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Şeyh Şaban-ı Veli Kültür Rotasının Oluşturulması

Designing Sheikh Sabani Veli Cultural Route

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Öz

Amaç ve Önem: Bu çalışmada bölgede turizm çeşitliliğinin sağlanması için yeni bir kültür rotası oluşturulması amaçlanmıştır.

Yöntem: Bu çalışmada GPS ve ortofoto haritalar gibi mekansal teknolojiler kullanılarak Şeyh Şaban-ı Veli kültür rotası oluşturulmuştur. İlçeye ait uydu görüntüleri, vektör haritaları, ortofoto haritaları, Türkiye sayısal yükseklik modellerini kullanarak Kastamonu ili ve çevresinin 3 boyutlu sayısal arazi modeli oluşturulmuştur.

Bulgular: Şeyh Şaban-ı Rotası hem içerik hem de varış noktası olarak Sufi Rotası'nın bir tamamlayıcısıdır. Şeyh Şaban-ı Veli güzergahının oluşumu sırasında karşılaşılan sorunlar restorasyon, yazılı veya görsel malzeme, tabela, kamp yerlerinin olmamasıdır. Bu çalışmada güzergahın koordinatları belirlenmiş ve güzergah planlaması yapılmıştır.

Özgünlük/Bilimsel Katkı: Şaban-ı Veli rotası kırsal alanların turizm amacıyla bir geliştirme aracı olarak kullanılabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kültür yolları, doğa yürüyüşü; sufi rotası, Şeyh Şaban-ı Veli; haritalama

Makale Türü: Araştırma makalesi

Abstract

Purpose and Importance: In this study, we aimed to create a new cultural route in order to provide tourism diversity in the region.

Methodology: In this study, the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli cultural route was created by using spatial technologies such as GPS and orthophoto maps. We created a 3D digital land model of Kastamonu province and its environs by using the district-owned satellite images, vector maps, orthophoto maps, digital elevation models of Turkey.

Findings: The Sheikh Shaban-i Route is a complement to the Sufi Trail, both as content and a destination. The problems encountered during the formation of the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli route are the lack of restoration, written or visual materials, sign, camping places. this study, the route's coordinates were determined, and the route planning was done.

Originality/Value: Shaban-i Veli route can then be used as a development tool for marginal or rural areas.



Keywords: Cultural routes, trekking, sufi trail, Sheikh Shaban-I Veli, mapping.

Paper Type: Research article

Introduction

A changing world and changing tourism motivations have pushed individuals to search for authenticity in their tourism choices (Bastemur, 2011). In recent years, the increase in the number of people who adopt the motto of healthy living (and a philosophy of turning to nature) has increased the demand for nature walks (Kádár & Gede, 2013). Nature walks have diversified over time and the concept of route trekking has been born in the beginning of 20th century (Lourens, 2007), gaining an economic dimension in alternative tourism activities. When the ancient cities, ancient routes, and routes taken by important people for history were mentioned, the routes were called cultural routes (Majdoub, 2010). The cultural routes emphasize the uniqueness and individuality derived from the geographical space by connecting attractions with similar characteristics (González & Medina, 2003; Kong Jian, 2005).

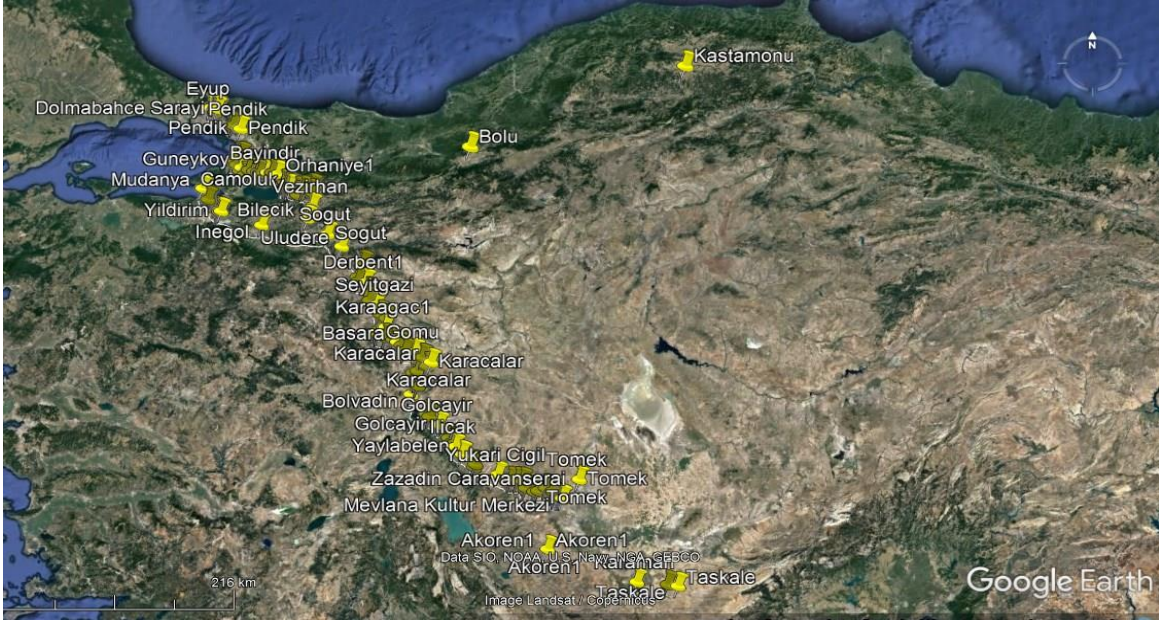
The concept of cultural routes is a current issue because of increasing interest in historical cultural and natural heritage. Therefore, tourism enterprises create alternative tourism spaces to attract more tourists (Kádár & Gede, 2013; Notarstefano & Gristina, 2021). According to Lourens (2007), cultural routes are types of travel which bring different attractions together. Cultural routes are mostly classified as natural, religious, food, handicrafts, and important personalities themes (Bastemur, 2011).

The culture route concept was first established in 1987 by the Council of Europe (European Council, 2021). It aimed at cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, identity sharing, cultural exchange, and enrichment (Lois-González & Santos, 2015). While Europe has 38 cultural routes, there are 26 routes in Turkey (European Council, 2021; culturalroutesinturkey, 2021). One of the routes is Sufi Trail. The Sufi Trail, which is one of the longest religious routes in the world, tries to combine some of different religions in Turkey (Culturalroutesinturkey, 2021). Before describing the Sufi Trail, the definition of Sufi is necessary. In Islamic mysticism, Sufi means holy person, Saint, or pure person (Yılmaz, 2012). There are many Sufi people in Islamic mysticism. In Turkey, the most popular Sufi people are Mevlana, Hacı Bektashi Veli, Hacı Bayram Veli, and Sheikh Shaban-i Veli (Yılmaz, 2012; Tatçı, 2012). They are known as Anatolia's four spiritual pillars. The Sufi trail was created with the aim of revitalizing the places of holy people, Islamic poets, and wise scholars who lived in different centuries in Anatolia to raise awareness about cultural and religious tourism and to bring spiritual values to the surface (Abdülkadirođlu, 1991). The Sufi Trail starts in Istanbul and extends to Konya, providing adventure for nature hikers, cyclists, and cultural lovers. The walking path's total length is 801 km. Pastoral old villages with monumental mosques and hidden treasures and the underwater city in İznik, where Christianity began, are seen on the route. The Sufi trail map can be seen below in Figure 1.

In this study, we propose creating a new cultural route named the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli Route to be combined with the Sufi Trail. The most important thing in creating this route is the enthusiasm of local people and local administrators in this route. Hikers come to the area, but they complain about the lack of route planning. The fact that Sheikh Sabani Veli is an important name both in the region and throughout the country necessitated the planning of this route. All religiously oriented cultural routes in Turkey were combined on the map, creating a new cultural route named the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli Route in the study. Sheikh Shaban-i Veli was an important religious character in Islamic philosophy. This new route can be combined with the Sufi Trail. Thus, the four important religious centers of Anatolia, which are thought to be the four spiritual pillars, will be connected to

one another. For this reason, the route is a candidate to be the longest Sufi Route in Europe and Turkey.

Figure 1
Sufi Trail Map (Part in Turkey)



Source: <https://sufiyolu.com/rota/>

Sheikh Shaban-i Veli considered one of the four spiritual pillars of Anatolia (Yılmaz, 2012). The cultural route also shows the contemporary design of the values of tangible and intangible heritage for the private and public sector stakeholder organizations as a resource of a sustainable social and economic development. The Sheikh Shaban-i Veli route can then be used as a development tool for marginalized or rural areas as an economic activity and an attraction for tourists. Supra-national rhetorics of cultural openness, inclusivity, and diversity become reality in terms of actual cultural routes projects (Culturalroutesinturkey, 2021). Cultural routes in Europe have been known for years. They began to be preferred in recent years in Turkey (Culturalroutesinturkey, 2021).

The study was limited to Kastamonu city (not to the other cities related to Sheikh Shaban-i Veli) because it is home to a concentration of areas related to Sheikh Shaban-i Veli's life. The city matters because the route starts in this city. The city of Kastamonu is located in northern Turkey in the Black Sea Region. Sheikh Shaban-i Veli Route runs 80 kilometres between Hanonu and Kastamonu. If the other part between Kastamonu and Istanbul is included, it is over 600 kilometres. When combined with the Sufi Trail, it will be over 1400 kilometres. If Hacı Bektash-i Veli (Nevşehir) and Hacı Bayram-i Veli (Ankara) are added, the whole route will be almost 2000 kilometres. It will be popular for hikers, bikers, riders, and religious tourists. Including the other paths, there are over 500 historical places related to all religions. This route is in Kastamonu province, 68% of which is forested. Kastamonu will be one of the favorite cities for nature walks, with all these regional advantages. It is also one of the most important nature-based tourism centers in Turkey (Kastamonu City Hall, 2021). There are also two national parks in the city and an alternative travel to those coming for Sheikh Shaban-i Veli route. Independence Trail, which is a cultural route in Turkey and plays an important role in the struggle of the Turkish War of Independence is located on Kastamonu borders and offers another alternative to the hikers. Sheikh Shaban-i Veli Route will be the only religious route in the Western Black Sea Region.

1. Method

The Sheikh Shaban-i Veli cultural route was created in 2019 by using spatial technologies such as GPS and orthophoto maps. The process of mapping is important. The importance and effect of mapping activities on the development of cultural tourism have been demonstrated by land and office studies (Kádár & Gede, 2013).

Maps, which were prepared in the past by difficult and exhausting methods, have become easier and faster to make, especially with the development of technologies such as computer, satellite, remote sensing, and GPS (Kervankıran & Çuhadar, 2014; Kong, 2001). GIS technologies, GPS metrics, and Google Earth/Maps programs for map-based spatial analysis are the basis of culture routes (Kong, 2001). Orthophoto maps were used in the study area. The map in the form of a photo with the addition of map edge information, grid lines, height curves, place names, and other cartographic information such as legend, scale, datum used is called orthophoto map (HGKS, 2003). In this study, we propose creating a cultural route by using spatial information technologies, a cultural route consisting of the places where the Shaban Shah-i Veli lived and served in the province from his birth to his death was established.

2. Findings

Kastamonu province and its surroundings form the study area shown in Figure 2, located in Turkey's western Black Sea Region. Kastamonu province and its environs are mostly composed of rugged terrains. The Isfendiyar (Küre) Mountains (PANPark Certified) are located north of the city center and the Ilgaz Mountains with the eastern west extension. It covers the major portion of the projection extending toward the Black Sea in Turkey.

Figure 2

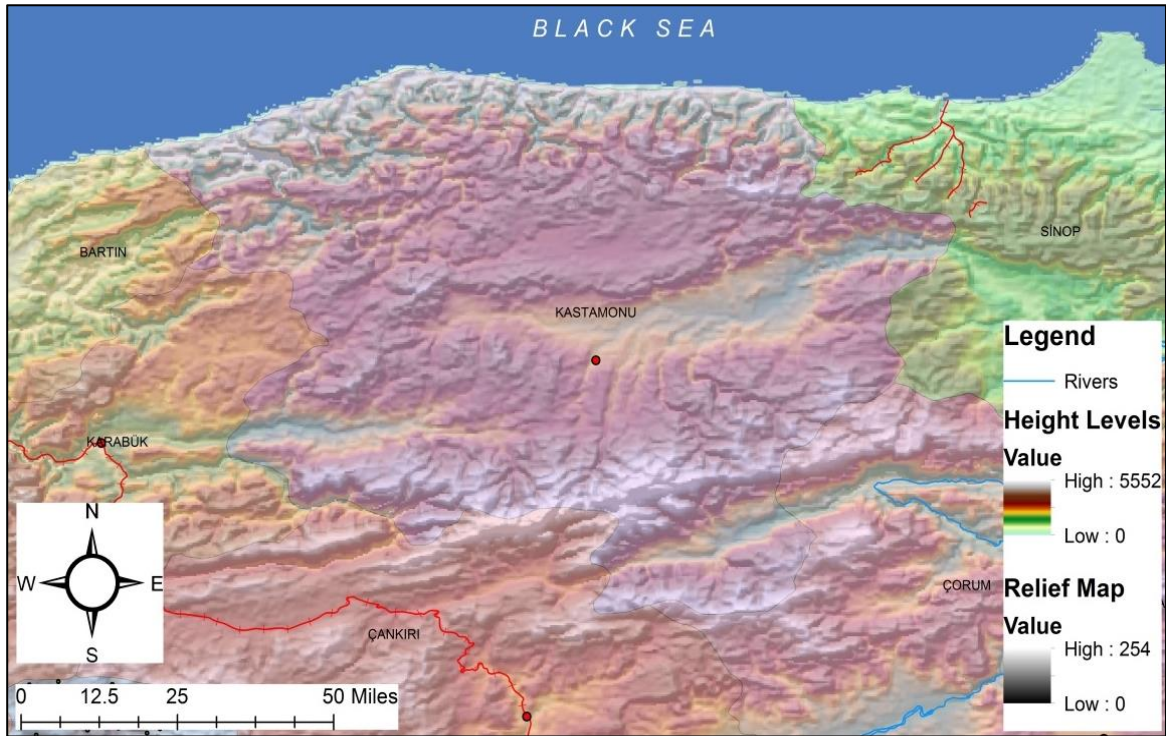
Kastamonu and Its Environs Geographical Location



Source: <https://www.harita.gov.tr/>

We created a 3D digital land model of Kastamonu province and its environs by using the District-owned satellite images, vector maps, orthophoto maps, digital elevation models of Turkey, and relief maps seen in Figure 3. The topographic structure of the province, rivers, and land structure for the transportation network is divided into classes.

Figure 3
3D Model of Kastamonu and Its Environs



Source: It was created by the author

This research was limited to the places important in Sheikh Shabani Veli's life:

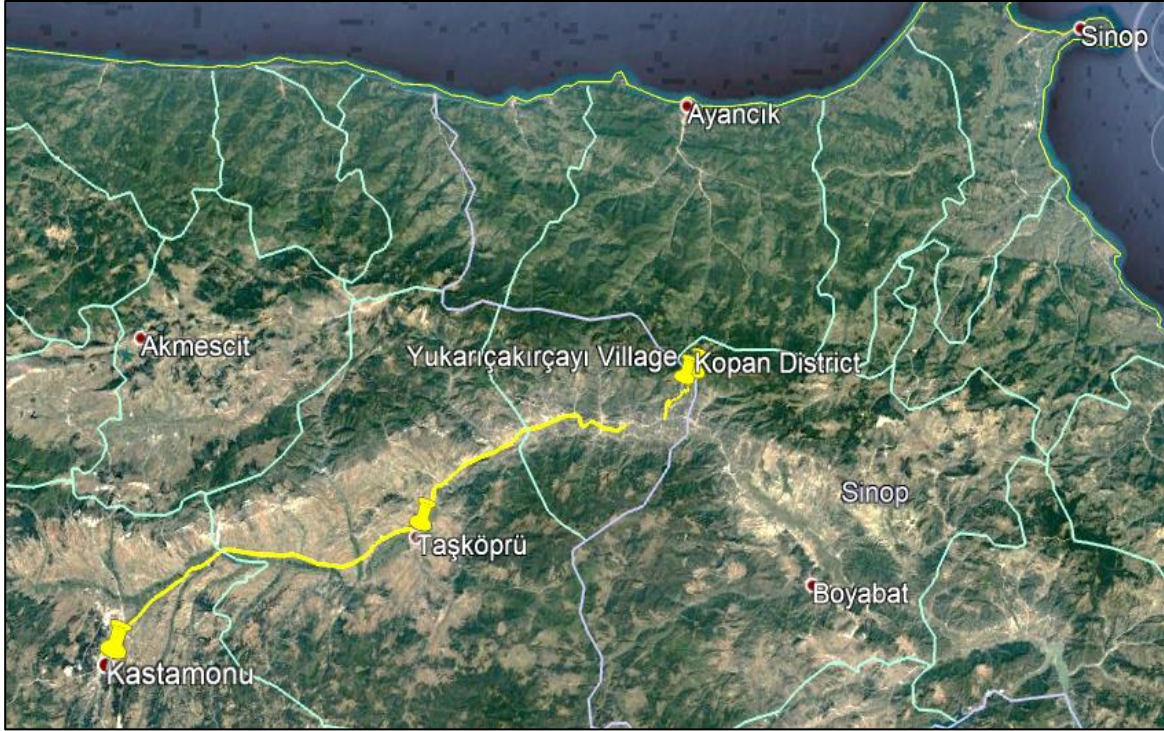
- Yukari Cakircayi Village, Hanonu, Kastamonu (The house where he was born)
- Taskopru Kastamonu (The house where he was adopted and grew up)
- Muzafferettin Gazi Madrasah, Kastamonu (The place where he was first educated)
- Nasrullah Cami ve Madrasah, Kastamonu (The place where he completed his high school and university education)
- Abdurrezzak Cami, Kastamonu (The place where he completed Quran and Tafsir education)
- Fatih Sahn-i Seman Madrasah, İstanbul (Another place where he was educated)
- Hayreddin Tokadi Dervish, İstanbul (The place where he studied for 12 years)
- Cemalettin Aga Masjid, Kastamonu (The place where he was educated)
- Honsalar Mosque, Kastamonu (Preaching place) Ahmet Sunneti Masjid (Sheikh Shabani Veli Mosque) (The place where he was buried)

The coordinates were first obtained from the field with the help of a handheld GPS receiver were entered into the Google Earth program in Figure 4 and then added to the orthophoto map of the region in the Netcad map drawing program. The area of Taskopru district, Yukaricakircay Village, where the Shehan-i Veli was born, was shown on the map. The village of Yukaricakircay is considered the planned route's point of departure, as seen in Figure 4.

The route's second point, shown in Figure 4, is Kopan District, about 1.5 km from the first point. The village can be accessed by a wide dirt road and passenger cars. The starting point of planning Sheikh Shaban-i Veli cultural route is located on, Yukaricakircay Village, Kopan Neighborhood and Taskopru district. It is shown in Figure 4 on the Google Earth view of the region. The house where the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli grew up in Taskopru district is shown in Figure 4. The general situation of Yukaricay Village where Sheikh Shaban-i Veli was born, Kopan Street where his brother's grave is located, and Taskopru district where he was educated are shown in Figure 4 on the Google Earth image.

Figure 4

General View of the Route



Source: It was created by the author

Some destinations in Kastamonu center and Taskopru district within the cultural route are shown on the Google Earth image in Figure 5.

Figure 5

Some Points on the Destination



Source: It was created by the author

3. Discussion

The cultural route we prepare will not only provide efficient use of resources, but will also offer a competitive advantage in tourism. The created cultural route was designed with an interdisciplinary study such as map engineering, tourism and guidance in order to minimize the damage to the environment and local cultural dynamics. It was designed to be a sustainable study. Travelers coming from Europe will be able to reach the Black Sea coastline via Kastamonu, using this road route. Adding this route will make these locations more competitive. In addition, it will continue to Edirne through Istanbul and from there connect with other cultural routes in Europe. In this way, integrity can be achieved with other cultural routes of different countries and religious beliefs.

The problems encountered during the formation of the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli route are the lack of restoration, written or visual materials, sign, and camping places. There are also accommodation and substructure problems. Moreover, a certain part of the road consists of asphalt. As a solution, a new path will be determined parallel with the main road.

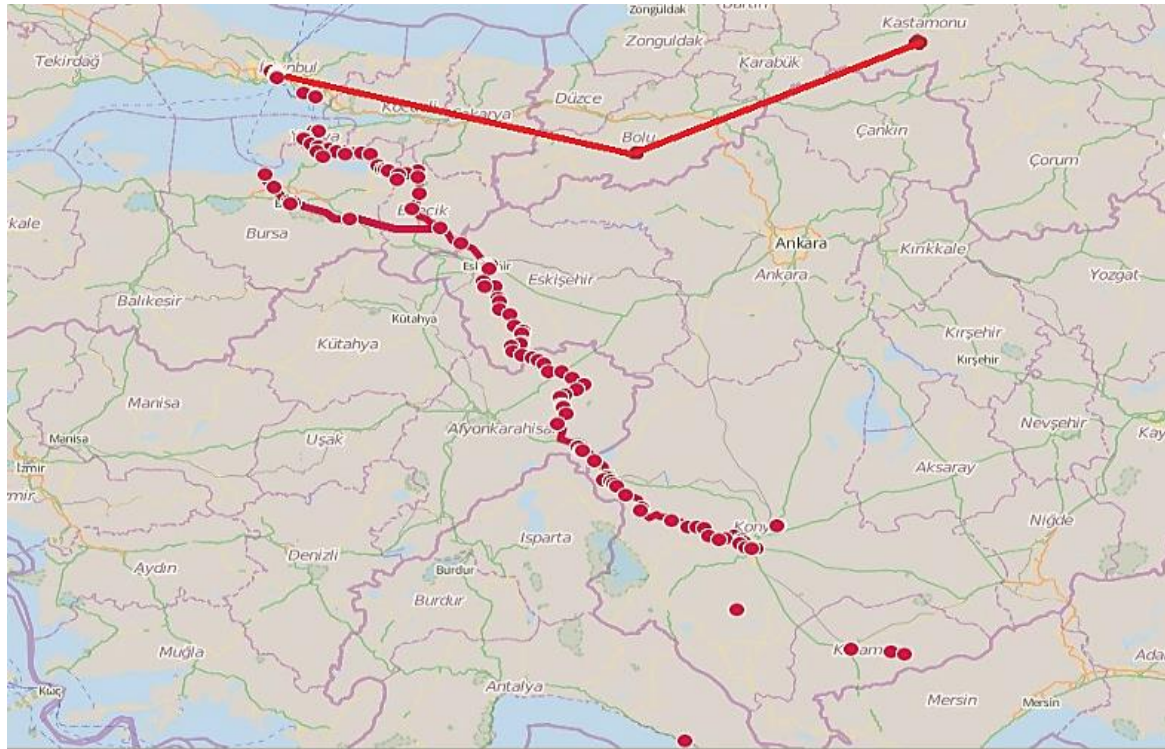
Sheikh Shaban-i Veli route has a different religion perception from different cultures. It will be a part of a religious route which has different religions from history to present. In this context, it contributes to cultural geography. It is prepared to meet international standards and will be cooperated with other route planners around the world. In this way, a cross-border project will be implemented. Participation or connection to other cultural routes prepared by the European Cultural Routes Institute and the World Walkways Network will be provided. In the continuation of the project, colorful maps of different scales and a guidebook will be prepared. In addition, it will be made more easily accessible through the web page to be prepared and with applications based on

Global Positioning System (GPS). Also, using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), important tourism businesses and accommodation places on the route will be displayed, and on-screen menus will be created that allow location and distance inquiries. Thus, a cultural route in international standards and visibility will connect multiple cultural routes of different religious beliefs.

Conclusion

One criterion for being a cultural route is that the routes must be connected (European Council, 2021). Sheikh Shaban-i Veli Route will run from Kastamonu to Bolu then to İstanbul. In this study, it starts and ends in Kastamonu. So we have mapped only the Kastamonu section that is 89 km long. The Sheikh Shaban-i Route is a complement to the Sufi Trail as both content and a destination. The route is combined with the Sufi trail in Istanbul, as shown in Figure 6. Moreover, Hacı Bayram-i Veli, who is considered as one of the four spiritual pillars of Anatolia, can be combined with his shrine and mosque and completed as a tourist attraction for Konya-Ankara-Kastamonu. In this dimension, the research is a proposal for future studies.

Figure 6
Sheikh Shaban-i Veli Route and Sufi Trail



Source: <https://sufiyolu.com/rota/>

The route is walkable for all seasons except in heavy snow. In this study, the route's coordinates were determined, and the route planning has been done. The problems encountered during the formation of the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli route are the lack of restoration, written or visual materials, sign, and camping places. There are also accommodation and substructure problems. Moreover, a certain part of the road consists of asphalt. As a solution, a new path will be determined parallel with the main road.



Necessary works have been initiated to transform the route into a tourism product. In this context, the route is presented to the relevant institutions as a project. Permits have been obtained for marking the route. Correspondence with relevant institutions related to restoration has been initiated. Within the scope of sustainable tourism, future plans include the commercial home enterprises, brochure and promotional materials. Signs must be designed according to the natural structure. For the establishment of camping areas, relevant investors should be attracted to the region.

We want to prove how creating a route like the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli cultural route contributes to the practice of cultural geography. Geography is more than just a study about physical features. It requires historical and cultural connections. Creating the Sheikh Shaban-i Veli cultural route would add both of these connections to the already impressive physical landmarks. With this paper, we hope that we showed how creating culturally relevant routes is necessary to how the future will understand geography and remember the past.

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