

Kastamonu



Kastamonu province is surrounded with the best examples of Ottoman and Turkish architecture and is nestled in the bosom of the natural landscape of the Black Sea.

A residential area for thousands of years, Kastamonu was founded by the Kaskians around 1800 BC. The area became a center of great civilizations within time.

The area is well known for its cultural and historical sites and typical Black Sea climate. With the western Black Sea Mountains behind, the inland of Kastamonu province has a rather continental climate.

Be ready to collect unforgettable memories in Kastamonu, the epitome of unique traditional values.

How can I go there?



Kastamonu can be accessed by road as the airport construction works are still in progress.

The closest airport in the area is located in Samsun province. Once you have arrived in Samsun you can get on one of the intercity buses leaving from the Samsun bus terminal to Kastamonu.

Kastamonu province is also reachable by bus leaving from any major city in Turkey. The public transport vehicles and taxis will take you to any destination within the province.

How about planning a trip to this unique city in close proximity to Istanbul province?

Attractions

The fertile lands of Kastamonu province have been home to many civilizations for centuries. Nowadays, the region invokes interest for its valuable artifacts and green landscape.

You can visit the historical sites of Taşköprü, Inebolu, Devrekâni, Tosya and Cide and sightsee a wide range of ruins abounding in Kastamonu province. Located in the town of Taşköprü, and well known for its resemblance to the ancient city of Ephesus, the ancient site of Pompeipolis features many ruins and mosaics to sightsee.

Kastamonu has also a series of museums which exhibit the ancient artifacts unearthed within the province as well as artifacts of the Turkish architecture of the more recent periods. The Archaeology, Ethnography, Livapaş, Historical Museum and Hz. Piri museums are among the must-see locations.

Made in the early Byzantine period, Kastamonu Castle will fascinate you with its panoramic view of the province while the rock tombs built in the 7th century BC will take you to ancient times.

The Atabey, Ibni Neccar, and Mahmut Bey Mosques in addition to the Ismail Bey Mosque Complex are among the historic structures

demonstrating the Islamic influence in the region. Furthermore, the Deve, Ismail Bey, Urgan and Gökçeagaç hans are among the notable inns of the region that deserve to be explored.

The traditional Kastamonu houses, bearing the traces of traditional Turkish house architecture and the influences of the late Ottoman era, are among the impressive structures observable in almost every neighborhood. Located on cobblestoned streets, each of these historic houses has its own story to tell.

The Western Black Sea Mountain ranges rising above the province attract the attention for their peaks and national parks that have become integral with the city life. The Ilgaz Mountain National Park, Kure Mountains National Park and Kastamonu Natural Area are among the major getaways to take a sojourn into nature.

The landscape of Kastamonu is highly suitable for mountaineering, trekking and similar outdoor sports. You can visit the Ilgaz Mountain Ski resort and engage in winter sports or visit the horse ranches at Daday and take part in horse riding tours.

You can also go to the beaches and enjoy the seaside if you are in Kastamonu during the summer months. Both archaeological sites and conservation areas, the beaches located at towns such as Cide Gideros Cove, Kumluca, Doğanyurt, İnebolu, Gemiciler, Abana and Bozkurt give you the chance to enjoy the seaside of the Black Sea region.

Popular for its local agro-products such as the Kastamonu apples, cherries, Tosya grapes, İnebolu urchins, plums and walnuts, Kastamonu has a rich cuisine comprised of meals that are worthy of a feast. Do not miss the chance to try the world's best garlic grown in the town of Taşköprü, etli ekmek (bread with meat), ekşi pilav (sour rice), kuyu kebab, banduma (a special dish made of turkey and pastry) and çekme helva (a traditional sweet).

Apart from its cuisine, Kastamonu is famous also for its woven fabrics and handicrafts. You may consider purchasing some samples of them as souvenirs for yourself or loved ones.

Kastamonu invites you to discover this unique city of the Black Sea Region.

Events

Kastamonu, which has flourished through the centuries with the contribution of diverse civilizations, attracts attention also for its festivals.

The International Taşköprü Culture and Garlic Festival is held in Taşköprü, the hometown of the world's most tasty garlic. Held annually in August, the festival offers a rich program.

Organized in June every year, the Hacı Bekir Confectioners, Pastry and Plateau Cultural Festival is literally a feast showcasing and offering the finest desserts.

The Rifat Ilgaz Sarı Yazma Culture and Art Festival, Ağlı Castle Festival, and Ginolu Silverfish Festival are among the other festivals

welcoming many visitors.