mountains, Sauvignon Blanc, Narince, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Öküzgözü and Papaskarası grape varieties are grown. It is the only vineyard that grows Gris and Pinot grape varieties in Turkey. A boutique hotel and restaurant are underway for visiting wine lovers. Wine tourists can enjoy walks in the vineyards, visit the winery, enjoy wine tastings and a pleasant and relaxing dinner in the Gazebo by the lake.

Vino Dessera (Ahmetçe Köyü- Kırklareli)

Vino Dessera is a family owned winery established in 2012. Vino Dessera vineyards, located in the ancient region of Thrace, only a short stroll away from a pre-Hellenistic site where archaeologists have uncovered a tradition of wine making that dates back thousands of years. Wine guests can enjoy Vino Dessera complex and beautiful wines and taste local as well as international grapes. There are also plenty of activities and events to choose from including trekking, biking, fishing, wine tastings and much more. The winery also offers accommodation, making it the perfect base to explore Thrace and the surrounding areas.

Chamlıja Vineyards (Büyükkarıştıran-Lüleburgaz-Kırklareli)

Chamlıja vineyards can be visited from 09:00 to 17:00 every day of the week, except between August 15 and October 15. The Çamlık restaurant next to the vineyards is also open year-round between 12: 00-24: 00.

Saranta Vineyards and Winery (Karakoç Köyü-Kırklareli)

12. Tourism offers - types of tourism and resorts

Alternative tourism activities that can be done within the scope of ecotourism in Istranca Mountains and around;

Nature photography, cave tourism, bicycle tourism, water sports tourism, paragliding, sportive line fishing, camp tourism, cultural tourism, trekking, mushroom picking tourism,

orienteeing, picnic areas and recreation areas, bird watching tourism, butterfly watching tourism, wildlife observation tourism, botanical tourism, eco-gastronomy.

13. Border Checkpoints of Kırklareli

Dereköy (Aziziye) Border Checkpoint: There are 1 checkpoint on the border: Dereköy-Malko Tarnovo. The border gate in Kırklareli can be reached by road E87. The border crossing point lies 11km north west of the village centre of Dereköy. (Dereköy is located in Strandzha mountains, 20km north of the center of Kırklareli.) The Bulgarian counterpart is Malko Tarnovo. It was opened in 1970.