



Journal of Recreation and Tourism Research

Journal home page: www.jrtr.org

ISSN:2148-5321

MILITIA LIEUTENANT COLONEL OSMAN AGHA WHO IS ONE OF TURKISH INDEPENDENCE WAR HEROES: A PROPOSAL FOR CULTURAL TOURISM IN GİRESUN

Oktay KARAMAN^a

Yasin KELEŞ^b

Şerif Ahmet DEMİRDAĞ^c

^aGiresun Üniversitesi, Fen Edebiyat Fakültesi, Konya, Türkiye (okaraman28@hotmail.com)

^bOndokuz Mayıs Üniversitesi, Turizm Fakültesi, Samsun, Türkiye (yasin.keles@omu.tr)

^cGiresun Üniversitesi, Bulanacak Kadir Karabaş UBYO, Gaziantep, Türkiye (serif.demirdag@giresun.edu.tr)

EXTENSIVE SUMMARY

The importance of tourism is increasing day by day for the country's economies. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)'s data shows that one billion two hundred and fifty million people traveled around the world and over \$1 billion 200 million was spent on such travels in 2016. Especially when compared to the past fifty years in the world, these figures show that tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors/industries. In other words, the economic growth and revenue thoughts are leading the countries to work towards increasing their profits by the tourism industry. With this thought in Turkey, Turkey Tourism Strategy was developed in 2007 and targets for many aspects of tourism were determined. At the same time, in the Turkey's Ninth Development Plan, product diversity in tourism was emphasized and it was recommended to adopt the "new product space approach". "The new product space approach" is not limited to a single product of tourism activities to be realized in a region, but it involves activities to create different tourism products aiming at product diversity in tourism. In addition, sustainable tourism was emphasized in addition to the same targets in the Tenth Development Plan.

Considering the tourism possibilities and tourism planning in the Black Sea Region of Turkey, it is seen that especially the plateau tourism is emphasized. On the other hand, the Black Sea Region has many features of the plateau, but it is not only occurred by the plateau. There are many historical and cultural wealth in the Black Sea Region. The Black Sea Region, where works dating back to the Chalcolithic period can be found, also contains the cultural assets and values and resources that can become the foreground in tourism. Although the subject has not been looked at from such a point of view, Militia Lieutenant Colonel Osman Agha (Lame Osman) in Giresun, which has many laborers in the establishment of the Republic of Turkey during the War of Independence, is one of the important symbols of Giresun. Nevertheless, it is possible to say that he has not been sufficiently involved in relevant tourism planning of Giresun. However, symbols and people who are not supported with certain information even in many countries have important values in terms of tourism. Therefore, in terms of domestic tourism, national values and people can be recognized and transferred to future generations. At the same time, such values and people will benefit from the development and diversification of tourism. In this research, the symbol of Militia Lieutenant Colonel Osman Agha was evaluated in terms of cultural tourism.

Within the scope of sustainable tourism, it is very important to use alternative tourism products to spread tourism over the whole year. It is obvious that the Turkish War of Independence and the heroes of this War, which are

hopeful for the oppressed nations and have an important place all over the world, have important values in terms of cultural tourism and recreational facilities. Militia Lieutenant Colonel Osman Agha (Lame Osman Agha - Topal Osman Ağa-) who is from Giresun and one of the important characters of the Turkish War of Independence, participated in the Balkans and World War I, and struggled against the Pontus gangs in the region during the National Struggle, and thus his reputation spread to all the countries. He was the guardian of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk between the years of 1920-1923. 42nd and 47th Voluntary Regiments which were found by Osman Agha have fulfilled important duties in the Turkish War of Independence. In this study, the story of Militia Lieutenant Colonel Osman Agha was evaluated within the scope of cultural tourism. In this context, it has been tried to offer some suggestions to related institutions and organizations.