



Black Sea Coast

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

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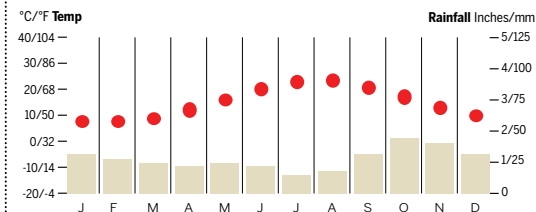
Why Go?

While many visitors flock south to the Mediterranean or west to the Aegean, Turks know the Black Sea (Karadeniz) is equally deserving. Surprisingly lush and subtropical, its ancient Greek coastal cities are backed by terraced tea plantations fading into a stunning mountainous hinterland. After Amasra's seaside-holiday vibe and Trabzon's big-city buzz, you can relax in pint-size fishing villages, or head inland to alpine *yaylalar* (mountain pastures). The spectacular coastline also makes for a scenic route across Turkey to other parts of Anatolia.

This is a historic region, scattered with the legacies of civilisations and empires that ebbed and flowed like Black Sea waves. Castles, churches, monasteries and architecturally important mosques recall the days of the kings of Pontus, the Genoese and the Ottomans. Queen Hippolyte and her tribe of female Amazon warriors supposedly lived here, and the seafront chapel at Yason Burnu (Cape Jason) marks the spot where Jason and his Argonauts passed by.

When to Go

Trabzon



May Springtime revelry kicks off at the traditional International Giresun Aksu Festival.

Jun–Aug Black Sea beaches beckon; Trabzon buzzes with summer festivals.

Apr & Sep Time to soak up the lazy-day off-season charms of Amasra and Sinop.

Black Sea Coast Highlights

- 1 Sumela Monastery** (p514) Climbing through pine forests to this cliff-hugging wonder.
- 2 Sinop** (p501) Enjoying the cosmopolitan hum of this historic port.
- 3 D010 coastal highway** (p500) Counting the vertigo-inducing curves on the scenic road from Amasra to Sinop.
- 4 Amasra** (p501) Enjoying the cosmopolitan hum of this historic port.
- 5 Trabzon** (p508) Cruising big-city streets then soaking off the dust at a hammam.
- 6 Amasra** (p499) Swimming beneath this beautiful town's Byzantine walls.
- 7 Ünye** (p508) Cruising big-city streets then soaking off the dust at a hammam.
- 8 Trabzon** (p508) Cruising big-city streets then soaking off the dust at a hammam.

- 9 Bakırcılar Sokak** (p506) Stepping back in time along
- 6 Uzungöl** (p515) Discovering mountain plateaus and alpine hamlets on a day trip to villages such as this one.
- 8 Ordu** (p507) Hopping on the cable car and enjoying a picnic high above town.

- 9 Ünye's rat-a-tat-tat Street** of Coppersmiths.

