

We can both rejoice, let's look at the sky,
Take my eyes that I spend constantly
From this wayward lights and sugar canes
From the baby teeth, the suns, the wild grasses
Hold my faintheart hands that keep searching
Skip these houses, these as well and these too,
Let's look at the sky

- From the poem named "The Stop to See the Sky" by Turgut Uyar

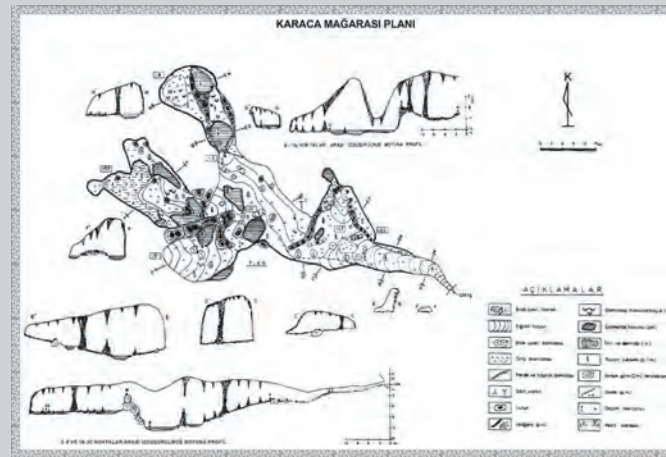


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It is a less known story about Karaca. A love story... Two young people who were madly in love with each other but could not get together... The reason is not a new one. One of them is Muslim and the other is Christian... The families of the young people thought that this fire would go off. The heart wants what the heart wants! They fell over hells in love. Two burning hearts became a fireplace. And love, the master of all emotions, did whatever it was suitable for its might and nobility. It helped the Greek beauty and the shepherd in this very cave that you meet. In this cave that only they knew, they kept the cave hidden and the cave hid their love... They promised to each other that they would reveal the cave when the families showed mercy. They waited patiently but that day never came. So two young people sacrificed each other for all the lovers that could not get together.



It is said that the only soul to witness this occasion is the shepherd dog well-loved by its master. As he would become an example of loyalty and according to the legend, he would not return to the cave to prevent anyone from visiting the young lovers.

It is rumored that the cave was named 'Karaca' (Blackish) in regard to this legendary blind love (in Turkish, the concept of blind love is defined as 'black love', hence the name). It is also said that the drops of water caused those two lovers sitting back to back in the game to be covered with limestone and two lovers remained like this forever. And they also say that those who cannot be together with their loved ones should visit Karaca one day. As the prayers of two young people await them there.



KARACA CAVE

The Stop to See the Sky





Karaca Cave; The Stop to See the Sky

Karaca Cave, named after the district of the village in which it was located, is an amazing natural wonder that the nature formed after millions of years of work with patience and same care on every spot. Located at the immediate southwest of Karaca District within the boundaries of Cebeli Village bound to Torul County of Gümüşhane, Karaca Cave is 17 km away from the city center and has an altitude of 1550 meters above the sea level.

There are facilities where the visitors can fulfill their catering, resting and souvenir needs at the location of the cave, which can be accessed by following a 4-km road cleaving to the north from the 12th km of Gümüşhane-Trabzon highway.

Enchanting its visitors from the first interaction, the unique shapes created by the harmony of intertwining lights and shadows take you from the real world to a world of dreams. This cave, in which stones virtually become birds, sculptures and works of marbling art, materializes and turns into another world in your imagination. One remembers that s/he is merely a humble part of the nature in Karaca.

Standing out with carstic formation within dolomitic limestones, Karaca or Carstic Cave made a scientific name for itself for the first time with the works of Geological Engineer Şükrü Eroz in 1990 in Karaca District and offered to tourism in 1996 despite the fact that it was previously known by the regional folk and different legends were told about its discovery.

Stalactites, stalagmites, columns, dripstone pools, curtain dripstones, cave needles, cave roses, cave flowers, patterned walls, flag shapes, arrowhead plants, travertine steps and travertine pools continue to farm in this exceptional place in which every drop is an artist who adds another layer of art. The existence of travertines in many colors from white to dark blue indicates the high density of the melted mineral materials such as iron and magnesium inside the water that forms the travertines. The waters dripping from the ceilings and walls of Karaca Cave, which is a dry cave, formed small ponds on the cave surface. The dept of these ponds, especially in the last sections of the cave, can take up to 1 meter. A one cm stalactite and stalagmite forms in 12 years in the cave that continues to form still. Estimated to be around 15 million years old, the cave has an uncommon type in the world in terms of diversity of colors and patterns.

The entrance of the cave has the height of a human being, while it expands as a cone as one progresses inside. It spans within 150 meters from the entrance point to the furthest point and 18 meters of ceiling height, with a total interior area of 1500 square meters.

Another feature of the cave, along with its visual beauty, is that it bears a relaxing cure for asthma patients. Allowing much easier breathing for patients with an average temperature of 12-17 °C, absolute humidity rate of 70% and high-oxygen environment purified from pollens and dust, this cave is a remedy for non-chronic asthma patients. The cave even provides a possibility to breath healthily and strength for visitors without any illnesses with its clean and non-pollen weather. Cooler than outside in the summer and warmer in the winter, this cave is considered as a small microclimate area with these features.

If Evliya Çelebi had seen this cave, he would have a special place reserved for it and depict it in detail. From this perspective, you are luckier. Because now, Karaca Cave is well-known and awaits you to share its beauties. See Karaca Cave when you come to Gümüşhane and definitely meet this unique work of art that has been created in 15 million years.

