

## RİZE – İKİZDERE AND ÇAMLIHEMŞİN SURVEYS\*

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### ABSTRACT

Rize, strategically situated in the eastern Black Sea region, has historically served as a crossroads for numerous civilizations and cultures. Despite the region's significance, systematic historical and archaeological research began only in the 1990s. These early studies, which spanned several research seasons, were instrumental in uncovering Rize's rich historical heritage. To further explore this heritage and shed light on its history and archaeology, surveys have been conducted since 2022 in the İkizdere, Çamlıhemşin, and Hemşin districts of Rize Province, authorized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. This article provides a comprehensive assessment of the findings from the 2023 surveys in the İkizdere and Çamlıhemşin districts. In İkizdere, research encompassed various neighborhoods, including Çağrankaya, Çarşı, Gündoğdu, Güney, Kirazlı, Yeşilyurt, and Zafer, as well as villages and highlands such as Ayvalık, Bayır, Cevizlik, Demirkapı, Güneyce, Gürdere, İhlamur, Ilıcaköy, Şimşirli, Tulumpınar, Yağcılar, and Yeralma. In Çamlıhemşin, surveys were carried out in the villages of Sıraköy, Ortaklar, Yazlık, Mollaveyis (Ülkü), Şenköy, Meydan, Şenyuva, Yolkeyi, Yaylaköy, and Ortan, along with their associated highland areas. This research led to the identification of numerous historically significant sites, including the Çikares Settlement, Tekneler Settlement, Yumurtadağ Obsidian Centre, Kale-i Bala, Kale-i Zir, Güneyce Bridge, Andulli Bridge, Şebek Bridge, Trovit Plateau Stone Road, Ortanköy (Goboş) Bridge, Çılanç Bridge, Şenyuva (Çinçiva) Bridge, Yağcılar Historical Houses, Başyayla Rock Depictions, Numanoğlu Mansion and its tamgas, Çolağan Locality Wall Depictions, Karmik Plateau Wall Depictions, Trovit Plateau Wall Depictions, Kozizoğlu Mansion and Wall Depictions, Mollanç Behlül Mansion and Wall Depictions, Kurdoğlu Mansion and Wall Depictions,

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Meydan Village Wall Depictions, Güneyce Hacı Sheikh Mosque, Şimşirli Village Middle Neighborhood Mosque, Yağcılar Village Konak Mosque, Kurusaha Mosque, and Şenköy Mosque.

**Keywords:** Anatolia, Rize, İkizdere, Çamlıhemşin, Historical Survey.

## RİZE – İKİZDERE VE ÇAMLIHEMŞİN YÜZEY ARAŞTIRMALARI

### ÖZ

Rize, Karadeniz'in doğusundaki stratejik konumuyla birçok medeniyete ve kültüre bünyesinde yaşatmıştır. Bölgenin bu önemine rağmen tarihî ve arkeolojik sistematik ilk araştırmalar 1990'lara aittir. Birkaç sezon devam eden bu çalışma Rize'nin tarihsel geçmişinin zenginliğini göstermesi bakımından oldukça önemlidir. Bu zenginliği daha detaylı araştırmak, tarihî ve arkeolojisini aydınlatmak için Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı'nın izinleriyle 2022 yılından itibaren Rize İli İkizdere, Çamlıhemşin ve Hemşin İlçelerinde yüzey araştırmaları yürütülmüştür. Bu yazı ile 2023 yılı İkizdere ve Çamlıhemşin ilçelerindeki tespitlerin genel bir değerlendirmesi yapılmaya çalışılmıştır. Çalışmaların İkizdere'deki bölümünde Çağrankaya, Çarşı, Gündoğdu, Güney, Kirazlı, Yeşilyurt, Zafer Mahalleri ile Ayvalık, Bayır, Cevizlik, Demirkapı, Güneyce, Gürdere, İhlamur, İlcaköy, Şimşirli, Tulumpınar, Yağcılar, Yeralma köyleri ve yaylalarında incelemelerde bulunulmuştur. Çamlıhemşin'deki bölümde ise Sıraköy, Ortaklar, Yazlık, Mollaveyis (Ülkü), Şenköy, Meydan, Şenyuva, Yolkiy, Yaylaköy ve Ortan Köyleri ile yaylarında incelemelerde bulunulmuştur. Araştırma sonucu Çikares Yerleşimi, Tekneler Yerleşimi, Yumurtadağ Obsidiyen Merkezi, Kale-i Bala, Kale-i Zir, Güneyce Köprüsü, Andulli Köprüsü, Şebek Köprüsü, Ortanköy (Goboş) Köprüsü, Çılanç Köprüsü, Şenyuva (Çinçiva) Köprüsü, Trovit Yaylası Taş Yol, Yağcılar Tarihî Evleri, Başyayla Tasvirleri, Numanoğlu Konağı ve Tasvirleri, Çolağan Mevkii Tasvirleri, Karmik Yaylası Tasvirleri, Trovit Yaylası Tasvirleri, Kozizoğlu Konağı ve Tasvirleri, Mollanç Behlül Konağı ve Tasvirleri, Kürdoğlu Konağı ve Tasvirleri, Meydan Köyü Tasvirleri, Güneyce Hacı Şeyh Camii, Şimşirli Köyü Orta Mahalle Camii, Yağcılar Köyü Konak Camii, Kurusaha Camii, Şenköy Camii gibi merkezler tespit edilmiştir. Bu yazıyla, ilk kez tanıtımı yapılan bu merkezler hakkındaki incelemelerin bölge tarihi ve arkeolojisine oldukça önemli katkılar yapacağı düşünülmektedir.

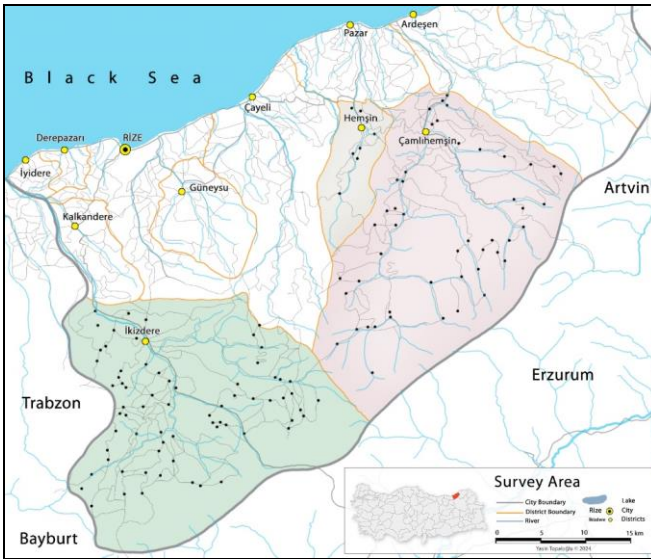
**Anahtar Sözcükler:** Anadolu, Rize, İkizdere, Çamlıhemşin, Tarihî Yüzey Araştırması

### Introduction

The field studies conducted in the İkizdere, Çamlıhemşin, and Hemşin districts of Rize Province since 2022, with the permission of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, have yielded significant results. This article aims to provide a general evaluation of the findings from the 2023 surveys in the İkizdere and Çamlıhemşin districts. In İkizdere, the neighborhoods of Çağrankaya, Çarşı, Gündoğdu, Güney, Kirazlı, Yeşilyurt, and Zafer, along with the villages and plateaus of Ayvalık, Bayır, Cevizlik, Demirkapı, Güneyce,

Gürdere, İhlamur, İlicaköy, Şimşirli, Tulumpınar, Yağcılar, and Yeralma, were examined. In Çamlıhemşin, surveys were carried out in the villages and plateaus of Sıraköy, Ortaklar, Yazlık, Mollaveyis (Ülkü), Şenköy, Meydan, Şenyuva, Yolkiyi, Yaylaköy, and Ortan. Further studies in the Çamlıhemşin district are planned for the near future.

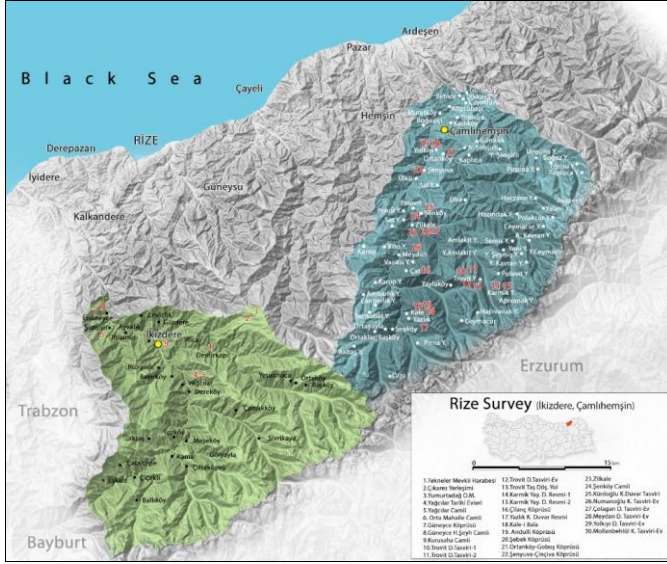
The survey was led by O. Pekşen from Ondokuz Mayıs University, with contributions from Y. Topaloğlu (Atatürk University), N. B. Özsoy (Erzurum Technical University), and N. Erdoğan (Ondokuz Mayıs University). The Ministry of Culture and Tourism was represented by archaeologist R. Karadeniz from Rize Museum. Laboratory studies for the project were supported by S. Çiğdem (Atatürk University), L. G. Gökçek (Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University), E. Yıldırım (Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University), M. L. Kındıgılı (Atatürk University), and M. Kılıç (Erzurum Technical University). Additionally, doctoral student A. Kalaycı from Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University and graduate students S. Coşgun and G. Kahveci from Ondokuz Mayıs University contributed to the laboratory work.



Map 1: Survey Area (Rize İkizdere, Çamlıhemşin, Hemşin)

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Map 2: Map of the Centers Detected in 2023 (Rize- İkiözere, Çamlıhemşin)

### **Regional Geography and History**

Rize's rich cultural heritage reflects the influence of ancient local societies, as well as the legacies of Scythian, Persian, Hellenistic, Pontic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, and Ottoman powers.<sup>1</sup> The Kaçkar merged with the

<sup>1</sup> For more information see. Herodotos, *Tarih*, trans. Müntekim Ökmen, İstanbul 2019, II; Strabon, *Geographika*, trans. Adnan Pekman, İstanbul 2012, XI, 3-2, XI, 2-17; Xenophon, *Anabasis*, trans. Henry Graham Dakyns, İstanbul 2020, IV: 8-22;; M. Fahrettin Kırzioğlu, *Osmanlı'nın Kafkas Ellerini Fethi*, Ankara 1976, p. 368; Alessandro Bausani, *The Persians*, trans. J. B. Done, London 1971, pp. 34-48; Robert H. Dyson, "The Archaeological Evidence of the Second Millennium B.C. on the Persian Plateau", *The Cambridge Ancient History*, 2 /1. I. E. S. Edwards, C. J. Gadd, N. G. L. Hammond, E. Sollberger (eds.), Cambridge 1973, pp. 686 et seq.; Robert W. Edwards, *The Vale of Kola: A Final Preliminary Report on The Marchlands of Northeast Turkey*, Cambridge 1988, 119 et seq.; M. Fahrettin Kırzioğlu, *Yukarı Kür ve Çoruh Boylarında Kıpçaklar*, Ankara 1992, p. 213; Halil Demircioğlu, *Roma Tarihi*, Vol: I, Ankara: 1993; John G. F Hind, "Mithridates", *Cambridge Ancient History*, IX, Cambridge 2008, pp. 129 et seq.; Ahmet Ünal, *Hurriler, Hurri Tarihi, Kültürü ve Arkeolojisiyle İlgili Yeni Buluntular ve Gelişmeler*, 1996 Yılı Anadolu Medeniyetleri Müzesi Konferansları, M. Akalın, M. Yıldızturan & G. Demir (Eds.), Ankara 1997, pp. 11 et seq.; Antonio Sagona, "The Bronze Age-The Iron Age Transition in Northeast Anatolia: A View from Sos Hoyuk", *Anatolian Studies*, Vol: 49, Ankara 1999, pp. 153 et seq.; Bilge Umar, *İlkçağda Türkiye Halkı*, İstanbul 1999, pp. 501-554; Orhan Naci Ak, *Rize Tarihi*, Rize 2000, pp. 5-6; Murat Arslan, *Mithradates VI. Eupator Roma'nın Büyük Düşmanı*,

Caucasus, making Rize a closed basin. The Creeks fed by the mountains formed deep V-shaped valleys. This harsh and difficult geographical structure has also made the settlement history unique. Villages were generally established on valley floors or slope plains suitable for agriculture. Above the forest border ranging between 700-2300 m, there are important plateaus such as Ayder, Varda, Ovit, Elevit, Palovit, Kaçkar, Verçenik and Anzer. U-shaped valleys formed by avalanche deposits are above 2000 m. Geologically, rocks such as andesite, basalt, granite, dacite, rhyodacite and sandstone, claystone, and siltstone are observed. Climate increases the rate of weathering of these rocks and landslides. The region's challenging geology, morphology, climate and vegetation have had a corrosive and destructive effect on historical structures. This makes it difficult to identify the region's tangible cultural heritage. The lush vegetation also makes it difficult to identify historical and archaeological remains. For this reason, it is seen that the ruins in the areas where the forest cover is replaced by alpine meadows are older.<sup>2</sup>

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İstanbul 2000, pp. 26-40; M. Taner Tarhan, "Ön Asya Dünyasında İlk Türkler: Kimmerler ve İskitler", *Türkler Ansiklopedisi-I*, Ankara 2002, pp. 597 et seq.; Deniz Burcu Erciyas, "Helenistik Dönemde Karadeniz Yerleşimler, Anıtlar ve Sikkeler Işığında Pontos Krallığı", *Karadeniz Araştırmaları Sempozyumu*, İstanbul 2006: pp. 203 et seq.; Margaret R. Payne, *Urartu Çivi Yazılı Belgeler Kataloğu*, İstanbul 2006, pp. 210-223; Murat Arslan, *Mithradates VI. Eupator Roma'nın Büyük Düşmanı*, İstanbul 2007, pp. 493-502; İbrahim Tellioglu, "Doğu Karadeniz Bölgesinin Türk Yurdu Haline Gelmesi Hakkında Bir Değerlendirme", *Turkish Studies*, Vol: 2, Issue: 2, Erzincan 2007, p. 655; İbrahim Tellioglu, *Osmanlı Hakimiyetine Kadar Doğu Karadeniz'de Türkler*, Trabzon 2007, p. 19; İdris Bostan, *Doğu Karadeniz Tarih-Kültür-İnsan*, İstanbul 2008, pp. 147 et seq.; Osman Emir, *Prehistorik Dönemden Roma Dönemine Kadar Trabzon ve Çevresi*, Trabzon 2011, pp. 84-96; İlhami Durmuş, "Orta Asya'dan Anadolu'ya Türk Konar-Göçer Kültürü" *Orta Asya Türk Kültürünün Anadolu Kültürüne Etkileri Uluslararası Sempozyumu* (2019 Taşkent), Ankara 2019, pp. 11-35; Mehmet Bilgin, *Doğu Karadeniz Tarih-Kültür-İnsan*, İstanbul 2010, pp. 20-21; Mehmet Işıklı, *Doğu Anadolu Erken Trans Kafkasya Kültürü*. İstanbul 2011, pp. 230-233; Georgy Kantor, "Mithridates, I-VI of Pontos", *Wiley-Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, Vol: VIII, New Jersey 2013; Süleyman Çiğdem-Yasin Topaloğlu, "Eski Çağ'da Doğu Anadolu'nun İktisadi Hayatı Üzerine Genel Bir Değerlendirme", *Anadolu'nun Eskiçağlarında İktisadi ve Zirai Hayat*, (Eds. L. G. Gökçek-E. Yıldırım- O. Pekşen). İstanbul 2018, pp 413 et seq.; Yasin Topaloğlu, "Doğu Anadolu'nun Tarihsel Çerçevesi", *Karaz'dan Büyük İskender'e Erzurum Ovasında Büyük Bir Keşif: Alaybeyi Höyük*, G. Altunkaynak (ed.), Ankara 2019, p. 69, Mehmet Özmenli-Nazım Kuruca, "Pontus'ta Mithradates Krallığı", *International Social Sciences Studies Journal*, Vol: 6, Issue: 71, Bakı 2020, pp. 4413 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see. Adil Güner-Mecit Vural- Kadriye Sorkun, *Rize Florası, Vejetasyonu ve Yöre Ballarının Polen Analizi*, Ankara 1987, 269; Talip Yücel, *Türkiye Coğrafyası*, Ankara 1987, pp. 14-22; Sadettin Korkmaz-Abdullah Gedik, "Rize-Fındıklı-Çamlıhemşin Arasında Kalan Bölgenin Jeoloji ve Petrol Oluşumları", *Jeoloji Mühendisliği*, Vol: 12, Issue: 1 (32-33), Ankara 1988, pp. 5 et seq.; Haşım Karpuz, *Rize*, Ankara 1993, p. 4; Asaf Koçman, *Türkiye İklimi*, İzmir 1993; Mecit Vural, "Rize'nin Yüksek Dağ Vejetasyonu", *Turkish Journal of Botany*, Vol: 20, Ankara 1996, pp. 83 et seq.; Oğuz

## Research Findings

### Çikares Settlement

The site is located within the Aşağı Çağrankaya (Kafkame) Plateau, 14 km southeast of İkizdere, in the Zafer Neighborhood. In the area known as "Peynir Kayalar" on the plateau, there are three cromlech structures, though they are largely covered by soil and vegetation. Despite this, the stone walls of the cromlechs, which vary in size, are still visible on the surface. However, no archaeological materials could be identified due to the dense vegetation typical of the Black Sea region, which blankets the ground with a thick layer. The architectural features of these cromlech structures closely resemble those found in Zöhrap, Carcı, Akçakale, and the Harabe Area in the Ardahan and Kars regions, which are dated to the Bronze and Iron Ages<sup>3</sup>(Image 1).



Image 1: Çikares Settlement

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Kurdoğlu, *Doğu Karadeniz'in Doğal Yaşlı Ormanları*, İstanbul 1996, p. 24; Haşım Karpuz, "Rize İl Merkezi ve İlçelerindeki Tarihi Eserler", *Rize*, (Ed. S. Başkan). Ankara 1997, p. 80; Tunç Fındık, *Kaçkar Dağları*, İstanbul 2001, 137; Andrew Byfield-David Pearman, "Doğu Karadeniz Dağları", *Türkiye'nin 122 Önemli Bitki Alanı*, WWF Türkiye, İstanbul 2008, pp. 123 et seq.; Hakkı Baltacı, *Doğu Karadeniz Bölgesi (Rize, Trabzon, Giresun) Heyelan-Yağış İlişkisinin İncelenmesi ve Minimum Eşik Değerlerinin Belirlenmesi*, M.A. Thesis, İstanbul 2010, p. 25; İbrahim Atalay, *Türkiye İklim Atlası*, İstanbul 2011; Fatma Kafalı Yılmaz-Özer Yılmaz, "Thorn Thwaite İklim Tasnifine Göre Rize ve Ardahan Örnekleri", *3. International Geography Symposium*, Antalya 2013; pp. 420-421; DOKAP, *Doğu Karadeniz Turizm Master Planı (Giresun- Gümüşhane- Ordu- Rize-Trabzon)*, Ankara 2016, pp. 2-4.

<sup>3</sup> Alpaslan Ceylan, "2004 Yılı Erzincan, Erzurum-Kars-Iğdır İlleri Yüzey Araştırmaları", *23. Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı*, 2006, (106-107); Gulriz Kozbe-Alpaslan Ceylan-Yasemin Polat-Taciser Sivas-Hakan Sivas-Işık Şahin-Duygu Akar Tanrıver, *Türkiye Arkeolojik Yerleşmeleri-6 (TAY) Demir Çağları*, İstanbul, 2008, Zöhrap, Carcı; Yasin Topaloğlu, *Ardahan Çıldır Bölgesi Tarihi ve Arkeolojik Araştırmaları*, Unpublished Master Thesis, Atatürk University 2006, 115, 129.

### ***Tekneler Layout***

The site is located along the edge of the plateau road in the Tekneler locality of İkizdere's Demirkapı Village. Hexagonal stone columns, which appear to be part of a large architectural structure, were found here. It is evident that these scattered remains rolled down from a higher section of the slope. However, due to the dense vegetation and steep terrain, it was not possible to determine the exact original location of the building to which the columns belonged (Image 2).



Image 2: Tekneler Layout

### ***Yumurtadağ Obsidian Center***

The Yumurtadağ Obsidian Center, located 20 km from İkizdere's Ilıca Village, is situated on the summits of the Çağrankaya Plateau. This extensive area appears to be of volcanic origin. Obsidian deposits are abundant on the surface, extending from the mountain's peak to its foothills (Image 3).

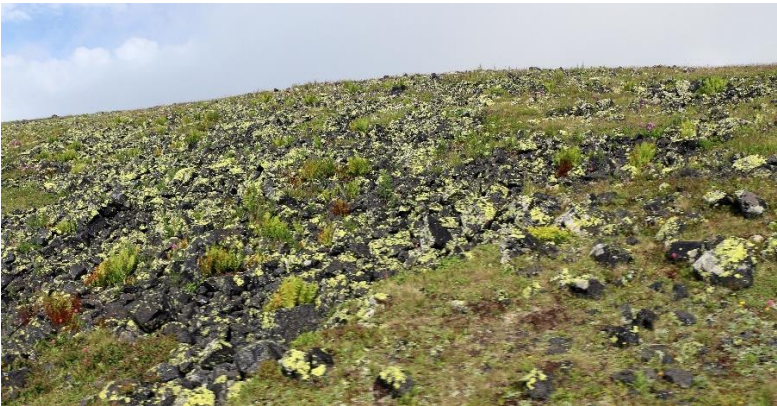


Image 3: Yumurtadağ Obsidian Center

### ***Kale-i Bala (Upper Castle)***

The site is located just south of the intersection of the Hemşin and Fırtına Creeks, within the borders of Çamlıhemşin's Kale Village. Built on bedrock, the castle was strategically positioned to control access to the Ispir, Cimil, Ortaklar, Çamlıhemşin, and Ardeşen roads, as well as the historical routes between Ispir, Cimil, Yazlık, Çamlıhemşin, and Ardeşen. Its geographical location enhances its security, with access possible only from the south. The castle has lost much of its original structure due to recent restorations, though the northern fortification wall—recently repaired—still retains much of its authenticity. The southeastern bastion overlooks the Fırtına Creek Valley, while the southwestern bastion controls the Hemşin Creek Valley. Without a construction inscription, the exact date of the castle's construction remains unknown. Some suggest it may have been built by the Persians around 300 BC. Its inland location, approximately 60 km from the coast, meant that ancient writers who traveled by sea did not record it, leaving no references to the castle in ancient sources. The first written records of Kale-i Bala appear in Ottoman archives. A document from 1520 mentions that 40 soldiers stationed at the Upper Castle received a daily wage of 182 akçe, amounting to an annual salary of 64,780 akçe.<sup>4</sup> Considering the settlement history of the castle, it is believed to have been inhabited during the Persian, Hellenistic, Pontic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Trabzon Greek, and Ottoman periods (Picture 4).



Image 4: Kale-i Bala (Upper Castle)

### ***Kale-i Zir (Zil kale / Lower Castle)***

The castle is located within the borders of Çamlıhemşin's Mollaveyis Village, perched on a steep rock that dominates the western valley of the Fırtına

<sup>4</sup> Ahmet Yuka, "Rize Çamlıhemşin'de Tarihi İki Yapı: Kale-i Hemşin Zir ve Kale-i Hemşin Bala", *Karadeniz Araştırmaları Enstitüsü Dergisi*, Vol: 8, Issue: 15, Trabzon 2022, p. 296.



Creek. It was constructed to secure the road route passing through the valley. Access to the castle is provided through a single gate measuring 1.70 x 3.85 m on the western side. The bastions of the castle feature numerous crenellations, and the inner castle comprises various sections, including a place of worship and a guard room. Although the castle has undergone several restorations throughout different periods, some areas remain close to their original form. Built on bedrock, the castle is strategically positioned to control the historical İspir-Çamlıhemşin-Ardeşen road. The exact date of construction is unclear, as there are no inscriptions detailing its origin. Its location, approximately 40 km inland from the coast, meant that ancient writers traveling by sea did not encounter the castle, resulting in a lack of references in ancient records. Some scholars suggest that the castle may have been constructed by the Komnenos dynasty of Trabzon towards the end of the Middle Ages.<sup>5</sup> The first written records of Kale-i Zir are found in Ottoman archival documents. A record dated 1520 indicates that 30 soldiers stationed at the Lower Castle received a daily wage of 147 akçe, totaling 52,036 akçe per year.<sup>6</sup> An examination of the settlement history of the castle suggests that it was inhabited during the Persian, Hellenistic, Pontic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Trabzon Greek, and Ottoman periods (Picture 5).



Image 5: Kale-i Zir (Zil kale / Lower Castle)

### ***Bridges and Roads***

#### ***Güneyce Bridge***

The bridge is located in the center of the İkizdere-Güneyce Quarter, spanning the İkizdere Creek. Built in 1903, it remains in use today. This high-arched bridge is characteristic of the Ottoman Period. Various restorations have

<sup>5</sup> Semavi Eyice, "Rize Yakınında Zir Kale", *İlgi*, Vol: 30, İstanbul 1980.

<sup>6</sup> Yuka, *ibid*, p. 296.

been made to the foot sections of the bridge over the years. After sustaining partial damage during the floods of the 1970s, the bridge was repaired in 1978 and underwent a final restoration in 2000 by the General Directorate of Highways of Türkiye, in accordance with its original design. In 2004, a stone plaque introducing the bridge was placed next to it, separate from the structure (Image 6).



Image 6: Güneyce Bridge

### ***Andulli Bridge***

The bridge is located in the Merze (Dervişli) locality of Çamlıhemşin-Kale Village, spanning the Fırtına Creek. Extending in a northeast-southwest direction, it is 2 meters wide, 6 meters long, and features an arch span of 5 meters, characteristic of the Ottoman Period. The bridge remains in use today. The arch section, which has not undergone any restoration, is constructed of cut stone, while the other sections are made of rubble stone (Image 7).



Image 7: Andulli Bridge

### ***Şebek Bridge***

The bridge is situated at the junction of Hemşin and Fırtına Creeks within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Kale Village. Oriented in a northwest-southeast

direction, it spans 14.3 meters in length. Characteristic of the Ottoman Period, the arch section of the bridge is constructed of cut stone, while the other sections are made of rubble stone. It appears that no restoration work has been performed on the bridge in its current state (Image 8).



Image 8: Şebek Bridge

### ***Goboş Bridge***

The bridge is located within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Ortan Village, spanning the Fırtına Creek. Oriented east-west, it measures 3 meters wide, 20.5 meters long, and stands 15.5 meters high. Characteristic of the Ottoman Period, the arch section of the bridge is constructed from cut stone, while the other sections are made of rubble stone. The stone railings of the bridge show traces of restoration from various periods (Picture 9).



Image 9: Goboş Bridge

### ***Çılanç Bridge***

The bridge is located on the Fırtına Creek in the "flat area" of Çamlıhemşin-Çat Village. Characteristic of the Ottoman Period, the bridge

features an arch constructed of cut stone, while the other sections are made of rubble stone. Oriented north-south, it is 3 meters wide and approximately 20 meters long. Except for the arch section, no mortar was used between the stones, and the adjacent sections were built using masonry stones. No restoration work has been performed on the bridge (Image 10).



Image 10: Çılanç Bridge

### ***Çinçiva Bridge***

The bridge is situated on the Firtına Creek within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Şenyuva Village. It measures 2.80 meters in width and 52 meters in length, oriented east-west. The arch spans 25 meters in width and rises to a height of 14.50 meters. This bridge is one of the stone bridges from the Ottoman Period, featuring an arch made of cut stone, while the other sections are constructed of rubble stone. The bridge includes stone steps and has undergone restorations at various times. The stone railings were added during a restoration by the General Directorate of Highways of Türkiye (Image 11).



Image 11: Çinçiva Bridge

### ***Trovit Plateau Stone Road***

The road is located along the pathway between the Çamlıhemşin, Trovit, and Karmik Plateaus. Extending in a southeast-northwest direction, it was constructed using approximately 1 meter wide stones with flattened upper surfaces. This structure resembles Roman roads. Although much of the road has been destroyed over time, about 100 meters of it remains visible today (Image 12).



Image 12: Trovit Plateau Stone Road

### ***Civil Architecture***

#### ***Yağcılar Historical Houses***

The houses in the Cami Neighborhood of İkizdere-Yağcılar Village exhibit the typical “Eastern Black Sea House” style, constructed with rubble stones of varying sizes set between cut stones and grillage. These houses, which are currently inhabited, have recently undergone repairs and additions. They are likely 150 to 200 years old.

*House 1:* The ground floor and upper floor of the eastern facade are constructed of stone walls, featuring wooden gratings with spaces filled with rubble stones. Wooden beams extend from the ceiling of the barn section to support each upper floor. The walls of the house utilize stones measuring between 70x115 cm and 40x20 cm. The main entrance door, facing east, is framed by cut stones on either side, with the upper part of the door arch also constructed of cut stone. A recently built reinforced concrete staircase is located on the exterior east side of the house. No other recent repairs were noted on the exterior.

*House 2:* This house measures 7 x 8.4 meters and has a near-square shape. It consists of three stories, including the ground floor, and is built with stones measuring 40-50 cm. The main entrance is through doors measuring 96 x 180 cm, while the barn section has doors measuring 85 x 160 cm (Image 13).



Image 13: Yağcılar Historical Houses

### *Başyayla Depictions*

Several depictions can be found on the northeast and southwest walls of the house located at the entrance of Başyayla, within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Yazlık Village. Various figures are rendered using the percussion technique. To the left of the door, there is a depiction of a “tree and a standing human motif with outstretched arms.” On the southwest wall of the house, another depiction features a “hand along with human, moon, star, or sun motifs.” A portion of the stone with this depiction has been damaged due to plastering, obscuring part of the image, although another human motif is visible in the damaged area. Additionally, on the right side of the northeast door, there is a cut stone featuring various depictions, oriented towards the door (Image 14).



Image 14: Başyayla Depictions

### ***Çolağan Locality Depictions***

Located in the Çolağan locality of Çamlıhemşin-Zilkale Village, the trading house was constructed using stones sourced from a demolished house near the Numanoğlu Mansion. Among these spolia stones, one features a depiction of a ship, created using the percussion technique (Image 15).



Image 15: Çolağan Locality Depictions

### ***Karmik Plateau Depictions***

The depictions are located on the Karmik Plateau within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Yaylaköy. They can be found on the right side of the door on the east wall of a plateau house that is actively used today. The stone bearing these depictions, which differs from the stones used in the house's construction, closely resembles the stones found on the shore of the crater lake approximately 700 meters southwest of the house. Measuring 60 x 20 cm, this stone features depictions of “two moons, two stars, a ship, a tree, and a sun motif in a circle,” all made using the percussion technique.

In addition to these depictions, the ruins of another dilapidated highland house on the same plateau contain a 150 x 40 cm cut stone featuring a depiction of a ship, a tree, and the phrase “mashallah” written from left to right in Arabic letters (in reverse). This stone also displays the date 1923. Below the ship depiction, there is another tree motif. Additionally, in the lower left section of the ship depiction, there is an unidentifiable image alongside a scallop-like design beneath the written section. It is possible that this depiction is a copy inspired by the original artworks (Image 16).



Image 16: Karmik Plateau Depictions

### ***Trovit Plateau Depictions***

In Trovit Plateau, located within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Yaylaköy, various depictions have been discovered on the walls of historical plateau houses.

*House 1:* The construction inscription of this house reads: “Hijri 1318 (Gregorian 1900/1).” On the eastern wall of the cut stone plateau house, there is a “reverse anchor” depiction created using the percussion technique. The stone bearing this motif differs in color and structure from the other stones used in the walls of the house. It is known that the stones for the house's construction were sourced from local rocks, suggesting that the depiction may have originated from an older petroglyph and was later incorporated as a 43 x 40 cm wall stone in the highland house.

*House 2:* This house features two additional carved and inlaid depictions on its east and north walls. On the east wall, there is a 15 cm depiction on a 40 x 44 cm gray basalt stone. Based on its structure and color, this depiction appears to be a petroglyph created in later periods. This house is recognized as one of the oldest in the plateau but does not have any construction inscription (Image 17).





Image 17: Trovit Plateau Depictions

### *Meydan Village Depictions*

It is located in the Center Locality of Çamlıhemşin-Meydan Village. Currently, it can be found on the wall stones of a trading house. On various stones of the wall, there are depictions of a ship and a quadrangular shape, the exact nature of which remains unclear (Image 18).



Image 18: Meydan Village Depictions

### ***Numanoğlu Mansion and Depictions***

It is located within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Zilkale Village (Somrig Neighborhood). The ground floor of the mansion is constructed of cut stone, while the three floors above are made of wood. Recently restored, the stone fireplace on the first floor features a depiction resembling a battering ram, created using the boot method (Picture 19).



Image 19: Numanoğlu Mansion and Depictions

### ***Kozizoğlu Mansion and Depictions***

Various depictions can be found on the walls of the wooden Kozizoğlu Mansion, which is built on a stone foundation in the Küşüve locality of Çamlıhemşin-Yolkıyı Village. Notably, there is a depiction of a tree in the upper right corner of the south wall and a possible ram in the upper left corner of the north wall. The construction inscription of the mansion indicates that it was built in Hijri 1307 (Gregorian 1889/1890) (Picture 20).



Picture 20: Kozizoğlu Mansion and Depictions

### ***Mollanç Behlül Mansion and Depictions***

The Mollanç Behlül Mansion, located in the Küştive locality of Çamlıhemşin-Yolkıyı Village, features various depictions on its walls. Although much of the west wall has been demolished, the remaining section is noteworthy. In the upper part of the west wall facing south, there is a depiction resembling a willow branch, intricately embroidered in blue and white colors. Additionally, the lower floor entrance door on the south facade is adorned with an inscription and motifs of the moon and star. The construction inscription of the mansion indicates that it was built in Hijri 1311 (Gregorian 1886) (Image 21).



Image 21: Mollanç Behlül Mansion and Depictions

### ***Kurdoğlu Mansion and Depictions***

The mansion, located within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Şenköy Village, is approximately 200 years old and lacks a construction inscription. The ground floor is constructed of cut stone, while the upper floor is made of wood, featuring detailed carvings on the wooden elements. On the southeast end of the northeast wall of the stone section on the ground floor, to the left of the stone archway leading to the courtyard, there are two crescents and two stars facing left, carved into a cut stone measuring 50 x 20 cm. Additionally, on the upper part of the wall to the right of the entrance courtyard in the northeast direction, there is a depiction of a pine tree on a cut stone measuring 15 x 25 cm, which appears to have been created through striking or engraving. This pine tree is flanked by crescent and star motifs on either side, both oriented toward the tree (Image 22).

While the depictions on the walls of these houses in the Çamlıhemşin springs share similarities with petroglyphs found in Rize-İkizdere, Erzurum, Artvin, Ardahan, and Kars, the history of these houses does not exceed two

hundred years. This suggests they may be a reflection of a much older cultural tradition spanning thousands of years. Moreover, the fact that some stones bearing these depictions differ from the surrounding wall stones implies they may have been sourced from elsewhere.



Image 22: Kurdoğlu Mansion and Depictions

### ***Religious Architecture***

#### ***Güneyce Hacı Sheikh Mosque***

Located in İkiçdere-Güneyce Village, the mosque features a Turkish inscription on its minaret indicating it was built in 1886 by Hacı Sheikh Osman Niyazi Efendi. The entrance gate faces north and leads into a 2-meter-long corridor. Flanking the corridor are two rooms situated to the west and east. Following the corridor, one arrives at the main inner door of the mosque. To the west of this inner door, a wooden staircase ascends to the upper floor, which contains two additional rooms in the north direction, one to the west and another to the east. The ground floor of the mosque is constructed from cut stone, while the upper sections are made of wood (Image 23).



Image 23: Güneyce Hacı Sheikh Mosque

### ***Şimşirli Village-Orta Neighborhood Mosque***

Located in İkizdere-Şimşirli Village, the mosque features a foundation made of cut stone, while the upper parts are constructed of wood. The wooden sections showcase intricate ornaments created through carving and inlay techniques. The two-storey mosque, which is actively used today, has six wooden columns supporting the lower front (north) and an additional six columns on the upper floor. An inscription on the lower entrance door on the north side of the mosque dates back to 1265 AH (1848/49 AD). The single minaret was built later and stands independently of the mosque structure. Inside, the lower floor houses a wooden pulpit situated in the east and a wooden staircase leading to the upper floor in the northwest. The interior wooden columns have a width of 25 cm. The upper floor features a forecourt designed as a terrace, accessible from the west (Image 24).



Image 24: Şimşirli Village-Orta Neighborhood Mosque

### ***Yağcılar Village Konak Mosque***

Located in İkizdere-Yağcılar Village, the mosque is actively in use today. It features a total of two doors: one on the ground floor and another on the upper floor (left). At the entrance of the ground floor door, there are two distinct inscriptions—one dated to Hijri 1324 (Gregorian 1906/7) and the other to Hijri 1299 (Gregorian 1881/2). This indicates that the mosque has undergone restorations over different periods, leading to a loss of its original character and transforming it into a more modern building (Image 25).



Image 25: Yağcılar Village Konak Mosque

### ***Kurusaha Mosque***

Situated just east of the Rize-Ispir highway in the center of İkizdere, the mosque features an entrance gate located in the northeast. It consists of two floors. Due to recent restorations, the mosque has largely transformed into a modern building, resulting in the covering of some wooden veneers and painted decorations in the interior (Image 26).



Image 26: Kurusaha Mosque

### *Şenköy Mosque*

Located within the borders of Çamlıhemşin-Şenköy Village, this mosque is one of the wooden structures from the Ottoman Period. The construction inscription indicates a date of Hijri 1318 (Gregorian 1900). Built in local architectural style, the mosque maintains its originality. The rectangular building measures 6.50 x 5.5 meters and consists of two floors, with an entrance located in the northeast. Currently, it is topped with a roof featuring wide eaves and tiles. The ground floor is constructed of cut stone, while the upper floor is made from pine and chestnut wood. In 2013, restoration work was undertaken by the Rize Special Provincial Administration to repair the stone sections in accordance with the original design. The interior features simple pencil work and decorations, with the paint and embroideries retaining their originality. A stone fireplace is present on the ground floor, along with three niches on the walls. This section of the mosque has been utilized for various purposes, including Qur'an courses and schools (Picture 27).

Rize mosques were the subject of a doctoral thesis prepared by M. B. Gökler.<sup>7</sup> The studies carried out after the fieldwork are being prepared for publication by our art historian team members.

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<sup>7</sup> Burak Muhammet Gökler, *Rize'de Osmanlı dönemi camileri*, Doctoral Thesis, Atatürk University, Erzurum 2022.



Image 27: Şenköy Mosque

<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>GPS</i>	<i>Altitude</i>
Rize	Ikizdere	Çağrankaya	Çikares Settlement	40.83150, 40.64563	2140
Rize	Ikizdere	Demirkapı	Tekenler Layout	40.75928, 40.64156	1907
Rize	Ikizdere	Ilıca	Yumurtadağ Obsidian Center	40.82675, 40.71796	2624
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Kale	Kale-i Bala Upper Castle	40.81375, 40.94339	2019
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Mollaveyis	Kale-i Zir-Zil kale / Lower Castle	40.95908, 40.96327	747
Rize	Ikizdere	Güneyce	Güneyce Bridge	40.82197, 40.47695	299
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Kale	Andulli Bridge	40.79825, 40.95942	2080
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Kale	Şebek Bridge	40.82252, 40.93920	1657
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Ortanköy	Goboş Bridge	41.00707, 40.99013	396
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Çat	Çılanç Bridge	40.86343, 40.95030	1327
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Şenyuva	Çinçiva Bridge	40.99746, 40.97516	450
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Trovit-Karmik	Trovit Stone Road	4085315, 41072400	2505
Rize	Ikizdere	Yağcılar	Yağcılar Historical Houses	40.73127, 40.59465	1060
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Yazlık	Başyayla Depictions	40.80007, 40.97688	2444
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Zilkale	Numanoğlu Mansion	40.92465, 40.92465	950



			<i>and Depictions</i>	40.94853	
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Zilkale	<i>Depictions of Çolağan Locality</i>	40.92259, 40.94840	840
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Yaylaköy	<i>Depictions of Karmik Plateau</i>	40.83374, 40.07806	2680
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Yaylaköy	<i>Depictions of Trovit Plateau</i>	40.86076, 41.06158	2441
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Yolkıy	<i>Kozizoğlu Mansion and Depictions</i>	41.02160, 40.99608	486
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Yolkıy	<i>Mollaç Behlül Mansion and Depictions</i>	41.02110, 40.99160	624
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Şenköy	<i>Kurdoğlu Mansion and Depictions</i>	40.94652, 40.96162	973
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Meydan	<i>Square Village Depictions</i>	40.88900, 40.93101	1019
Rize	İkizdere	Güneyce	<i>Güneyce Hacı Sheikh Mosque</i>	40.82528, 40.47386	326
Rize	İkizdere	Şimşirli	<i>Şimşirli Village-Orta Neighborhood Mosque</i>	40.80776, 40.48528	503
Rize	İkizdere	Yağcılar	<i>Yağcılar Village Konak Mosque</i>	40.43540, 40.35470	1070
Rize	İkizdere	Merkez	<i>Kurusaha Mosque</i>	40.77694, 40.56122	572
Rize	Çamlıhemşin	Şenköy	<i>Şenköy Mosque</i>	40.54570, 40.96105	954

Table 1: Locations of 2023 detections

### Conclusion

In 2022, as a result of the historical and archaeological studies carried out in Rize Province since that year, several centers were identified in İkizdere, including Buzluhan Castle, Başköy Konak Settlement, Erikli Settlement, Şirinler Castle, Sivrikaya-Torlakal Settlement, Hekimdere Rock Panels, Cimil Bridge, Diktaş Bridge, Dereköy Bridge, Kumbasarlar Mansion, Çiçekli Village Central Mosque, Başköy (Cimil) Cemetery, and Kırtlar tepesi Martyrdom. By 2023, the studies in İkizdere District were largely completed. These studies examined the Çikares Settlement, Tekneler Settlement, Yumurtadağ Obsidian Center, Güneyce Bridge, Yağcılar Historical Houses, Güneyce Hacı Sheikh Mosque, Şimşirli Village-Middle Neighborhood Mosque, Yağcılar Village Konak Mosque, and Kurusaha Mosque. In the second phase of the study, the Çamlıhemşin District was investigated, including Kale-i Bala, Kale-i Zir, Andulli Bridge, Şebek Bridge, Goboş Bridge, Çılanç Bridge, Çinçiva Bridge, Trovit Plateau Stone Road, Başyayla Depictions, Numanoğlu Mansion and

Depictions, Çolağan Locality Depictions, Karmik Plateau Depictions, Trovit Plateau Depictions, Kozizoğlu Mansion and Depictions, Mollanç Behlül Mansion and Depictions, Kurdoğlu Mansion and Depictions, Meydan Village Depictions, and Şenköy Mosque.

Efforts have been made to preserve the records of the historical and archaeological centers identified through surface surveys for future generations. We believe that these publications, which share the general results of our studies for the first time, serve as a means to create a cultural inventory for İkizdere, Hemşin, and Çamlıhemşin. In this way, numerous building groups, such as castles, towers, plateau settlements, mosques, churches, bridges, houses, inns, fountains, baths, madrasahs, tombs, and mills from the earliest periods to the Republican era, have been or will be examined using various technological methods. This study, conducted with the permission of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and covering the İkizdere, Çamlıhemşin, and Hemşin districts of Rize Province, has facilitated another multidisciplinary project with TÜBİTAK in the past year. Thus, our belief that the results of this project will significantly contribute to the history of the region has grown even stronger.

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