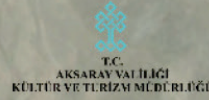


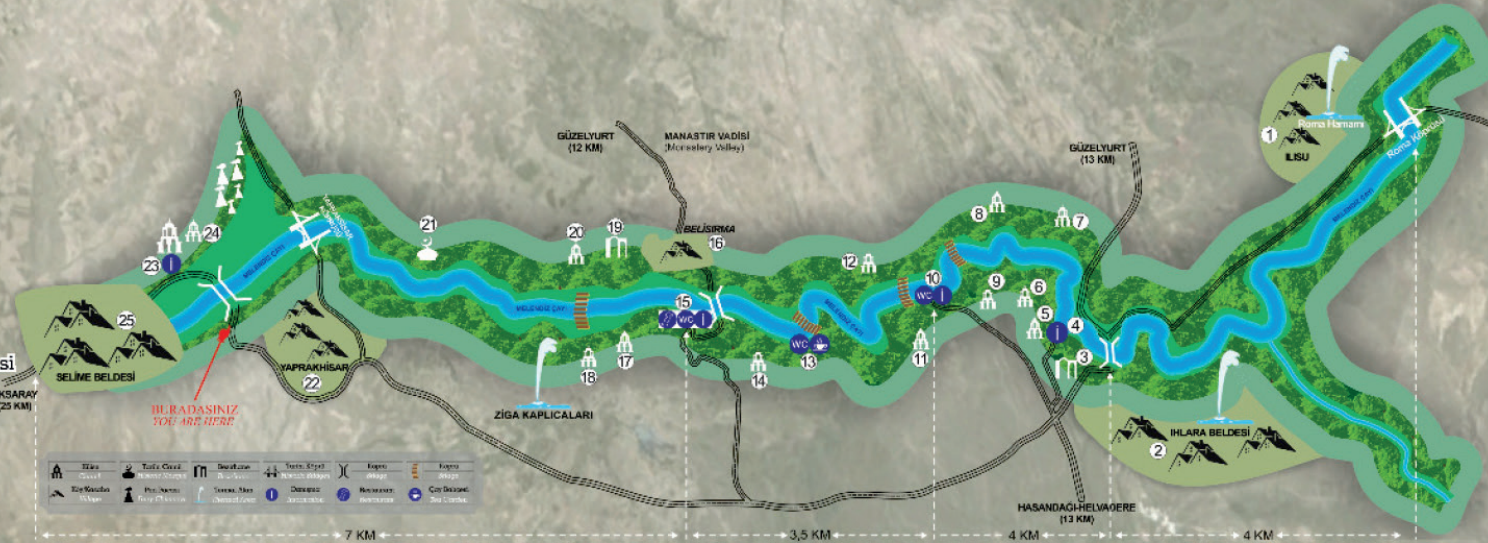


IHLARA VALLEY/AKSARAY



TR

- 1- İhsu Beldesi
- 2- Ihlara Beldesi
- 3- Bezirhane
- 4- 1 Nolu Bilet Gişesi
- 5- Kokar Kilise
- 6- Pürenliseki Kilisesi
- 7- Eğritaş Kilisesi
- 8- Karanlıkale Kilisesi
- 9- Ağaçaln Kilisesi
- 10- Vadi Başı Gişesi - WC
- 11- Sümbüllü Kilise
- 12- Yılanlı Kilise
- 13- Çay Bahçesi - WC
- 14- Kırkdamaltı Kilisesi
- 15- Belisırma Bilet Gişesi
- 16- Belisırma
- 17- Bahaddin Samanlığn Kilisesi
- 18- Direkli Kilise
- 19- Bezirhane
- 20- Ala Kilise
- 21- Kaya Camii
- 22- Yaprakhisar Köyü
- 23- Selime Katedrali
- 24- Meryem Ana Kilisesi
- 25- Selime Beldesi



EN

- 1- Ihsu Village
- 2- Ihlara Village
- 3- Bezirhane
- 4- Ticket Office No:1
- 5- Kokar Church
- 6- Pürenliseki Church
- 7- Eğritaş Church
- 8- Dark Castle Church
- 9- Daniel Pantonnasa Church
- 10- Ihlara Ticket Office - WC
- 11- Jacinth Church
- 12- The Serpent Church
- 13- Tea Garden - WC
- 14- Saint George Church
- 15- Belisırma Ticket Office
- 16- Belisırma
- 17- Bahattin Samanlığn Church
- 18- The Direkli Church
- 19- Bezirhane
- 20- Ala Church
- 21- Kaya Mosque
- 22- Yaprakhisar Village
- 23- Selime Cathedral
- 24- Church of the Virgin Mary
- 25- Selime Village



Visiting Hours

April 1-October 1

Opening Time: 08:30
Closing Time: 19:00
Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:30

October 1-April 1

Opening Time: 08:30
Closing Time: 17:00
Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:30

Open everyday.

Address: Ihlara, Güzelyurt/Aksaray • Phone: 0382 453 77 01

Please visit the web site for up-to-date information.

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www.turkishmuseums.com



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IHLARA VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

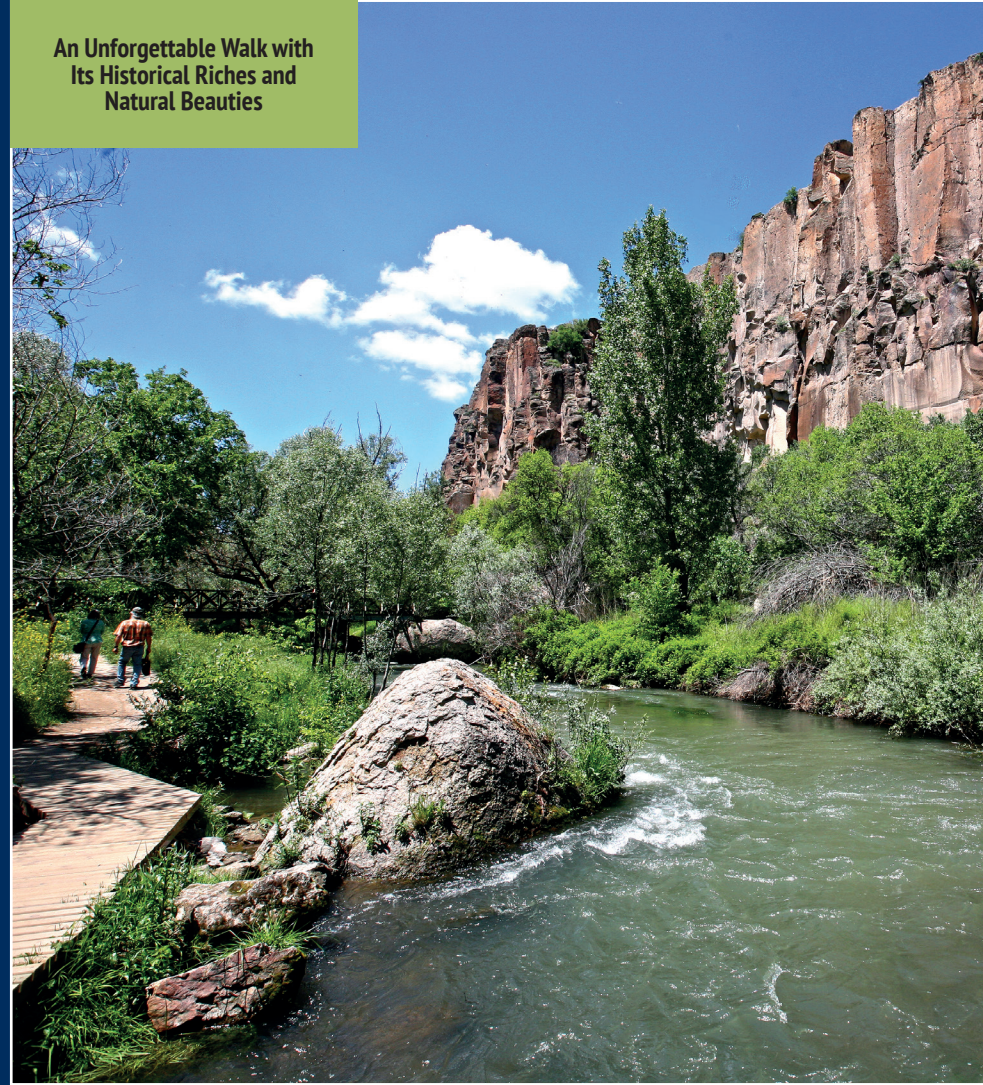
THE LONGEST ROAD OF FAITH AND CULTURE IN CAPPADOCIA

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS





An Unforgettable Walk with Its Historical Riches and Natural Beauties



Magnificent natural and cultural treasures can be found in Ihlara Valley, one of the most popular destinations in the Cappadocia Region. Ihlara, where nature, history, art and culture come together, will give you unforgettable moments: Natural beauties crafted by nature with the grace of an artist, churches and chapels carved into the rocks with patience and artfully decorated with frescoes, and you will never want your trip to end.

With a length of 14 kilometers, Ihlara is the longest hiking trail in Cappadocia. You may have hiked many places in the world, but the Ihlara Valley is ideal for a journey full of surprises on a route where natural beauty meets historical richness. Ihlara is a canyon formed by the erosion of the Melendiz Stream, which will accompany you during your hike for thousands of years and whose depth reaches 200 meters in some places. The layer eroded by the river was formed by the eruption of the volcano Hasan Mountain, which also played an important role in the formation of the fairy chimneys. In other words, the valley is the result of the interaction of the forces of nature. The churches and natural wonders carved by the hermit monks who settled here make the valley a unique promenade.

Although the history of settlement and the first buildings date back to the Roman Period, Ihlara, which gained its original identity in the Byzantine Period, is a very important religious center in the period when Christianity emerged. Some of the churches in the valley belong to the early periods of Christianity. In the monasteries and churches of Ihlara, carved into the tufa stone, where the founders of the sects such as Basilus of Kayseri and Gregorius of Nazianos, who occupies a very important place in the history of Christianity, grew up, the frescoes painted with madder depicting various religious scenes and saints are also historically and artistically unique examples. You will understand at first sight that there is no more ideal place than Ihlara for the first Christians who wanted to build their religious temples in hidden places. During the Byzantine period and even after the arrival of the Seljuks, new churches were built and decorated with frescoes. Selime Monastery, the largest monastery of the Cappadocia Region, is located here. With these churches carved into the rock, a large part of which have been preserved to this day, Ihlara is a place where rare historical treasures can be seen.

The valley, where residential buildings were built alongside monasteries and churches dating to the 4th century at the earliest, retained its importance throughout the Byzantine Period, and the tradition of rock-carved temples continued with the arrival of Islam in the region. The mosque in Ihsu Town, where buildings such as bridges and baths can be seen belonging to Roman Period, is one of the best examples of this tradition, which has continued for hundreds of years.

One of the Crossroads of the History of Christianity



Hidden Paradise

One of the reasons why visitors travelling through the feeble vegetation and steppes of Cappadocia are surprised when they see Ihlara is the magnificent vegetation of the valley. Unlike its surroundings, it is a hidden paradise with a microclimate where many plants and trees can grow. Especially Belirsirma is a memorable village for tourists visiting Ihlara. There are also places to eat and relax with birds chirping and greenery in the village, which are located on both sides of Melendiz River in the canyon.