



# TRABZON GUIDEBOOK

## FOR INCOMING ERASMUS+ STUDENTS

*KTU Office of Exchange Programmes*







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# CAMPUS TIPS











## Turkish Dolmuş

One of the most convenient and affordable way to get around the city is by using the **dolmuş** which are minibuses. To travel from the university to key locations like **Forum** (the main shopping mall) or **Meydan** (the city center), you can catch a dolmuş on the main avenue of the campus or just across the Koru student dormitory, which you can see on the picture above. Look for minibuses labeled “KTÜ-Forum-Meydan”, they pass frequently during the day until 11 p.m.

The major dolmuş station in the city is in **Meydan** under the bridge, or the one next to the big Mosque (Hanife Hatun Camii), depends on where you want to go, from where you can find lines going to almost every district in Trabzon, and around. You can simply show or tell anyone where you want to go, and they will guide you. Most of the time, there are **no specific stops**. Dolmuş usually honk along the roads, so you just have to wave to catch one. Remember to have some **cash** (turkish liras) with you. Don't forget to mention that you are a student to get discounts.

Here are some useful phrases :

- How much does it cost ? : **Ne kadar ?**
- I am a student : **Öğrenciyim**
- When you want to get off, tell the driver : **Müsait bir yerde / inecek var**

Check the pronunciation on Google.





## Forum Trabzon Shopping center

Forum Trabzon is one of the largest and most popular shopping malls in Trabzon, located near Kalkınma and KTÜ (15 minutes by walk). You can find there international and Turkish brand stores, including fashion, electronics, cosmetics, and home goods.

The mall also houses restaurants, cafés, and a large food court on the third floor. On the last floor underground, you can find **Migros**, a large **supermarket** where you can buy groceries. Forum is a convenient and helpful first stop for foreign students arriving in Trabzon. Just across from Migros or within the mall, you can find **Türk Telekom** and other mobile service providers like Turkcell and Vodafone. You can easily register a Turkish number there with your passport by buying a SIM card and recharge your data if needed. You are more likely to find someone who speaks English at Forum than at Meydan, and it is also closer.

Outside the mall, there's a well-maintained **public park** with walking paths, benches, and green spaces perfect for **relaxing**, meeting friends, or have a picnic. This mix of essentials and comfort makes Forum Trabzon a practical and welcoming place for international students.







## Kalkınma Neighborhood

Known for its **student-friendly** atmosphere, Kalkınma is a lively and popular area situated right next to KTÜ which makes it a hub of activity. Public transportation is **easily accessible** there, and it's conveniently located near Forum shopping mall. You can easily access to Kalkınma from **A or B Kapısı** from the campus. You will find a mix of residential buildings, cafes, restaurants, dormitories, and shops.

Apart from the campus **Kooperatif** supermarket, you can go to other **cheap** stores for your groceries such as : **Bim, Şok, A101, Arzum, Migros** in Forum.

## Supermarkets







## Laundry

KTU Trabzon campus offers a **free**, modern and hygienic laundry service for students through a collaboration with Trabzon Municipality. Operating only during **weekdays** from **08:30 to 16:00**, students schedule washes by WhatsApp and receive notifications when their laundry is ready. Everything from washing to drying is included. You can introduce yourself to them and exchange phone numbers upon your arrival. You can find the laundry facility directly **behind the Erasmus Office**.

The student dormitory is located next to A Kapısı and offers safe and comfortable accommodation. Mainly double rooms, you will have a private bathroom and kitchen with fridge. However, you should **bring your own essential equipments** because it is not provided, such as : towels, hairdryer, cutlery, plates, glasses, or cups... The **cleaning** staff comes **once a week** and changes the bedsheets. Wi-Fi works across the entire campus, you can ask the Erasmus Office how to login. Around the dorm you can find nice places to eat and enjoy, like : Cafe 5, Balans, Koru Cafe, Seven Mangal, Ana Kucağı Sütlu Tatlar.

## Dormitory







# TRABZON SPOTS







## Meydan

Meydan is the **vibrant heart of Trabzon**, where the city's energy comes together in a lively mix of people, traffic, shops, restaurants, and cafés. Centered around a bustling square, it's a place where locals meet, students gather, and daily life flows at a steady pace. With its **mix of modern stores, historic buildings**, and easy access to surrounding neighborhoods, Meydan serves as both a social hub and a starting point to explore the rest of the city.

Boztepe, a **quiet hill overlooking Trabzon**, offers a wide, familiar view of the city that blends everyday life with natural beauty. While it has become a favorite spot for visitors, especially around **sunset**, it remains a place where locals come to sit, **drink tea**, chat, and **take a peaceful break** from the city. The cafés are simple, the mood is unhurried, and the view, especially in the **evening**, offers a moment of stillness rather than spectacle.

## Boztepe



#EN MUTLU ŞEHİR





## Moloz



In the heart of Moloz, alongside its transport area and the big Mosque, lies a lively **local food market**. There, vendors set up daily to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and **regional products** straight from the surrounding villages. It's a favorite stop for locals stocking up on daily essentials.

The market is informal, friendly, and full of character, don't be surprised if you're offered a slice of apple or cheese as you browse. Close to it, you can find the city's main **dolmuş station**, it serves as a key gateway to nearby neighborhoods, coastal towns, or mountain destinations.

Kemeraltı, the vibrant market heart of Trabzon, is a lively maze of **narrow streets** and historic stone archways where tradition, commerce and community thrive. Located in the **city's old center**, it offers an authentic Black Sea experience filled with the scents of roasted hazelnuts, fresh bread, and Turkish tea. Visitors can browse shops full of **handmade** jewelry, local crafts, and regional delicacies.

Highlights include the **Ottoman-era Bedesten bazaar** and the nearby historic quarter of **Ortahisar**. With its welcoming atmosphere and **chance to bargain** (ask for indirim), Kemeraltı is more than a market, it's a living reflection of Trabzon's soul.

## Kemeraltı







## Ganita seaside

Ganita is a quiet, coastal stretch in Trabzon where the sea meets the city in a calm, unhurried way. Once a popular promenade, it still holds a nostalgic charm for locals who come to walk, sit by the water, or share tea with a view of the Black Sea.

Lined with trees and scattered benches, Ganita offers a **peaceful break from the busy streets above**. The sound of waves and the salty air create a simple, familiar atmosphere, less about sightseeing, more about slowing down. In Ganita, you can enjoy a slow-paced stroll along the sea, relax on a bench under the trees, or simply watch the ships pass while listening to the waves. It's a nice spot to read, chat with friends, or take a quiet break from the city.

You'll also find a few **seaside cafés** and **tea gardens** where you can enjoy a glass of çay with a simit. For something more filling, local spots often serve fresh pide (Turkish flatbread with various toppings), **grilled fish** or **balik ekmek**, or köfte (meatballs), all with a sea view. It's a place for simple pleasures, good food, fresh air, and a calm atmosphere.







## Atatürk Köşkü

Located on a hill just outside the city center, Atatürk Köşkü is a small **museum** where **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** stayed during his visit in 1937.

This house, **symbolic** place for Turkey, is surrounded by a **peaceful garden** and has elegant **architecture** with old furniture and photos inside.

Easy to reach by minibus or taxi. Cheap entry, nice for a short visit and great photos !



Located in the old town of Trabzon, Kanuni Evi is a small house-museum dedicated to **Suleiman the Magnificent**, one of the most famous **Ottoman sultans**, who was born in Trabzon.

The **museum** shows his life and legacy with a few exhibits and info panels. Also, you can wear **traditional costumes** for a more immersive experience. It's close to the city center, so easy to add to a short walk around town.

## Kanuni Evi





# Hagia Sophia Mosque

Located near the Black Sea coast, the Hagia Sophia Mosque (Ayasofya Camii) is one of Trabzon's most **iconic** landmarks. Built in the 13th century during the **Empire of Trebizond**, it was **originally a church**. Later, it became a **mosque under the Ottomans**, and for some time it served as a museum before reopening as a mosque in 2013.

This monument is a beautiful example of **Byzantine architecture**, with its stone walls, central dome, and detailed frescoes inside. Some of the paintings, although old, are still visible and show scenes from the **Christian tradition**.

Surrounded by gardens and offering **peaceful sea views**, the mosque is a relaxing and inspiring place to visit. It's perfect for students interested in history, culture, or simply enjoying a quiet spot with beautiful scenery.

**To get there** from the university, take a dolmuş to Meydan. Then, transfer to another dolmuş that stops at Hagia Sophia. It's a simple two-step journey.





# Sümela Monastery

About 50 km from Trabzon, the Sümela Monastery is a famous and beautiful place to visit. It's built high on a **steep cliff inside a green forest** in Altındere National Park. The monastery was founded a long time ago, around the 4th century, and has many old rooms and chapels carved into the rock.

You can reach it by walking up a nice trail through the forest — it takes about 30–40 minutes — or take a small shuttle bus from the park entrance. Inside the monastery, you can see **old paintings** on the walls called frescoes, which are very colorful and well-preserved.

The view from the monastery is amazing: you can see the **forest and mountains** all around. It's a peaceful place with a lot of history and nature together.

Wear comfortable shoes and bring a jacket because it can be cool, even in summer. Try to arrive early to avoid crowds.







# TOURS







# Sera Lake

Sera Lake is a small, beautiful lake near the city of Trabzon in northern Turkey, formed in 1950 after a landslide blocked a stream. You can go there by dolmuş from the Big Mosque station.

Surrounded by green hills and forests, it's a peaceful and **relaxing place** perfect for students to explore. Visitors can walk along scenic paths, **ride paddle boats**, take nature photos, **enjoy a picnic or a barbecue** by the water.

It's also a great spot to learn about how natural events like landslides can shape the environment. Students can discover local plants, birds, and fish, and even try **delicious Black Sea foods** like kuymak, grilled fish, and pide in lakeside cafés. Sera Lake is both a fun and educational escape into nature.







## Uzungöl

Just under two hours from Trabzon, Uzungöl is a small mountain village built around a long, **peaceful lake**, surrounded by thick forests and steep green hills. It's one of the **most famous** nature spots in the region and a popular place for both locals and tourists to relax and enjoy the fresh mountain air.

The area is perfect for a day trip or a quiet weekend. You can walk around the lake, hike in the surrounding hills, or just sit at a café with a **great view**. It's calm and feels very different from the city.

Restaurants in Uzungöl tend to be a bit more expensive than what you might be used to in Trabzon, especially near the lake. Also, it can get a bit crowded during the summer. Still, it's worth it for the view and the atmosphere.

**You can reach Uzungöl by bus or through a guided tour from Trabzon.**



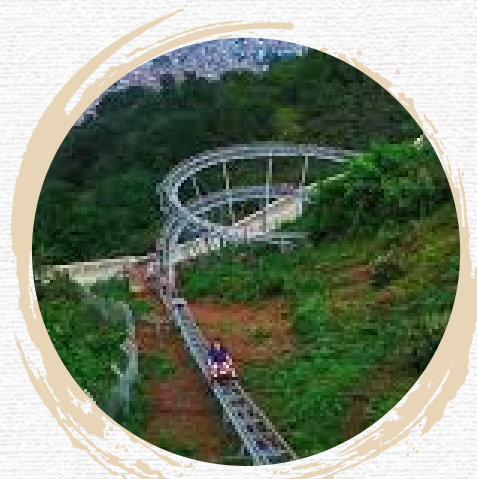


# Ordu

If you're looking to explore more of the Black Sea coast, Ordu is a great option for a day trip or even a weekend. Located about 3 hours west of Trabzon by bus, this coastal city offers a more **relaxed vibe**, wide promenades by the sea, and one of the best **cable car rides** in the region.

The Boztepe cable car takes you up to a hill overlooking the city and the Black Sea — perfect for watching the sunset or just grabbing a tea with a view. There is also a **rail coaster** that goes down the hill, it's a short ride, but definitely worth it for the view and the experience.

The city center is **easy to explore** on foot, with lots of cafés, shops, and places to try local Black Sea dishes.







# Samsun

Samsun is the **largest city** on the Black Sea coast, about 5–6 hours west of Trabzon by bus. It's not as touristy as other cities, but it has a nice local vibe, long seaside promenades, and a bit of everything: **beaches, parks, shopping and history**.

The city is known for its role in modern Turkish history : it's where Atatürk started the **Turkish War of Independence** in 1919.

You can visit the Bandırma ferry museum, walk through the old city center, or just enjoy the sea breeze along the coast. Samsun also has a **tram** line that makes it easy to get around.

It's a **student-friendly** city, with several universities and a decent mix of cafés, bars, and places to hang out.

If you have a bit more time, it's definitely worth going to **Şahinkaya Canyon**, a beautiful natural spot with boat tours between steep cliffs, perfect for a day trip in nature. It is recommended to go on weekends if you take public transports.







# Amasya

If you're already visiting Samsun, don't miss the chance to explore Amasya, just a 2 to 2.5-hour bus ride. While Samsun gives you sea views and a big-city vibe, Amasya offers something totally different : **a peaceful mountain town full of history and charm.**

Split by the Yeşilirmak River and backed by **dramatic cliffs**, Amasya is famous for its **Ottoman-style houses** along the river and the ancient rock tombs carved high into the cliffs above. It's incredibly scenic, especially at sunset or when everything is lit up at night.

The city has a slow, relaxed pace. You can wander through narrow old streets, visit small museums, and sip tea in quiet riverside cafés. It's a great place to disconnect and take in a more **traditional**, less touristy side of Turkey.







## Ayder - Çeçeva

If you're up for some fresh **mountain air** and **postcard views**, Ayder and Ceceva are two amazing spots in the Rize region, east of Trabzon. They're often visited together on day trips or weekend escapes and they offer two different sides of the Black Sea vibe.

Ayder is a high-altitude **village surrounded by waterfalls, pine forests, and wooden houses**. It's a great place to relax, soak in a hot spring, or hike around. In summer, it's lively with music, food stalls, and tourists.

Ceceva, on the other hand, is famous for its endless green hills covered in **tea plantations**. It's less touristy, more peaceful, and ideal if you want to see where Turkish tea actually comes from.

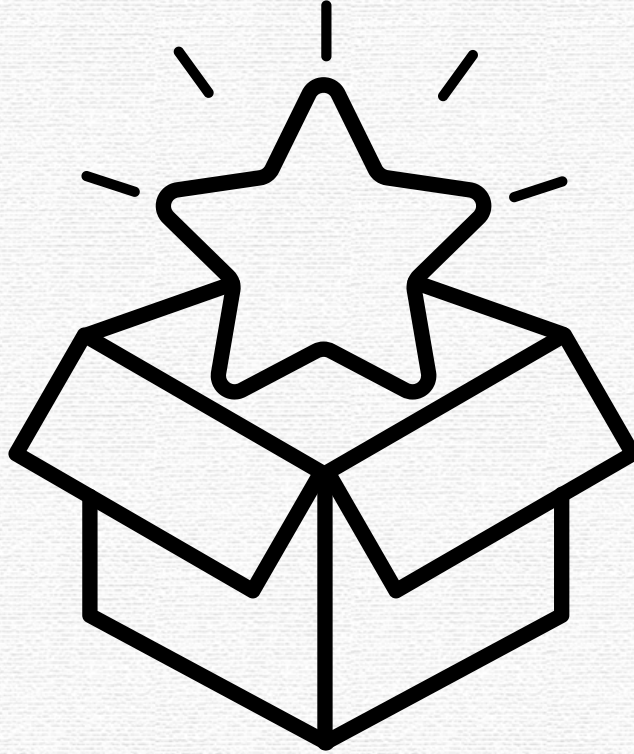
These areas are a bit more remote, so they're best visited with a **guided tour**.







# BONUS





# FAMOUS TURKISH FOOD YOU SHOULD TRY



Kahvaltı



Çiğ Köfte



Gözleme



Dürüm



Pide



Lahmacun



Baklava



Lokum



Sütlaç

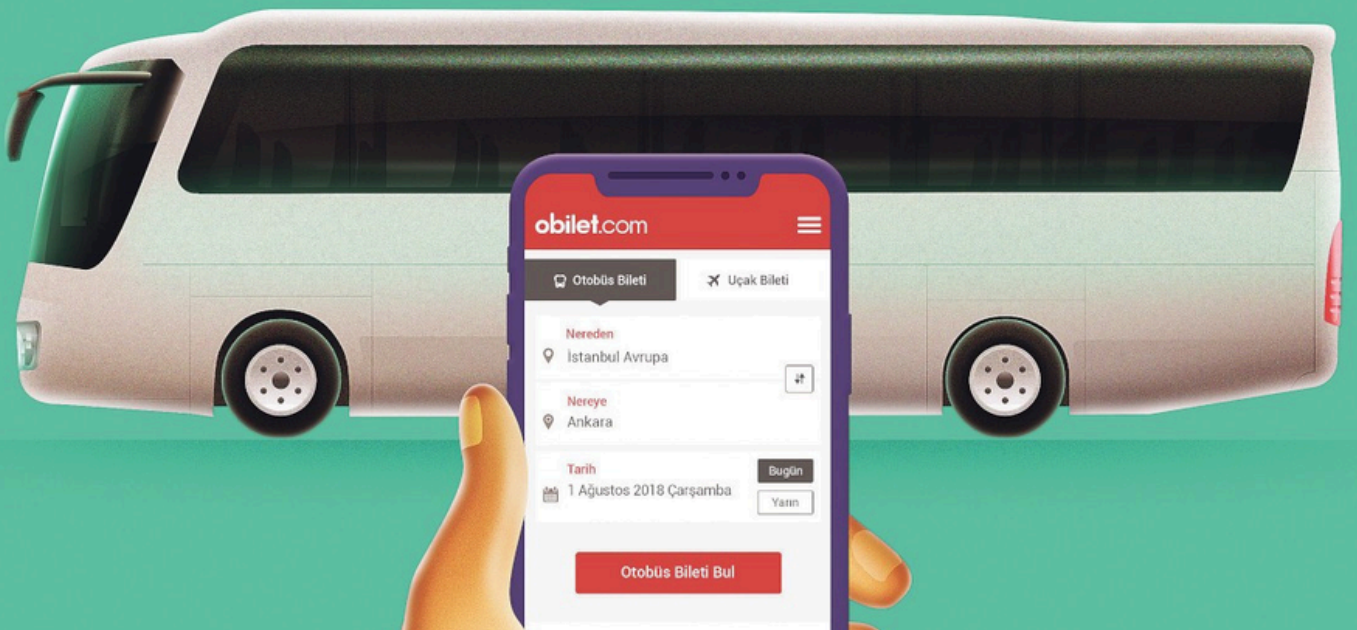


# HOW TO TRAVEL AROUND TRABZON

If you want to travel around Trabzon, **Obilet** is a super helpful **app** for booking bus tickets to and from the city. You just have to choose your destination, pay online, then you will receive a digital ticket. . It's an easy and budget-friendly way to get around. The **bus station** is called “**Trabzon Şehirlerarası Otobüs Terminali**” and this is the location : <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JVEw7quypL1FEnmEA>

**To get there**, the best and quickest way from the campus is by taxi, if you want to go by dolmuş you have to combine two lines.

Obilet compares and groups different bus companies, sometimes flights too, which makes it easier to choose. You can also book hotels using **Obilet** or **Agoda**, both of which offer a wide range of accommodation options for all type of budgets.





# ACCOUNTS TO FOLLOW ON INSTAGRAM

- **tcktu1955**

The official KTÜ University Instagram account - you can find all the events happening in the campus, organized by different clubs or universities.

- **esntrabzon**

ESN Trabzon (Erasmus Student Network) Instagram account - you can find many events and all the members speak English there, they can help you with daily stuff and show you around the city.

- **ktu.erasmus**

The official KTÜ Erasmus Office Instagram account - you can see the invitations for events about Erasmus+ programs and others news.

- **ktu\_geziyor\_**

This is a Student Travel agency organizing many tours to different places. If interested in any trip, you need to register before. Be prepared for a lot of dancing in the dolmuş.

- **karaca61turizmm**

Travel agency for tours around Trabzon - very well organized, make sure to book the trip a few days before by contacting them. You will also dance a lot in the dolmuş.







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