

Discovering Erzurum: A City of Heritage and Resilience

Welcome to Erzurum! As you join us for the ICCECRICE 2026 international conference this July, we invite you to look beyond the academic sessions and explore the soul of our city. Situated on a high plateau and serving as a bridge between civilizations for millennia, Erzurum is a living museum where history, craftsmanship, and culture converge.

Architectural Treasures

Erzurum is renowned for its Seljuk and Ottoman architecture. As you navigate the city, you will be walking in the footsteps of traders and scholars who traversed these lands centuries ago.

- [Erzurum Museum](#): For those seeking a deeper dive into our past, the Erzurum Museum houses an extensive collection of archaeological artifacts and ethnographic items, providing a comprehensive timeline of the civilizations that have inhabited this plateau. For a virtual tour please visit <https://sanalmuze.gov.tr/muzeler/ERZURUM-MUZESI/>
- [Erzurum Castle & The Clock Tower](#): Standing at the highest point of the city, the citadel dates back to the 5th century and offers a panoramic view of the city.
- [Ulu Cami \(The Great Mosque\)](#): This 12th-century structure is one of the oldest in the city, reflecting the architectural mastery of the Seljuks.
- [Çifte Minareli Medrese \(Double Minaret Madrasa\)](#): The iconic symbol of Erzurum, this 13th-century masterpiece is famous for its intricate stone carvings.
- [Üç Kümbetler \(The Three Tombs\)](#): These monumental 12th-century conical tombs are masterpieces of Seljuk funerary architecture.
- [Yakutiye Medresesi](#): Built in the 14th century, this structure stands out for its magnificent portal and decorative minaret, now housing the Museum of Turkish-Islamic Arts.

Artisanal Heritage: Oltu Stone & Ehram

Erzurum is the world capital of [Oltu Stone](#), a unique jet-black, semi-precious mineral. For an authentic shopping experience, we highly recommend visiting the historic Rüstem Paşa Kervansarayı (known as Taşhan). Built by the Grand Vizier of Suleiman the Magnificent, this beautiful 16th-century building now houses numerous artisan shops where you can purchase exquisite, handcrafted Oltu stone jewellery and prayer beads directly from local masters.

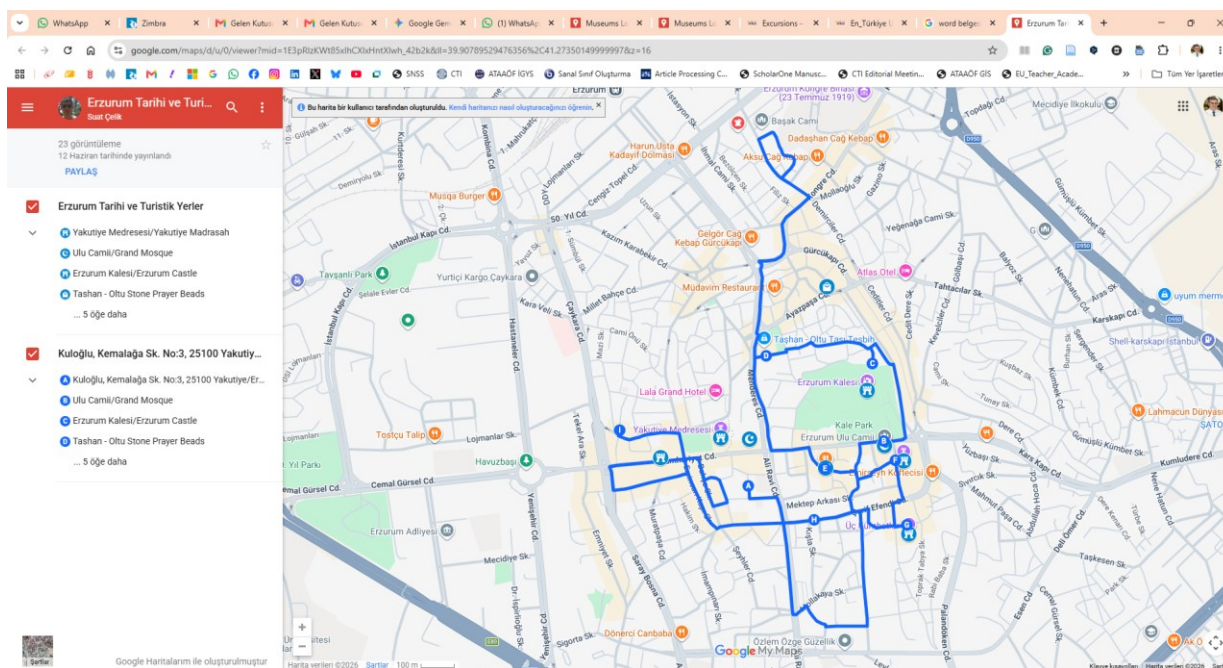
Additionally, no exploration of our textile heritage is complete without the [ehram](#). This traditional, hand-woven fabric is made from high-quality local sheep's wool. Today, artisans transform this fabric into modern accessories like scarves and shawls, ensuring this vital piece of Erzurum's intangible cultural heritage continues to thrive. You can learn the product process of *ehram* and the products made from ehram from raw wool into finished products by visiting the Erzurum Olgunlaşma Enstitüsü, and you can purchase products.

The Spirit of Erzurum: Resilience and Hospitality

Erzurum is known as the city of "*Dadaş*"—a term embodying the spirit of bravery, integrity, and profound hospitality. This culture is reflected in our traditional [Bar folk dances](#) and the warm, welcoming atmosphere of our historic markets.

Visitor Tips for Congress Attendees

- **Explore on Foot:** A walk from the Congress area through the historic centre will reveal these monuments clustered together, making them easy to visit between sessions. You may find this map useful. *Please click the image to access interactive map.*



- **Summer Climate:** Erzurum enjoys cool, refreshing summers. Even in July, bring a light jacket for breezy evenings as you walk through these historic sites.

Erzurum has hosted travellers, merchants, and scholars for centuries. We are honoured to host you, and we hope you find as much inspiration in our streets as you do in the conference hall.