



Keçi Castle

The date of construction and the builder of this castle, which is located 20 km east of Gümüşhane city center and right of the Gümüşhane-Bayburt highway, are not known. It is thought that the castle was most probably an important military base in the region, securing the roads of Gümüşhane, Bayburt and Kelkit.



The castle, which stands 800 meters high on a flat rock mass, was built on a large rock block with a 1560-meter altitude above sea level. The castle has two separate entrances at the western and eastern sections. Next to the western entrance, which is estimated to be the main entrance, there is a 15-meter shelter made of natural rock.

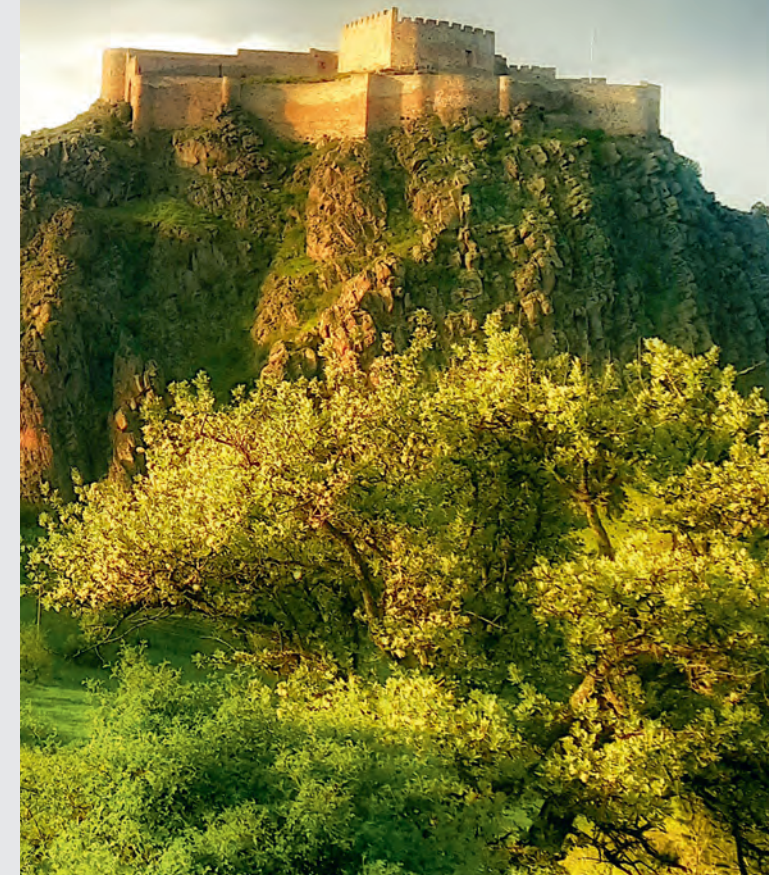
There are water cisterns and some places considered to be warehouses at the northern and southern sections of the castle. To the west, there is a two-floor bastion considered to have been built as a prison, with a window opening to the east on the upper floor. There are also several ways descending from the castle to the valley, hidden inside the rocks.



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CASTLES OF GÜMÜŞHANE

Silent Witnesses of History



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Castles of Gümüşhane

From past to present, the castles of Gümüşhane, Black Sea's ambassadors of civilization and legends, whisper the victory cries of history into the wind blowing through their bastions, carrying the mystery of past to the future.

Castle of Canca

In the silver city, in the city of silvers; history, tales, stories and living were always established on silver; wars, castles, mills and mints were always built for silver.

The legends of the city that intertwined with the history somehow summarize this. In the story of the castle; Silver was the most valuable thing to his father although she was not silver, the most valuable mineral of the city.

According to the well-known legend in the region, the commander of the Castle of Canca lived in a silver palace on the Silver Mountain. This commander had a single daughter who was outstandingly beautiful. Her smile would blossom like roses, her tears were silver; she was called "Silver Girl". The Silver Girl would wear silver pattens, take her silver pitcher, descend from the Silver Mountain, fill his silver pitcher with water with her silver bowl and come back every day. She fell in love with a very young shepherd during these visits, yet his father thought of marrying her to one her commanders. Rightfully, how would a great commander bless the marriage of his daughter with a shepherd? What would the others say? He did not allow it. Mad with love, the girl hit the mountains. Whatever his father would say, whatever he did, he was not able to make her come around, say "yes". After some thinking on what to do, he had a silver palace built for his daughter and imprisoned his beautiful girl in this palace, bearing his cross. They say that Musalla Brook today is made of the tears of this Silver Girl, giving the city its name, Gümüşhane (Silver House).

Kov Castle

Hosting many important civilizations throughout the history, Gümüşhane is located on a strategically important geographical intersection. The historical Silk Road that connects Eastern Anatolia with the Black Sea goes through Gümüşhane. The fact that the city had been an important intersection point for centuries resulted with the construction of castles at the governing points of the city with security purposes.

One should follow 7 km of stabilized road from the junction of Esenyurt Village on the 21st km of Gümüşhane-Erzincan Highway to reach Kov Castle, which is one of the aforementioned castles. Rumored to have been built by Alexios III on 1361 in order to resist the attacks from Bayburt region, Kov Castle is established on a parent rock with 130 m height. Its highest point is 1760 meters. The east-west extension of the northern profile of the castle is around 70 meters. The castle has a rectangular plan and its walls are reinforced with round and triangle bastions.

According to the assessment of historians, Kov Castle is the most magnificent castle of Eastern Black Sea Region that still stands.

