






## Determination of Giresun Province Alternative Hiking Routes within the Scope of Nature Tourism

Doğa Turizmi Kapsamında Giresun İli Alternatif Yürüyüş Güzergahlarının Belirlenmesi

Bayram Kanca<sup>1</sup> , Zekeriya Karakayalı<sup>2</sup> , Ömür Uçar<sup>3</sup> 

### öz

Günümüzde turistlerin seyahatlerden beklentilerinde ve turizm anlayışlarında değişiklikler yaşanmaktadır. Bu durum özellikle doğa temelli turizm faaliyetlerinde turizm çeşitlendirmesine olan ilgiyi artırmaktadır. Bu çalışma kapsamında Giresun ilinde doğa yürüyüşleri yapılabilecek rotaların belirlenmesi ve yürüyüş haritalarının ortaya çıkarılması amaçlanmaktadır. Çalışmanın birincil verilere dayanması ve Giresun'da doğa turizminin geliştirilmesine sağlayacağı katkılar açısından önemli olduğu düşünülmektedir. Araştırma yöntemi olarak amaçları bakımından tanımlayıcı araştırma yaklaşımı ve tarama modeli benimsenmiştir. Çalışmada verileri 2013-2019 yılları arasında yapılan saha incelemeleri ile elde edilmiştir. Güzergahı çıkarılan rotalar öncelikle haritadan belirlenmiş, grup ile yürünmüş, GPS kayıtları çıkarılmış ve Google Earth uygulamasıyla haritada işlenmiştir. Katılımlı gözlem tekniği kullanılarak ve saha incelemesi ile elde edilen veriler çalışma kapsamında incelenmiştir. Çalışma sonucunda 25 yeni yürüyüş rotası belirlenmiştir. Tespit edilen rotaların 5'i zor, 9'u orta ve 11'i kolay olarak derecelendirilmiştir. Yürüyüş güzergahları köy ya da yayla yollarındaki asfalt ve stabilize yollar ile doğal alanlardaki patikalardan oluşmaktadır. Güzergahlarda çayır, yayla ve orman ekosistemi mevcut olup flora ve fauna gözlemleri yapılabilmekte, yerel mimari unsurlarına rastlanabilmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Doğa, Doğa Turizmi, Doğa Yürüyüşü, Yürüyüş Rotası, Giresun

### ABSTRACT

Today, there are changes in the expectations of tourists from their travels and their understanding of tourism. This situation increases the interest in tourism diversification, especially in nature-based tourism activities. Within the scope of this study, it is aimed to determine the routes where nature walks can be made in Giresun province and to reveal the hiking maps. It is thought that the study is important in terms of being based on primary data and contributing to the development of nature tourism in Giresun. As a research method, a descriptive research approach and scanning model were adopted in terms of their purposes. The data in the study were obtained through field investigations carried out between 2013-2019. The routed routes were first determined from the map, walked with the group, GPS records were extracted and processed on the map with the Google Earth application. The data obtained by using the participatory observation technique and field investigation were examined within the scope of the study. As a result of the study, 25 new walking routes were determined. Of the detected routes, 5 were rated as difficult, 9 as medium and 11 as easy. Walking routes consist of asphalt and stabilized roads on village or highland roads and paths in natural areas. There are meadow, plateau and forest ecosystems on the routes, flora and fauna observations can be made and local architectural elements can be encountered.

<sup>1</sup> Corresponded Author: Giresun Üniversitesi Turizm Fakültesi Keşap/Giresun, [b\\_kanca@hotmail.com](mailto:b_kanca@hotmail.com), 0000-0002-0398-8152

<sup>2</sup> Giresun Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Merkez/Giresun, [zkrykrkyl@gmail.com](mailto:zkrykrkyl@gmail.com), 0000-0003-2917-199X

<sup>3</sup> Giresun Üniversitesi Turizm Fakültesi Keşap/Giresun, [omur.ucar@giresun.edu.tr](mailto:omur.ucar@giresun.edu.tr), 0000-0002-3570-7247



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## INTRODUCTION:

In parallel with the development of technology, rapid urbanization all over the world has led people to stay away from nature. On the other hand, intense migration movements from rural areas to cities create some negative social and environmental effects on people's lives by crowding the cities. These negative effects may cause people to move away from their crowded lives and travel to natural areas more.

It can be said that the decrease in natural areas due to the gradual increase in urbanization and the increase in natural events due to global warming cause people to create a certain level of awareness towards the environment in their lifestyles. It can be stated that this situation has led to an increase in the interest in nature-friendly alternative tourism types in the tourism sector. It can be said that the main motivation for nature tourists to travel is to preserve natural and cultural richness and transfer them to future generations.

Travels to nature or all leisure activities in nature can be considered within the scope of nature tourism. The fact that it can host many activities such as nature walks, fishing, photography, bird watching, mountaineering and camping allows nature tourism to be evaluated under the umbrella of different tourism types from a broad perspective. Although many tourism activities can be evaluated within the scope of nature tourism, the protection of natural and cultural richness is at its core.

Within the scope of this research, it is aimed to identify the trekking routes in Giresun and to promote the destination. In this context, first of all, the information in the literature about nature tourism was given in the research, and then it was presented by making use of researches on nature walks and routes within the scope of nature tourism in Giresun province. Finally, in addition to the existing studies, new walking routes were determined and mapped.

### 1. Nature Tourism

Nature-based tourism generally includes visits to national parks and wilderness areas, and to developing countries where most of the world's biodiversity is concentrated (Olson et al., 2001; WWF 2001; Christ et al., 2003, cited in Kuenzi & McNeely, 2008). The term nature tourism is often used interchangeably with green, alternative, soft, sustainable, responsible or ecotourism (Krippendorf 1996; Priskin 2001). Although researches are carried out on different terms in different studies, the purpose of nature tourism is to make tourism activities sustainable by minimizing the negative effects on natural and cultural richness.

Nature-based tourism is increasing its popularity day by day as one of the fastest-growing types of alternative tourism due to the increasing environmental and social awareness of consumers (Çetinkaya, 2014). As a matter of fact, it is known that one third of the consumers are willing to pay 2-40 percent more for ecofriendly vacations. (TURSAB, 2014). In addition, according to the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) Nature and Adventure Tourism (2014) report, it is reported that while the tourism sector has grown by 4-7 percent on average worldwide, nature-based tourism movements have grown by an average of 20-30 percent annually. It is estimated that nature-based tourism activities, which have a market share of 181 billion dollars as of 2019, will reach 333.8 billion dollars in 2027 (Statista, 2021). This rapid growth in nature-based tourism activities can create new investment and new profit areas for tourism entrepreneurs (Çetinkaya, 2014), as well as enable existing tourism businesses to turn to more sustainable activities with the developing consumer demand. It can also contribute positively to the employment and welfare level of local people (Job & Paesler, 2013).

Nature tourism, which is based on natural attractions that protects the environment and increases the social and economic well-being of the local people, includes activities such as bird watching, photography, stargazing, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing and park visits. (Texas Parks & Wildlife, 2021). In other words, nature-based activities are defined as a type of entertainment that includes many activities related to the natural environment, from sitting under a tree to participating in a nature walk (Jenkins & Pigram, 2003). Although nature tourism includes broad activities, it covers certain forms of tourism. These forms are: (Hall & Boyd, 2005);

- “Tourism in natural settings (e.g. adventure tourism),
- Tourism that focuses on specific elements of natural environment (e.g. safari and wildlife tourism, nature tourism and marine tourism),
- Tourism that is develop in order to conserve or protect naturel areas (e.g. ecotourism, national parks)”.

Nature-based research, which is the common denominator of sustainable tourism, includes demand-side research such as discovering the factors and disadvantages affecting the development of tourism, offering applicable suggestions (Whelan, 1991; Mehmetođlu, 2007; Cheung & Jim, 2013), and determining the travel motivation and satisfaction of tourists (Kau & Lim, 2005; Fan et al., 2012; Kim et al., 2015; Xu & Chan, 2016; Metin, 2019). On the other hand, nature tourism includes supply-side researches such as the evaluation of the importance of nature-based activities and the classification of resources (Priskin, 2001; Alaeddinođlu & Can, 2011), the effects of planning, development and nature tourism (McCool, 2014; Saarinen, 2005; Yang, 2008; Kelly et al, 2012), local people's perception of the importance of nature-based tourism activities (Alpizar, 2006; Zhang & Chun, 2016; McCool, 2014; Saarinen, 2005; Yang, 2008; Kelly et al., 2012) and the effects of nature tourism on local people's employment and welfare levels (Job & Peasler, 2013).

### 1.1. Giresun Province Nature Hiking Routes

Giresun province is located in the Black Sea region of Turkey. There are Trabzon and Gümüşhane provinces in the east, Ordu province in the west, Sivas and Erzincan provinces in the south. Giresun has unique natural beauties with its nature, sea, plateaus and cultural values. There are many plateaus worth visiting, especially Kümbet, Kulakkaya, Bektaş and Sıdađı. These plateaus, which have unique natural beauties, offer many recreational activities such as camping, nature walks, mountaineering, climbing and cycling.

Some researches have been carried out to determine walking routes in order to introduce some destinations in Turkey and turn them into recreation and tourism destinations. In this context, alternative walking routes were tried to be created in Safranbolu-Yörükköy (Kiper & Aslan, 2007), Konya (Tekin, 2017), Bolu (Kök & Kurnaz, 2020) and Kastamonu (Kara, 2021) destinations.

Within the scope of Giresun province, 3 studies on the subject were found in the literature. In his master's thesis, Yiđit (2020) created two different ecotourism routes in Giresun, north (194 km) and south (58,4 km), and stated that nature walks can be made between these routes. The routes created by Yiđit (2020) are as follows;

- Northern Ecotourism Route: Şeyhli Ecotourism Village-Giresun Castle- Giresun Island-Gelevera Stream, Yedi Deđirmenler Nature Park- Sıdađı Plateau.
- Southern Ecotourism Route: Paşakonađı Plateau - Bektaş Plateau - Ađaçbaşı Nature Park - Kulakkaya Plateau - Kuzalan Waterfall Nature Park - Kümbet Plateau - Koç Kayası Nature Park.

Gürsoy (2015) revealed the nature hiking routes in Bulancak, Dereli and central districts of Giresun province by making use of the secondary data of Republic of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Giresun Province Nature Tourism Master Plan 2013-2023 (2013). Similarly, Paslı and Paslı (2019) tried to determine the eco-tourism potential of Giresun province in their study and in this context, they revealed the trekking routes of Giresun province by making use of the secondary data of Republic of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Giresun Province Nature Tourism Master Plan 2013-2023 (2013). Since these routes are included in Table 1, they were not repeated.

**Table 1. Existing Routes for Mountain and Nature Hiking in Giresun**

S. No	District	Route	Distance, Difficulty	Natural Beauties
1	Dereli	Tamderesi - Sariçiçek Highland Road - Sağrak Lake - Kırklar Hill - AksuVillage - Bektaş Highland	25 Km, Stabilized Road, Dirt Road, Pathway / Difficult	Spruce, beech, maple, hornbeam forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
2	Dereli – Bulancak - Central	Kulakkaya (Yavuzkema) - İnişdibiObası - Çaldağ	15 Km, Asphalt Road, DirtRoad, Pathway / Easy	Spruce, fir, beech, maple, hornbeam forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
3	Bulancak	Kovanlık - Paşakonağı - Çambaşı	20 Km, Asphalt Road, DirtRoad, Pathway / Easy	Spruce, fir, beech, maple, hornbeam forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
4	Dereli	Kulakkaya – Alçakbel - Belentepe -Çağman Obası	10 Km, Asphalt Country Road, Dirt Road, Pathway / Easy	Spruce, fir, beech, maple, hornbeam forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
5	Dereli - Şebinkarahisar	Kümbet – Şihobası - Şehitler - Sayderesi - Hacıömer	25 Km, Asphalt Village Road / Difficult	Spruce, fir, beech, maple, hornbeam forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties.
6	Dereli	Kümbet – Koçkayası - Kuzugözü Plateau	8 Km, Asphalt Road, Dirt Road, Footpathway / Easy	Spruce, fir, forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties.
7	Espiye - Güce	Böğürtlenbükü – Kazıkbeli - Karaovacak	15 Km, Dirt Road, Pathway. Moderate	Spruce, beech, maple, forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties, dam ecosystem
8	Dereli	Koçtepe – Sakaralan - Süllü Line	10 Km, Asphalt Road, Dirt Road, Pathway / Easy	Spruce, beech, maple, forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties.
9	Dereli	Tamdere - Leafy Plateau - Korubağazi - Sariçiçek Plateau - Baybahan Plateau - Kabaşelale - Delidere Valley - İkişu	17 Km, Asphalt Road, Dirt Road, Pathway / Difficult	Spruce, beech, fir maple, forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, stream tourism, wetland ecosystem, dam and hepp projects panoramic landscape beauties
10	Dereli- Bulancak	Karagöl - Aygır Lake - Gölova Plateau - Aksu Village	7 Km, Stabilized Road / Very Difficult	Rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
11	Dereli	Kümbet - Aymaç-Koyunalan Plateau - Kuzal Travertines - Waterfall	18 Km, Asphalt Road, Soil Stabilized Road / Difficult	Spruce, beech, fir maple, oak forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
12	Alucra	Alucra – Koman – Ardiç - Elmacık	20 Km, Asphalt Road / Easy	Scotch pine, juniper, oak forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties.
13	Alucra	Kurtbeli – Çakrak – Çıkrıkçı - Kırkharman	22 Km, Stabilized Road / Difficult	Scotch pine, juniper, oak forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, historical wall, martyrdoms, church and panoramic landscape beauties
14	Yağlıdere	Ekindere – Yeşilpınar – Gölyanı Obası	16 Km, Stabilized Road / Difficult	Spruce, beech, maple, oak forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
15	Görece	Görece Kırıklı – Bayazıt – Sisdağı Peak	16 Km, Asphalt Road / Difficult	Spruce, chestnut forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties.
16	Bulancak	Aydındere – Tandir - Ambardağı – Kalıntaş - Bektaş Plateau	17 Km, Stabilized Road / Difficult	Spruce, beech, maple forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
17	Piraziz	Piraziz Şerefli – Pangal - Döngeri - Turnalık Plateau	18 Km, Stabilized Road / Easy	Spruce, beech, maple forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
18	Giresun	Giresun – Taşhan – Erimez - Aytepesi	23 Km, Asphalt Road / Easy	Spruce, beech, fir, alder, maple, oak forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
19	Dereli	Kulakkaya - Ağaçbaşı Plateau	5 Km, Asphalt Road / Easy	Pure spruce forests plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
20	Dereli	Bektaş – Kalıntaş - Hapan Plateau	15 Km, Stabilized Road / Easy	Rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
21	Dereli	Hapan - Susuz Plateau - Susuz Hill - Pınarlar Plateau - Doğandüzü	10 Km, Stabilized Road / Moderate	Pure spruce, fir forests plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
22	Dereli	Eğribel - Aslanyurdu – Kabaçaklı Plateau - Sıradur Plateau – Avşar -Sağrak Lake - Kırklar Hill	17 Km, Stabilized Road / Difficult	Forest, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
23	Dereli	Kümbet – Aymaç - Avluyatepe - Avluya Plateau - İkişu	10 Km, Stabilized Road / Easy	Spruce, fir, oak, beech, maple forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
24	Güce	Güce Boncuçukur - Ağaçbaşı Plateau - Böğürtlenbükü	11 Km, Stabilized Road / Difficult	Spruce, alder, beech, maple forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
25	Görece - Doğankent	Görece Çömlekçi Valley - Soğukpınar – Çatak – Gündül - Doğankent	15 Km, Stabilized Road / Difficult	Spruce, alder, beech, maple forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties

26	Çanakçı	Çanakçı – Deregözü - Kahramandere - Peak Forests	15 Km, Asphalt Road / Difficult	Spruce, fir, hornbeam, alder, beech, maple forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
27	Görelle Çanakçı	Çanakçı - Deregözü Highland Road - Sisdağı Peak	15 Km, Stabilized Road / Difficult	Spruce, fir, hornbeam, alder, beech, maple forests, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
28	Bulançak	Ardahan – Karatepe – Çamalan –Bicik - Bektaş Or Çaldağ	24 Km, Asphalt Road / Easy	Spruce, fir, hornbeam, alder, beech, chestnut, oak, maple forests, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
29	Dereli	Keçilik Turn – Düztepe - YavuzkemaI Municipality	9 Km, Stabilized Road / Easy	Pure spruce, scotch pine forests plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
30	Dereli - Şebinkarahisar - Alucra	Eğribel – Çobanbağır – Turnaobaşı - Kazankaya – Şehitler – Şihobası –Çıkırıkkapı - Çakrak	25 Km, Stabilized Road /Easy	Plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties.
31	Şebinkarahisar	Şebinkarahisar – Kınık – Karacaören - Kilickaya Dam Viewing Point	10 Km, Stabilized Road, Pathway / Moderate	Menelgic, hawthorn, gorse, black pine, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties.
32	Şebinkarahisar - Çamoluk	Şebinkarahisar Hasanşeyh - Ocaktaşı -Gürçalı – Yukarızapa -Sarpkaya	20 Km, Dirt Road, Stabilized Road / Easy	Hawthorn, yellow pine, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties
33	Alucra Çamoluk	Alucra – Arda - Çakilkaya	5 Km, Asphalt Road / Easy	Bodurmeşe, hawthorn, yellow pine, rock, plateau and pasture ecosystem, panoramic landscape beauties.
34	Dereli - Keşap	Dereli Çalköyü - Kabakkaya Plateau-	22 Km, Dirt Road,	Beech hornbeam, chestnut, oak, alder forests, rock, plateau

Source: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 12th Regional Directorate (2013: 78-83).

Within the scope of this study, in addition to the existing researches, it is aimed to determine the routes where nature walks can be made in Giresun province and to reveal the hiking maps. It is thought that the study is important in terms of being based on primary data and contributing to the development of nature tourism in Giresun.

## METHODS:

In the research, a descriptive research approach was used in terms of its aims and a scanning model was adopted. The descriptive research approach is explained as describing the current states of individuals, groups, organizations, situations or phenomena in the focus of the research (Altunışık et al., 2012). Screening model is defined as studies aiming to collect data to determine certain characteristics of a group (Büyüköztürk et al., 2012). The data in the study were obtained through field investigations made with the “Yürüyorum” volunteer environment communities between 2013-2019. The routed routes were first determined from the map, walked with the group, GPS records were extracted and mapped from the Google Earth application with the help of an expert. The data obtained by using the participatory observation technique and field investigation were examined within the scope of the study.

## RESULTS:

As a result of the field study, 26 new walking routes were obtained, which are not included in the literature or in the reports of the institutions. A route that was determined during the field survey, which took place over a long period of time, was lost due to road construction works and the remaining 25 routes were included in this study. These routes are listed in Table 2 with their difficulty levels, routes and information about these routes.

**Table 2. New Routes for Mountain and Nature Hiking in Giresun**

S. No	District	Route	Distance, Difficulty	Natural Beauties
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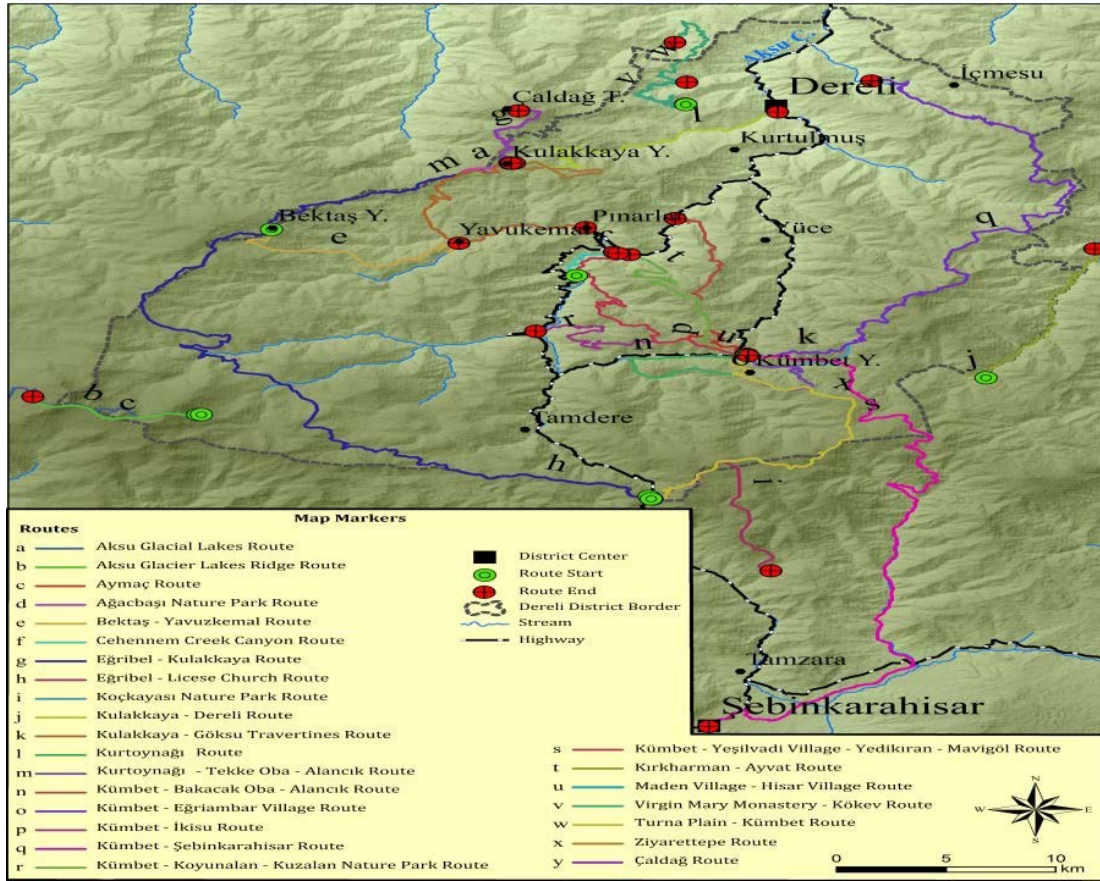


1	Dereli	Aksu Glacial Lakes Route (Sağrak Lake - Kırklar Hill - Camlı Lake Karagöl - Karagöl Peak - Aygır Lake)	20 Km, Pathway / Difficult	There are six glacial trough lakes on the mountain where Karagöl is located. Aygır Lake (Elmalı Göl) is located in the northwest of the mountain, close to the provincial border of Ordu. This lake is at an altitude of 2650 meters just below the highest peak of the mountain. As you go east from this lake, the Karagöl glacial trough (2760 meters high), which is the largest lake on the mountain, is reached. In the valley descending from Karagöl to Aksu village, there is the Lake of Gut (2710 meters high). To the east of Karagöl, there is Camlı Lake (Kurban Lake) at an altitude of 2750 meters on the northwest slope of Kırklar hill, Sağrak Lake (2750 meters high on the eastern slope of Kırklar Hill) and Kazan Lake (Avlak Lake) at an altitude of 2670 meters to the east of Sağrak Lake. There are plateau and pasture ecosystems, rock formations, and landscape beauties. Flora and fauna observations, seasonal mushrooms, blueberry collection activities can be done.
2	Dereli	Aksu Glacier Lakes Ridge Route (Sağrak Lake - Kırklar Hill - Karagöl Peak - Aygır Lake)	12 Km, Pathway / Difficult	Glacial lakes can be seen from the ridge. There are plateau and pasture ecosystems, rock formations, and landscape beauties. Flora and fauna observations, seasonal mushrooms, blueberry collection activities can be done.
3	Dereli	Cehennem Creek Canyon Route (Yeşilvadi Village - Mavigöl)	12 Km, Pathway / Difficult	Flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut etc. trees, seasonal forest mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, fishing, panoramic tree, lake, natural mineral water spring formations
4	Dereli	Çaldağ Route (Kulakkaya – Çaldağ - Kulakkaya)	16 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, etc. trees, seasonal forest mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic rock formations, landscape, spring waters
5	Dereli	Kulakkaya – Göksu Travertines Route (Kulakkaya - Ağaçbaşı Nature Park - Yavuzkema Town - Göksu Travertines)	25 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic rock formations, spring waters, historical arch bridges, water mills, local architecture
6	Dereli	Turna Plain - Kümbet Route (Eğribel Pass - Çoban Bağırdağ Water - Turna Plain - Kazankaya - Eşşek Square - Kurtoynağı - Homurlu Oba - Kümbet Village)	25 Km, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Flora and fauna observations, meadow, pasture and forest ecosystem, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry panoramic views, pond formations, spring waters
7	Dereli	Ağaçbaşı Nature Park Route (Kulakkaya - Ağaçbaşı Nature Park - Kulakkaya)	5 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Flora and fauna observations, spruce, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views
8	Dereli	Ziyarettepe Route (Kulakkaya - Alçakbel - Ziyarettepe - Alçakbel - Kulakkaya)	12 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Flora and fauna observations, spruce, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views.
9	Dereli	Aymaç Route (Kümbet - Aymaç Yolu - Cintepe - Festival Area - Karık Oba - Dere Yayla - Salon Meadow - Çifteoluk - Kümbet)	10 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Flora and fauna observations, spruce, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, spring waters.
10	Dereli	Kurtoynağı Route (Kümbet - Homurlu Oba - Kurtoynağı - Arka Uzundere - Uzundere Village - Kümbet)	15 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Meadow, plateau and forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, forest and meadow mushrooms according to the fishing season, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, historical buildings and bridges.
11	Dereli	Koçkayası Nature Park Route (Kümbet - Kümbet Village - Kümbet Oba - Koçkayası Nature Park - Tekke Oba Turn - Kümbet)	15 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Meadow, plateau and forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, forest and meadow mushrooms by fishing season, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views
12	Dereli	Kümbet - Bakacak Oba - Alancık Village Route (Kümbet - Aymaç - Karıkoba - Samayil Oba - Bakacak Oba - Alancık Village)	20 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Meadow, plateau and forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, local architectural structures
13	Dereli	Kümbet - Koyunalan - Kuzalan Nature Park Route (Kümbet - Aymaç - Karık Oba - Samayil Oba - Koyunalan Oba - Kuzalan Waterfall Nature Park - Kuzalan Waterfall)	17 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Meadow, plateau and forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, local architectural structures
14	Dereli	Kümbet - Yeşilvadi Village, Yedikıran, Mavigöl Route (Kümbet - Aymaç - Ufacıkyağı - Yeşilvadi Village - Yedikıran Road - Mavigöl)	20 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Meadow, plateau and forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, local architectural structures

15	Dereli	Kümbet - İkisü Route (Kümbet -Aymaç - Avluya Plateau - İkisü)	15 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Meadow, plateau and forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, local architectural structures
16	Dereli	Virgin Mary Monastery - Hisar Village Route (Maden Village - Virgin Mary Monastery - Hisarköy)	12 Km, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, historical monastery, churches, local architectural structures
17	Dereli	Virgin Mary Monastery - Kökev Route (Maden Village - Virgin Mary Monastery - Hisarköy - Akyoma - Kökev)	25 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, historical monastery, mosques, churches, local architectural structures
18	Dereli	Kümbet - Eğriambar Village Route (Kümbet - Koçkaya Nature Park - Kuzu Lake Obası - Sindal Obası - Çalköy - Kabaktepe Highland - Karatepe Plateau - Eğriambar Village)	40 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Difficult	Meadow, pasture, forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, waterfalls, local architectural structures
19	Dereli	Kulakkaya - Dereli Route (Kulakkaya - Akkaya Village - Dereli)	19 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Meadow, pasture, forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, fishing, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, waterfalls, local architectural structures
20	Dereli	Eğribel - Kulakkaya Route (Eğribel - Sarıççek - Kızıldağ Obası - Aksu Village - Bektaş - Kulkkaya)	60 Km, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Difficult	Meadow, pasture, forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, fishing, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, panoramic views, waterfalls, local architectural structures
21	Dereli	Kümbet - Şebinkarahisar Route (Kümbet - Şih Obası - Şehitler Pass - Saydere - Tamzara - Şebinkarahisar)	25 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Meadow, pasture, forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, fir, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, fishing, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, rosehip, panoramic views, historical buildings, local architectural structures
22	Dereli	Kurtoynağı - Tekke Obası Route (Kümbet - Homurlu Obası - Baş Plateau - Yağmurca Obası - Tekke Obası - Kümbet)	15 Km, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Meadow, pasture, forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, fir, wild hazelnut, fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, fishing, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, rosehip, panoramic views.
23	Yağlıdere	Kırkharman - Ayvat Route (Yağlıdere Kırkharman - Ayvat)	17 Km, Stabilized Road / Easy	Meadow, pasture, forest ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, spruce, beech, oak, alder, fir, wild hazelnut, wild fruit, rhododendron etc. trees, fishing, seasonal forest and meadow mushrooms, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, rosehip, panoramic views, historical buildings, local architectural structures
24	Dereli	Eğribel - Licese Route (Eğribel - Çoban Bağirtan Water - Licese)	15 Km, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Moderate	Meadow, pasture ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, seasonal mushrooms, rose hips, hawthorn panoramic views, historical buildings, local architectural structures
25	Dereli	Bektaş - Yavuzkemaş Town Route (Bektaş Plateau - Konuklu - Yavuzkemaş Town)	10 Km, Asphalt Road, Stabilized Road And Pathway / Easy	Meadow, pasture ecosystem, flora and fauna observations, meadow mushrooms according to the season, panoramic views, historical buildings, local architectural structures

It has been determined that Giresun province has attractiveness in terms of walking paths. In the direction of Table 2, it is seen that the walking paths are generally around the plateaus, which have an important place in tourism attractiveness. While one of the routes is in Yağlıdere district, all the rest start or end within the borders of Dereli district. This is due to the fact that Giresun plateaus and most of the touristic areas are in Dereli district. When Table 2 and the map are examined, it is seen that the routes partially or completely pass through some of these plateaus.

Hiking trails are divided into six difficulty levels (easy, moderate, challenging/difficult, difficult, very difficult, extreme/experts only) (Şahin, 2010). There are many hiking routes of varying lengths and varying degrees of difficulty. Of the detected routes, 5 were rated as difficult, 9 as moderate and 11 as easy. Walking routes consist of asphalt and stabilized roads on the village or highland roads and paths in natural areas. There are meadow, plateau and forest ecosystems on the routes, flora and fauna observations can be made and local architectural elements can be encountered.



**Map 1. New Routes for Mountain and Nature Hiking in Giresun**

## CONCLUSION:

Today, there are changes in the expectations of tourists from their travel preferences. This change in tourist behavior finds an answer in the sector, and the emergence of new tourism types causes differentiation in existing products. It can be thought that one of the obvious reasons for this change in behavior is the continuation of life in cities disconnected from nature. At this point, nature tourism can attract attention as a form of tourism that connects people with nature and offers them a nature experience.

Nature walks are nature tourism activities that allow people to relax, experience a different ecosystem, encounter different flora and fauna, and connect with people who want to have similar experiences. In the study, walking routes that can offer new experiences to tourists in Giresun province within the scope of nature tourism were examined. The study is the first research on this subject based on the field study conducted in Giresun. The determined routes have been experienced. The difficulty levels of the routes and whether they contain nature tourism elements have been determined, and the most suitable 25 routes for nature tourism have been obtained. Giresun is a destination that has just started to market its tourism attractions. Although the main tourist attraction of the destination is nature, it is thought that the creation of activities for nature tourism and their presentation to tourists could not reach the expected level. Existing tour programs of travel agencies are limited to visiting various natural attractions separately and do not provide tourists with the opportunity to experience nature. In addition, since these programs do not include accommodation in the destination, they cause the local people do not benefit enough from tourism. It is thought that activities such as trekking will contribute to tourists to experience the destination better, to spend longer at the destination, and to benefit more from tourism for the local people during this time. A contribution can be made to the promotion of the city by creating tour programs related to these routes by travel agencies and by sharing the travel experiences of tourists who experience the nature of the destination on these routes. In addition, developing nature-based tourism infrastructure and activities can encourage the relevant stakeholders in minimizing the negative environmental effects of tourism.

While it is thought that the determined hiking trails will contribute to the development of nature tourism activities in the destination, it is also thought that the determination of new trails and the creation of new activities will increase the attractiveness of the destination. The product development process can be completed by considering the determined routes in various projects (signage, mapping, promotion, etc.). It can be



contributed to the provision of tourist satisfaction and the development of the positive image of the destination by examining the experiences of the tourists walking on these routes.

### Compliance with Ethical Standard

**Conflict of Interests:** The authors declare that for this article they have no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interests.

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