

Believe  
Your Eyes!

KOCAELI



KOCAELİ

# BELIEVE YOUR EYES

KOCAELİ IS A SPECIAL PROVINCE OFFERING THE ENERGY OF THE CITY LIFE AND THE BEUATY OF NATURE AT ITS BEST ALL TOGETHER DUE TO ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION. ENDEMIC PLANTS GROW IN THE FORESTS OF KOCAELİ, NATURE-LOVERS ARE HIKING IN THE PATHWAYS, SKATING ENTHUSIASTS ARE TO BE FOUND ON THE PEAKS OF MOUNTAINS, EXPERT SURFERS ARE AN INDESPENSABLE ELEMENT OF ITS SHORES. KOCAELİ IS A SECRET HEAVEN WHERE BLUE AND GREEN UNITE. "BELIEVE YOUR EYES!" WHEN YOU SEE KOCAELİ!





# KOCAELİ

# NATURE TOURISM PATHWAYS

2500km +

DID YOU KNOW THAT KOCAELİ HAS THE LONGEST NATURE TOURISM PATHWAYS IN TURKIYE WITH THE LENGTH OF 2500 KM? KOCAELİ PROVIDES NATURE LOVERS WITH VARIOUS RANGE OF ACTIVITIES WITH ITS SURVEY CONSISTING OF 87 PERSENT FOREST AND AGRICULTURAL SITES. MANY NATURAL TOURISM PATHWAYS ARE LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE THAT ARE READY TO BE DISCOVERED AT ALL SEASONS FROM SAPANCA LAKE, SAMANLI MOUNTAIN TO SHORES OF MARMARA AND BLACK SEA. YOU CAN EXPLORE AND WALK AROUND THE PATHWAYS IN ALL SEASONS WITH THE BEAUTY OF NATURE IN TABLELANDS, SHORE, CANYONS, VALLEYS AND WATERFALLS. "BELIEVE YOUR EYES!" WHEN YOU COME SEE AND EXPLORE THE SECRET NATURE TOURISM PATHWAYS OF KOCAELİ.

## FIRST 5 STOPS

- BALLIKAYALAR VALLEY
- BEŞKAYALAR VALLEY
- SERİNDERE CANYON
- NÜZHETİYE WATERFALL
- ZAMBAK PATH

## BALLIKAYALAR VALLEY

YOU CAN CROSS THE BALLIKAYALAR VALLEY IN ALL SEASON WITH NO PROBLEMS, THE VALLEY ITSELF IS FAMOUS FOR BEING VERY NEAR TO ISTANBUL CITY. ONE PART OF THE ROUTE TO CONSISTS OF THE INTERNAL PART OF THE VALLEY WHILST THE OTHER PART IS A CROSS FROM THE CANYON WHICH IS QUALIFIED AS NOT TOO DIFFICULT. THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 CLIMBING ROUTES ON THE CANYON ROCKS WHERE MOUNTAIN CLIMBING HOLDS AN IMPORTANT PLACE.THE CANYON IS A NATURAL SITE ZONE AND A NATURAL PARK WHERE YOU CAN PERFORM DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES IN THE ALLGREEN MERGING WITH THE BALLIKAYALAR STREAM. YOU CAN DO JUNGLE TREKKING; SIGHT SEEING ALONGSIDE THE STREAM AND ENJOY THE BALLIKAYALAR VALLEY ALLTOGETHER DURING ALL SEASONS



MENEKSE PLATEAU



SAPANCA LAKE

# FORESTS

DID YOU KNOW THAT 44% OF KOCAELİ CONSISTS OF FORESTS? KOCAELİ HAS MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF GREENS RANGING FROM CHESTNUT, OAK, BEECH, LINDEN TO WILLOW AND ENDEMIC PLANT SPECIES IN ITS WILDLIFE. KOCAELİ OFFERS YOU A WIDE EXPERIENCE IN EXPLORING TO NATURE-LOVERS WITH ITS UNIQE PLANTS AND CLIMATE WHERE YOU CAN EXPERIENCE BLAKSEA, MEDITERRANEAN AND MARMARA REGION WEATHER ALLTOGETHER. WHEN YOU WITNESS THE BEAUTY OF THE FORESTS OF KOCAELİ “BELIEVE YOUR EYES!”

## PRIMARY FOREST SITES

- SAMANLI MOUNTAINS
- KANDIRA FORESTS
- ÇINARLIDERE PICNIC AREA
- ERİKLİTEPE NATURAL PARK
- ORMANYA WILD LIFE PARK



## ORMANYA WILD LIFE PARK

ORMANYA IS THE MOST VISITED AND CONSERVED AREA IN TURKIYE, FOREST IS ONE OF THE ATTRACTION CENTERS OF KOCAELİ AND THE REGION WITH ITS NATURAL FLOOR, ANIMAL DIVERSITY AND ACTIVITIES IT PROVIDES TO VISITORS. WILDLIFE AREAS, WALKING AND CYCLING TRACKS, CAMPING AREA, BIRD WATCHING AREA, CHILDREN'S ZOO, NATURE SCHOOL AND WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER LOCATED IN ORMANYA ARE FOR ALL AGES.





# KOCAELİ

# SURFING CENTRE

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FIRST OFFICIAL WAVESURFING CHAMPIONSHIP IN TURKIYE WAS HELD IN KOCAELİ AND THAT THE CITY HAS SEVEN BLUE FLAG BEACHES? LOCATED IN THE NORTH OF KOCAELİ, KANDIRA DISTRICT PROVIDES DIFFERENT STATES OF THE BLACK SEA'S CLEAR WATER WITH ITS FAMOUS COASTS EXTENDING UP TO 52 KM. PLENTY IN WAVES, BABALI BEACH IS THE MEETING POINT OF MASTER SURFERS. "BELIEVE YOUR EYES!" WHEN YOU ENJOY THE BLUE FLAGGED COASTS OF KERPE, MIÇO KOYU, KUMCAĞIZ, KOVANAĞZI, CEBECİ VE BAĞIRGANLI.

## KANDIRA PRIVATE BEACHES

- KERPE
- MIÇO BAY
- KUMCAĞIZ
- KOVANAĞZI
- CEBECİ
- BAĞIRGANLI



- BABALI BEACH



## BABALI BEACH

LOCATED IN A DISTANCE, BABALI COAST IS A FAMOUS SURF CENTER WITH ITS WIND. BABALI COAST HOSTED TURKIYE'S FIRST OFFICIAL WAVESURFING CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2018. TAKING THE SUITABLE WIND FOR WAVE SURFING 280 DAYS A YEAR, BABALI IS A POINT WHERE YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THE EXCITING WATERS OF THE BLACK SEA, TOGETHER WITH NATURE WITH ITS DISTANCE TO THE CITY CENTER.







İZMİT - HISTORICAL AQUEDUCT



OSMAN HAMDİ BEY MUSEUM

# KOCAELİ

# WINTER SPORTS CENTRES

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE THIRD HIGHEST POINT OF THE MARMARA REGION IS THE KOCAELİ KARTEPE SUMMIT? THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE SAMANLI MOUNTAINS, THAT GIVE KOCAELİ GREEN VALLEYS AND BEAUTIFUL HILLS, IS THE KARTEPE SUMMIT OF WHICH HAS 1602 METERS. ONE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL POINTS FOR SNOW AND WINTER SPORTS LOVERS IN DECEMBER AND MARCH, KARTEPE IS THE NEAREST SKI CENTER TO ISTANBUL. DURING THE WINTER SEASON IN KARTEPE; THERE IS SNOW THICKNESS REQUIRED FOR MANY WINTER SPORTS SUCH AS SKIING, SNOWBOARD, BIGFOOT, SNOW MOTORCYCLE. WHEN YOU VISIT KARTEPE AND MEET WITH THE WHITE NATURE, "BELIEVE YOUR EYES!"

## SINCE WE ARE IN KARTEPE...

- EXPLORE THE NATURE AT ORMANYA
- HAVE BREAKFAST AT MAŞUKIYE
- SKI IN KARTEPE
- GO OUT ON TREKKING AT KUZUYAYLA
- WATCH THE LAKE SAPANCA FROM CAM TERAS

## KARTEPE SKIING CENTER

DÖRT MEVSİM DOĞAL FAMOUS FOR ITS NATURAL BEAUTY DURING ALL FOUR SEASONS, KARTEPE IS THE SUMMIT OF KOCAELİ WITH ITS SNOWED HEIGHTS LOOKING AT SAPANCA LAKE IN WINTER. THERE ARE 14 ROUTES IN KARTEPE, WHERE OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SKI FANS OF EVERY LEVEL. WITH FOUR MECHANICAL SKI CENTERS AND 42 KM OF RUNWAY AREA, KARTEPE IS ONE OF THE FAVORITE DESTINATIONS FOR WINTER SPORTS LOVERS.





# EXTREME SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW, WITH ITS DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES, KOCAELİ PROVIDES MANY ADRENALINE SPORTS FROM WATER SKIING TO MOUNTAIN CLIMBING? THE BEACHES AND LAKE SAPANCA ON THE COASTS OF THE BLACK SEA ARE FOR PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES AND ADVENTURE FANS IN SUMMER; GIVES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY EXTREME SPORTS SUCH AS WATER SKIING, WAKEBOARD, BAREFOOTING, CANO, SCUBA DIVING AND WAVE SURFING. WITH ITS 106 NATURE TOURISM TRACKS AND AREAS PROCESSING FROM HARD ROCKS TO GREEN VALLEYS; ROCK CLIMBING, PARAGLIDING, TREKKING, HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKE ARE SPORTS THAT CAN BE PERFORMED IN THE NATURE OF KOCAELİ. YOU WILL “BELIEVE YOUR EYES!” WHEN YOU VISIT KOCAELİ, OFFERING ACTIVE LIFE DURING ALL SEASONS.

## EXTREME SPORTS TO BE EXPERIENCED

- WATER SKIING
- WAKEBOARD
- WINDSURF
- SCUBADIVING
- CANOE
- PARAGLIDING
- ROCK CLIMBING
- TREKKING
- HIKING
- MOUNTAIN BIKE



## SERİNDERE CANYON

CANYONING, WHICH IS EXTREMELY POPULAR IN THE WORLD, IS ENRICHED WITH ACTIVITIES SUCH AS CLIMBING CANYON SECTIONS EVEN IN SOME PARTS THROUGH WATER. THERE ARE SIX WATERFALLS IN THE EIGHT-KM-LONG SERİNDERE CANYON, WHERE MÜFLİZ AND KARPUZÇATLATAN STREAM DRIVES MEET ON THE STEEP ROCKS OF THE SAMANLI MOUNTAINS. THE CANYON, WHERE WALKING AND CLIMBING TECHNIQUES MUST BE USED TOGETHER, IS A DIFFICULT TRACKERY EXCITEMENT.



PERTEV MEHMET PASHA MOSQUE AND COMPLEX



KAPANCA STREET

# CAPITAL OF ROME

DID YOU KNOW THAT KOCAELİ IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CAPITALS OF ROME? THE REGION CALLED AS "BITHYNIA" IN THE PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD; OLBIA, THE NAMES ASTAKOS, NICOMEDIA, İZNIKİD, İZMİD AND KOCAELİ HAVE PLAYED VERY IMPORTANT ROLES FOR DIFFERENT CIVILIZATIONS. THE REGION HAS ENTERED THE TURKISH DOMINION AFTER HELENS, ROME, AND BYZANTINE, TOGETHER WITH THE SELJUKS. NICOMEDIA, WHICH WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE ROMANS FOR A LONG TIME, WAS CALLED AS THE FOURTH LARGEST CITY IN THE WORLD. KOCAELI LIVED ITS BRIGHTEST YEARS IN THE OTTOMANS, DURING THE PERIOD OF SÜLEYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT. YOU WILL "BELIEVE YOUR EYES!" WHEN YOU VISIT THE IMPORTANT RECENTS OF THE ROMAN PERIOD, THE OTTOMAN CASTLE, BATH, BRIDGE, FOUNTAIN, MANSION, MOSQUE AND MOSQUE.

## 5 CRUCIAL SPOTS FOR KOCAELİ HISTORY

- HANNIBAL TOMB
- ÇOBAN MUSTAFA PASHA COMPLEX
- HEREKE CASTLE
- ARCHEOLOGY AND ETNOGRAPHY MUSEUM
- KUTLUCA BRIDGE



## HANNIBAL TOMB

THE SYMBOLIC MEMORITE OF THE MILITARY GENIUS, THE GENERAL OF CARTHAGINIAN AND THE POLITICIAN HANNIBAL BARCA, THOUGHT TO LIVE BETWEEN 247 BC- 183 BC, IS LOCATED IN GEBZE. THE STORY OF HANNIBAL, WHO DEFEATED THE ROMANS MANY TIMES, STARTED IN CARTHAGUE AND ENDED IN KOCAELI, SHED LIGHT ON MANY CIVILIZATIONS IN MILITARY SENSE. "EITHER WE WILL FIND A NEW PATH OR BUILD A NEW PATH." SENTENCE IS ONE OF HIS MOST KNOWN WORDS.





## GASTRONOMY

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MOST FAMOUS FLAVORS OF KOCAELİ, WHICH HAS HOME TO MANY CIVILIZATIONS, IS 'GEO-SIGNED' İZMİT PİŞMANİYE? ITS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IS REFLECTED IN ITS KITCHEN, KOCAELİ HAS A RICH GASTRONOMY. LOCATED ON IMMIGRATION ROADS, COMMERCIAL ROADS, TRAIN LINES SINCE PRE-HISTORICAL PERIODS, KOCAELİ HAS ALSO BEEN THE HOME OF THE SPECIAL FLAVORS OF THE CULTURES. "BELIEVE YOUR EYES!" WHEN YOU TASTE THE SPECIAL FLAVORS OF KOCAELİ, MADE FROM THE PRODUCTIVE LAND AND A HISTORY DATING BACK TO CENTURIES AGO.

### MUST-TRY

- İZMİT PİŞMANİYE
- İZMİT SİMİT
- MANCARLI PITA
- KANDIRA BUFFALO YOGURT AND TURKEY
- DARTI
- DERĞİRMENDERE NUTS
- EŞME QUINCE AND CEZERYE
- SÜTLÜ NURİYE DESSERT



### İZMİT PİŞMANİYESİ

AN OTHER NAME OF İZMİT PİŞMANİYE, WHICH WAS KNOWN TO BE FIRST MANUFACTURED IN KANDIRA, IS TEL HALVA. THE HISTORY OF PİŞMANİYE, WHICH WAS FAMOUS IN THE KOCAELİ REGION AND WAS ANNOUNCED OVER THE COUNTRY OVER TIME, ORIGINATED AT THE 1400S.





KOCAELİ

