

AN EVALUATION OF ECOTOURISM POTENTIALS OF RUMKALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REGION

ABSTRACT

In this study, the Rumkale Archaeological Region and its vicinity located in Gaziantep City, Turkey, were examined in terms of potential value for ecotourism activities. The region has high historical reputation and natural beauty which **available** magnificent structures for visitors. In examining the ecotourism potential of Rumkale Archaeological Region, a standard questionnaire form was designed and administered to respondents who came on visit to this region. The study revealed that majority of respondents (70%) have heard of Rumkale's reputation from friends. It also came to light that visitors mostly tripped to Rumkale Archaeological Region in order to access the natural beauty and archaeological features. With regard to activity of interest undertaken by visitors to the area, their preferences **centredcentered** on doing nature walks, trekking and seeing archaeological residues including historic structures. It also came to the fore that lack of accommodation and difficulties with transportation to the region have negatively affected development of ecotourism activities in this area. Rumkale and its vicinity was scored by visitors according to its suitability for ecotourism activities and in this regard it was revealed that 85% of the respondents ranked this region as suitable for nature walks (trekking), followed by field photography (73%) and trips to historical and archaeological sites (70%) in that order of importance. After the detailed examination of Rumkale Region and analyzing information from visitors, it is therefore reasonably to conclude and suggest that the Rumkale Archaeological Region and its environs have high potentials for ecotourism and if careful planning is done, these potentials can be tapped for socio-economic development of the area.

Keywords: Rumkale archeological region, ecotourism, hiking, nature, Birecik dam

1. INTRODUCTION

In these days, the concept of ecotourism have become ~~to~~ important issue considering the natural environment and better understanding of the natural quality worldwide. However, it is usually thinking to visiting relatively undisturbed natural areas, intended as a low-impact and alternative to conventional tourism activities.

The term of ecotourism derived from the Greek words *oikos* (house) and *logos* [1,2,2]. However, in the modern sense, the concept of ecotourism was introduced for the first time by ~~the researcher named Lascurain~~ in the 1980s. The ecotourism should be defined as '*ecotourism typically involves travel to destinations where undisturbed natural areas with specific scientific objectives and made to enjoy travel with sightseeing, wildlife and natural vegetation*' [3]. As understanding from definition, ecotourism is intended to offer tourists insight into the impact of human beings on the environment, and to a greater appreciation of our natural habitats.

In recent years, ecotourism activities have begun to increasing importance on the city and region plans worldwide. Since the 1980s, ecotourism has been considered an important endeavor by environmentalists. These increasing interest on nature and cultural resources resulting the first ecotourism conference and exhibition fair (World Ecotour'97) ~~where~~ organized in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil [4]. Since this first international

organization, a number of erous-national and international organizations-activities regarding ecotourism have been established-organized in worldwide.

In general, ecotourism deals with living parts of the natural environments. It typically focuses on socially responsible travel and environmental sustainability. It has been considered to be a kind of tourism activities that improve the local population's socio-economic conditions, generating income and employment for people. However, it has also regarded as an approach to supports and development opportunities to regions [5]. However, ecotourism is mainly focused on the natural environment, to promote the protection of the field, and host of the visitor and help local community for the development. It has led to use more environmentally friendly methods to use energy efficiently-and prevent the energy waste [6,7]. Tourism companies have usually-organized some travel activities to specially protect regions or forest areas usually called 'ecotourism'. However, the quantity and quality of these activities is not fully understood by responsible-local administrates [2,8].

Rumkale and its vicinity has very rich historical and archaeological value, special architecture heritage and natural beauty. It has become to important place where locating between Şanlıurfa and Gaziantep cities after Birecik dam holding water in that area. However, Rumkale is-has still less known area even very rich historical heritage not only from Turkish period but also Roman and other historical periods.

Moreover,Hence, -due to its historical heritagereputations, these area it has already established protection zone and registered as important archaeological region in Turkey.

Recently, a study conducted by Claudia Mato from Università Ca'Foscari Venezia, Italy. In this research, the Rumkale region examined in context of architectural art and historical heritage. The title of that Ph.D's study as '*Hromkla e Sis: la struttura del controllo religioso e politico delle Cilicia armena*' [9]. Ozmen et al. (2012) proposed that Christ's Johannes come and settle to Rumkale during the Roman period- for the establishment and spread Christianity hereduring the Roman period.- This settlement believed to play an important role in the history of Christianity. However, it was also believed that a Bible hide in one of cave a cave in Rumkale region by Johannes but later a copy of that bible-later- taken to Beirut [10].

Rumkale have already established first and third degree registered Archeological region where -in-located in Gaziantep city, Turkey. However, t- there are a number of Archeological residues and historical structure -locatedstill located in that region. Moreover, However, Rumkale has very rich biodiversity and natural beauty along with archeological structures. The Euphrates river basin have also-created various reflections and support aesthetic appearance of region. Accordingly, the Rumkale and vicinity have been examined in detail for determining current status, scientific analysis and suitability on ecotourism activities. Hence, Rumkale's demands, priorities and trends were identified in a detailed manner. This investigation would be appropriate and considered for base information for ecotourism activities in that area. This aspect of the work, the region's ecotourism potential have been determined.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Material

The material of this study was Rumkale archaeological region where located within the borders of Nizip town and Gaziantep city, Turkey. There are two main gate (east and west) available to enter these region. However, east entrance is based on Euphrates river and west entrance is based on Merzimen creek. The Birecik dDam which is very-large-size and-one of the largest dam in Turkey, was built in period of 1993 to 2000. Since, Birecik dam have started to keep water (since 2000), many recreational areas and archeological structures haveyes been under the dam lake today. Hence, the Rumkale's environments-three sides has become surrounded by waters. At present, the Rumkale archeological region looks like a peninsula that located on a hill and surrounded to cliffs and waters. Figure 1 shows general view of the Rumkale and vicinity at the present time.

2.1.1. Historical and Cultural Structure of the Research Field

A number of historic buildings have located in Rumkale archaeological region. Figure 2 shows some of important historic residues. Some of the important structures have explained in below.

Castle: Castle ~~in is~~ about 120 m x 230 m in size, has been seriously damaged. East, north and west walls are surrounded by high cliffs (Figure 2A and B). The steep slopes rising from the banks of the Euphrates river and Merzimen stream and created an outer wall. In ~~n~~North side, upper of Euphrates ~~r~~River, there is a ditch with the size of 90mx30mx20 m (Figure 2E) [11, 12].

Halfeti Village Church: The church has two parts with the rectangular structure, was built with stones and size of 5.50 m x 17.0m m in east-west direction. Both parts have cover a flat roof (Figure 2C) [11, 15]

Saint Nerses Church: This church was built by Saint Nerses in 1173 ~~AD~~. When Richard Peacock visited that area in 18th century, he reported that a small but beautiful church was built with "Gothic" style. However, this church was used as a mosque in the Islamic period (Figure 2F) [15].

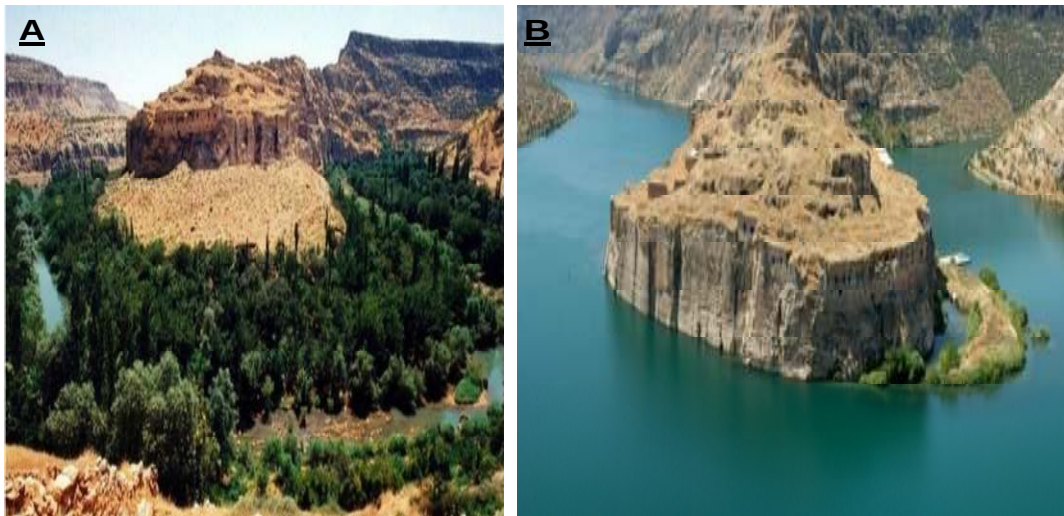
Barşavma Monastery: This monastery has considered as Yakubu ~~S~~saint Barşavma ~~M~~monastery. It was believed that ~~Yakubiye's people groups~~ lived in that area and built this Monastery in 13th century (Figure 2G) [11].

Cistern-wells: It is located in the area that close to the castle entrance. The cistern is surrounded by metal railings for security purposes (Figure 2H). Cisterns can be reached ~~from up to the~~ bottom with the stone stairways [13].

However, some civil architectural structures have also examined in region. ~~However~~Moreover, it was realized that many of the resident's houses was built in 19th century, especially next to castle's east side. It appears to be formed by the sloping terrain and half of the floors lower to basements [13].

2.2. Method

A number of stages have followed to examine Rumkale archeological region. These stages ~~as are~~; literature review, data collection, face ~~_~~to face survey, and detailed region observations. However, research subjects were created by scanning domestic and foreign sources related to Rumkale and its vicinity. A conceptual framework of the research and analysis has also been done related to the research subject. A standard questionnaires prepared and applied to visitors by face-to face approaches. Hence, in the date of 04.12.2015, a private sport club members of 33 people participated to the walk Durakli-Rumkale hiking event. This group was chosen to be our face to face questionnaire survey target group. A total of 15 questions were ~~directed-asked~~ to visitors, with a standard questionnaire procedure. At the end of the questionnaire, respondents had speak freely and ~~ga~~ve suggestions about the subject area. Each questionnaire was planned to complete in about 10-15 minutes. These survey and face ~~_~~to face questionnaire performed in order to determine the ecotourism potential in the Rumkale ~~region~~. The SPSS 13.0 (Statistical Program for the Social Science) ~~statistical~~ program was used to analyze collected data. In addition, a detailed observations was made and taken photos during the visit of research area. Figure 3 shows slope and elevation map of Rumkale archeological region.



150

151

152

Figure 1. The general view of Rumkale archeological region (A: Before Birecik dam built; B: After the Birecik dam built [13].



153

154

155

156

157

158

Figure 2. Some important archeological structures in Rumkale region (**A:** Rumkale castle, **B:** East-north side of castle, **C and D** Some archeological residues at esat side, **E:** Ditch, **F:** St. Nerses Church, **G:** Barşavma Monastery, **H:** Cistern; **I:** D01 gate, **J:** D02 sign, **K:** B01 gate, **L:** B03 gate) [13,14].

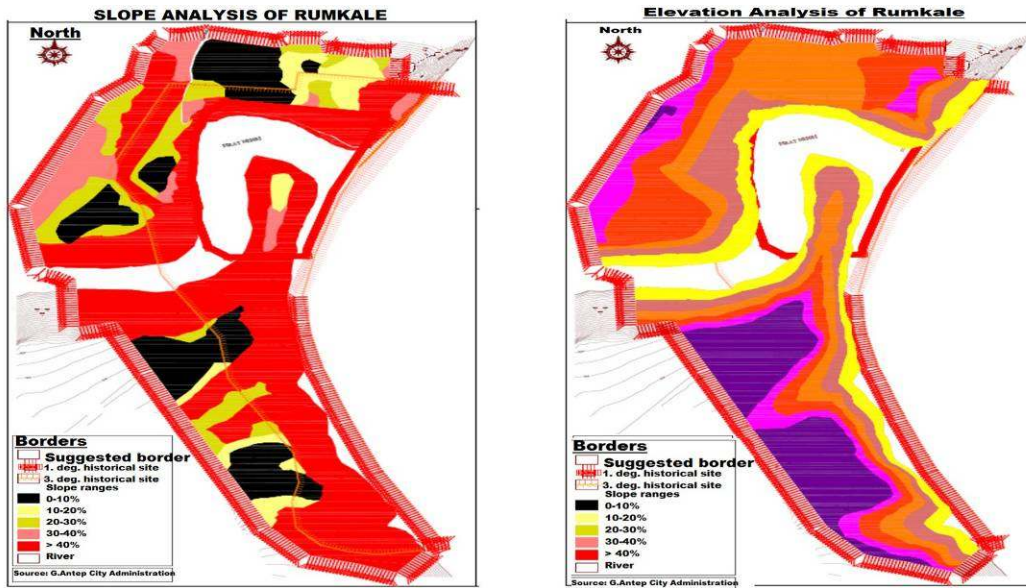


Figure 3. Slope and elevation properties of Rumkale archeological region [14].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained in the study are given below under two subtitle (part). In first part of results contains survey responds. The second parts contains the detailed description and evaluation of research area in view of ecotourism potential.

3.1. Survey results

The general personnel and demographic information of the participants' is shown in Figure 4. A total of 33 individuals, 14 (42%) female and 19 (58%) male total of 33 respondents participated in the survey. It is noteworthy that majority of participants were between 20 to 29 years old (52%). However, when examining the marital status: majority of participants (79%) were single and lesser extent married (21%). Moreover, 31% of participants had a self-employed job but only 3% (1 person) found to be retired. It was realized that the majority of respondents were found to be university graduates (46%). Moreover, there were no any participants who graduated from elementary or secondary schools. These are very useful information and needs to evaluate Rumkale and its vicinity at least high school graduate responders. It was found that the majority of respondents (70%) expressed they had visited to Rumkale at least once in before whereas 30% of responders have visited to Rumkale at first time. Furthermore, 26% of responders stated to visit Rumkale region at least four times.

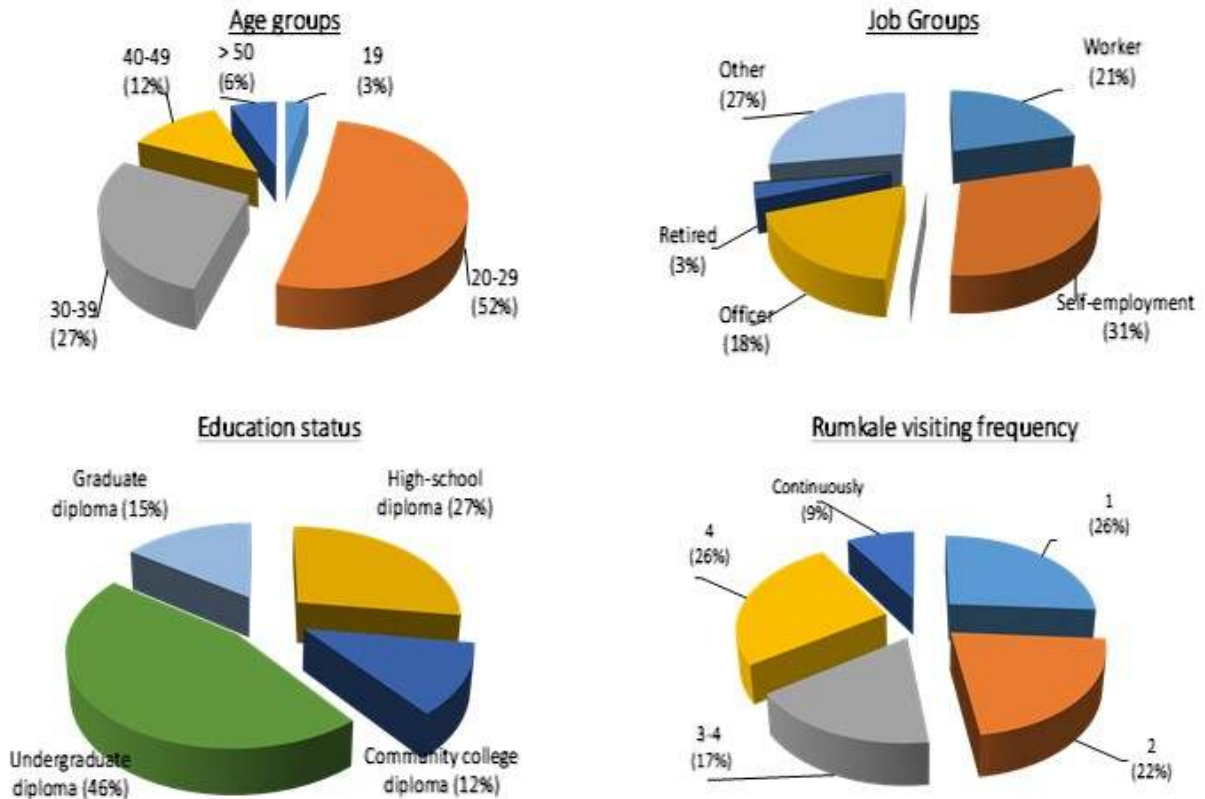


Figure 4. General demographic characteristics of responders

After the determining general personnel information of the responders, further questions were arisen regarding visit specification of Rumkale region. For that reason, a number of question applied to participants. The answer of those questions are summarized in Table 1. More than half of responders stated that they heard Rumkale at first time from their friends followed by from books, brochures or magazines. Only one participants stated that he heard it from the conference or symposium.

However, majority of participants (25 people) were preferred to see natural beauty in Rumkale region. They reported that the see of the archaeological and historical structure was the second most preferred feature for these area.

It was also found that all the participants (100%, 33 people) were choice hiking activities followed by historic site visit (20 people) in that region. However, it is important to note that none of the participants were chosen to see wildlife habitat monitoring in Rumkale that has-is very important ecotourism activity worldwide.

The majority of participants (30 people) respond to the question of 'which damaging behaviors of Rumkale and its surroundings' asked to responders. The majority of participants (30 people) respond that as the most damaging behaviors of visitors come from irregular disposal of waste followed by the destruction of vegetation (8 people). In addition, the use of alcohols during visit/visiting time, absence of security and lack of reinforcement were also important damaging behavior to the Rumkale and its vicinity.

For collect further information regarding on negative factors hindering development of tourism activity in Rumkale, additional question directed to participants. The responders expressed as the most negative factor was absence of eating/-drinking and accommodation facilities (19 people) followed by transportation difficulties (16 people). However, absence of eating/drinking services, inadequate guidance, lack of security and

infrastructure facilities are also among the negative factors for Rumkale' tourism potential (Table 1).

Table 1. Opinion of participants on Rumkale historic site

Directed questions to participants	Respond of participants	Count
<i>Where and how yours first heard Rumkale</i>	Friends	19
	Books, brochure or magazines	9
	Media (TV, radio)	7
	Family members	3
	Tourism information centers	1
	Fair, symposium, conferences	1
	Other	10
<i>The reason for choosing to come to Rumkale</i>	To see natural beauty	25
	To see archeological and historic buildings	18
	Escape from crowded city centers	6
	To see reputation	3
	To see conventional architecture style and structure	3
	To see specific fauna and flora	2
<i>Which activity you are mostly choice in Rumkale</i>	Hiking	33
	Historic site and structures inspection	20
	Photography	17
	Boat tour	15
	Plant inspection	6
	Eating	6
<i>Damaging behaviors of Rumkale and its surroundings</i>	Irregular disposal of garbage	30
	Destruction of vegetation	8
	Water contamination	6
	Noise pollution	5
	Interfere to wildlife	1
	Excessive and improper fishing	1
	The cultural conflict	1
	Other	6
<i>Negative factors hindering the development of tourism activity in Rumkale</i>	The lack of accommodation	19
	The difficulty of transportation	16
	The lack of restaurant, cafe, and services	13
	Inadequate guidance	10
	Lack of security	9
	The lack of infrastructure facilities	7
	Perspective of local people to tourists	6
	Failure of weekend visitors carrying capacity	4

After determining participant's opinion on Rumkale archeological region further questions were arisen to collect information on the concept of ecotourism practices. The participants respond to those questions are summarized in Table 2.

The majority of respondents defined the concept of ecotourism as "it is an environmentally friendly tourism" (22 people) followed by "it describe the nature and teaches

220 | *practical tourism*" (19 people), *"Tours and activities that are related to tourism and nature"*,
 221 | (16 people), in order of importance.

222 | However, participants were requested to rank in order of priority of ecotourism
 223 | activities that contribute to the Rumkale region. The majority of respondents (58%) stated
 224 | that's ecotourism may important '*economic*' contribution to the region.

225 |
 226 | **Table 2.** Tendency and opinion on the concept of ecotourism of participants for Rumkale
 227 | region

Directed questions to participnats	Respond of participants	Count
<i>Definition of ecotourism</i>	Environmentally friendly	22
	Describing the nature and teaches practical tourism	19
	Tours and activities that are related to tourism and nature	16
	Tourism is providing escape and relief from stress	13
	It is tourism that allows you to get to know different cultures and traditions	9
	Protect the environment and tourism which contribute to the welfare of local people	8
	It is a tourism of sports activities can be performed	7
	It is a tourist practices that offers simple and straightforward possibilities	4
	Offering a fashionable and expensive travel tourism	1
	Other	1
<i>The effects of ecotourism events on area</i>	Economical	19
	Preservation and development of cultural values	6
	Develop social relationships	4
	Promoting and increasing the prestige of the region	2
	Protection and development of flora and fauna	1
	The development of tourism sub-sectors	1
<i>The kind of ecotourism activity</i>	Hiking	22
	Mountain climbing	19
	Photography	16
	Historical and archeological trips	16
	Scuba diving	15
	Plant observation	15
	Caving	14
	Bicycle trip	11
	Camping	10
	Wildlife observation	10
	Bird observation	9
	Paragliding	9
	Canoe - rafting	7
	Horse trip	7
	Winter tourism	7
	Adventure and sports tourism	7
	Agriculture and farm tourism	6
	Balloon tourism	5
	Hunting	5
	Sportive fishing	4
	Orienteering (direction finding)	4

The question of 'which kind of activity could be considered for the evaluation of ecotourism', asked participants in order to determine ecotourism preferences by participants. It was realized that most of the participants were preferred 'hiking' followed by 'mountain climbing' (19 people), 'historical and archeological trips' (16 people) and 'photography' (16 people), in order of importance.

For determining ecotourism potential of Rumkale region and find out the appropriate ecotourism activities, some questions was directed to participants. It was requested to rank 'suitable ecotourism activities' in three categories (suitable, partially suitable and non-suitable).

The assessment of Rumkale archeological region for ecotourism activities is given in Table 3. It has realized that the majority of responders (28 person, 85%), rate as most suitable activities are; trekking and hiking followed by photography (73%), historical and archeological trips (70%), in that order, respectively. However, participants had negative expressing (not suitable) activity of thermal for thermal tourism, bungee jumping, paragliding and jeep safari in that region (Table 3).

Finally, the question of 'whether or not participants want to participate if ecotourism activities held in Rumkale' was directed to participants. It is noteworthy that the most of participants express as not participate (85%), while less extent (15%) wish to participate. For determining 'why majority of participants do not want to participate ecotourism activities in Rumkale if held in future', they expressed as; transportation difficulties to area and absence of security and necessary basic facilities in Rumkale and its surroundings.

Table 3. Assessment of Rumkale region for ecotourism activities

Ecotourism activity	Suitable	Partially suitable	Non suitable
Trekking/ hiking	28	5	---
Photography	24	5	4
Historical and archeological trips	23	7	3
Plant observation	20	11	2
Camping / caravan tourism	20	11	2
Adventure and sports tourism	18	13	2
Mountain / Rock Climbing	17	13	3
Wildlife observation	17	14	2
Cave tourism	15	15	3
Sportive fishing	15	15	3
Bicycle trip	14	12	7
Yacht tours	13	13	7
Orienteering (direction finding)	13	16	4
Bird watching	12	17	4
Horseback trekking	12	18	3
Surfing / sailing	11	9	13
Events	11	13	9
Faith tourism	11	12	10
Scuba diving	9	14	10
Jeep safari	8	10	15
Paragliding	8	6	19
Hunting	5	17	11
Bungee jumping	5	2	26

Winter tourism	2	21	10
Thermal tourism	2	4	27

3.2. ~~Some suggestions and~~The potential of ecotourism activities for Rumkale and its surroundings

After collecting detailed information's (survey data and region examination), on Rumkale Archeological site, the following ecotourism activities ~~were~~have thought to be potentially suitable and should be consider in future plans. Figure 5. Shows ecotourism map of Rumkale and its vicinity.

Hiking (trekking): Rumkale and its surroundings have very interesting natural beauty. The Duraklı village-Çulluk stream-Merzimen ~~stream~~river-Rumkale path looks like very suitable trails for *hiking/trekking* activities. This path is about 14 km long and take up to approximately 8 hours to complete, have along at the north-south direction by the direction of the mountains elongation. When the trail is complete, it can be switched from the other side of Rumkale to Halfeti by boat and provided to access transport vehicles. The following trails could be considered for daily hiking around Rumkale regions;

- Halfeti – Değirmen creek canyon trial,
- Ehneş – Derbent – Kamışlı trial,
- Kuzuyatağı – Rumkale trial.

It is noteworthy to note that the best time for trekking activities in this region are the spring and fall seasons. Because this area has very hot climate during summer and at this climate, *hiking/trekking* is not suitable to conducts due to ~~health~~health ~~reason~~reason of ~~participnats~~participants.

Bird watching: A number of bird species have been identified in Rumkale region. Some of the bird species ~~that has reported in this regions;as follows;~~ blackbirds, partridges, arab nightingale, red falcon, humming bird, sand grouse, striped ~~e~~Eurasian scoops owl, pygmy cormorants, night heron, gallinule. However, along with Euphrates river basin and Birecik ~~d~~Dam area are found to be the most suitable place to observe those bird species. Moreover, the striped ~~e~~Eurasian scoops owl is very important endangered owl species and under protection all over Europe. In addition, these region looks like very suitable places for owl species and offers very high potential for watching to them.

Horseback trekking: The mountainous parts of Rumkale and its vicinity have realized to be very suitable for *horse trekking*. The horseback trekking can be performed on a daily basis with various routing. If visitors like to ride horse, they should be rented that horses near villages with accomplished by making accommodations.

Botanical tourism: Rumkale region looks like low forest and plant habitats due to its climate specification. However, due its specific location, the Iran-Turan origin plant diversity and endemic plants offer potential to visitors and may be an attractive location for botanical tourism. Moreover, the botanical tourism would be organized according to the blossoming period of plants. Hence, indigenious and special plants should be protected and not allow to collect them.

Faith tourism: Rumkale region has rich church and worship places. Saint Nerses Church and Barşavma Monastery, Rock church are some of the important places in terms of *faith tourism*. However, Jesus' apostles Johannes lived in that area and spread the Christian faith during the Roman period. It was believed that Johannes store a copy of Bible in a cave. ~~Hence, -~~Rumkale, has ~~reputations for~~become an important religious center for the Christian world worldwide. This information good enough to make a ~~famous reputation place for this~~are possible ecotourism activities.

Castle: Due to ongoing restoration works in the castle, it is subject to get permission from the Gaziantep ~~p~~Provincial ~~c~~Culture and ~~t~~Tourism ~~d~~Directorate to close look up those structures. However, when the restoration work is completed, the boats from ~~from~~ Yavuzeli and Halfeti through the castle's east and west piers will be ~~possible to~~ reach. It is clear that when the restoration is complete, this ~~catsle~~castle may service very high historical heritage to visitors.

305 | **Scuba diving:** After the complete of Birecik ~~d~~am in 2000, some of the important
306 | structures (homes, mosques, buildings, etc.) remain under water. It may be interesting to
307 | see that ~~structures~~ under water. Hence, take an inventory study of buildings
308 | submerged under water or to observe these structures has become ~~potantial~~potential for
309 | diving tourism.

310 | **Historical/ archaeological tourism:** The Rumkale region and lower Euphrates
311 | river basin corridor have already established as first and third degree archaeological site
312 | region. The Saint Nerses Church, Barşavma Monastery have established to be first degree
313 | archaeological sites whereas caves and homes have established as third degree
314 | archaeological site. These archeological residues and heritages may create important
315 | potential for ecotourism activities that see all those in original place.

316 | **Water sports tourism:** Halfeti coast looks like very suitable for water sports.
317 | However, the water sport activities should be conducted in summer but when temperature is
318 | not disturbing level to visitors.

319 | **Nature photography:** Euphrates river basin reflects different, rich biodiversity, a
320 | number of historical and archaeological structures. Those reflects high ~~potantial~~potential for
321 | nature photography activities. It was realized that many scenic spot for nature photography
322 | is available in the study area.

323 | **Eco-gastronomy tourism:** Rumkale is located between Gaziantep and Sanliurfa
324 | provinces where one of the richest national delicacies, in Turkey. This makes Rumkale to be
325 | very suitable for the *eco-gastronomic tourism*. Halfeti where located in this vicinity and
326 | member of the ~~slow act city to slow food philosophy township~~ has been identified as the
327 | appropriate fields. The local products could be prepared with organic slow food philosophy
328 | and trade, will provide an economic contribution to the local people as to revive the eco-
329 | gastronomi tourism.
330 |



Source: Barlas İmar Planlama Müş. Ltd. Şti

332 Figure 5. Rumkale and its vicinity ecotourism map [14].

333 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

334 Rumkale and its vicinity has very rich natural resources and protection issue should
335 be balance with the cultural landscape value and met all interest groups in the use of
336 ecotourism. Sustainable ecotourism development in a planned manner will help the local
337 people to earn income next resource conservation value.

338 Rumkale archeological site and its vicinity is located in drinking water basin that
339 subject to environmental conservation plans. However, tourists coming to the region tend to
340 travel the castle with motor boats. But currently these boats have not professionally
341 conducted. This is very important issue for security. Moreover, there is no any standard pier
342 to berth boats. In addition, there is need of modern treatment facilities for visitors such as;
343 eating, drinking, resting and accommodation and other needs. Without these modern
344 facilities, it is significant threat for development and plan of area.

345 This area has serious elevations steps and slope and limited access to historical
346 residues. In particular, a major problem at the point of provision of access. Currently at
347 weekends, approximately 100 vehicles come to Rumkale daily. However, even there are no
348 any modern parking lots and organized parking facilities. In addition there is no any access
349 to shore of river with cars. So the transportation and parking of vehicles is important issue for
350 this area.

351 Many of the structures located on area is waiting idle condition, but some of them
352 have serious damage and suffered from environmental conditions. Some of the structures
353 | have the danger of collapse. In the field, many mysteries involved because of the absence
354 of any excavations. As mention in above, these area have already hosted various
355 civilizations. However, some randomly laid technical infrastructure elements causes a
356 negative scenic view. For visitors, the lack of short-term accommodation and recreational
357 facilities negatively affects the visitors. Some of the amateur services provided and supplied
358 | in an uncontrolled manner, ~~to the present.~~

359 Because of the located in the middle of two different administrative boundaries,
360 each administration's request to take applications procedure their own projects. Hence the
361 absence of long-term and emerge plans are the major problem in the production of
362 sustainable projects. The most important issue when looking at the field of infrastructure
363 problems, due to the Euphrates river located at the edge of the basin, it appears some waste
364 throw to river. In addition, especially during late night, the lack of night lighting is also
365 problems.

366 For the Christian world, this area should be one of the most important religious
367 centers today. But it is an absence of good infrastructure and lacking the service quality.
368 Although, the region has very rich cultural, historical, natural and archaeological potential,
369 the uncompleted conservation plan can assessed for failure to adequately implemented and
370 not help development of area. Further research in the field must be done to create based on
371 | the current activity calendar flora and fauna potential. The activity calendar should ~~ve-be~~
372 include;

- 373 - the period in which the blossoming of plants,
- 374 - bird watching time,
- 375 - appropriate activities for nature walks for suitable months,

376 However, Rumkale sustainable ecotourism and bird watching activities looks like emerging
377 issues and the Euphrates river basin will converse the natural texture of the bird observatory
378 equipment's should be done. Especially during motor boats working time, bird's migration
379 time, loud music should not be allowed in that area.

380 Well planning for archaeological sites are important for the protection necessary to
381 minimize the problems in these areas. Therefore, different disciplines such as; sociologists,
382 archaeologists, architects, landscape architects, urban planners, civil engineers, should be
383 worked together in that plans.

~~Increase the socio-economic well-being in the work area with a holistic approach to planning and will also help to keep permanent preservation of natural and cultural values, and the government will allow local people to effectively take part.~~

5. Acknowledgements

This study was carried out within the SDU BAP Project No: 4010-YL1-14. The author wishes to thank Suleyman Demirel University, Scientific Research Coordination Division (SDU-BAP) for financial support and contribution to this research.

Literature

1. Orhan, T. Evaluation of Ecotourism Potential of Uzundere District and Its Environs, Atatürk University, Graduate School of Applied and Natural Sciences, *Msc. Theses*, (Turkish, Abstract in English) Erzurum, 160p. 2008.
2. Çakır, G. Determination of Rural Tourism Demand Potential in Thrace Region and Activities of Developable Rural Tourism, *Namık Kemal University, Graduate School of Applied and Natural Sciences, Msc. Theses, (Turkish, Abstract in English) Tekirdağ, 166p. 2011.*
3. Kılıç Benzer, A. N. Bolu-Göynük ve Yakın Çevresi Doğal ve Kültürel Kaynaklarının Ekoturizm Açısından Değerlendirilmesi. Ankara University, Üniversitesi, Graduate School of Applied and Natural Sciences, *Doctoral Theses, (Turkish, Abstract in English) Ankara, 280s, 2006.*
4. Altanlar, A. Determination of Ecotourism Opportunities in Akçakoca District, Abant İzzet Baysal University, Graduate School of Applied and Natural Sciences, *Msc. Theses, (Turkish, Abstract in English) Bolu, 167p. 2007.*
5. Arabatzis, G., Grigoroudis, E. Visitors Satisfaction Perceptions and Gap Analysis: The Case of Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli National Park. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 12(3), 163-172. 2010.
6. Leuthold, M. The Potentials of Ecotourism in Austria. Institute for Integrative Tourism and Leisure Research, On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economy and Labor, 12p, Vienna. 2001.
7. Demir, S. *Determining Ecotourism Potantial of Iğneada, Istanbul Technical University, Graduate School of Applied and Natural Sciences, Msc. Theses, (Turkish, Abstract in English) Istanbul, 194p. 2011*
8. Nayir, O. Determination of Demand and Tendencies For Ecotourism in Natural Protect Areas of Isparta Region, Süleyman Demirel University, Graduate School of Applied and Natural Sciences, *Msc. Theses, (Turkish, Abstract in English)Isparta, 118p. 2009.*
9. Matoda, C. Hromkla e Sis: le strutture del controllo religioso e politico della Cilicia armena, seminario-lezione tenuto il 12 Aprile, Venize, 2012.
10. Özmen, M. E., (Ed.) Belgelerle Gaziantep. T.C. Kalkınma Bakanlığı Güneydoğu Anadolu Projesi Bölge Kalkınma İdaresi Başkanlığı, (in Turkish),400s, Istanbul. 2012.
11. Acara, M. Rumkale'deki Eserler. Durukan, A.(Ed.), Birecik Halfeti Suluç Bozova İlçeleri İle Rumkale'deki Taşınmaz Kültür Varlıkları İçinde (334-336). GAP Yayınları, (in Turkish), 472s, Ankara. 1999.
12. Başgelen, N. Dünya Kültür Mirasında Gaziantep. Arkeoloji ve Sanat Yayınları, (in Turkish), 203s, İstanbul. 1999.
13. **Anonymous.** Rumkale (Gaziantep) I. ve III. Derece Arkeolojik Sit Alanı 1/5000 ve 1/1000 Ölçekli Koruma Amaçlı İmar Planı Araştırma ve Değerlendirme (Sentez)

- 436 Raporu. T.C. Gaziantep Valiliđi, Yatırım İzleme ve Koordinasyon Başkanlığı, (in
437 Turkish), 148s, Gaziantep. 2013.
- 438 14. Kasar, Y. Evaluation of Ecotourism Potential of Rumkale Archeological Sites and Its
439 Environments for Landscape Architecture, Süleyman Demirel University, Graduate
440 School of Applied and Natural Sciences, Department of Landscape Architecture,
441 *Msc. Theses*, (Turkish, Abstract in English)Isparta 181 p. 2015.
- 442 15. Özbek, M. Işıđın Yükseldiđi Yer GAP. T.C. Kùltür ve Turizm Bakanlığı Proje
443 Koordinasyon Merkezi,(in Turkish) 504s, Ankara. 2005.
- 444